CITY OF BELMONT
CITY COUNCIL AND BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

www.belmont.gov

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
7:00 PM
City Council Chambers
City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, California

The meeting will be broadcast live to Belmont residents on Comcast Cable Channel 27, streamed live via the City's website at www.Belmont.gov. The public may also attend the meeting in the Chambers and address the Council from the Chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
To maximize time for live public comment, we encourage members of the public to provide comments by joining the Committee meeting via Zoom : For web, visit https://belmont-gov.zoom.us/ select "Join" and enter **Meeting ID: 95745673035**. Use the Raise Hand feature to request to speak. You may rename your profile if you wish to remain anonymous.

For dial- in comments, call *67 1-(669) 900-6833 (your phone number will appear on the live broadcast if *67 is not dialed prior to the phone number), enter **Meeting ID: 95745673035**, and press *9 to request to speak. All public comments are subject to a 3-minute time limit unless otherwise determined by the Committee Chair.

If you wish to submit written public comment, you may send an email to cclerk@belmont.gov before the council considers the item. Please indicate the agenda item topic or agenda item number you wish to comment on in your email's subject line. Any public comment regarding agenda items that are received from the publication of the agenda through the meeting date will be made part of the meeting record but will not be read during the Council meeting.

1. ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. **Oath of Office for Belmont Police Personnel, City Staff and Introduction of San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department Fire Marshall**

B. **Proclamation Celebrating Woman's History Month**

C. **Proclamation Celebrating Samaritan House 50 Years of Serving the People of San Mateo**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Body on any City matter not on the agenda. The period for public comment at this point in the agenda is limited to 15 minutes, with a maximum of 3 minutes per speaker. Speakers who requested but did not receive an opportunity to speak during this comment period will be given an opportunity to address the Body later in the meeting. State law prohibits the Body from acting on non-agenda items.

6. COUNCILMEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. CONSENT BUSINESS

Consent business items are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a member or staff request specific items to be removed for separate action. The City Attorney will read the title of ordinances to be adopted.

A. **Approval of Minutes**
Recommendation: Consider modifications and approve minutes

Attachment(s):
BFPD February 12, 2024
City Council March 5, 2024 Special Meeting
City Council February 20, 2024 Special Meeting
CC 3.6.2024 Comm Interview

B. **Monthly Financial Reports - January 2024**
Recommendation: Motion to approve January 2024 Monthly Financial Reports

Attachment(s):
Monthly Financial Reports - January 2024

C. **Boards and Commission Ordinance Amendment**
Recommendation: Adopt an ordinance amending the Boards and Commission Ordinance including augmenting the description of the role of and appointment process for advisory bodies and nature of appointments among other modifications

Attachment(s):
Ordinance

D. **2025 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project**
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Task Order with Schaaf and Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers for an amount not to exceed $164,715 for 2025 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

Attachment(s):
Staff Report
Resolution
Proposal from Schaaf and Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers

E. **Salson Trail Storm Damage Repair Project**
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Task Order with Mott MacDonald Group, Inc. for an amount not to exceed $167,945 for design, bid, and construction support services for the Salson Trail Storm Damage Repair Project.

Attachment(s):

Staff Report
Resolution
Proposal from Mott MacDonald Group, Inc.

F. **Agreement with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. for Planning Services**
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute services agreements with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. totaling an amount not-to-exceed $73,792

Attachment(s):

Staff Report
Resolution
Scope of Work Task Order
Qualifications and Rates

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS - none

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business items are considered separately, typically in the order listed. The chair will call for public comment on each item when the body considers the item.

A. **Review an Adoption of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and the Environmental Impact Report Addendum to the 2035 General Plan**
Recommendation: Adopt a resolution to approve the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and an Addendum to the previously approved adopted Environmental Impact Report developed for the City's 2035 General Plan

Attachment(s):

Staff Report
Resolution
Revised EIR
Plan Document
Executive Summary
Appendix
Presentation

B. **Appointment to City Commission and Committee**
Recommendation: Motion to appoint at least two residents to the Planning Commission;
Motion to appoint at least two residents as voting members and up to two non-voting youth members to the Parks and Recreation Commission;
Motion to appoint one resident to the Measure I Committee

Attachment(s):

Staff Report

10. BRIEF VERBAL REPORTS FROM MEMBERS AND STAFF

A. **Verbal report from Councilmembers on Intergovernmental (IGR) and Subcommittee Assignments**
B. **Verbal report from City Manager**

11. MATTERS OF INTEREST/CLARIFICATION

Items in this category are for discussion and direction to staff only. However, Council/Board may take final action on an item if there is no need for additional staff analysis.

12. ADJOURNMENT

If you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 595-7413. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Meeting information can also be accessed via the internet at: www.belmont.gov. All staff reports will be posted to the web in advance of the meeting, and any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council/District Board or Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, One Twin Pines Lane, during normal business hours and at the Council Chambers at City Hall, Second Floor, during the meeting.

AGENDA POSTING: I declare a copy of this agenda was posted at City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, and the City's website www.belmont.gov on _____ , at_____p.m., by _____

MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BELMONT CITY COUNCIL AND BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
City Council Chambers, City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, California

TUESDAY, February 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

ROLL CALL
DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mates, Latimerlo, Hurt arrived at 7:55 p.m.), McCune, Pang-Maganaris
DIRECTORS ABSENT:

CONSENT BUSINESS
Approval of BFPD January 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes.
Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Calendar

ACTION: On a motion made by Director Hurt and seconded by Director McCune was approved by a roll call vote (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT at this time being 11:20 p.m.

Submitted by,
Jozi Plut, District Secretary

DRAFT

CITY OF BELMONT CITY COUNCIL AND BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORSCITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA, EOC Room 210
City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, California

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

TUESDAY, March 5, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: McCune, Hurt, Pang-Maganaris, Mates
COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Latimerlo

PUBLIC COMMENT
No member of the public came forward.

ITEMS OF BUSINES

Commission Interviews

Councilmembers and applicants provided introductions. Council interviewed two panels of applicants for the following positions:

Parks and Recreation Commission
Pat Cuviello
Craig Michaels
Bubby Whitmore

Planning Commission
Hans Chung

Measure Committee
Emily Tuupo

At the conclusion of this round Council discussed quorum and the process for the upcoming March 6, 2024 interviews.

ADJOURNMENT at this time being 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,
Jozi Plut, City Clerk

DRAFT

CITY OF BELMONT CITY COUNCIL AND BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORSCITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA, EOC Room 210
City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, California

The meeting was recorded for the record.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: McCune, Hurt, Pang-Maganaris, Mates
COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Latimerlo

PUBLIC COMMENT
No member of the public came forward.

ITEMS OF BUSINES

Commission Interviews

Councilmembers and applicants provided introductions. Council interviewed two panels of applicants for the following positions:

Parks and Recreation Commission
Scott Hill
Valerie Newhouse

Parks and Recreation Commission Non-Voting Incumbent
Catherine Wang
Aiden Lee

At the conclusion of this round Council discussed quorum and the process for the upcoming March 5, 2024 interviews.

ADJOURNMENT at this time being 9:10 pm.

Submitted by,
Jozi Plut, City Clerk

DRAFT

CITY OF BELMONT CITY COUNCIL AND BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORSCITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA, EOC Room 210
City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, California

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

TUESDAY, March 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: McCune, Hurt (arrived at 6:15 pm), Pang-Maganaris, Latimerlo, Mates
COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT
No member of the public came forward.

ITEMS OF BUSINES

Commission Interviews

Councilmembers and applicants provided introductions. Council interviewed two panels of applicants for the following positions:

Parks and Recreation Commission
Austin Lee
Scott Sisemore
Loren Thomas

Non-Voting Parks and Recreation Commission
Peter Harrison
Ben Michaels

Planning Commission
Joanne Adamkewicz
David Kramer
Brad Lewis
Nathan Majeski
Cherry Twigg

At the conclusion of this final round of interviews Council deliberated on appointment options to be made at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT at this time being 8:40 p.m.

DRAFT

CITY OF BELMONT

FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 31, 2024



HIGHLIGHTS

PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE REPORT

• General Fund balance increased compared to prior YTD

BUDGET VARIANCE REPORT

• Management Discussion & Analysis
• Tax Trends

FUND RECAP AT A GLANCE REPORT

Notable Fund Balance Increase compared to prior YTD:

•General Fund
•Development Services
•Belmont Fire Protection District
•Street Improvement
•Sewer Collection System
• Sewer Treatment

Notable Fund Balance Decrease compared to prior YTD:

• Planned Park
• Storm Drainage Enterprise

CASH DISBURSEMENTS & PURCHASE ORDER ACTIVITY REPORT

•Amounts equal to and above $50,000

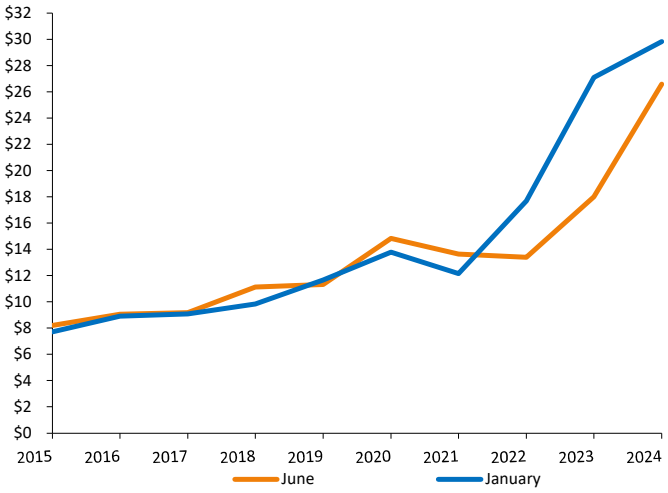
This report contains financial information which has not been reviewed or audited by an independent auditor, does not reflect the application of generally accepted accounting principles in all instances and is subject to future revision. This report has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of the City's bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in this report are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of the City's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by the City on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosures and website, maintained on the World Wide Web at https://emma.msrb.org/

These financial reports are designed to provide a general overview of the City of Belmont's interim finances. Questions concerning any information provided in these reports should be addressed to financedept@belmont.gov or for additional information regarding the City's financial activities, including past award winning audited financial statements, transparency efforts and best practices please visit the City at www.belmont.gov.

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

City of Belmont
Performance at a Glance
Results for the Period Ended January 31, 2024
(000's)

General Fund Balance Trend
(in millions)

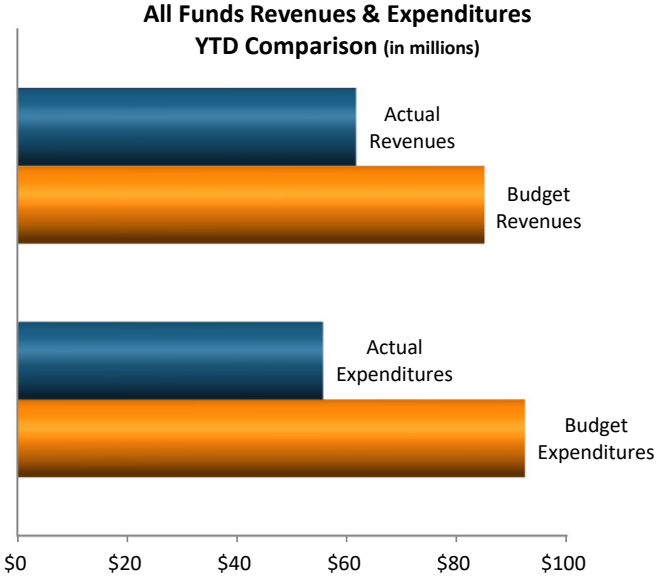


General Fund Balance Trends*

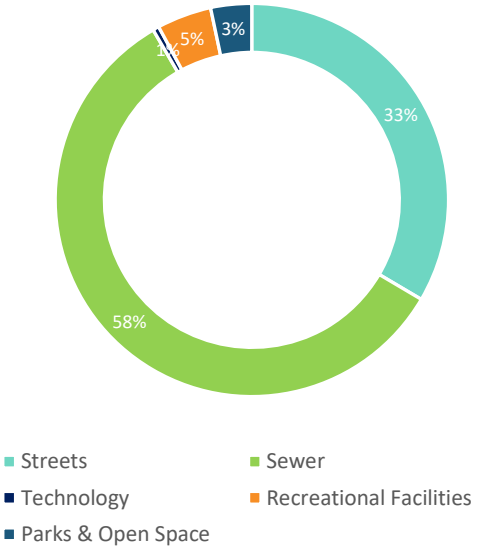
6/30/2014	$8,204	Audited
6/30/2015	$9,049	Audited
6/30/2016	$9,177	Audited
6/30/2017	$11,128	Audited
6/30/2018	$11,325	Audited
6/30/2019	$14,846	Audited
6/30/2020	$13,637	Audited
6/30/2021	$13,398	Audited
6/30/2022	$18,013	Audited
6/30/2023	$26,586	Audited
1/31/2024	$29,848	Unaudited

* excludes Measure I

All Funds Revenues & Expenditures
YTD Comparison (in millions)



Capital Improvement Plan



General Fund

The General Fund balance is $29.8 million, an increase of $3.2 million compared to the amount at the prior fiscal year end. Budgeted operating transfers $2.8 million from the General Fund to various funds will not be recorded until at the end of the fiscal year based on actual results.

Fund Balance - YTD Fund Deficits

As shown on the Fund Recap at a Glance (page 3) Recreation, Street Maintenance , Library Bond Debt Service and Facilities Management Fund have deficits and are expected to be elminated in a future period.

City of Belmont
Fund Recap at a Glance
Results for the Period Ended January 31, 2024
(000's)

Fund	Fund Name	Audited Fund Balance 06/30/23 (1)	Revenues YTD Budget	YTD Actual (2)	Variance (Under) Over	%	PY YTD Actual	Expenditures YTD Budget	YTD Actual (3)	Variance Under (Over)	%	PY YTD Actual	Unaudited Fund Balance 01/31/24 (1)+(2)-(3)	PY YTD Fund Balance 01/31/23
GENERAL FUND														
101	General	*$26,586*	$17,250	$17,365	$114	101%	$21,843	$17,958	$14,102	$3,856	79%	$12,762	***$ 29,848***	*27,093*
102	Measure I	*3,937*	1,347	1,064	(283)	79%	986	3,936	1,686	2,250	43%	526	***3,314***	*3,398*
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS														
205	Recreation	*583*	1,965	1,329	(637)	68%	1,067	2,148	2,008	140	93%	2,070	***(96)***	*(1,004)*
206	Library Maintenance & Operation	*815*	185	170	(15)	92%	162	609	221	388	36%	196	***763***	*802*
207	Athletic Field Maintenance	*366*	71	104	32	145%	74	205	62	143	30%	40	***407***	*410*
208	City Tree	*284*	9	28	19	306%	7	50	57	(8)	115%	24	***254***	*281*
209	Senior Services Donation	*92*	3	2	(2)	48%	1	3	0	3	0%	0	***94***	*91*
210	Development Services	*1,538*	3,061	4,138	1,077	135%	2,539	3,811	3,166	646	83%	2,772	***2,510***	*852*
212	General Plan Maintenance	*1,592*	310	313	3	101%	428	656	480	176	73%	80	***1,424***	*1,653*
223	Belmont Fire Protection District	*20,198*	10,050	10,001	(50)	100%	8,858	7,487	9,432	(1,946)	126%	7,092	***20,766***	*17,983*
225	Police Grants and Donations	*30*	0	5	5	1485%	0	3	1	2	21%	3	***35***	*30*
227	Supplemental Law Enforcement	*7*	102	154	52	151%	117	74	71	3	96%	102	***89***	*15*
231	Street Maintenance	*0*	2,275	713	(1,562)	31%	763	1,520	1,411	109	93%	1,305	***(698)***	*(542)*
232	RMRA Street Project	*606*	408	351	(58)	86%	309	769	7	763	1%	9	***950***	*300*
233	Measure W	*1,809*	224	197	(27)	88%	352	554	0	554	0%	0	***2,006***	*1,809*
234	Street Improvements	*1,903*	728	753	25	103%	970	1,824	104	1,720	6%	803	***2,553***	*1,072*
237	Traffic Impact	*97*	949	2	(947)	0%	2	0	0	0	N/A	0	***98***	*202*
239	Public Art	*404*	179	7	(172)	4%	3	0	0	0	N/A	0	***411***	*399*
275	Affordable Housing Successor	*9,448*	283	231	(51)	82%	3,011	2,297	148	2,149	6%	322	***9,532***	*9,156*
277	Inclusionary Housing	*2,572*	352	4	(348)	1%	1	0	0	0	N/A	0	***2,575***	*2,453*
	Total Special Revenue	*42,343*	21,157	18,500	(2,657)	87%	18,665	22,010	17,168	4,842	78%	14,817	***43,675***	*35,965*
CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS														
308	General Facilities	*734*	8	13	5	158%	6	351	6	345	2%	5	***741***	*725*
310	Infrastructure	*2,395*	26	44	18	170%	624	824	76	749	9%	854	***2,363***	*2,580*
312	Comcast PEG Program	*405*	4	7	3	159%	3	70	0	70	0%	0	***412***	*399*
341	Planned Park	*1,701*	24	28	5	119%	423	416	337	79	81%	379	***1,392***	*2,034*
342	Park Impact	*641*	1,579	24	(1,555)	2%	284	382	0	382	0%	151	***666***	*460*
343	Open Space	*97*	0	2	2	N/A	4	41	0	41	0%	38	***99***	*130*
399	Capital Improvement Projects	-	21,933	7,168	(14,766)	33%	0	22,078	3,504	18,574	16%	0	***3,664***	*0*
704	Special Assessment Districts	*315*	3	6	2	159%	2	0	0	0	N/A	0	***321***	*310*
	Total Capital Projects	*6,288*	23,578	7,292	(16,287)	31%	1,347	24,162	3,922	20,240	16%	1,428	***9,657***	*6,639*
DEBT SERVICE & OTHER FUNDS														
406	Library Bond Debt Service	*286*	394	348	(46)	88%	347	397	646	(248)	163%	654	***(12)***	*(37)*
501-505	Sewer Collection System	*31,482*	11,646	8,524	(3,122)	73%	8,253	12,882	7,384	5,498	57%	6,617	***32,622***	*27,252*
507	Sewer Treatment	*27,391*	1,886	1,647	(240)	87%	1,607	2,392	2,670	(278)	112%	3,004	***26,367***	*24,594*
525	Storm Drainage Enterprise	*2,173*	781	633	(148)	81%	662	1,882	1,165	717	62%	967	***1,642***	*2,283*
530	Solid Waste Management	*1,868*	370	323	(47)	87%	303	331	306	25	92%	295	***1,885***	*1,774*
570	Worker's Compensation	*1,761*	519	614	95	118%	470	427	691	(264)	162%	651	***1,684***	*1,357*
571	Liability Insurance	*3,686*	495	18	(477)	4%	(53)	656	645	11	98%	629	***3,060***	*2,705*
572	Self Funded Vision	*0*	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	(4)	4	N/A	(5)	***4***	*5*
573	Fleet & Equipment Management	*8,394*	2,721	2,797	76	103%	2,643	3,067	2,768	299	90%	2,510	***8,423***	*7,571*
574	Facilities Management	*(603)*	2,020	1,687	(333)	84%	1,305	1,521	1,527	(7)	100%	1,427	***(443)***	*(122)*
575	Benefit Prefunding	*1,234*	865	845	(20)	98%	808	792	956	(164)	121%	917	***1,124***	*973*
	Total Debt & Other	77,673	21,696	17,435	(4,261)	80%	16,344	24,345	18,752	5,593	77%	17,665	76,356	68,355
	Total All Funds	**$156,826**	**$85,028**	**$61,656**	**($23,372)**	**73%**	**$59,185**	**$92,412**	**$55,631**	**$36,780**	**60%**	**$47,198**	**$162,851**	**$141,450**

Fund Types:

General Fund - Used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds - Used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specific purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

Capital Projects Funds - Used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital ass

Debt Service & Other Funds - Includes funds used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest; funds used to finance and account for special activities and services performed by a designated department for other departments in the City on a cost reimbursement basis; and funds to account for operations financed and operated in a manner similar to a private business enterprise with the intent that the cost of providing goods and services is primarily financed through user charges; and funds used to account for assets held by the City as an agent.

City of Belmont
Budget Variance Report
General Fund / All Other Funds
Results for the Period Ended January 31, 2024
(000's)

	General Fund						All Other Funds					
	Year to Date (YTD)				Annual	PY YTD	Year to Date (YTD)				Annual	PY YTD
	Budget	Actual	Variance	%	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	%	Budget	Actual
REVENUES												
Taxes	$12,817	$12,080	($737)	94% **a**	$21,971	$13,549	$12,525	$10,923	($1,601)	87% **a**	$21,471	$10,428
Licenses and permits	693	537	(156)	77% **b**	1,188	557	1,204	1,623	419	135%	2,064	1,303
Intergovernmental	196	267	71	136%	336	3,521	5,877	5,138	(739)	87% **d**	10,075	2,086
Charge for services	2,536	2,512	(23)	99%	4,347	2,584	26,208	19,741	(6,467)	75% **e**	44,928	19,183
Fines and forfeits	93	78	(15)	84%	160	70	-	-	-	N/A	-	-
Use of money and property	707	1,866	1,159	264%	1,212	1,546	1,263	3,191	1,928	253%	2,165	1,472
Miscellaneous	208	25	(183)	12% **c**	357	16	197	386	189	196%	337	(77)
Other financing sources	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	13	13	N/A	-	2,947
Operating transfers in	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	20,505	3,277	(17,228)	16% **f**	35,151	-
Total Revenues	**17,250**	**17,365**	**114**	**101%**	**29,572**	**21,843**	**67,778**	**44,291**	**(23,487)**	**65%**	**116,191**	**37,342**
EXPENDITURES												
General government	4,522	3,745	(777)	83%	7,752	3,266	4,690	5,070	380	108% **g**	8,041	4,722
Public safety	9,181	8,965	(216)	98%	15,738	8,330	7,535	9,480	1,946	126% **h**	12,917	7,197
Streets and utilities	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	29,363	11,526	(17,837)	39%	50,337	11,009
Culture and recreation	1,493	1,380	(113)	92%	2,560	1,166	5,669	4,163	(1,506)	73%	9,719	4,109
Urban redevelopment	-	-	-	N/A	-		5,595	2,863	(2,732)	51%	9,591	2,264
Debt service	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	3,858	5,163	1,304	134% **i**	6,614	5,135
Operating transfer out	2,762	12	(2,750)	0%	4,735		17,743	3,264	(14,479)	18%	30,417	
Total Expenditures	**17,958**	**14,102**	**(3,856)**	**79%**	**30,785**	**12,762**	**74,453**	**41,529**	**(32,925)**	**56%**	**127,635**	**34,436**
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER/ (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	**($708)**	**$3,262**			**($1,214)**	**$9,080**	**($6,675)**	**$2,762**			**($11,443)**	**$2,907**

Management Discussion and Analysis

(Items with unfavorable budget variance more than $0.1 million)

General Fund

Revenues

a) Taxes - The budget variance is primarily due to the timing of receipts. In addition, the majority of Sales Tax and Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) received in July are related to June activities, which are subject to an account adjustment.

b) Licenses and permits - The budget variance is primarily due to the timing of receipts and an accounting adjustment.

c) Miscellaneous - The budget variance is primarily due to the timing of the annual Crystal Springs Uplands School (CSUS) Public Service Fee, which will be received in a future reporting period.

Other Funds

Revenues

a) Taxes - The budget variance is primarily due to the timing of receipts. In addition, the majority of Sales Tax received in July are related to June activities, which are subject to an accounting adjustment.

d) Intergovernmental - The revenue will be received in a future reporting period.

e) Charge for Services - Various in lieu/impact fees and sewer connection fee budgeted for are not materialized in the current reporting period.

f) Operating Transfers In – Budgeted operating transfers are recorded at the end of the fiscal year based on actual results.

Other Funds

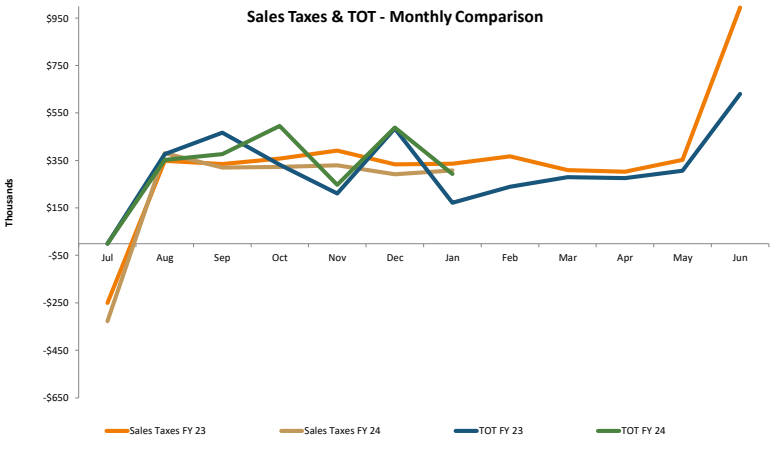
Expenditures

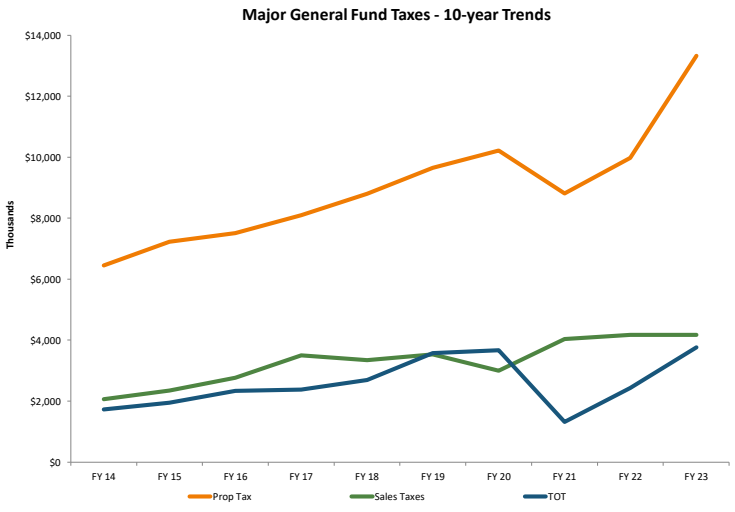
g) General Government - The annual insurance premiums and OPEB contributions were paid in July.

h) Public Safety - First quarter payments of $1.7M to BSCFD and $2.3M to San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department were made in July.

i) Debt Service - Semi-annual debt service on bonds were paid in August and January.

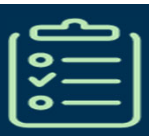
Trends





** July Sales Tax & TOT revenues received were for June activities and accrued to the previous FY. July revenues will be received in August.

City of Belmont
Disbursements & Purchase Order Activity Report
Results for the Period Ended January 31, 2024



Disbursements Amounts Equal to $50,000 and Above

Vendor	Description	Date	No.	Amount
ADP	PAYROLL 01/06/2024 TAXES	1/12/24	DAJ000008705	100,702.22
ADP	PAYROLL 01/20/2024 TAXES	1/26/24	DAJ000008708	129,473.07
BNY	2004 BONDS DEBT SERVICE	1/22/24	DAJ000008742	103,745.89
BNY	2016 SEWER REVENUE BONDS DEBT SERVICE	1/22/24	DAJ000008743	220,644.12
BNY	2016 SEWER REFUNDING BONDS DEBT SERVICE	1/22/24	DAJ000008744	107,757.07
BNY	2018 SEWER REVENUE BONDS DEBT SERVICE	1/22/24	DAJ000008745	492,998.89
BNY	2019 SEWER REVENUE BONDS DEBT SERVICE	1/22/24	DAJ000008746	401,749.54
CALPERS	COB CONTRIBUTION PPE 12/15/23	1/8/24	DAJ000008724	134,460.93
CALPERS	COB HEALTH PREMIUM-JANUARY	1/10/24	DAJ000008728	201,001.93
CALPERS	COB CONTRIBUTION PPE 12/29/23	1/24/24	DAJ000008750	134,334.23
CITY OF BELMONT EMPLOYEES	PAYROLL 01/06/2024	1/12/24	DAJ000008704	448,439.52
CITY OF BELMONT EMPLOYEES	PAYROLL 01/20/2024	1/20/24	DAJ000008707	502,966.83
EMERGENCY RESTORATION COMPANY	BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX REPAIRS	1/5/24	EFT00034061	110,215.33
GOOD CITY COMPANY	PLANNING SERVICES	1/12/24	EFT00034120	61,208.86
MISSIONSQUARE	DEF COMP ACCT#302442	1/2/24	DAJ000008720	66,759.96
MISSIONSQUARE	DEF COMP ACCT#302442	1/16/24	DAJ000008736	52,674.54
MISSIONSQUARE	DEF COMP ACCT#302442	1/29/24	DAJ000008756	52,875.45
PG&E	CITYWIDE GAS & ELECTRICITY CHARGES	1/19/24	EFT00034202	76,630.46
RESTORATION DESIGN GROUP INC	BELMONT CREEK PROJECT	1/26/24	EFT00034301	61,367.54
SILICON VALLEY CLEAN WATER	FEBURARY CONTRIBUTION	1/5/24	EFT00034047	303,637.00
			Total Disbursements in Excess of $50,000	**$ 3,763,643.38**
			Total Count	**20**

Purchase Order Amounts Equal to $50,000 and Above

Vendor	Description	Date	No.	Amount
BARTH ROOFING COMPANY INC	MANOR ROOFING	1/19/24	24 00066	208,450.00
BKF ENGINEERS	HILLER LIFT STATION PROJECT	1/19/24	24 00067	240,000.00
U-ROCK UTILITY EQUIPMENT INC	VIDEO PIPELINE INSPECTION	1/25/24	24 00069	55,267.13
			Total Purchase Orders Issued in Excess of $50,000	**$ 503,717.13**
			Total Count	**3**

CITY OF BELMONT
TREASURER'S REPORT
January-24

Agency Receipts and Disbursements Summary

	Beginning Balance December 31, 2023	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance January 31, 2024
City of Belmont	$ 119,809,141.29	$ 4,734,903.90	$ (4,668,030.88)	$ 119,876,014.31
Belmont Fire Protection District	20,532,642.63	266,106.31	(32,031.69)	20,766,717.25
Total	**$ 140,341,783.92**	**$ 5,001,010.21**	**$ (4,700,062.57)**	**$ 140,642,731.56**
				-

Balance Summary

	Deposit	Investments	Pool Total
City of Belmont & Belmont Fire Protection District	**$ 1,032,033.63**	**$ 139,610,697.93**	**$ 140,642,731.56**
			-

I certify that this report accurately reflects all investments of City of Belmont and Belmont Fire Protection District, and is in conformance with the adopted Investment Policy mandated by Government Code 53646. Furthermore, I certify to the best of my knowledge, sufficient investment liquidity and anticipated revenues are available to meet the Agency's budgeted expenditure requirement for the next six months.

Respectfully Submitted,

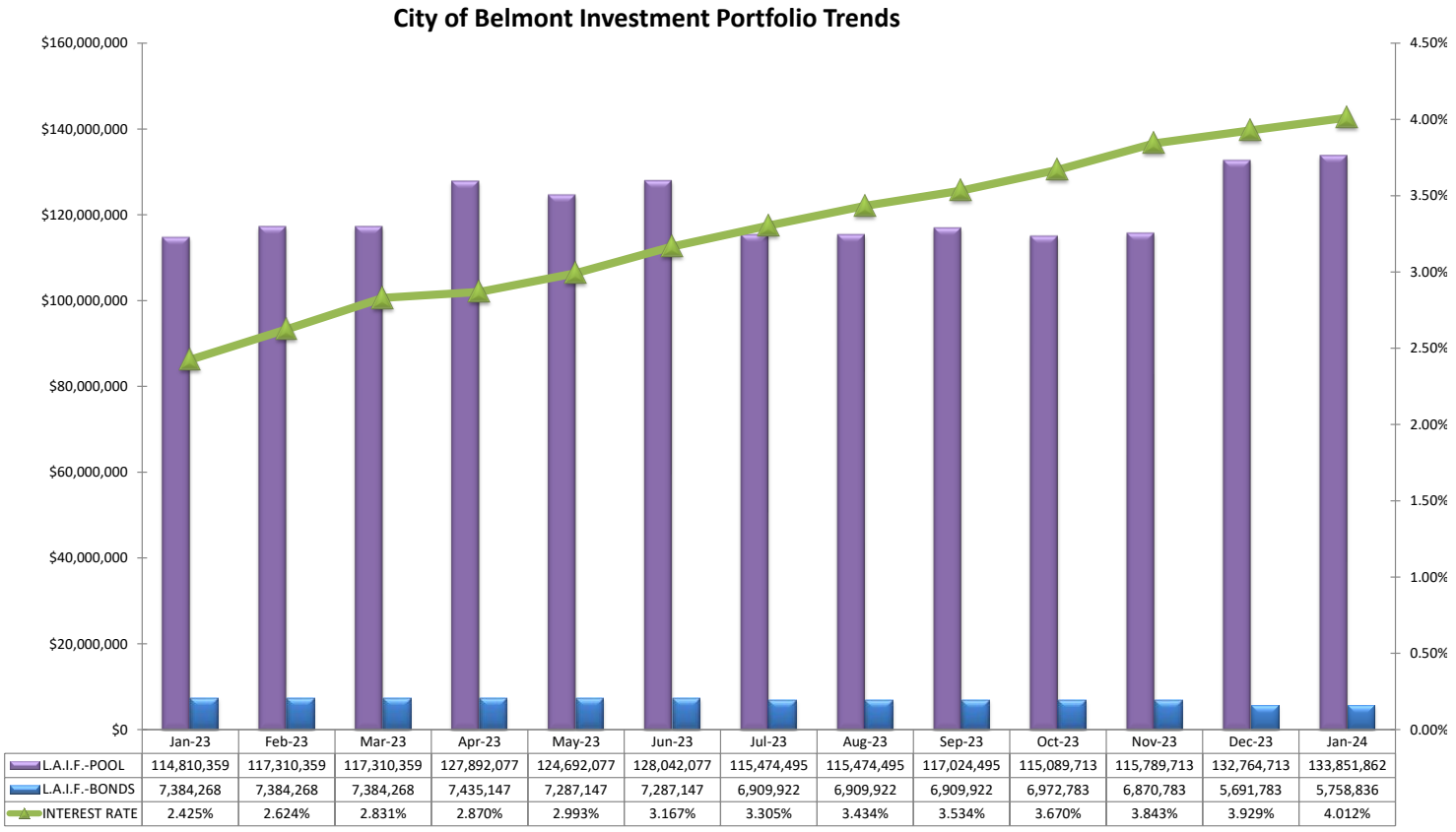
s/b Grace Castaneda

Grace Castaneda
City Treasurer

CITY OF BELMONT
TREASURER'S REPORT
January-24

Investment Detail

Investment Type	Issuer	Maturity Date	Par Amount	Current Market Value	Interest Total	Investment Period	Rate	Pricing Source	Manager
Deposit									
General Account	Wells Fargo		$ 1,032,033.63	$ 1,032,033.63				Bank	Bank
Investments:									
L.A.I.F.-POOL	State of California	Daily	133,851,861.79	132,987,597.85	447,511.39	90 days	4.012%	LAIF	LAIF
L.A.I.F.-BONDS	State of California	Daily	5,758,836.14	5,721,652.09	19,253.71	90 days	4.012%	LAIF	LAIF
Total			**$ 140,642,731.56**	**$ 139,741,283.57**	**$ 466,765.10**				



	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
L.A.I.F.-POOL	114,810,359	117,310,359	117,310,359	127,892,077	124,692,077	128,042,077	115,474,495	115,474,495	117,024,495	115,089,713	115,789,713	132,764,713	133,851,862
L.A.I.F.-BONDS	7,384,268	7,384,268	7,384,268	7,435,147	7,287,147	7,287,147	6,909,922	6,909,922	6,909,922	6,972,783	6,870,783	5,691,783	5,758,836
INTEREST RATE	2.425%	2.624%	2.831%	2.870%	2.993%	3.167%	3.305%	3.434%	3.534%	3.670%	3.843%	3.929%	4.012%

ORDINANCE NO 2024-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELMONT AMENDING BELMONT CITY CODE PROVISIONS IN CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IV PERTAINING TO CITY ADVISORY BODIES

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. BCC CHP 2, ART VI AMENDED

Belmont City Code Chapter 2, Article VI is amended to read:

Article VI – City Advisory Bodies

Sec. 2-160 Title

This article, which may be referred to as "Boards and Commissions Code", specifies the city advisory bodies, whether designated a board, commission, or committee, created by the city council and establishes uniform rules for all city advisory bodies.

Sec. 2-161 Role in city government

City advisory bodies are those subsidiary legislative bodies of the city council whose membership does not include one or more members of the council. These city bodies advise and assist the city council and city staff in the development, implementation, and promotion of broad city goals and policies, and when expressly authorized by specific delegation of the city council, may make or participate in making city decisions that would otherwise be reserved to the city council and city staff. When making or participating in making city decisions, these bodies adhere to federal, state and local law as well as the policies and regulations adopted by the City Council and in doing so act solely for public as opposed to personal interest. City advisory bodies enhance city government when they promote effective and efficient city decision-making.

City advisory bodies play an important public-facing role in city government, acting as channels of communication and information between the city government and the general public and special interest groups, as an interface between the city council and the public, and as the venue for public hearings on city policy matters and project decisions. City advisory bodies help shape the public perception of city government and members should expect that their statements and conduct may be perceived by the public as a reflection of the City Council and the city government as a whole. As the public face of the Council, members of city advisory bodies are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with council policy and the expectations of the Council as their appointing body, including the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials.

Sec. 2-162 Appointment

(a) Appointment to the city advisory bodies specified in this article are made by the City Council except as otherwise specified.

(b) Appointment to a city advisory body is based on such criteria as expertise, ability to

work well with staff and the public, commitment to fulfilling official duties, effectiveness as a representative of the City Council and city government, and commitment, fidelity and adherence to city values, policies, priorities and expectations as expressed by the City Council.

(c) Appointees assume their office upon taking the oath of office and continue until they resign their appointment in writing, their appointment is declared vacated, or a replacement is appointed and has taken the oath of office.

(d) Appointees are at will and serve at the pleasure of the city council. Appointees have no vested rights in the office to which they are appointed or to remain in office for any period of time. The City Council may declare an appointed office vacant at any time without cause. Any such action by the council is not intended to reflect or imply any defect in the integrity or character of the appointee.

(e) The appointment periods stated in this code for each body are established for the convenience of the City Council in making appointments and considering new appointments. Appointment periods begin on the first day of March and end on the last day of February unless the Council determines otherwise.

(f) Appointees serve without compensation except as the City Council may prescribe from time to time by resolution. Any such compensation may be reduced or eliminated at any time for an advisory body as a whole by the city council without cause.

Sec. 2-163 Qualifications to hold office

(a) To be eligible for appointment to a city advisory body, a prospective appointee must:

(1) Be a resident of the City of Belmont;

(2) Have submitted a statement to the city clerk acknowledging he or she has read and understands the City's Code of Ethics and Conduct; and,

(3) Not be an officer and employee of the city, except as otherwise provided herein.

(b) An appointee must, throughout the period of appointment, be eligible to hold office under subsection (a) and timely comply with the following requirements:

(1) Submit documentation to the city clerk attesting that the appointee has completed the ethics training specified by Government Code Section 53235 ("AB 1234 training") within 30 days of assuming office and thereafter by April 1 of every other year; and

(2) Submit a completed California Fair Political Practices (FPPC) Statement of Economic Interests ("Form 700") to the city clerk within 30 days of assuming office and each year thereafter by the April 1.

(c) If the city manager determines that an appointee has failed to meet any of the qualification requirements in subsections (a) or (b), he or she must provide a written notice of disqualification to the appointee.

(d) An appointee who fails to possess qualifications specified in subsection (a) is deemed to have vacated his or her office upon commencement of the noncompliance.

(e) An appointee who fails to maintain qualifications specified in subsections (b)(1) or (b)(2) may not after notice from the city manager participate as a member of the city advisory body to which the person was appointed during the period of noncompliance, and may not receive compensation for the period of noncompliance.

Sec. 2-164 Procedures applicable to all city advisory bodies

(a) Meetings.

(1) City advisory bodies are to conduct their meetings in accordance with the Brown Act, the principles of due process, Rosenberg's Rules of Order, as may be revised from time to time, and the council's Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials. Each body may adopt such supplemental procedures as are consistent with this section, the policies and regulations adopted by the city council, the administrative policies of the city manager, and state and federal law.

(2) Regular meetings of city commissions are held in the city council's chambers and commence at 7 p.m. All other city advisory bodies' regular meetings are held at City Hall in the room and at the time designated on the agenda.

(3) Agendas for city advisory bodies are prepared by the secretary to the body in consultation with the chair.

(4) City advisory body meetings must substantially follow the procedural rules in the city council's protocols, as amended, for order of business and rules of discussion, and addressing the body. For purposes of application to the advisory body, references to the council, mayor, and city clerk mean the advisory body, the chair, and the secretary, respectively. Failure of an advisory body to follow the protocols does not affect the jurisdiction of the body or invalidate action taken at a meeting that is otherwise in conformity with the law.

(b) Officers. By April 15 of each calendar year, the members of a city advisory body are to meet in regular session and elect from their members a chair and vice-chair. The role of the chair, and in his or her absence the vice-chair, is to conduct the meetings and facilitate discussions of the body and to enforce meeting protocols. The chair and vice-chair hold office for one year or until their successors are elected.

(c) Quorum. A majority of the appointed voting members of a city advisory body constitutes a quorum. A member who abstains from voting is counted as present for purposes of determining quorum.

(d) Voting on motions. City advisory bodies take formal action by motion. Unless otherwise specified by the city council or required by law, a simple majority of the members present and voting is required to pass a motion. A member who abstains from voting is not counted as voting for purposes of determining a majority.

(e) Minutes. Each city advisory body keep summary minutes. The minutes are maintained

on file in the department of the staff person assigned to be the secretary of the body.

(f) Teleconferencing. Teleconferencing by city advisory body members is permitted, and must comply with Government Code Section 54953(b) and the Council's rules for teleconferencing by Council members. The agenda and information describing the particular location where the teleconference will take place should be posted at or near the main entrance of the facility containing the teleconferenced location as soon as feasible but not less than six hours before commencement of the meeting.

(g) City Policies. Members of city advisory bodies must conduct themselves in accordance with city administrative polices including use of technology and the management of public records.

(h) The procedures applicable to city advisory bodies may be established and amended by council resolution, and when so established or amended and in conflict with this section, supersede this section.

Sec. 2-165 Fiscal limits

City advisory bodies must not incur, allow or permit to accrue any debt or liability in excess of available funds appropriated for its purposes by the city council.

Sec. 2-166 Established city advisory bodies

(a) Planning commission.

(1) A planning commission consisting of a minimum of five and maximum of seven members is created.

(2) Planning commission appointments are for three years unless otherwise determined by the city council.

(3) The duties of the planning commission are as follows:

(A) Review and recommend to the city council the adoption of amendments to the general plan.

(B) Exercise the control provided by city ordinances over the subdivision of land within the city.

(C) Exercise the control provided by city ordinances over the zoning plan and advise as to proposed changes in the plan.

(D) Perform such other functions and duties as may be required by other city ordinances.

(E) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to the commission by the city council.

(4) Regular meetings of the planning commission take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

(b) Parks and recreation commission.

(1) A parks and recreation commission consisting of a minimum of five voting members and a maximum of seven voting members and two non-voting youth members is created. The two non-voting youth members must be at least 13 years old, and no more than 17 years old at the time of appointment ("youth commissioners") and must present parental/guardian consent to be considered for appointment. The youth members may not receive compensation and serve only in an advisory capacity.

(2) Parks and recreation commission appointments are for one year for a youth commissioner and two years for other members unless otherwise determined by the city council.

(3) The duties of the parks and recreation commission are as follows:

(A) Advise the city council on the adoption and amendment of policies and programs in the general plan related to city recreation and open space in accordance with Government Code Sections 65353 and 65354.

(B) Advise the parks and recreation department on standards for and matters related to development of recreational areas, facilities, parks and programs.

(C) Assist the parks and recreation department in making periodic inventories of recreational services and facilities and parks that exist or may be needed, and interpret such matters to the public and the city council.

(D) Advise the parks and recreation department in the preparation of the annual budget and long-range recreation and park capital improvement program.

(E) Advise the public works department regarding bicycle and pedestrian projects eligible for Transportation Development Act local transportation funding and the development of comprehensive bicycle plans.

(F) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to the commission by the city council.

(4) Regular meetings of the parks and recreation commission take place on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

(c) Measure I Advisory Committee.

(1) Committee established. A Measure “I” Advisory Committee consisting of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members is created to report annually to the city council regarding the collection and expenditure of revenue from Measure “I”, the Belmont Streets and City Services Measure, a one-half cent transaction and use tax.

(2) Committee appointments. Appointments to the committee are for three years unless otherwise determined by the city council.

(3) Committee duties. The committee's duties are to review and evaluate Measure "I" annual reports and the general scope of the associated audit work. Based on the

committee's review and the audit opinions of the independent auditor, the committee reports whether there is reasonable assurance that the Measure "I" money is being properly spent and reported on. The committee's report is be transmitted through the city manager's office to the city council for consideration at a city council meeting. The city manager will provide any reasonable administrative or technical assistance to enable the committee to fulfill its duties.

(4) Conflicts. In order to preserve the integrity and independence of the advisory process, committee members may not have a role in determining the use of revenue generated by Measure "I".

(5) Meetings. The committee meets once to be briefed on the annual budget (mid-year) and again to review the Measure “I” audit report.

Sec. 2-167. Roster of appointive positions.

In accordance with Government Code Section 54972, the city clerk must maintain an accurate roster of all regular and on-going city advisory bodies which are appointed by the city council. The roster is to list the qualifications for appointment, state that all appointments serve at the pleasure of the city council, and for each appointive position, the name of the current appointee, the date of their appointment, and the period of appointment applicable to their office.

Sec. 2-168. Subsidiary bodies.

City advisory bodies may not create subsidiary legislative bodies unless specifically authorized by the city council.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance takes effect and is operational 30 days after its adoption.

* * *

The City Council of the City of Belmont, California introduced the foregoing ordinance, on February 27, 2024 and adopted the ordinance at a regular meeting held on_____ by the following vote:

Ayes:

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

_____
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
City Attorney

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date:	March 12, 2024
Agency:	City of Belmont
Staff Contact:	Bozhena Palatnik, Public Works Department, (650) 595-7463, bpalatnik@belmont.gov
Agenda Title:	2025 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project
Agenda Action:	Resolution

Recommendation

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Task Order with Schaaf and Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers for an amount not to exceed $164,715 for 2025 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

Strategic Focus Area

Infrastructure and Mobility

Background

As part of the on-going Pavement Rehabilitation Program, City staff is planning to reconstruct pavement on 8 streets in summer of 2025. All streets are in poor condition and require significant amount of work. In an effort to avoid cutting into newly paved roads, staff assess the sewer infrastructure at these locations before they get repaved. Public Works Operations and Engineering staff video inspected all sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure located under these streets, evaluated the results, and determined that several sanitary sewer pipes are deteriorated and need to be replaced/repaired prior to pavement project. The infrastructure in need of repairs is located on the following streets:

- Forest Avenue
- Coronet Blvd.
- Ralston Frontage Rd
- Lower Lock Ave
- Comstock Circle
- E Street
- Pullman Avenue
- Monte Cresta Drive

Approximately 3,400 linear feet of pipes need to be replaced and/or repaired using open trench and/or trenchless methods.

Analysis

In order to complete the sewer repairs and replacements prior to the street rehabilitations, the City plans to complete the sewer construction by July 2025.

Staff solicited proposals from civil engineering firms under its on-call services to design, bid and provide construction support services, and selected Schaaf and Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers for this project. The design will start in April 2024 and is projected to be finished before the end of the calendar year 2024, giving sufficient time to bid and construct the project.

Alternatives

1. Take no action.
2. Refer back to staff for further information.

Attachments

A. Resolution
B. Proposal from Schaaf and Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Fiscal Impact

☒ Funding Source Confirmed: $164,715 from the Residential Gravity Replacement Capital Improvement Project Account #399-3-730-7074-8331.

Source:	**Purpose:**	**Public Outreach:**
Staff	Discretionary Action	Posting of Agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 –

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT APPROVING TASK ORDER WITH SCHAAF AND WHEELER CONSULTING CIVIL ENGINEERS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $164,715 FOR 2025 SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Public Works staff video inspected sanitary and storm sewer pipes prior to 2025 Pavement project and discovered 3,400 linear feet of sanitary sewer pipes in need of repair/replacement; and,

WHEREAS, Staff solicited proposals from qualified civil engineering firms under existing on-call agreements; and,

WHEREAS, Staff selected Schaaf and Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers to design this project for an amount not to exceed $164,715.

WHEREAS, $164,715 has been budgeted from the Residential Gravity Replacement Capital Improvement Project Account #399-3-730-7074-8331.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Belmont resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is authorized to execute a Task Order with Schaaf and Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers for an amount not to exceed $164,715.

* * *

ADOPTED March 12, 2024 by the City of Belmont City Council by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

_____
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
City Attorney

Scope of Work

2025 Sewer Rehabilitation Project

December 6, 2023

This Scope of Work includes the preparation of bid documents, bid support services, and construction support services for the replacement, rehabilitation, and/or repair of sewer pipe segments as identified in Attachment A. This scope includes the review of the sanitary sewer mains within approximately 13,750 linear feet of proposed street rehabilitation areas with the assumption that approximately 20% of the sewer segments will need to be replaced, rehabilitated, and/or repaired. Review will include assessment of the City's existing available CCTV inspection data, field investigations, and manhole inspections.

Task 1: Meetings

Schaaf & Wheeler will attend three (3) design review meetings with the City.

Task 2: Data Collection and Review

Schaaf & Wheeler will collect existing available information from the City, including as-builts, reports, CCTV data, hydraulic modeling data and reports, and any other pertinent data available from the City.

Task 3: Sewer Assessment & Summary Memorandum

Schaaf & Wheeler will review, assess, and prioritize approximately 13,750 linear feet of sewer CCTV inspection video files and PACP reports. Schaaf & Wheeler will review the pipe segment locations to determine preliminary pipe repair methodologies and associated construction costs.

Schaaf & Wheeler will develop a report summarizing the data, review process, assessment methodology, and recommended capital improvements. A preliminary estimate of probable construction cost will be prepared and included in the report.

Task 4: Utility Coordination

Schaaf & Wheeler will coordinate with the utility companies to obtain their service maps and to coordinate the project. Utility maps will be used to develop the project basemap, this scope does not include any additional detailed utility investigations. Utility potholing is included as an optional task to this scope.

Schaaf & Wheeler will coordinate with and prepare figures for the Mid-Peninsula Water District in locations where the sewer lines are within 10 feet of the adjacent water lines.

Task 5: Site Visits

Schaaf & Wheeler will perform site visits for all proposed pipe repair locations to identify and document existing conditions, potential construction access routes, construction impacts, inspect manholes, and to identify existing utilities. The locations of proposed excavations and disturbance will be estimated in the field and the surface improvements will be documented. This scope assumes that two people will spend 2 days in the field. Schaaf & Wheeler will require assistance from City staff to coordinate access and locate manholes on private property and easements.

Schaaf & Wheeler will document the proposed impacts within the bid documents by either including details on the plans or including as an appendix to the specifications.

Task 6: 65% Design

Schaaf & Wheeler will initiate the detailed design effort which will include project basemapping, layouts of sewer lines, lateral locations based on CCTV data, utility locations based on utility basemaps and site visits, construction details, construction cost estimate, and a construction schedule. This scope assumes the following:

- Design documents will be prepared for the locations identified under Task 3. All sites will be prepared under one set of construction documents.
- Total length of sewer mains to be rehabilitated or replaced will be approximately 3,000 linear feet (20% of the sewer mains reviewed). This is based on review of similar sewer mains throughout the City. If the total length of sewer mains requiring repairs is larger than anticipated, additional fee may be required to proceed with detailed design.
- The detail and accuracy of the existing City's sewer basemaps should be sufficient to develop construction documents for all rehabilitation projects. Sewer re-alignment, easement research, and easement acquisition are not included within this scope of services. Topographic surveying is included as an optional task to this scope of services.

Task 7: 95% Design

After receiving and reviewing comments from the City, Schaaf & Wheeler will prepare the 95% construction documents. Construction documents will include detailed plans, technical specifications, and engineer's estimates.

The 95% plans will include detailed profiles for all locations where open trench or pipe bursting is proposed. The location of all laterals will be identified based on CCTV data and will be shown on the plans. Sewer flow rates based on the City's modeling/master plan will be included on the Drawings for sewer bypass designs to be prepared by the Contractor.

Task 8: Final Design

After receiving and reviewing comments from the City Schaaf & Wheeler will prepare the final construction documents. Construction documents will include bid-ready plans, technical specifications, City front end specifications, and engineer's estimates.

Task 9: Bid Support Services

Schaaf & Wheeler will provide bid support services which may include attendance at the pre-bid meeting, responding to questions from bidders, prepare addenda, and evaluation of bids.

Task 10: Construction Support

Schaaf & Wheeler will be available to assist the City as desired throughout the construction process. Construction support assistance may include:

- Pre-construction meeting attendance;
- Review and approve shop drawings and submittals;
- Review contractor's request for information (RFIs) and furnish additional drawings and/or specifications for supplementing, clarifying, and/or correcting purposes;

- Attend meetings and site visits when necessary (up six online or telephone meetings and two on site meetings/visits are included);
- Assist with the review of construction, and other activities, as required;
- Prepare, review, and recommend approval of change orders as required;
- Provide one set of reproducible record drawings that reflect the changes to the work during construction based upon Contractor markups, drawings and other data furnished by the Contractor, City, and Consultants. The record drawings will also be provided in AutoCAD format.

Optional Task A: Topographic Surveying

Schaaf & Wheeler's subconsultant, Kier & Wright will perform topographic surveying in limited locations deemed necessary to properly identify sewer slopes, utility alignments, etc. This scope of work includes approximately two days of topographic surveying, additional surveying can be provided for an additional fee if deemed necessary.

Optional Task B: Utility Potholing

Schaaf & Wheeler's subconsultant, Subtronic Corporation will perform utility locating where potential utility conflicts exist. Subtronic will USA all locations to be potholed. This scope includes up to two days of utility potholing, additional potholing can be performed for an additional fee if deemed necessary; however, we do not anticipate the need for a significant amount of potholing since most of the pipes will be replaced at a similar line and grade to the existing pipes.

Assumptions

- The tasks, approach, schedule and proposed fees included within this proposal assumes the following:
- Limited topographic surveying is included as an optional task, if additional surveying is deemed necessary it can be performed for an additional scope and fee.
- This scope a limited amount of detailed utility investigations and potholing as an optional task. Additional utility investigations and potholing can be performed for an additional fee if deemed necessary.
- This scope excludes geotechnical investigations and assistance.
- This scope excludes easement research and obtaining title reports.

Schedule

See the attached project schedule. The schedule has an assumed notice to proceed date.

Fee Proposal

City of Belmont 2025 Sewer Rehabilitation Project Schaaf & Wheeler Fee Proposal - December 6, 2023		Project Manager	Senior Engineer	Assistant Engineer	Schaaf & Wheeler Subtotal	Kier & Wright, Surveying Subconsultant	Subtronic Corporation, Utility Potholing Subconsultant	Subconsultant Markup (10%)	Total
	Hourly Rate	**$295**	**$250**	**$200**					
Task 1	**Meetings**	**6**	**6**	**0**	**$ 3,270**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,270**
A	Design Review Meetings (3)	6	6		$ 3,270			$ -	$ 3,270
Task 2	**Data Collection and Review**	**2**	**12**	**0**	**$ 3,590**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,590**
A	Collect and Review Existing Data	2	12		$ 3,590			$ -	$ 3,590
Task 3	**Sewer Assessment & Summary Memorandum**	**8**	**20**	**54**	**$ 18,160**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 18,160**
A	Review & Assess CCTV Inspection Videos	2	8	30	$ 8,590			$ -	$ 8,590
B	Develop Capital Improvement Project List	2	6	12	$ 4,490			$ -	$ 4,490
C	Draft and Final Summary Memorandum	4	6	12	$ 5,080			$ -	$ 5,080
Task 4	**Utility Coordination**	**0**	**6**	**8**	**$ 3,100**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,100**
A	Obtain utility maps			8	$ 1,600			$ -	$ 1,600
B	Coordination w/ MPWD		6		$ 1,500			$ -	$ 1,500
Task 5	**Site Visits**	**0**	**16**	**16**	**$ 7,200**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 7,200**
A	Site Visits		16	16	$ 7,200			$ -	$ 7,200
Task 6	**65% Design**	**6**	**28**	**79**	**$ 24,570**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 24,570**
A	Prepare Project Basemap		6	30	$ 7,500			$ -	$ 7,500
B	Prepare 65% Plans	6	20	45	$ 15,770			$ -	$ 15,770
C	Prepare 65% Engineer's Estimate		2	4	$ 1,300			$ -	$ 1,300
Task 7	**95% Design**	**16**	**50**	**54**	**$ 28,020**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 28,020**
A	Prepare 95% Plans	8	24	50	$ 18,360			$ -	$ 18,360
B	Prepare 95% Specifications	8	24		$ 8,360			$ -	$ 8,360
C	Prepare 95% Engineer's Estimate		2	4	$ 1,300			$ -	$ 1,300
Task 8	**Final Design**	**10**	**48**	**42**	**$ 23,350**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 23,350**
A	Prepare Final Plans	6	30	40	$ 17,270			$ -	$ 17,270
B	Prepare Final Specifications	4	16		$ 5,180			$ -	$ 5,180
C	Prepare Final Engineer's Estimate		2	2	$ 900			$ -	$ 900
Task 9	**Bid Support Services**	**6**	**12**	**0**	**$ 4,770**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 4,770**
A	Bid Support Services	6	12		$ 4,770			$ -	$ 4,770
Task 10	**Construction Support**	**25**	**86**	**16**	**$ 32,075**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 32,075**
A	Pre-Construction Meeting	4	4		$ 2,180			$ -	$ 2,180
B	Review Submittals	8	50		$ 14,860			$ -	$ 14,860
C	Review RFIs	8	8		$ 4,360			$ -	$ 4,360
D	Attend Site Visits/Meetings		14		$ 3,500			$ -	$ 3,500
E	Review Change Orders	4	4		$ 2,180			$ -	$ 2,180
F	Record Drawings	1	6	16	$ 4,995			$ -	$ 4,995
	TOTAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TASKS	**71**	**264**	**215**	**$ 129,945**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 129,945**
OPTIONAL TASKS									
A	Topographic Surveying	2	6		$ 2,090	$ 10,000		$ 1,000	$ 13,090
B	Utility Potholing	4	16		$ 5,180		$ 15,000	$ 1,500	$ 21,680
	TOTAL OPTIONAL TASKS	**6**	**22**	**0**	**$ 7,270**	**$ 10,000**	**$ 15,000**	**$ 2,500**	**$ 34,770**
	TOTAL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPTIONAL TASKS	**77**	**286**	**215**	**$ 137,215**	**$ 10,000**	**$ 15,000**	**$ 2,500**	**$ 164,715**

Attachment A

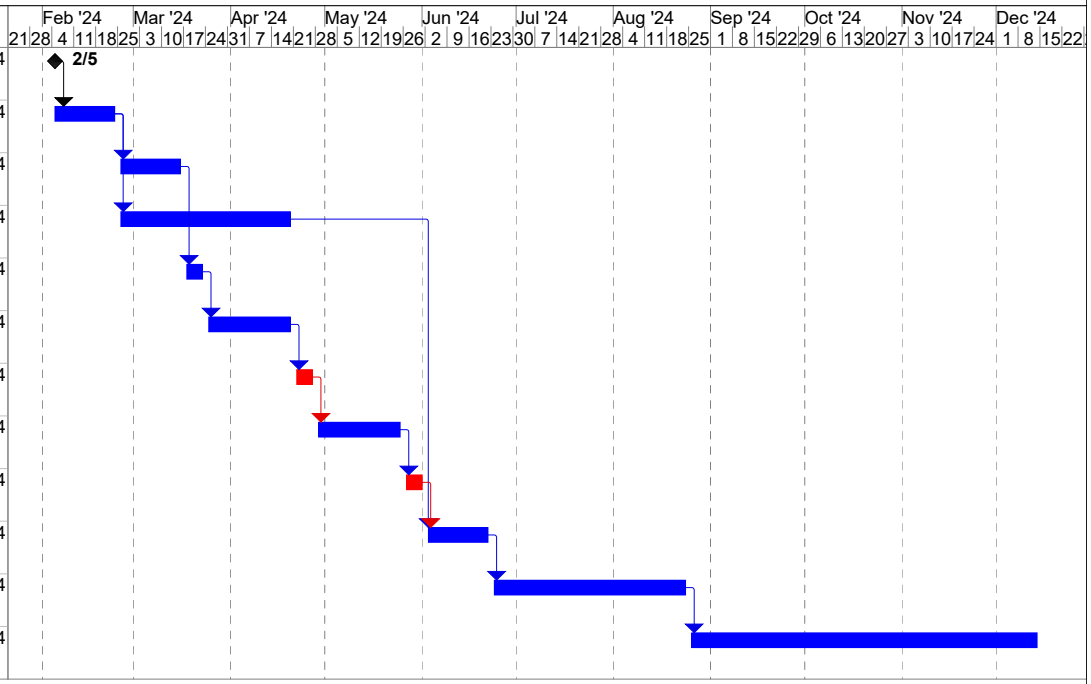
Description of Locations

CITY OF BELMONT
FIVE-YEAR MASTER PAVEMENT EXPENDITURE PLAN
PAVING YEARS FY 24/25 THROUGH FY 28/29

2025 PAVING PROJECT				
Street Name	Beginning Location	End Location	Length (LF)	Width (LF)
FOREST AVENUE ✓	ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS	CIPRIANI BOULEVARD	950	18
CORONET BOULEVARD ✓	ARTHUR AVENUE	PRINDLE ROAD	1,550	22
CORONET BOULEVARD ✓	LYON AVENUE	ARTHUR AVENUE	1,750	22
MONTE CRESTA DRIVE ✓	SAN JUAN BOULEVARD	BARCLAY WAY	1,600	22
MONTE CRESTA DRIVE ✓	BARCLAY WAY	MONTE CRESTA COURT	225	22
MONTE CRESTA DRIVE ✓	MONTE CRESTA COURT	DEAD END	600	22
PULLMAN AVENUE ✓	COVINGTON ROAD	CORONET BOULEVARD	2,150	20
PULLMAN AVENUE ✓	CORONET BOULEVARD	RALSTON AVENUE	200	24
RALSTON FRONTAGE RD ✓	HILLER	KEDITH ST	675	38
RALSTON FRONTAGE RD ✓	GRANADA ST	HILLER	200	21
COMSTOCK CIRCLE ✓	REFUGE BOUNDARY	WALTHAM CROSS	400	40
COMSTOCK CIRCLE ✓	HALLMARK DRIVE (S)	HALLMARK DRIVE (W)	2,300	31
LOWER LOCK AVENUE ✓	END OF PAVED ROAD	HILLCREST DRIVE	950	26
E STREET ✓	FIFTH AVENUE	SIXTH AVENUE	300	32

City of Belmont
2025 Sewer Rehabilitation Project
Project Schedule

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1	**Notice to Proceed (Assumed)**	0 days	Mon 2/5/24	Mon 2/5/24
2	**Task 2: Data Collection and Review**	15 days	Mon 2/5/24	Fri 2/23/24
3	**Task 3: Sewer Assessment & Summary Memo**	15 days	Mon 2/26/24	Fri 3/15/24
4	**Task 4: Utility Coordination**	40 days	Mon 2/26/24	Fri 4/19/24
5	**Task 5: Site Visits**	5 days	Mon 3/18/24	Fri 3/22/24
6	**Task 6: 65% Design**	20 days	Mon 3/25/24	Fri 4/19/24
7	City Review 65% Design	5 days	Mon 4/22/24	Fri 4/26/24
8	**Task 7: 95% Design**	20 days	Mon 4/29/24	Fri 5/24/24
9	City Review 95% Design	5 days	Mon 5/27/24	Fri 5/31/24
10	**Task 8: Final Design**	15 days	Mon 6/3/24	Fri 6/21/24
11	**Task 9: Bid Support Services**	45 days	Mon 6/24/24	Fri 8/23/24
12	**Task 10: Construction Support**	80 days	Mon 8/26/24	Fri 12/13/24



December 6, 2023

Schaaf & Wheeler
CONSULTING CIVIL ENGINEERS

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date:	March 12, 2024
Agency:	City of Belmont
Staff Contact:	Bozhena Palatnik, Public Works, (650) 595-7463, bpalatnik@belmont.gov
Agenda Title:	Salson Trail Storm Damage Repair Project
Agenda Action:	Resolution

Recommendation

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Task Order with Mott MacDonald Group, Inc. for an amount not to exceed $167,945 for design, bid, and construction support services for the Salson Trail Storm Damage Repair Project.

Strategic Focus Area

Infrastructure and Mobility

Background

The Salson Trail is an unpaved fire road in the City of Belmont (City) located south of the Sugar Loaf Open Space area near East Laurel Creek Road. The trail provides recreation opportunities and important emergency access for firefighting to approximately 100 acres of open space area along the tributary of Laurel Creek. The open space is tightly surrounded by residential neighborhoods in the Cities of Belmont and San Mateo. Additionally, the trail provides maintenance access to the 10-inch sanitary sewer line running along part of the trail and servicing approximately 400 houses. The sewer main is vitrified clay pipe (VCP) and is subjected to common aging conditions such as joint separation, root intrusion, and cracks.

During the large storm events in December 2022 and January 2023, part of the trail that crosses the tributary with a 48" storm culvert was damaged by excessive flow and overtopped the crossing. The events caused erosion of the banks, caused much of the emergency access road to collapse, and jeopardized the sanitary sewer main. The City has been working with FEMA to repair areas impacted from these storm events, via federal grant moneys available through the Hazard Mitigation and Public Assistance grant programs.

The risks associated with failure of the 48" culvert was qualitatively reviewed and include the following:

- Potential environmental hazards and fines associated with failure of the 10" sewer line under the trail.
- Potential debris flows and sediment deposition downstream.
- Frequent response and repair need for City O&M staff.
- Potential fire safety issues due to inability for fire crews to use the fire road.

The following improvements need to be completed as part of this project:

- Upsizing the existing 48-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) cross culvert to a 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) to provide future resiliency for large storm events
- Installation of a concrete headwall and trash rack at the upstream end
- Installation of rip rap at the downstream end
- Replacement of the 10-inch sanitary sewer vitrified clay pipe (VCP) with modern materials meeting city standards
- Hydroseeding as site restoration and restoring unpaved dirt road within culvert limits so road can be utilized as an emergency access and maintenance road.

Analysis

City staff reached out to on-call consultants seeking design service for the project improvements, and Mott MacDonald Group, Inc. responded with the most comprehensive proposal that included the following tasks:

- Data collection, site visits, and environmental evaluation.
- Surveying, potholing, and coordination with permitting agencies.
- Preparation of 65%, 95% and 100% plans and specifications in accordance with the City's standards.
- Providing support services to City during bidding phase including responding to Requests for Information (RFIs) from bidders and evaluating bids received.
- Providing construction phase support services including but not limited to review of submittals, contract change order preparation and/or review, responding to RFIs, and as-built preparation.

This project is on a critical path for completion prior to next year's wet season. The project is anticipated to be completed by October 2024. The City will receive $186,795 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation program and will need to fund the balance for the total project cost. During the design phase, an Engineer's Estimate will determine the actual construction costs, currently estimated to be around $650,000. Staff will seek Council approval at a later date for authorization to construct the project and allocate necessary City funds.

Alternatives

1. Take no action.
2. Refer back to staff for further information.

Attachments

A. Resolution
B. Proposal from Mott MacDonald Group, Inc.

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Fiscal Impact

☒ Funding Source Confirmed: $167,945 is budgeted from the Measure I Storm Capital Improvement Project (Account #399-3-730-6020-9030).

Source:	**Purpose:**	**Public Outreach:**
Council	Statutory/Contractual Requirement	Posting of Agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 –

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT APPROVING A TASK ORDER WITH MOTT MACDONALD GROUP, INC. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $167,945 FOR DESIGN, BID, AND CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE SALSON TRAIL STORM DAMAGE REPAIR PROJECT

WHEREAS, the storm events of winter 2022/2023 damaged a 48" storm culvert that caused erosion and bank cutting, cut off the emergency access road, and jeopardized the sanitary sewer line services; and,

WHEREAS, the City has been working with FEMA to repair damages from these storm events, via federal grant moneys available through the Hazard Mitigation and Public Assistance grant programs; and,

WHEREAS, staff solicited proposals from qualified civil engineering firms under existing on-call agreements; and,

WHEREAS, staff selected Mott MacDonald Group, Inc. to design this project for an amount not to exceed $167,945; and,

WHEREAS, $167,945 has been budgeted from the Measure I Storm Capital Improvement Project Account #399-3-730-6020-9030.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Belmont resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is authorized to execute a Task Order with Mott MacDonald Group, Inc. for an amount not to exceed $167,945 for design, bid, and construction support services for the Salson Trail Storm Damage Repair Project.

* * *

ADOPTED March 12, 2024 by the City of Belmont City Council by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

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City of Belmont
Attn: Bozhena Palatnik
1 Twin Pines Ln,
Belmont, CA 94002

City of Belmont – TO#1 – Culvert Replacement- Salson Trail

Mott MacDonald Group, Inc

2700 Gateway Place

Ste 550

San Jose, CA 95110

Mohamed Basma, PE

Mohamed.Basma@mottmac.com

Feb 27, 2024

Dear Bozhena,

Mott MacDonald Group Inc. (Mott MacDonald) is pleased to submit this Task Order (TO) proposal in accordance with our Master Architectural and Engineering Agreement to provide design services for the City of Belmont (City's) Culvert Replacement – Salson Trail Project (Project). This TO proposal was prepared in response to your email request on Feb 7, 2024, and subsequent follow-on discussions.

Project Understanding

We understand that the City of Belmont is seeking design plans as part of emergency repairs to an existing CMP culvert on Salson Trail that was damaged during the large storm events in December 2022 and January 2023. The project includes upsizing the existing 48-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) cross culvert to a 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP), a concrete headwall and trash rack at the upstream end, rip rap at the downstream end, replacement of the 10-inch sanitary sewer vitrified clay pipe (VCP), , hydroseeding as site restoration and restoring unpaved dirt road within culvert limits so road can be utilised as an emergency firefighting access and maintenance road. We understand from the project H&H report and from evaluation of aerial imagery that the culvert conveys flow from a recognized tributary to Laurel Creek. As a result, depending on the extent of work required and the methods proposed, culvert repairs could require permitting from one or more of the resource agencies. Our approach to environmental support for the project is designed to expedite environmental clearances as much as possible. Accordingly, our budget provides for us to assist by preparing a CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the City's use as soon as adequate information is available from design process (typically at 65% PS&E milestone). If this project is assigned to our team, early in the design process, we will initiate environmental evaluation of the site and initiate early coordination with agencies and provide insight into permit pathways. Assuming aquatic permits are required, we will discuss options to streamline authorization process and we will work with City to determine an efficient course of action. Permits are included as optional tasks in our budget and may need to be refined depending on which permit is triggered.

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Figure 1 - Culvert location on Salson trail and culvert condition

Scope of Work

Task 1 Project Management

Overall management of Mott MacDonald in-house staff including contract administration, budget and schedule control, monthly project reports, invoicing, coordination meetings with the City, and performing quality control. Mott MacDonald assumes a design project duration of three (3) months.

Deliverables:

- Kick-Off Meeting Agenda and Minutes
- Monthly invoices and progress reports
- Coordination Meeting Agendas and Minutes – a maximum of three (3) project meetings and one (1) meeting with Resource agencies

Task 2 – Field visit and Environmental Evaluation

This task will involve collecting and reviewing existing available CAD files and GIS data, as-built review for existing culvert and sanitary sewer system, determining if existing flowline elevations can be utilised, meeting with City Engineering and Maintenance team, reviewing hydrology and hydraulics reports, reviewing the City and Caltrans standards. This task will also provide for an early dialogue with three (3) of the resource agencies (as described to in Task 7), to verify permit pathways and confirm CEQA approach is acceptable strategy. To support these conversations, we will be conducting biological and ecological reconnaissance evaluation of the site to figure out the jurisdictional boundaries and any issues related to special-status species

Deliverables:

- Evaluation Memo verifying resource agency jurisdiction and permit pathways.

Task 3 – Plans Specifications and Estimates

This task of developing design plans for culvert and sewer line replacement, and roadway repair within project limits will involve reviewing the as-built and collected information and developing 65% design Plans, specifications, and estimates preparing a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the City's use, meeting with City personnel to review the 65% design package and producing a 100% PSE plan set that incorporates the City's comments and then proceed to develop a biddable set of documents.

Deliverables:

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- 65%PS&E. Anticipated list of engineering drawings will include –
    - General Plans (Title sheets, Notes and legend, key map and Demolition plan)
    - Plan, profile and details sheets for culvert and sewer line
    - Erosion control, tree protection plan
    - City Standard Details
- CEQA Notice of Exemption
- 65% Review Meeting Minutes
- Responses to City comments on the 65% submittal
- 100% PS&E documents
- Bid Package

Task 4 – Bidding Support

The team will attend the pre-bid meeting and respond to any bidder questions. Mott

Deliverables:

- Provide responses to up to two (2) bidder inquiries (RFIs)
- Preparation of up to one (1) bid addenda.

Task 5 – Design Services During Construction

The team will provide construction support by attending the preconstruction meeting, attend up to three (3) construction meetings, responding to contractor request for information (RFI) and attending a final walk through for punch list item as and providing status reports. This will be billed on a time and materials basis up to the approved budget.

Deliverables:

- Review and respond to contractor submitted RFI's .
- Review and respond to shop drawing submittals
- Preparing of Record Drawings (AutoCAD and PDF)

Task 6 – Cal OES and/or FEMA Coordination Support (Optional)

The team will provide assistance as needed for completion of OES forms in order for the city to claim reimbursement for the construction of the new culvert

Deliverables:

- As- needed technical assistance and support with OES forms.

Task 7 – Environmental Resource Agency Permits (Optional)

Through this task, the team will provide for preparation and submittal of Section 404 pre-construction notification, Section 401 Water Quality application package and Section 1602 Notification package. The team will provide with responses to questions by the Resource agencies on the application, assuming minor questions that need no further technical work and all permit fees are paid by City. Any additional expedited work related to cultural resource reporting will be additional. This task also assumes that any potential need for Incidental Take Permits for listed species cab be avoided by incorporating Avoidance of Minimization Measures (AMM's) into the project. The team is available to revisit the budget for this task as the permitting needs are clarified.

Deliverables:

- USACE Clean Water Act Section 404 permit
- RWQCB Clean Water Act Section 401 WQC permit

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- DFW Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement

Assumptions

The following assumption were made for this proposal:

- Schedule assumes a two-week City review period. No other agency review has been assumed.
- City will identify and coordinate key stakeholders and operation staff for attending meetings.
- Mott MacDonald fee proposal is based on the hourly rates which are effective until June 30, 2024.
- Existing 10-inch VCP sanitary sewer pipe will be replaced from maintenance hole to maintenance hole (approximately 245 linear feet). It is assumed the pipe material for replacing the existing sewer pipe will be in accordance with City Standards.
- City will provide with AutoCAD file for existing ground and any GIS mapping available.
- Scope of work does not include National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance activities.
- Assuming a maximum of 17 PS&E plan sheets.
- Culvert headwall and rip rap for slope stabilization will conform to Caltrans Standards.
- Trench backfills and roadway improvements will conform to City Standards.
- Mott Macdonald assumes five (5) RFI’s and eight (8) shop drawing submittal reviews.

Exclusions

The proposal excludes the following services which can be provided at the request of the City at an additional cost:

- Relocation of other utilities
- Topographic survey
- Potholing activities/utility location
- Support for FEMA funding.
- Modeling to confirm pipe size and hydraulic sizing is excluded from the scope of services.

Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule and will be updated in more detail after the kick-off meeting.

NTP	March 20, 2024
Evaluation memo	May 1, 2024
Submit Draft Plans (65% PSE)	May 31, 2024
CEQA NOE	June 15, 2024
Submit Final Plans (100% PSE)	July 1, 2024
Bidding and Contractor Approval	August 15, 2024
Design Support during Construction	October 31, 2024

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Fee Proposal

Mott MacDonald will provide the above scope of services on a time-and-materials not-to-exceed fee basis in accordance with our Master Services Agreement. The estimated not to exceed fee is $76,592 as shown in the attached fee estimate. An additional $77,781 is estimated for two (2) optional tasks that includes the fee expected for any or all the permits that may be needed to construct the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a TO proposal to complete this important work. Please feel free to contact me or Bindu Samudrala, the Project Manager, if you have any questions. Bindu can be reached by phone at (518) 986-1309 or via e-mail at himabindu.samudrala@mottmac.com.

Sincerely,

Mott MacDonald Group, Inc

DocuSigned by:
Mohamed Basma
43F4205A006D4C2...

Mohamed Basma

Senior Vice President

Northern California Portfolio Manager

+1 408 807 0481

Mohamed.basma@mottmac.com

Cc: Stephanie Douglass, P.E.

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City of Belmont
Culvert replacement - Saison Trail

												Redtail				
Task No.	**Task Description**	**Principal Project Manager**	**Project Manager & Project Lead**	**Senior Project Engineer. QA/QC**	**Engineer III**	**Engineer II**	**Principal Sepecialist**	**Specialist V**	**Total MM Hours**	**Total MM Reimbursable Labor**	**Environmental**	**Total Subs-Fee & Direct Costs**	**MM Subtotal**	**Mark-up on Subs- 5%**	**Task & Subtask Totals**
	Key Staff/Staff Grade	Stephanie Douglas	Himabindu S	Jose Lomeli	Lisette Abad	Jack Friedman	Deepa	Dawn Ann							
	Hourly Rates	$294	$262	$232	$141	$121	$294	$123	Hours	Cost		Cost	Cost	Cost	Cost
Task 1	**Project Management**														
1.1	Project Management	3	5		6		4	6	24	$ 4,949		$ -	$ 4,949	$ -	$ 4,949
1.2	Monthly Progress Reports		4		3				7	$ 1,471		$ -	$ 1,471	$ -	$ 1,471
1.3	Kick-Off and coordination meetings (up to 3 meetings) [remote via teleconference]	5	8		4				17	$ 4,128		$ -	$ 4,128	$ -	$ 4,128
	Task 1 Subtotal	**8**	**17**	**0**	**13**	**0**	**4**	**6**	**48**						
	Task 1 Cost per Staff	**$ 2,348**	**$ 4,454**	**$ -**	**$ 1,834**	**$ -**	**$ 1,176**	**$ 735**		**$ 10,548**		**$ -**	**$ 10,548**	**$ -**	**$ 10,548**
Task 2	**Field Visit and Data Collection**														
2.1	Collect and Review Available Information, Field Visit		6		6				12	$ 2,419		$ -	$ 2,419	$ -	$ 2,419
2.2	Creating Basemap			2	8	8			18	$ 2,556		$ -	$ 2,556	$ -	$ 2,556
2.3	Environmental Resource Agency Outreach and Evaluation for Need for permits		4			4			8	$ 1,530	$ 5,155	$ 5,155	$ 1,530	$ 258	$ 6,943
	Task 2 Subtotal	**0**	**10**	**2**	**14**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**38**			$ -		**$ -**	
	Task 2 Cost per Staff	**$ -**	**$ 2,620**	**$ 464**	**$ 1,976**	**$ 1,446**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 6,506**	**$ 5,155**	**$ 5,155**	**$ 6,506**	**$ 258**	**$ 11,918**
Task 3	**Plans, Specifications and Estimates**														
3.1	Prepare 65% PSE Documents	2	8	8	26	39			83	$ 12,906		$ -	$ 12,906	$ -	$ 12,906
3.2	Preparing CEQA Notice of Exemption		4			4			8	$ 1,530	$ 3,496	$ 3,496	$ 1,530	$ 175	$ 5,201
3.3	City review and Meeting [remote via teleconference]	2	8		10	0			20	$ 4,094		$ -	$ 4,094	$ -	$ 4,094
3.4	Prepare 100% PSE Documents and biddable documents	3	14	5	37	45			104	$ 16,351		$ -	$ 16,351	$ -	$ 16,351
	Task 3 Subtotal	**7**	**34**	**13**	**73**	**88**	**0**	**0**	**215**						
	Task 3 Cost per Staff	**$ 2,055**	**$ 8,908**	**$ 3,013**	**$ 10,301**	**$ 10,605**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 34,882**	**$ 3,496**	**$ 3,496**	**$ 34,882**	**$ 175**	**$ 38,552**
Task 4	**Bidding Support**														
4.1	Responses to Bidder's questions	2	4	2					0	$ 2,099		$ -	$ 2,099	$ -	$ 2,099
4.2	Preparation of 1 bid addenda	1	3		2				2	$ 1,362			$ 1,362		$ 1,362
										$ -		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Task 4 Subtotal	**3**	**7**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**						
	Task 4 Cost per Staff	**$ 881**	**$ 1,834**	**$ 464**	**$ 282**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 3,460**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,460**	**$ -**	**$ 3,460**
Task 5	**Design Services during Construction**														
5.1	Pre-Construction, Construction meetings, agendas, and notes.	1	4		4				9	$ 1,906		$ -	$ 1,906	$ -	$ 1,906
5.2	Response to RFIs, Submittals	1	8		16	15			40	$ 6,455		$ -	$ 6,455	$ -	$ 6,455
5.3	Final walkthrough punch list and report and As built pl	1	4			20			25	$ 3,752		$ -	$ 3,752	$ -	$ 3,752
	Task 5 Subtotal	**3**	**16**	**0**	**20**	**35**	**0**	**0**	**74**						
	Task 5 Cost per Staff	**$ 881**	**$ 4,192**	**$ -**	**$ 2,822**	**$ 4,218**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 12,113**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 12,113**	**$ -**	**$ 12,113**
	Design Hours	**21**	**84**	**17**	**122**	**135**	**4**	**6**	**377**						
										$ 67,508	**$ 8,851**	**$ 8,851**	**$ 67,508**	**$ 433**	**$ 76,592**
Task 6	**Cal OES and FEMA Coordination Support(optional)**														
6.1	Draft permit application packages		20		5	3			28	$ 6,307	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	$ 6,307	$ 75	$ 7,882
6.2	Final permit application packages		10		5	3			18	$ 3,687	$ 1,908	$ 1,908	$ 3,687	$ 95	$ 5,690
	Task 6 Subtotal	**0**	**30**	**0**	**10**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**46**						
	Task 6 Cost per Staff	**$ -**	**$ 7,860**	**$ -**	**$ 1,411**	**$ 723**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 9,994**	**$ 3,408**	**$ 3,408**	**$ 9,994**	**$ 170**	**$ 13,573**
Task 7	**Environmental Permits (optional)**														
7.1	USACE CWA Section 404 Permitting		4		2	4			10	$ 1,812	$ 38,873	$ 38,873	$ 1,812	$ 1,944	$ 42,629
7.2	RWQCB CWA Section 401 Permitting		4		2	4			10	$ 1,812	$ 16,701	$ 16,701	$ 1,812	$ 835	$ 19,348
7.3	DFW Section 1602 Streambed Alternation		4		2	4			10	$ 1,812	$ 13,325	$ 13,325	$ 1,812	$ 666	$ 15,804
	Task 7 Subtotal	**0**	**12**	**0**	**6**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**30**						
	Task 6 Cost per Staff	**$ -**	**$ 3,144**	**$ -**	**$ 847**	**$ 1,446**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 5,437**	**$ 68,899**	**$ 68,899**	**$ 5,437**	**$ 3,445**	**$ 77,781**
												$ -		$ -	
	TOTAL PROPOSED FEE								**463**	**$ 82,939**	**$ 80,958**	**$ 80,958**	**$ 82,939**	**$ 4,048**	**$ 167,945**

2/27/2024

City of Belmont
Culvert replacement - Salson Trail

											Redtail				
Task No.	**Task Description**	Principal Project Manager	Project Manager & Project Lead	Senior Project Engineer. QA/QC	Engineer III	Engineer II	Principal Sepecialist	Specialist V	Total MM Hours	Total MM Reimbursable Labor	Environmental	Total Subs-Fee & Direct Costs	MM Subtotal	Mark-up on Subs- 5%	Task & Subtask Totals
	Key Staff/Staff Grade	Stephanie Douglas	Himabindu S	Jose Lomeli	Lisette Abad	Jack Friedman	Deepa	Dawn Ann							
	Hourly Rates	$294	$262	$232	$141	$121	$294	$123	Hours	Cost		Cost	Cost	Cost	Cost
Task 1	**Project Management**														
1.1	Project Management	3	5		6		4	6	24	$ 4,949		$ -	$ 4,949	$ -	$ 4,949
1.2	Monthly Progress Reports		4		3				7	$ 1,471		$ -	$ 1,471	$ -	$ 1,471
1.3	Kick-Off and coordination meetings (up to 3 meetings) [remote via teleconference]	5	8		4				17	$ 4,128		$ -	$ 4,128	$ -	$ 4,128
	Task 1 Subtotal	**8**	**17**	**0**	**13**	**0**	**4**	**6**	**48**						
	Task 1 Cost per Staff	**$ 2,348**	**$ 4,454**	**$ -**	**$ 1,834**	**$ -**	**$ 1,176**	**$ 735**		**$ 10,548**		**$ -**	**$ 10,548**	**$ -**	**$ 10,548**
Task 2	**Field Visit and Data Collection**														
2.1	Collect and Review Available Information, Field Visit		6		6				12	$ 2,419		$ -	$ 2,419	$ -	$ 2,419
2.2	Creating Basemap			2	8	8			18	$ 2,556		$ -	$ 2,556	$ -	$ 2,556
2.3	Environmental Resource Agency Outreach and Evaluation for Need for permits		4			4			8	$ 1,530	$ 5,155	$ 5,155	$ 1,530	$ 258	$ 6,943
	Task 2 Subtotal	**0**	**10**	**2**	**14**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**38**			$ -		**$ -**	
	Task 2 Cost per Staff	**$ -**	**$ 2,620**	**$ 464**	**$ 1,976**	**$ 1,446**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 6,505**	**$ 5,155**	**$ 5,155**	**$ 6,505**	**$ 258**	**$ 11,918**
Task 3	**Plans, Specifications and Estimates**														
3.1	Prepare 65% PSE Documents	2	8	8	26	39			83	$ 12,906		$ -	$ 12,906	$ -	$ 12,906
3.2	Preparing CEQA Notice of Exemption		4			4			8	$ 1,530	$ 3,496	$ 3,496	$ 1,530	$ 175	$ 5,201
3.3	City review and Meeting [remote via teleconference]	2	8		10	0			20	$ 4,094		$ -	$ 4,094	$ -	$ 4,094
3.4	Prepare 100% PSE Documents and biddable documents	3	14	5	37	45			104	$ 16,351		$ -	$ 16,351	$ -	$ 16,351
	Task 3 Subtotal	**7**	**34**	**13**	**73**	**88**	**0**	**0**	**215**						
	Task 3 Cost per Staff	**$ 2,055**	**$ 8,908**	**$ 3,013**	**$ 10,301**	**$ 10,605**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 34,882**	**$ 3,496**	**$ 3,496**	**$ 34,882**	**$ 175**	**$ 38,552**
Task 4	**Bidding Support**														
4.1	Responses to Bidder's questions	2	4	2					0	$ 2,099		$ -	$ 2,099	$ -	$ 2,099
4.2	Preparation of 1 bid addenda	1	3		2				2	$ 1,362			$ 1,362		$ 1,362
										$ -		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
	Task 4 Subtotal	**3**	**7**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**						
	Task 4 Cost per Staff	**$ 881**	**$ 1,834**	**$ 464**	**$ 282**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 3,460**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,460**	**$ -**	**$ 3,460**
Task 5	**Design Services during Construction**														
5.1	Pre-Construction, Construction meetings, agendas, and notes.	1	4		4				9	$ 1,906		$ -	$ 1,906	$ -	$ 1,906
5.2	Response to RFIs, Submittals	1	8		16	15			40	$ 6,455		$ -	$ 6,455	$ -	$ 6,455
5.3	Final walkthrough punch list and report and As built pl	1	4			20			25	$ 3,752		$ -	$ 3,752	$ -	$ 3,752
	Task 5 Subtotal	**3**	**16**	**0**	**20**	**35**	**0**	**0**	**74**						
	Task 5 Cost per Staff	**$ 881**	**$ 4,192**	**$ -**	**$ 2,822**	**$ 4,218**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 12,113**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 12,113**	**$ -**	**$ 12,113**
	Design Hours	**21**	**84**	**17**	**122**	**135**	**4**	**6**	**377**						
										$ 67,508	**$ 8,651**	**$ 8,651**	**$ 67,508**	**$ 433**	**$ 76,592**
Task 6	**Cal OES and FEMA Coordination Support(optional)**														
6.1	Draft permit application packages		20		5	3			28	$ 6,307	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	$ 6,307	$ 75	$ 7,882
6.2	Final permit application packages		10		5	3			18	$ 3,687	$ 1,908	$ 1,908	$ 3,687	$ 95	$ 5,690
	Task 6 Subtotal	**0**	**30**	**0**	**10**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**46**						
	Task 6 Cost per Staff	**$ -**	**$ 7,860**	**$ -**	**$ 1,411**	**$ 723**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 9,994**	**$ 3,408**	**$ 3,408**	**$ 9,994**	**$ 170**	**$ 13,573**
Task 7	**Environmental Permits (optional)**														
7.1	USACE CWA Section 404 Permitting		4		2	4			10	$ 1,812	$ 38,873	$ 38,873	$ 1,812	$ 1,944	$ 42,629
7.2	RWQCB CWA Section 401 Permitting		4		2	4			10	$ 1,812	$ 16,701	$ 16,701	$ 1,812	$ 835	$ 19,348
7.3	DFW Section 1602 Streambed Alternation		4		2	4			10	$ 1,812	$ 13,325	$ 13,325	$ 1,812	$ 666	$ 15,804
	Task 7 Subtotal	**0**	**12**	**0**	**6**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**30**						
	Task 6 Cost per Staff	**$ -**	**$ 3,144**	**$ -**	**$ 847**	**$ 1,446**	**$ -**	**$ -**		**$ 5,437**	**$ 68,899**	**$ 68,899**	**$ 5,437**	**$ 3,445**	**$ 77,781**
												$ -		$ -	
	TOTAL PROPOSED FEE								**453**	**$ 82,939**	**$ 80,958**	**$ 80,958**	**$ 82,939**	**$ 4,048**	**$ 167,945**

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date:	March 12, 2024
Agency:	City of Belmont
Staff Contact:	Laura Russell, Deputy Community Development Director, lrussell@belmont.gov
Agenda Title:	Agreement with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. for Planning Services
Agenda Action:	Resolution

Recommendation

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute services agreements with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. totaling an amount not-to-exceed $73,792.

Strategic Focus Area

Economic Development and Housing

Background

From time to time the City uses third-party planning consultants for services related to policy analysis and zoning ordinance amendments. Since the comprehensive update to the General Plan and adoption of the Belmont Village Specific plan in 2017, the City has experienced significant development activity in the City. Through the process of reviewing and approving those projects, staff has identified opportunities to improve and clarify the zoning ordinance. Additionally, the zoning ordinance must be periodically updated to remain compliant with State law. These types of amendments require skilled planners with expertise which may not be readily available inhouse.

Analysis

Staff requests that the City Council authorize the procurement of planning services to assist with zoning ordinance amendments and specialized analysis. City staff believes the use of planning services is reasonable and appropriate for this type of specialized planning work. The work will be divided into three independent engagements (task orders no. 1, no. 2 and no. 3) and tasks will be billed on a time and materials basis, with close coordination with staff to ensure work product that meets the City's needs at a reasonable cost. The cost of this work will be paid from the General Plan Maintenance Fund, which is intended to fund ongoing advance planning needs to further the goals of the General Plan. The authorization for the planning services requested is limited to the amount of available funds appropriated within the fiscal year budget for that purpose.

The zoning ordinance amendments include:

- Task Order No. 1: Updates to implement the 2023-2031 Housing Element and State law;
- Task Order No. 2: Analyze maximum building height scenarios in the Corridor Mixed Use (CMU) District and implement appropriate zoning changes; and
- Task Order No. 3: Consolidation of two existing zoning sections related to parking to eliminate redundancies and be consistent with State law.

Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. is a highly qualified consultant firm with experience in similar work for dozens of California cities. They employ planners with various specialized skills including technical code writing, policy analysis, market economics and architectural modeling. Staff recommends their services for completion of these phased zoning ordinance amendments.

Alternatives

1. Deny the request.
2. Continue the item for further discussion.

Attachments

1. Resolution
   Exhibit A - Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. Qualifications and Rates
   Exhibit B – Scopes of Work for Task Orders No. 1, 2, and 3

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Fiscal Impact

☒ Funding Source Confirmed: The current fiscal year 2023-24 operating budget in the General Plan Maintenance Fund (Account# 212-5-906-8351) includes sufficient funding for task orders no. 1 through no. 3 with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. totaling an amount not-to-exceed $73,792 towards long-range planning efforts. The costs are anticipated to be repaid via ancillary development and associated established fees.

Source:	**Purpose:**	**Public Outreach:**
Staff	Discretionary Action	Posting of Agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 –

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH LISA WISE CONSULTING, INC. TOTALING AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED $73,792

WHEREAS, the City has need from time to time of planning services related to policy analysis and zoning ordinance amendments that require skilled planners with particular expertise; and,

WHEREAS, Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. has demonstrated expertise in the planning and policy field as described in Exhibit A; and,

WHEREAS, the City has a General Plan Maintenance Fund which is intended to fund ongoing advance planning needs to further the goals of the General Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the current fiscal year 2023-24 operating budget in the General Plan Maintenance Fund (Account# 212-5-906-8351) includes sufficient funding for the combined scopes or work with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. totaling an amount not-to-exceed $73,792 towards long-range planning efforts. The costs are anticipated to be repaid via ancillary development and associated established fees; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Belmont resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute services agreements totaling an amount not-to-exceed $73,792 with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. to provide planning services related to policy analysis and zoning code amendments at the rates set forth in Exhibit B.

* * *

ADOPTED March 12, 2024 by the City of Belmont City Council by the following vote:

Ayes:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

LWC

City of Belmont Zoning Ordinance Updates
Task Order #1: Housing Element Implementation

Prepared by Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. (LWC)
February 29, 2024

This Task Order #1 prepared for the City of Belmont ("City") describes the work required to assist the City in completing the amendments to the City of Belmont Zoning Ordinance needed to fully implement the 6th Cycle Belmont Housing Element. The amendments are intended to implement identified Housing Element policies, bring the Ordinance into compliance with recent changes in State law, introduce best practices into the Ordinance, and make the Ordinance incrementally more effective and easy to use.

This Task Order #1 was initially requested by City staff at a November 21 meeting and subsequent emails regarding the City's needs related to the Housing Element certification. The scope below reflects the needs discussed in late 2023, the final adopted version of the Housing Element, and the Zoning Ordinance amendments that the City adopted in January 2024. All meetings are assumed to be conducted online via a video-conferencing platform.

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1A: Meetings with City Staff (4)

LWC will prepare for and attend up to four one-hour meetings with City staff on the needed Zoning Ordinance amendments. At these meetings, topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Discussion of relevant background material (post-2017 General Plan amendments, recent Zoning Ordinance amendments, recent Specific Plans and Specific Plan amendments, Design Guidelines, Design Standards, etc.);
- Review of working Zoning Ordinance Amendments (graphics, format, content, cross-references, etc.); and
- Development of presentation slides.

Task 1B: Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendments

LWC will prepare Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendments needed to implement identified programs within the 6th Cycle Belmont Housing Element, as noted in a table prepared by City staff and shared with LWC. The amendments will include the following:

- Minor edits needed to account for new Objective Design Standards prepared by the City. No significant reformatting and additional graphics anticipated;
- Edits for consistency with AB 2162;
- Edits to define and regulate the following in accordance with State law: mobile home parks, farmworker housing, large residential care facilities, small residential care facilities, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing;
- A revised definition of "family"; and
- Other amendments needed based on the most recent draft Housing Element, as noted by City staff.

LWC will prepare the amendments in a "track changes" version (Word) of all affected existing Zoning Ordinance sections for ease of review and discussion. This will include at minimum sections 2, 4, 5, 5A, 13, and 31. LWC will work with the City to identify additional sections that may require amendments and agree on actions to be taken. This may include but is not limited to sections 5C, 8, 9. Where appropriate, LWC will develop graphics to illustrate new standards. To prepare these documents, the City will provide LWC with current Word files of all affected Zoning Ordinance sections. Upon review of the draft material, the City staff will provide LWC with a single set of non-conflicting comments.

Task 1C: Presentation Assistance (Optional)

LWC will assist City staff in preparing for up to two public hearings with LWC attendance via a video-conferencing platform. LWC's effort will entail preparing draft PowerPoint slides that present the recommended Zoning Ordinance amendments, including background, context, and new content. LWC will coordinate with City staff on the organization and content of the slides. LWC will be available to support staff at the meetings on a time and materials basis over and above the fee specified in this purchase order.

Task 1D: Final Zoning Ordinance Amendments

LWC will prepare Final Zoning Ordinance Amendments needed to fully implement the 6th Cycle Belmont Housing Element. The Final Amendments will reflect the community's, Planning Commission's, and City Council's comments on the Public Draft, and will be prepared in coordination with City Staff. The Final Amendments will be delivered in "clean" and "track changes" versions of the existing Zoning Ordinance (Word and PDF).

BUDGET

Task Order #1 will be billed on a time and materials basis at the rates listed below. Invoices will be submitted monthly and contain a description of work complete by percentage and total amount due. The total "not to exceed" budget for Task Order #1 is $13,744. The subtotal by task is shown in the table below:

City of Belmont Task Order #1: Housing Element Implementation	Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.								Total Hours Per Task	Subtotal by Task
	Principal		Director		Senior		Associate			
	$297		$250		$195		$160			
	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost		
Task 1A: Meetings with City Staff (4)		$ -	4	$ 1,000	6	$ 1,170	6	$ 960	16	$ 3,130
Task 1B: Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendments		$ -	4	$ 1,000	12	$ 2,340	12	$ 1,920	28	$ 5,260
Task 1C: Presentation Assistance (Optional)		$ -		$ -	8	$ 1,560	6	$ 960	14	$ 2,520
Task 1D: Final Zoning Ordinance Amendments	2	$ 594	2	$ 500	4	$ 780	6	$ 960	14	$ 2,834
Total	**2**	**$ 594**	**10**	**$ 2,500**	**30**	**$ 5,850**	**30**	**$ 4,800**	**72**	**$ 13,744**

LWC

City of Belmont Zoning Ordinance Updates
Task Order #2: CMU Building Height Analysis

Prepared by Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. (LWC)
February 29, 2024

This Task Order #2 prepared for the City of Belmont ("City") describes the work required to assist the City staff, community, and decision-makers in studying and making a determination about the maximum building height in the CMU zone. While this study is not required to implement the adopted Housing Element policies, the study will assist the City in weighing its options for preserving neighborhood scale and character and providing flexibility for the range of allowable development types and designs envisioned in the CMU. All meetings are assumed to be conducted online via a video-conferencing platform.

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 2A: Meetings with City Staff (4)

LWC will prepare for and attend up to four one-hour meetings with City staff on the CMU building height study. At these meetings, topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Discussion of relevant background material (recent General Plan amendments, Zoning Ordinance amendments, Specific Plans and Specific Plan amendments, Design Guidelines, Design Standards, etc.); and
- Discussion of specific CMU buildout assumptions, scenarios, and working diagrams.

Task 2B: Height Analysis

LWC will prepare a series of diagrams to demonstrate options for different building maximum height scenarios. The analysis will demonstrate a range of potential scenarios on one typical CMU site to be determined in coordination with City staff. The analysis will include scaled plans, sections, and axonometric drawings that demonstrate:

- Development type, mix of uses, and building configuration;
- Residential density, non-residential FAR, residential unit sizes, on-site open space;
- Residential and non-residential parking locations/configurations and ratios, reflecting compliance with AB 2097 as well as market-driven parking demand based on developed and proposed comparable projects;

- Assumptions regarding affordability (use of State Density Bonus Law *or* Community Benefit program);
- Ground level floor-to-floor height, typical upper-story floor-to-floor height, and overall building height based on the City's rules of measurement for building height; and

The City's applicable Objective Design Standards as articulated in the Belmont Zoning Ordinance Section 13 Design Review, and how the standards impact the development capacity and building massing on the test site. The diagrams and analyses will be developed to assist the City staff, community, and decision-making bodies weigh relevant trade-offs and options, and, ultimately, determine an appropriate maximum base building height in the CMU zoning district.

Task 2C: Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendments needed to reflect the decision-making bodies' determination on the appropriate base maximum building height in the CMU zoning district. The amendments will include a "track changes" version (Word) of all affected existing Zoning Ordinance sections for ease of review and discussion. Where appropriate, LWC will develop graphics to illustrate new standards. To prepare these documents, the City will provide LWC with current Word files of all affected sections. Upon review of the draft material, the City staff will provide LWC with a single set of non-conflicting comments.

Task 2D: Presentation Assistance (Optional)

LWC will assist City staff in preparing for up to two public hearings with LWC attendance via a video-conferencing platform. LWC's effort will entail preparing draft PowerPoint slides that present the building height analysis, including background, assumptions, context, and options. LWC will coordinate with City staff on the organization and content of the slides. LWC will be available to support staff at the meetings on a time and materials basis over and above the fee specified in this purchase order.

Task 2E: Final Zoning Ordinance Amendments

LWC will prepare Final Zoning Ordinance Amendments needed to fully implement the decision-making bodies' direction on the appropriate base maximum building height in the CMU zoning district. The Final Amendments will reflect the community's, Planning Commission's, and City Council's comments on the Draft, and will be prepared in coordination with City Staff. The Final Amendments will be delivered in "clean" and "track changes" versions of the existing Ordinance (Word and PDF).

BUDGET

Task Order #2 will be billed on a time and materials basis at the rates listed below. Invoices will be submitted monthly and contain a description of work complete by percentage and total amount due. The total "not to exceed" budget for Task Order #2 is $31,394. The subtotal by task is shown in the table below:

City of Belmont Task Order #2: CMU Height Analysis	Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.								Total Hours Per Task	Subtotal by Task
	Principal		Director		Senior		Associate			
	$297		$250		$195		$160			
	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost		
Task 2A: Meetings with City Staff (4)		$ -	4	$ 1,000	6	$ 1,170	6	$ 960	16	$ 3,130
Task 2B: Height and Analysis		$ -	4	$ 1,000	30	$ 5,850	30	$ 4,800	64	$ 11,650
Task 2C: Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendments		$ -	4	$ 1,000	12	$ 2,340	12	$ 1,920	28	$ 5,260
Task 2D: Presentation Assistance (Optional)		$ -		$ -	24	$ 4,680	24	$ 3,840	48	$ 8,520
Task 2E: Final Zoning Ordinance Amendments	2	$ 594	2	$ 500	4	$ 780	6	$ 960	14	$ 2,834
Total	**2**	**$ 594**	**14**	**$ 3,500**	**76**	**$ 14,820**	**78**	**$ 12,480**	**170**	**$ 31,394**

LWC

City of Belmont Zoning Ordinance Updates

Task Order #3: Zoning Ordinance Update – Citywide Parking

Prepared by Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. (LWC)
February 29, 2024

This Task Order #3 prepared for the City of Belmont ("City") describes the work required to assist the City staff in preparing a new section of the Belmont Zoning Ordinance to address citywide parking and loading standards. The new section is intended to replace two existing sections that regulate parking and loading in the city: Section 8-Off-Street Parking and Loading and Section 8A-Off-Street Parking and Loading in Corridor Mixed-Use and Regional Commercial Districts.

While this study is not required to implement the adopted Housing Element policies, the study will implement City policies related to parking; retain existing parking and loading standards as appropriate; ensure that standards address the City's needs and priorities; and ensure that standards are legally compliant and reflect general best practices. In addition, the single chapter will make it easier and simpler for the City staff to interpret and enforce parking standards for applicant projects. All meetings are assumed to be conducted online via a video-conferencing platform.

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 3A: Meetings with City Staff (4)
LWC will prepare for and attend up to four one-hour meetings with City staff on the parking and loading Zoning Ordinance section. At these meetings, discussion topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Section contents and organization;
- General parking regulations;
- Parking area, stall, and loading area design standards;
- Parking and loading ratio for various uses;
- Bicycle parking standards; and
- Transportation Demand Management.

Task 3B: Draft Zoning Ordinance Section 8 - Off-Street Parking and Loading

LWC will prepare Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendments needed to introduce a single consolidated Off-Street Parking and Loading section into the Belmont Zoning Ordinance. The new section will be developed to:

- Combine existing sections 8 and 8A of the Belmont Zoning Ordinance;
- Eliminate redundancies and contradictions across the two existing sections;
- Implement relevant programs of the 6th Cycle Belmont Housing Element;
- Carry forward parking policies and standards of the General Plan and applicable specific plans as appropriate;
- Be consistent with State law;
- Recognize required concessions and incentives granted by State law;
- Reflect market conditions; and
- Implement best practices related to parking and loading standards and design.

LWC will prepare a new Section 8 of the Belmont Ordinance that is intended to replace existing sections 8 and 8A of the Belmont Zoning Ordinance. Where appropriate, LWC will develop graphics to illustrate new standards. In addition, LWC will prepare amendments to other sections of the Zoning Ordinance where needed to properly reference the new Section 8 and to reflect the deletion of Section 8A. To prepare these documents, the City will provide LWC with Word files for review and discussion. Upon review of the draft material, the City staff will provide LWC with a single set of non-conflicting comments.

Task 3C: Presentation Assistance (Optional)

LWC will assist City staff in preparing for up to two public hearings with LWC attendance via a video-conferencing platform. LWC's effort will entail preparing draft PowerPoint slides that present the new Section 8: Off-Street Parking and Loading, including changes, new standards, and existing standards to remain. LWC will coordinate with City staff on the organization and content of the slides. LWC will be available to support staff at the meetings on a time and materials basis over and above the fee specified in this purchase order.

Task 3D: Final Zoning Ordinance Section 8 - Off-Street Parking and Loading

LWC will prepare Final Zoning Ordinance Amendments needed to introduce a single consolidated Off-Street Parking and Loading section into the Belmont Zoning Ordinance. The Final Amendments will reflect the community's, Planning Commission's, and City Council's comments on the Public Draft, and will be prepared in coordination with City Staff. The Final Amendments will be delivered in Word and PDF files.

BUDGET

Task Order #3 will be billed on a time and materials basis at the rates listed below. Invoices will be submitted monthly and contain a description of work complete by percentage and total amount due. The total "not to exceed" budget for Task Order #3 is $28,654. The subtotal by task is shown in the table below:

City of Belmont Task Order #3: Zoning Ordinance Update - Citywide Parking	Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc.								Total Hours Per Task	Subtotal by Task
	Principal		Director		Senior		Associate			
	$297		$250		$195		$160			
	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost		
Task 3A: Meeting with City Staff (4)		$ -	4	$ 1,000	6	$ 1,170	6	$ 960	16	$ 3,130
Task 3B: Draft Zoning Ordinance Section 8		$ -	4	$ 1,000	36	$ 7,020	36	$ 5,760	76	$ 13,780
Task 3C: Presentation Assistance (Optional)		$ -		$ -	18	$ 3,510	18	$ 2,880	36	$ 6,390
Task 3D: Final Zoning Ordinance Section 8	2	$ 594	2	$ 500	12	$ 2,340	12	$ 1,920	28	$ 5,354
Total	**2**	**$ 594**	**10**	**$ 2,500**	**72**	**$ 14,040**	**72**	**$ 11,520**	**156**	**$ 28,654**

December 04, 2023

Laura C. Russell, AICP
Deputy Community Development Director
1 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002, Suite 365
(650) 595-7437
lrussell@belmont.gov

RE: LWC Statement of Interest for Assisting the City of Belmont with Zoning Amendments in Phases

Dear Ms. Russell:

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. (LWC) is very pleased to submit this Statement of Interest and our qualifications to assist the City of Belmont to prepare code amendments to implement 6th Cycle Housing Element Programs and assure consistency across regulatory documents in a phased approach. As such, LWC will develop the parameters of subsequent phases as part of the previous phase and proceed with each phase on the City's approval and issuance of a Purchase Order/Task Order.

FIRM PROFILE: As a firm that has focused on comprehensive zoning ordinance updates and audits and assisting California cities comply with housing regulation for over 17 years, this is a target project for us. Please find as part of this memo, the LWC Firm Profile.

KEY STAFF: Our team of national zoning ordinance experts includes Lisa Wise, AICP and Roger Eastman, AICP, each with over 30-year experience managing comprehensive zoning ordinance engagements throughout California, the U.S. and Middle East. Monica Szydlick. AICP, will serve as Project Manage and brings over 17 years of zoning ordinance, urban design, and project management experience to our team. Caroline Chen, LWC Associate has over 5 years of urban planning and urban design experience and will support the team with document management, research, document review and edit and graphics and design. Attached herein are resumes for each of these key staff.

As the owner and CEO of Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc., I will oversee all aspects of the project. Roger Eastman, AICP will serve as Project Director and support Monica Szydlick, AICP who will be responsible for communication with the City and for the quality and timely delivery of project deliverables.

We remain available to address questions or comments, appreciate the opportunity to work with the City of Belmont on this important project.

Sincerely,



Lisa Wise, AICP President, CEO (805) 595-1345

lisa@lisawiseconsulting.com



CONTACT

San Luis Obispo (Headquarters)
983 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805.595.1345 | Office Main

San Francisco
870 Market Street, Suite 977
San Francisco, CA 94102

Los Angeles
706 South Hill Street, #1100
Los Angeles, CA 90014
805.618.1924 | Office Direct

FIRM OVERVIEW

Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. (LWC) is an urban planning and economics firm with national experience dedicated to creating zoning ordinances and development codes that enable pedestrian and transit-oriented neighborhoods, revitalize built environments, and facilitate sustainable, well-designed places to live, work, and recreate. LWC has a strong resume in zoning code updates and amendments, objective design and development standards, specific plans, design guidelines, and the economics of land use, with a constant focus on placemaking, community involvement, and feasible implementation.

LWC's core business is working closely with cities and counties to understand the community vision, assess and update policies, programs and regulations aimed at streamlining the development review process, establishing objective design and development standards, and accelerating housing production. We are equally focused on implementation, by considering economic, fiscal impacts, and eligibility for funding.

LWC is engaged on 12 objective design and development standard projects and have successfully completed 70 comprehensive zoning code updates, diagnoses, and regulatory compliance assessments; and over 130 long range planning, housing, economic, and finance projects on time and to our client's satisfaction.

LWC core capabilities:

- Objective Design and Development Standards and Design Guidelines
- Zoning Ordinances, Development Codes, and Form-Based Codes
- Specific Plans, TOD plans, and Downtown Plans
- Housing Policies, Affordable Housing, and Anti-Displacement Strategies
- Market Analyses, Revitalization Strategies, and Financial Feasibility Studies
- Public Engagement, Visioning, and Community Consensus Modeling

LWC was founded in 2006 and has offices in San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, and Los Angeles. LWC is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) in California and Texas and a certified California Small Business (SBE).

LISA WISE, AICP

President, CEO

LWC

As a certified planner, Lisa has over 30 years of experience in land development code audits and updates, specific plans, housing policy, financial feasibility analysis, and the economic assessment of land use. Lisa is considered a national expert on code reform and the former Treasurer and Chair of the Form Based Code Institute (FBCI) as well as certified instructor for the FBCI courses.

Lisa has been directly responsible for a variety of projects that assess land use regulation, develop strategies for code updates, and support more vibrant and resilient communities. These include 70 code audits and updates, 35 economic engagements, 23 master and specific plans, 40 housing elements updates, and inclusionary and employee housing studies. Her work also includes Project Manager of Form Based Code Framework and Update in Riyadh (pop. 7 million) as well as a Code Assessment and Comprehensive Code and Map Update in Columbus, OH (pop. 920,000).

Lisa holds a Master's Degree in Accountacy from the University of De Paul in Chicago and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic in San Luis Obispo, CA, where she is adjunct staff and lectures on Real Estate Finance and Housing.

Relevant Project Experience:

- Alameda County, CA | Ashland Cherryland Business District Specific Plan Update and Form-Based Code
- Austin, TX | Land Development Code Update
- Benicia, CA | Mixed-Use Master Plan and Form-Based Code
- Columbus, OH | Zoning Code Assessment and Update Strategy
- Columbus, OH | Zoning Code and Map Update
- Flagstaff, AZ | Zoning Ordinance Update
- Hayward, CA | Downtown Specific Plan and Form-Based Code
- Henderson, NV | Land Use and Development Code Audit and Update
- Las Vegas, NV | Downtown Form-Based Code
- Livermore, CA | Development Code Update
- Lompoc, CA | Zoning Code Update
- Malibu, CA | Zoning Code and Local Implementation Plan Update
- Mesa, AZ | Form-Based Code and Regulating Plan
- NEOM, Saudi Arabia | Form Based Code Framework
- Oklahoma City, OK | Code Audit and Update Strategy
- Petaluma, CA | SMART Rail Station Areas: TOD Master Plan
- Richmond, CA | Livable Corridors Plan and Form-Based Code
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Strategic Zoning Framework, Form-Based Code Strategy, and Zoning Code Update
- Soledad, CA | Downtown Specific Plan, Vision, and Form-Based Code
- Tehachapi, CA | Zoning Code Update, Housing Element 4th/5th Cycle
- Vacaville, CA | Land Use and Development Code Audit and Update
- Woodland, CA | Comprehensive Zoning Code Update



PAST WORK EXPERIENCE

California Polytechnic State University
Adjunct Faculty | San Luis Obispo, CA | 2002 - Present

Crawford, Multari & Clark Associates
Professional Consultant | San Luis Obispo, CA
2001 – 2006

Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR)
Intern | Sacramento, CA | 1999 – 2000

PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
Financial Services Manager | New York, NY
1990 – 1999

EDUCATION

California Polytechnic State University
M. of City & Regional Planning | San Luis Obispo, CA

DePaul University
M.S., Accountancy | Chicago, IL

University of Cincinnati
B.S., Business Administration in Marketing & Finance

CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Planning Association (APA)
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

California Planning Foundation
Treasurer, 2019 – Present

Dean's Leadership Council
California Polytechnic State University, College of Architecture & Environmental Design, 2018 – Present

Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)
Paul Crawford Award for Excellence in Planning, 2017

Form-Based Code Institute (FBCI)
Chair, 2015 – 2018 | Treasurer, 2014 – 2015

Certified Public Accountant, 1991 – 1999

MONICA SZYDLIK, AICP

Senior Associate

Monica brings over 17 years' experience in planning and urban design to LWC. She has focused her career on leading zoning code updates, zoning map updates, form-based development regulations, specific plans, transit-oriented development plans, streetscape design, and Objective Design Standards. Her skills include managing multi-disciplinary teams, meticulous attention to detail, deep understanding of land use regulations, facilitating community outreach, and delivering projects on time and within budget. Monica is an expert in integrating 3-D modeling, diagramming, and photo simulations for more attractive, publishing-quality reports and presentations. Monica brings a comprehensive approach that combines technical urban planning knowledge, an emphasis on architecture and design, and a focus on feasibility of implementation.

Monica holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of California, Berkeley.

Relevant Project Experience:

- Beaumont, CA | Objective Design Standards
- Belmont, CA | Belmont Village Specific Plan
- Burbank, CA | Single-Family Neighborhood Compatibility and Design
- Henderson, NV | Development Code Update
- Honolulu, HI | Downtown and Kalihi Neighborhood TOD Plans and Public Views Study
- Livermore, CA | Isabel Neighborhood Plan and EIR
- Los Altos, CA | Multifamily and Mixed-Use Objective Design Standards
- Paso Robles | CA, Beechwood Specific Plan
- Piedmont, CA | Mixed-Use and Multi-Family Objective Design Standards, Prototype Plans and Incentives for Accessory Dwelling Units
- Portola Valley, CA | Objective Design Standards
- Rancho Cucamonga, CA | Comprehensive Development Code Update and Objective Design Standards
- Redwood City, CA | Citywide Single-Family Residential Design Guidelines
- San Bruno, CA | Bayhill Specific Plan
- San Diego, CA | Mission Valley Community Plan - Urban Design
- San Jose, CA | Santana Row/Valley Fair and Winchester Boulevard Urban Village Master Plans
- San Pablo, CA | San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan
- Saratoga, CA | Objective Design Standards
- Seal Beach, CA | Objective Design Standards
- South Lake Tahoe, CA | Tahoe Valley Development and Design Standards
- South San Francisco, CA | Zoning Code Update and Form Based Code
- St. Helena, CA | Zoning Code Update and Zoning Map
- Tehachapi, CA | Oak Tree Village Specific Plan
- Vacaville, CA | Land Use and Development Code Audit
- Woodland, CA | Comprehensive Zoning Code Update



PAST WORK EXPERIENCE

Dyett & Bhatia Urban and Regional Planners
Senior Associate | 2006 – 2018

Kirk Miller Affiliates
Architectural Designer | 2005 – 2006

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Master of Architecture

University of California, Berkeley
B.A., History

CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
2017 – Present (#330767)

American Planning Association (APA)
California Chapter Award of Excellence, 2018, Belmont Village Specific Plan

Hawaii Chapter Honor Award for Urban Design, 2016, Downtown and Kalihi Neighborhood TOD Plans

California Northern Section Award of Honor for Neighborhood Planning, 2012, El Camino Real/ Chestnut Avenue Area Plan

Arizona Chapter Award, Master Plan Category, 2009, Avondale City Center Specific Area Plan

ROGER E. EASTMAN, AICP

Director of Development Codes & Planning

Roger brings over 30 years of land use planning experience with an emphasis on writing effective land development codes, form-based codes, code assessments and update strategies, and ensuring consistency and compliance across jurisdictional land use policy.

As the Director of Development Codes and Planning at LWC, Roger is responsible for the accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of all Development Code deliverables, with a focus on effective streamlining, best practices, legal compliance, and client satisfaction. Roger also serves on the Steering Committee of the Form-Based Code Institute (FBCI) and is a certified instructor of FBCI training courses.

Roger's previous experience includes 10 years as the Comprehensive Planning and Code Administrator for the City of Flagstaff where he oversaw a comprehensive Cide-wide Zoning Code Update that won two Arizona APA Chapter awards. Roger also served as Senior Planner with the City of Sedona, AZ from 1991 to 2006.

Relevant Project Experience:

- Austin, TX | Land Development Code Update
- Beaumont, CA | General Plan Update and Zoning Amendments`
- Columbus, OH | Zoning Code Assessment and Update Strategy
- Compton, CA | Artesia State Transit-Oriented Development Specific Plan
- Flagstaff, AZ | Sign Standards and Dark Skies Ordinance Update
- Henderson, NV | Development Code Update
- Iowa City, IA | Form-Based Code
- Kingman, AZ | Zoning Code Update
- Las Vegas, NV | Downtown Form-Based Code
- La Quinta, CA | Highway 111 Form-Based Code
- Lompoc, CA | Zoning Code and Sign Code Update
- Marin County, CA | Code Amendments and Sign Code Rewrite
- Milpitas, CA | Comprehensive Zoning Code Update
- Orange, CA | Sign Regulations Update
- Pismo Beach, CA | Zoning Code/Local Coastal Plan Update
- Portland, ME | Comprehensive Sign Code Update
- Rancho Cucamonga, CA | Comprehensive Development Code Update
- Richmond, CA | South Shore Specific Plan
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Strategic Zoning Framework, Form-Based Code Strategy, and Zoning Code Update
- Rohnert Park, CA | Form-Baed Code for the Downtown District
- San Carlos, CA | Strategic Zoning Ordinance Amendments
- NEOM, Saudi Arabia | Form Based Code Framework and Update.
- Tempe, AZ | Transportation Overlay District Code Update
- Vacaville, CA | Land Use and Development Code Audit and Update
- Vallejo, CA | Zoning Ordinance Update, including Sign Code Update
- Westerville, OH | Zoning Code Update



PAST WORK EXPERIENCE

City of Flagstaff, AZ
Comprehensive Planning and Code Administrator
April 2006 – June 2016

City of Sedona, AZ
Senior Planner
February 1991 – April 2006

Vincent Leggo & Associates
Consultant Planner
1983 – 1985

EDUCATION

University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
B.S., Town and Regional Planning

CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
2005 – Present (#019153)

American Planning Association, Arizona Chapter
Treasurer, 2018 – 2019
VP for Professional Development, 2015 – 2017
Member, 1993 – Present

AGIS Supervisors Academy
Certificate in Supervision Skills

CAROLINE CHEN

Associate

Caroline brings expertise in communicating how two-dimensional regulations influence the three-dimensional environment of residential neighborhoods, commercial corridors, and mixed-use zones. She is an expert in using the Adobe Creative Suite, SketchUp, AutoCAD, and other design programs to produce infographics, maps, and 3D models that enhance LWC's development codes and long-range plans. Caroline also brings experience in researching existing conditions and the assessment of zoning codes and specific plans. Caroline has taken on increasing responsibility, supporting the LWC Team on code updates in Las Vegas, Rancho Cucamonga, St. Helena, South San Francisco, and Woodland.

Caroline's professional background includes knowledge of the permit application and approval process through her work with San Francisco-based Geddes Ulinskas Architects. She holds a Bachelor of Science in City & Regional Planning and a minor in Landscape Architecture from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo.

Relevant Project Experience:

- Alameda County, CA | 6th Cycle Housing Element Update
- Beaumont, CA | 6th Cycle Housing Element Update, Objective Design Standards, and ADU Ordinance
- Columbus, OH | Zoning Code Update
- La Quinta, CA | Highway 111 Form-Based Code
- Las Vegas, NV | Downtown Form-Based Code
- Milpitas, CA | Zoning Code Update
- Norco, CA | Industrial Standards Update
- Novato, CA | 6th Cycle Housing Element Update
- Piedmont, CA | 6th Cycle Housing Element Update
- Portola Valley, CA | Conceptual Site Plans
- Portola Valley, CA | Zoning Code Amendments
- Rancho Cucamonga, CA | Form-Based Code Revisions
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Riyadh Urban Code
- Saratoga, CA | Objective Design Standards
- Seal Beach, CA | Zoning Code Update
- South San Francisco, CA | Zoning Code Update
- St. Helena, CA | Zoning Code Update
- Vacaville, CA | Development Code Update
- Woodland, CA | Comprehensive Zoning Code Update



PAST WORK EXPERIENCE

Geddes Ulinskas Architects
Project Designer
September 2019 – January 2021

Urban Planning Concepts
Planning Intern
June 2018 – August 2018

EDUCATION

California Polytechnic State University
B.S., City & Regional Planning | San Luis Obispo, CA
Minor in Landscape Architecture

LWC Staff Billing Rates - 2024

Staff Level	2024 Hourly Rate
Principal	$297
Director	$250
Senior Associate	$195
Lead Associate	$175
Associate	$160
Administrative Staff	$100

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date:	March 12, 2024
Agency:	City of Belmont
Staff Contact:	Brigitte Shearer, Parks and Recreation Director, (650) 595-7488, bshearer@belmont.gov
Agenda Title:	Review and Adoption of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and the Environmental Impact Report Addendum to the 2035 General Plan
Agenda Action:	Motion

Recommendation

Adopt a resolution to approve the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan and an Addendum to the previously approved adopted Environmental Impact Report developed for the City's 2035 General Plan.

Strategic Focus Area

Quality of Life

Background

Belmont's prior Parks and Open Space Master Plan was developed in 1992. Many of the goals within that plan were realized over the past three decades to develop the robust network of parks, fields, and open space that the community enjoys today. Semeria Park, Davey Glen Park, Belameda Park, College View Park, Patricia Wharton Park, Hastings Tot Lot, the Alexander Park permanent restroom, and open space trailheads are all results of that effort.

The City's 2035 General Plan, adopted in 2017, calls for an updated Master Plan to serve as a guiding framework for the planning, maintenance, development, and rehabilitation of Belmont's parks, recreation, and open space system implementable over a 15-year horizon.

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) project, initiated in December 2020, has culminated in a final document, organized as follows.

Executive Summary
Part I. Where We Are
- Chapter 1. Introduction
- Chapter 2. Context
- Chapter 3. Existing Conditions

Part II. Where We Want to Be
- Chapter 4. Community Input
- Chapter 5. Needs Assessment
- Chapter 6. Goals

Part III. How We Get There

Chapter 7. Strategies
Chapter 8. Recommendations
Chapter 9. Implementation

Appendices

Appendix A. Advisory Committee
Appendix B. Definitions
Appendix C. Park Inventory
Appendix D. NRPA Benchmarks
Appendix E. Amenity Projections
Appendix F. Open Space Management Plan
Appendix G. Prioritization Matrix
Appendix H. Probable Costs
Appendix I. Community Outreach

The PROS Plan project, originally planned for a 12-month effort, was extended by over 2 years to accommodate community outreach challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, as a result of stakeholder input, the engagement of a consultant to conduct an Environmental Assessment and Recreation Use Assessment of Belmont's open space. Open space objectives, policies, and actions are included in the Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) developed by WRA, Inc, environmental consultants specifically engaged to conduct trail, wildlife, and vegetation assessments. The OSMP is included in the appendix of the PROS Plan.

The PROS Plan Advisory Committee held five meetings to review and provide comment on project milestones: March 4, 2021 to review the draft community survey; May 13, 2021 to review survey results and identify focus/stakeholder groups; September 30, 2021 to review draft recommendations for park improvements; April 5, 2022 to review PROS Plan and OSMP efforts to date and remaining tasks; and on May 31, 2022 to review the OSMP.

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the parks and park amenities component of the Master Plan during its July 21, 2021 meeting and outdoor recreation programming at its September 1, 2021 meeting. Gates + Associates presented the draft park improvement recommendations at the November 3, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and at the November 23, 2021 City Council meeting. Staff also presented the draft park recommendations at the November 18, 2021 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meeting. At each Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in the first quarter of 2022 (January 12, February 2, and March 2), selected draft park improvements were presented and the public was encouraged to provide feedback on the Master Plan website, www.BelmontPROSplan.com.

An update on the PROS Plan, including the OSMP component, was presented to City Council on March 22, 2022 and to the Parks and Recreation Commission on May 4, 2022 and July 6, 2022.
The PROS Plan was recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 6, 2022 to the City Council for approval with the following amendments:

- Consolidate the OSMP's Base Plan and Management Alternatives objectives, policies, and

implementation actions into a single plan.

- Clearly present priority recommendations in the OSMP by theme - environmental sustainability, balanced recreation uses and trail management, and natural hazard mitigation.
- Pursue the creation of dedicated parkland in downtown Belmont and the Belmont Village Specific Plan area in response to potential residential density increase in the area due to anticipated housing unit development as outlined in the 2023-2031 Housing Element update.
- Apply consistent terminology to remove ambiguity.
- Refine specific graphics for clarity.

The PROS Plan (and OSMP) were presented to the City Council on July 12, 2022. Following numerous public comments and further deliberation, Council did not take any further action on the plan at that or a subsequent meeting.

The PROS Master Plan was originally intended to serve exclusively as a planning and feasibility study for the future of the City's parks and open spaces. This level of planning is statutorily exempt from CEQA analysis at the time of study, though potential projects reflected in the plan are subject to CEQA review before the city commits to proceed with the project. Staff evaluated the totality and degree of specificity of Plan's draft recommendations, including the OSMP's recommendations, and believes beginning CEQA review earlier than originally anticipated will benefit the City by (1) streamlining the future CEQA process for initiating individual projects, (2) ensuring timeliness of CEQA review, and (3) providing a fiscally prudent process for CEQA compliance.

WRA was engaged to prepare an initial study (IS) for the plan to determine if further environmental review under CEQA due to changes in the General Plan project, changes in circumstances, or new information.

Analysis

Throughout 2023, Gates + Associates further addressed the amendments recommended by the Commission, and WRA, Inc. comprehensively reviewed the City's existing environmental impact report (EIR) documents and the extent to which these documents addressed the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan and Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) recommendations. WRA, Inc. has prepared an EIR Addendum for the PROS Master Plan's recommendations as amended.

On January 10, 2024, both consultants attended the Parks and Recreation Commission's regular meeting to reintroduce the PROS Master Plan and its findings and recommendations. The final draft of the PROS Master Plan, including the OSMP and EIR Addendum, have been posted at BelmontPROSplan.com for community review. The community has been advised of the availability of documents through the following outreach channels.

- **Website**
  - Project website (www.belmontprosplan.com)
    - Button on home page
    - Links at the top of the home page
  - City website (www.belmont.gov)

- Banner on home page
- Spotlight on Parks and Recreation Department page

- **Social media**
  - Parks and Recreation Department Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
  - Citywide Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, NextDoor, and LinkedIn
- **Direct Email**
  - Citywide eNews: Jan. 12 (28 unique clicks), Jan. 19 (63 unique clicks), and Feb. 2 (9 unique clicks)
  - Parks and Recreation Department eNews: Feb. 5 (32 unique clicks)
  - Specialty email: Jan. 19 (10,059 recipients, 625 unique clicks)
- **Announcements/Discussion**
  - Parks and Recreation Commission: Jan. 10 agenda item (document introduction), Feb. 7 agenda item (recommendation to the City Council)
  - City Council: Jan. 23 verbal announcement by Mayor Mates

Key Initiatives Summary

This Plan is meant to be a strategic roadmap that can adapt as times and circumstances change. This is even more timely as the City continues to plan its future in a post-Covid19 world. In addition, the financial realities of governments and public agencies nationwide have changed due to reduced revenues, and the Parks and Recreation Department will need to have an even greater emphasis on cost recovery to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Despite these challenges, the Department's seasoned staff, committed to community's well-being and fostering a culture of collaboration, teamwork and forward-thinking, are essential for the successful implementation of the Plan.

The following Key Initiatives are the most significant desired outcomes and, when achieved, will serve as the legacy fulfilling the Plan's vision:

- Increasing the ease of access for all including walking and biking to PROS sites.
- Build and maintain multi-generational, multi-use recreation center(s), with replacement of the outdated and failing buildings at the Barrett Community Center site as a priority.
- Update outdated and failing park amenities including park restrooms, sports facilities, and infrastructure.
- Focus open space management on enhancing stream crossings, ensuring ADA-compliant access where feasible, implementing seasonal and weather-related maintenance guidelines, monitoring e-bike usage, implementing a fuels reduction plan, fostering volunteer programs, integrating trail calming features, and incorporating nature-based recreation initiatives.
- Diversify Funding Sources for long-term financial sustainability and plan to meet future levels of service, particularly in areas where development is planned.

At its February 7, 2024 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission's received a presentation from Gates + Associates and WRA, Inc. and subsequently unanimously recommended that the PROS Plan be presented to the City Council for adoption.

Alternatives

1. Take no action
2. Provide further input for additional revisions

Attachments

A. Presentation

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Fiscal Impact

☒ Funding Source Confirmed: Approval of the PROS Master Plan does not commit the City to any specific financial obligations. Future PROS Plan implementation projects will be subject to budget authority and City Council approval. The City has paid a total of $487,144.11 for consultant services to date.

Source:	**Purpose:**	**Public Outreach:**
Staff	Council Vision/Priority	Posting of Agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 –

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT ADOPTING THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN AND AN ADDENDUM TO THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT DEVELOPED FOR THE CITY'S 2035 GENERAL PLAN.

WHEREAS, Belmont's prior Parks and Open Space Master Plan was developed in 1992, with many of its goals realized over past three decades to develop the robust network of parks, fields, and open space that the City enjoys today; and,

WHEREAS, the City's 2035 General Plan, adopted in 2017, calls for an updated Master Plan to be developed to guide Belmont's park, open space, and outdoor recreation vision, given current and future trends, constraints, and community needs; and,

WHEREAS, in September 2020 the City entered into a service agreement with Gates + Associates to develop a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the PROS Master Plan development included a site inventory and assessment; benchmarking and gap analysis for park sites and amenities; establishment of an advisory committee to provide feedback to the project team and consultants; engagement of an environmental consultant to develop an Open Space Management Plan; and development of outdoor recreation programming, park, and open space improvement recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, Gates + Associates and WRA, Inc., environmental consultants, have addressed clarifications recommended by the Parks & Recreation Commission in the PROS Master Plan and Open Space Management Plan, respectively; and,

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution 2017-076 certifying a Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Belmont 2035 General Plan, Phase 1/Interim Zoning, Belmont Village Specific Plan (BVSP), Belmont Village Zoning (BVZ), and Climate Action Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the City also engaged WRA, Inc, environmental consultants, to conduct a review of the City's existing environmental impact report documents and has prepared an EIR Addendum for the recommendations in the PROS Master Plan and Open Space Management Plan as amended (Proposed Project); and,

WHEREAS, following extensive community outreach; the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the PROS Master Plan and Open Space Management Plan, including all Appendices and EIR Addendum, be presented to Council for adoption; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the EIR Addendum, the comments of the public both oral and written related to the Proposed Project, the staff reports and the materials in the record of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Belmont resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Council concurs with the EIR Addendum findings and conclusions (attached hereto as Exhibit A) that the Proposed Project does not require a subsequent or supplemental EIR and that the Proposed Project will not result in new or substantially increased significant environmental impacts that were not previously disclosed in the certified 2017 EIR. The Council adopts the EIR Addendum and directs that all feasible mitigation measures included in the 2017 EIR be incorporated into the Proposed Project.

SECTION 2. The City Council adopts the PROS Master Plan and Open Space Management Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit B.

* * *

ADOPTED March 12, 2024 by the City of Belmont City Council by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

City of Belmont Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Addendum to the City of Belmont General Plan, Phase I Zoning, Belmont Village Specific Plan, and Climate Action Plan Environmental Impact Report

City of Belmont, San Mateo County, California





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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABAG	Association of Bay Area Government
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AIA	Airport Influence Area
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Planning
ARB	California Air Resources Board
BACT	best available control technology
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BRSSD	Belmont-Redwood Shores School District
BVSP	Belmont Village Specific Plan
C/CAG	City/County Association of Governments
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CBC	California Building Code
CDC	California Department of Conservation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
City	City of Belmont
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
County	County of San Mateo
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	CO_2 equivalent
CWA	Clean Water Act
DBH	diameter at breast height
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FACW	facultative wetland
GHG	greenhouse gas
2035 GP	2035 General Plan
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
JUA	joint-use agreement
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LOS	level of service
MPWD	Mid-Peninsula Water District
MRP	San Francisco Bay Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NOx	nitrogen oxides
NO_x	nitrous oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OPR	Office of Planning and Research
OSMP	Open Space Management Plan
PROS	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
PROS Plan	City of Belmont Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
ROG	reactive organic gasses
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SFO	San Francisco International Airport

SJC	San Juan Canyon Open Space Area
SP	Service Population
SUHSD	Sequoia Union High School District
TACs	toxic air contaminants
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VMT	Vehicle Miles Travelled
WDL	Water Dog Lake Open Space Area
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The draft City of Belmont Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) is a strategic, forward-looking document that ultimately identifies decision-making framework and recommendations to plan, maintain, develop, and rehabilitate the City of Belmont's (City) network of parks, recreation, and open space (Gates + Associates, WRA Environmental Consultants, 2022). The preparation of the PROS Plan was in response to Policy 4.1-1 of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the 2035 General Plan (2035 GP) (City of Belmont, et al., 2017). This policy required an update to the 1992 City of Belmont Parks and Open Space Master Plan (Callander Associates, 1992). The PROS Plan studies the existing park system, outdoor recreation facilities and programming, and open spaces, including identifying goals, strategic actions, policies, and recommending park and open space improvements to be implemented over the next fifteen years.

Through the PROS Plan engagement process, public interest in the City's open space areas led to immediate implementation of Goal 7 in the PROS Plan: Develop and Implement an Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) – rather than implementation after completion of the PROS Plan. The OSMP was prepared based on an environmental assessment, a recreation assessment, and public input and is included in its entirety as Appendix G in the PROS Plan. OSMP components including existing conditions, management objectives, policies, and recommended actions are integrated within the PROS Plan framework. The PROS Plan is inclusive of the OSMP.

The potential impacts that may result from the adoption and implementation of the PROS Plan (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Project) are examined in this EIR Addendum to the certified City of Belmont General Plan, Phase I Zoning, Belmont Village Specific Plan, and Climate Action Plan Environmental Impact Report (2017 EIR) (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2016082075) (City of Belmont, et al., 2017). The parks, recreation sites, and open spaces addressed in the Proposed Project lie within the geographic boundaries of the 2035 GP and potential impacts relate to the 2017 EIR. Two additional EIRs were reviewed and found to not fully apply to the Proposed Project including: 1987 San Juan Hills Area Plan EIR (SCH No. 198122320) (Larry Seeman Associates, Inc., 1987), and 1989 Western Hills Area Plan EIR (SCH No. 1989051615) (Tyler, 1989).

2.0 REQUIRED FINDINGS FOR USE OF AN ADDENDUM

Section 15164 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines states that an addendum to a previously certified EIR shall be prepared if some changes or additions are necessary to the previously certified document, but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 have occurred. Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines identifies the conditions of a project that would require preparation of a subsequent EIR, such that an Addendum to the prior EIR would not be permitted under CEQA. A proposed change in a project will require preparation of a subsequent EIR if:

A. **The change in the project is substantial.** Substantial changes in the project are those that would require major revisions of the certified 2017 EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects, or if a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects has occurred.

B. **The circumstances under which the project is undertaken have substantially changed.** Substantial changes in circumstances are those that would require major revisions of the 2017 EIR to describe and analyze new significant environmental effects, or any changes that would cause a substantial increase in the severity of the previously identified significant effects.

C. **New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known, with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous environmental impact report was certified as complete shows any of the following:**

1. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the 2017 EIR.
2. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the 2017 EIR.
3. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.
4. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

2.1 Summary of Findings for Use of an Addendum

Based on evaluation of the Proposed Project and the prepared analysis (Chapter 7), it has been determined that the Proposed Project does not meet the above criteria requiring a Subsequent or Supplemental EIR:

A. The potential impacts resulting from Proposed Project align with the Approved Project impacts discussed in the 2017 EIR and policies within the Recreation and Conservation Elements in the 2035 GP which would not result in substantial changes to the 2017 EIR or the severity of previously identified impacts.
B. The circumstances have not substantially changed between the certification of the 2017 EIR and the preparation of the PROS Plan in 2022.
C. No new information of substantial importance shows the above criteria.

This Addendum demonstrates that the Proposed Project would not result in new or substantially increased significant environmental impacts that were not previously disclosed in the 2017 EIR certified by the City. The City must incorporate all feasible mitigation measures included in the 2017 EIR into the Proposed Project. The City of Belmont is the lead agency under CEQA and maintains authority to approve this Addendum.

3.0 THE APPROVED PROJECT

The 2017 EIR analyzes the potential impacts of the 2035 GP, Phase I Zoning, Belmont Village Specific Plan (BVSP), and Climate Action Plan (CAP), collectively referred to hereafter as the Approved Project. The 2035 GP presents a vision for the City centered around five key vision statement categories including: Distinctive community development, Easy mobility, Natural beauty, Thriving culture, and Thriving economy. This vision is structured through goals, policies, and actions across six elements including: Land use, Circulation, Parks, Recreation, and Open

Space, Conservation, Safety, and Noise, which guide future development through the year 2035. Phase I Zoning is included as the first step in implementing the 2035 GP land use policies. The BVSP outlines a roadmap for potential development surrounding the Caltrain station. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) provides strategies for reducing the City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Several potential impacts resulting from the Approved Project were analyzed in the 2017 EIR and are applicable to the Proposed Project including:

- impacts to biological resources like the development of vacant parcels currently consisting of native habitat;
- construction equipment and operations of development impacting air quality;
- impacts to hydrology and water quality through contamination of surface water from construction or industrial activities, increased amounts of impervious surfaces, and altered drainage patterns;
- construction equipment and activities resulting in noise impacts
- increased population resulting in wear and tear on park, recreation, and open space facilities; and
- development of new parks and recreational facilities potentially resulting in habitat disturbance, increased exposure of sensitive habitats to human activity, introduction of invasive species.

The Approved Project encompasses the range of potential impacts discussed in the 2017 EIR that could also result from the Proposed Project.

4.0 The Proposed Project

Project Title

City of Belmont Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

Lead Agency Name and Address

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4.1 Regional Setting

The Proposed Project is located entirely within the City of Belmont in San Mateo County (County). Belmont lies about halfway between San Francisco and San José along the San Francisco peninsula, bounded by the cities of San Mateo, San Carlos, Redwood City, Foster City and unincorporated County land. The City's boundaries extend roughly from Highway 280 in the west past Highway 101 in the east and comprises about 4.7 square miles. The City has a population of around 27,000 residents as of 2022 (United States Census Bureau, 2022).

4.2 Local Setting

The Proposed Project consists of consists of 15 developed parks (60 acres), two undeveloped parks (6.5 acres), two open spaces areas (317 acres), and four schools (13 acres) under a joint-use agreement (JUA) with Belmont Redwood Shores School District (collectively referred to hereafter as the Planning Area; Figure 1). The parks and school sites are distributed across the City, while the open space areas are located near the western boundary of the City.

Park, school and open space areas in the City are typically surrounded by residential neighborhoods and other parks and recreational areas. Table 1 shows adjacent land uses, location (addresses), area (acres), as well as land use and zoning designations for each park, school, and open space area in the Proposed Project. More information about land use designations may be found in the 2035 GP Land Use Element (pages 2-16, 2-18), and updated zoning designations may be found in Figure 3-5 of the 2017 EIR.

Two developed parks have individual plans that were previously prepared, separate from the PROS Plan. The Belmont Community Center Conceptual Design Report was prepared for the Barrett Community Center, identified as number 2 in Figure 1 (Group 4 Architecture, 2020). The Twin Pines Park Master Plan was prepared for Twin Pines Park identified as number 21 in Figure 1 (Gates + Associates, 2019). These previously prepared plans are subject to separate CEQA review and will not be analyzed in this EIR Addendum. The Proposed Project includes interim recommendations for these Barrett Community Center and Twin Pines Park that will be addressed in this EIR Addendum.

The four schools that allow public access to fields for recreation under JUA's are Central Elementary School, Fox Elementary School, Nesbit Elementary School, and Ralston Middle School (numbered 5, 9, 14, 17 respectively in Figure 1)

Identified by numbers 12 and 18 in Figure 1, Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park respectively represent the undeveloped parks which the Proposed Project recommends building out into developed parks. Hidden Canyon Park (4.8 acres) on Carlmont Drive currently contains a paved road and gravel parking lot, in addition to fencing, a bench, portable toilet and ruderal vegetation. Ralston Ranch Park, across from 1 Ralston Ranch Road (1.3 acres), currently does not contain any structures and has a variety of planted trees. The remainder of the developed park areas exist within developed land uses and typically contain developed amenities like paved paths, play structures, picnic areas, fields, and sport courts.

The two open space areas that currently exist within the City are San Juan Canyon (SJC; 35 acres) identified by number 19 in Figure 1, and Waterdog Lake (WDL; 283 acres) identified by number 23 in Figure 1. Both open space areas contain trails through chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian habitats.

Note that the PROS Plan includes potential recommendations for "Opportunity Sites" which are locations that are not currently owned or managed by the City's Parks and Recreation department, but could be developed into parks. Because these opportunities are examples of creative ways to add more parks to the City and current zoning and land use designations are not identified, these sites and their associated recommendations are not analyzed in this EIR Addendum. If the City later decides to create new parks, associated impacts to those areas will be evaluated at that time.

Figure 1. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Sites



Table 1. Park, Recreation, and Open Space Setting

PARK, RECREATION, OR OPEN SPACE AREA	2035 GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION	2035 GENERAL PLAN ZONING DESIGNATION	ADJACENT LAND USES	LOCATION	ACREAGE
1. Alexander Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential and General/Retail/Commercial/Mixed Use	400 block of Yorkshire Way	1.3
2. Barrett Community Center	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Neighborhood Commercial	1834 Belburn Drive	5.1
3. Belameda Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Neighborhood Commercial	1110 Alameda de las Pulgas	3.0
4. Belmont Sports Complex	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Highway 101/Regional Commercial/Open Space/Office Commercial	550 Island Parkway	11.0
5. Central Elementary School	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Mixed Use/Residential	525 Middle Road	1.9
6. Cipriani Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Public/Community Facilities/Institution	2525 Buena Vista Avenue	6.0
7. College View Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Institution	1 College View Way	0.1
8. Davey Glen Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential	500 Davey Glen Road	0.1
9. Fox Elementary School	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Open Space	3100 St. James Road	3.5
10. Hallmark Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential	2599 Hastings Drive	5.2
11. Hasting Tot Lot Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Open Space	2400 Hastings Drive	0.3

12. Hidden Canyon Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Open Space	End of Carlmont Drive	4.8
13. McDougal Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Public/Community Facilities	1405 Solana Drive	4.5
14. Nesbit Elementary School	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential	500 Biddulph Way	3.1
15. O'Donnell Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Belmont Village Mixed Use	400 block of Ralston Avenue	0.9
16. Patricia Wharton Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential	Notre Dame Avenue/Middle Road	0.1
17. Ralston Middle School	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Open Space/Office Commercial	2675 Ralston Avenue	4.3
18. Ralston Ranch Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential/Open Space	Across from 1 Ralston Ranch Road	1.3
19. San Juan Canyon	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space/Residential	4122 Marston Avenue	35.0
20. Semeria Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential	2322 Casa Bona Avenue	0.1
21. Twin Pines Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Belmont Village Mixed Use/Institution/Residential	30 Twin Pines Lane	21.1
22. Wakefield Park	Public/Community Facilities	Public	Residential	Wakefield Drive/Elder Drive	1.0
23. Waterdog Lake	Open Space	Open Space	Residential/Open Space/Public/Community Facilities/Office Commercial	Across from 2839 Hallmark Drive	282.5

5.0 PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Proposed Project would adopt and implement the PROS Plan which provides an inventory of the existing parks, school sites, and open space areas and a forward-looking roadmap for the system over the next 15 years. The PROS Plan is organized into three major chapters; existing conditions ("Where we are"), desired future conditions ("Where we want to be"), and implementation recommendations ("How we get there").

The existing conditions ("Where are we") of parks and recreation facilities are described by categorizing sites into specific park typology that correlates increasing use intensity with providing more amenities (Table 2). Previous planning efforts including the 1992 City of Belmont Parks and Open Space Master Plan and 2035 GP used the categories Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, and Special Facility. These categories were refined through the PROS Plan site assessments, community input, and conversations with Parks and Recreation staff to Tier 1 Neighborhood Park, Tier 2 Neighborhood Park, and Community Park.

Each typology has intrinsic expectations and character, identified minimum standards, referred to as Standard Baseline Amenities that they must provide, anticipated methods of travel to the site from a visitor's residence, and an access radii associated with the site's intensity of use. The Standard Baseline Amenities for each typology was used as the starting point for recommended improvements discussed in Chapter 5.2 of this document. Access Radii (the area around a park identified for prioritized bike and pedestrian transportation access) is a means to address areas of Belmont where residents are underserved by parks spaces because they are not easily accessible. The Access Radii have been revised from the 1992 City of Belmont Parks and Open Space Master Plan Services Areas to better account for the hilly terrain and lack of sidewalks in the western portion of the City.

Open space areas are excluded from the typology categorization as they do not require a minimum or maximum size and do not have the same requirements for Standard Baseline Amenities. Open space areas are minimally improved, provide opportunities for hiking, biking, running, dog walking, and passive enjoyment of nature, as well as a focus on native habitat conservation. Existing conditions of open space areas were evaluated through an Environmental Assessment and Recreation Use Assessment and Benchmarking which described the biological resources and recreation uses respectively (PROS Plan pages 86-111).

Table 2. Park Typologies

	TIER 1 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	TIER 2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	COMMUNITY PARK
Character	Nature and Neighborhood Social Space	Nature. Group Gathering, and Play	Nature, Community Gathering, Recreation and Play
Uses + Users	Passive Individuals to Small groups	Passive + Active Individuals to Medium groups	Passive + Active Individual to Large groups
Standard Baseline Amenities	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Identifiable Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity 7. Off-Street Parking 8. Permanent Restroom 9. Multi-Use Athletic Field or Community Facility
Size	No Size Requirements Typically less than 1 acre	No Size Requirements Over 2 acres should provide off-street parking	No Size Requirements
Transport Modes	Walking Biking	Walking Biking Some Driving	Walking Biking Driving
Access Radii	0.25 mile	0.5 mile	entire city
Previous Planning	Mini park	Neighborhood park	Community Park Special Facility

5.1 PROS Plan Framework

Through extensive public engagement, desired future conditions ("Where we want to be") were developed resulting in four Big Ideas: The City as Your Backyard, Outdoor Recreation for All, Celebrate the Outdoors, and Environmental and Financial Sustainability. Serving each big idea are goals and strategic actions which make up the overarching PROS Plan vision framework presented in Table 3. Nested within this framework, under Goal 7: Develop and Implement an Open Space Management Plan, are open space specific objectives and policies. These open space specific objectives and policies are presented in Table 4. Tables 3 and 4 represent only the strategic actions and policies that have potential to affect the environment; some may have the potential to impact the environment, and some provide best practices that would reduce environmental impacts. For the full list of strategic actions and policies see Chapter 7 in the PROS Plan.

Table 3. PROS Vision and Strategic Actions

Big Idea	Goal	Example Strategic Actions
The City as Your Backyard	**1.** Support a Connected Belmont by Encouraging a Robust Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Public Transit Network Unifying PROS Sites across the City.	1.B: An Interconnect Toolkit is a means to facilitate active transportation to and between parks. Beyond routes to increase ease of access to draft PROS sites for walking, biking, and public transport, the Toolkit should consider bike racks, water stations (with bottle-filling and dog bowls), bike repair stations, seating, and route information, along the preferred interconnections. Guide the Belmont to create connections and increase access to the existing PROS sites. 1.E: Provide multi-use trail links to and through open space in and around Belmont. Consider the tail network as a means to increase pedestrian connectivity across the City. Explore opportunities for easements to expand the multi-use trail network.
	2. Foster A Healthy Community Through Spaces, Amenities, Programs, And Public Art To Encourage Physical Activity, Social Interaction, And Highlight Belmont's Culture.	2.A: Develop amenities to facilitate physical exercise in parks and open spaces, such as looped walking paths and fitness equipment. 2.B: Social gathering spaces are an intrinsic element of our public parks and open spaces—a bench to chat with a neighbor, a picnic table to eat with friends, a reservable picnic area to host an outdoor celebration event. In addition to providing a natural, green area, parks serve as a gathering space, with playgrounds, picnic tables and grills, sports fields, and other facilities bringing together adults and children from all corners of Belmont. 2.C: Prioritize upgraded or new amenities or programs that promote physical activity and mental health for all ages, abilities, and interests.
	3. Expand and Enhance the Existing PROS System to Meet Evolving Community Needs by Establishing New Uses, Improved Spaces, and a Variety of Recreation Amenities.	3.B Belmont has limited opportunity to increase parkland acreage since it is almost built out. There are areas and neighborhoods of Belmont that have low access to and are under-served by parkland. A method to fill the gap and increase parkland is a "pop-up" park installation. A "pop-up" park installation can take many forms. • **Parklets** increase community gathering space by rethinking an under-utilized public space (commonly auto-oriented) such as on-street parallel parking spots or off-street parking lots. The installation of parklets since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has skyrocketed; they can be temporary or developed as a more permanent conversion of under-utilized public realm. • A **mobile recreation vehicle** brings recreation and play (i.e., portable basketball hoops, skate ramps, wellness class materials, arts and crafts, board games, etc.) to an under-served area of Belmont or to an existing PROS site to invigorate or supplement

		existing amenities and increase programming at a site for day or more. • **"Pop-up" play installations** are movable play materials that can be in a PROS site to supplement a community, test a play amenity without committing to permanent installation, or increase the experience at a site for a period of time or planned event; they can rotate through PROS sites or be a one-off installation. 3.C: Pursue opportunities to increase parkland acreage wherever possible. Capitalize on remnant or underutilized areas of City-owned land to craft new public green spaces. 3.G: Consider increasing off-leash space for dog running, events, and exercise. 3I: Consider means and methods to increase efficient year round use of athletic fields. Include reduction in water use and increase groundwater run off in the evaluation of synthetic turf. 3.J: Evaluate fields and courts across the City for the opportunity to provide lighted facilities for evening recreation and play.
Outdoor Recreation for All	**4.** Leverage assets of the pros system to support community health providing diverse, equitable, and inclusive spaces and amenities with accessible routes.	4.A: Prioritize park renovations, improvements, and development in neighborhoods that are less-served by existing PROS offerings. 4.C: Provide adequate and conveniently located comfort features such as seating and shade. 4E: All amenities and spaces within a park should be accessible by a safe path of travel. 4F: As play equipment ages and is identified for replacement, design new play space for inclusivity and accessibility. All Community Parks in Belmont should only upgrade existing playgrounds with all-abilities playgrounds going forward.
	5. Revitalize the PROS System to be Adaptable, Flexible, and Supportive of Many Uses and Users Now and into the Future	5B: Incorporate looped walking paths within, as connections to, and through parks as safe, accessible, and pleasant experiences to walk or roll.
	6. Partner with a Variety of Agencies, Departments, Volunteer Groups, Other Entities, and the Community to Actualize PROS Plan Goals and Policies.	6.F: Continue to utilize JUA's to expand the available PROS sites. Discuss improvements of JUA sites and amenities to benefit the public's use.

Celebrate Open Space	**7.** Develop and Implement an Open Space Management Plan.	The concurrently developed OSMP identified objectives and policies described in Chapter 5.2.1.
	8. Expand Educational Opportunities in Parks and Open Spaces to Highlight the Local Ecosystems.	8.E: Improve public access and education for the Belmont Creek waterway when restoring or enhancing the riparian habitat.
	9. Continue to Enrich Belmont's Outdoor Recreation Opportunities with Trail Improvements, Volunteer Collaborations, and Wayfinding Features.	9.B: Offer areas of respite, such as benches with shade and trail rest points. 9.C: Create trails to vista points or activity spaces that are accessible as possible given terrain constraints. 9.D: Identify locations where trails can be improved to established in open space to connect the City to other open space areas neighboring Belmont such as Sugarloaf Mountain.
Environmental and Financial Sustainability	10. Nurture the Ecological Strength of the Belmont's Natural Resources through Resource-efficient Landscapes and Operations.	10.B: Consider permeable paving options when replacing non-permeable paths. 10.C: Increase shade and tree canopy across the City with succession tree planting and monitoring of existing trees. 10.D: Use native, drought-tolerant, low-water plants in all park projects. 10.E: Utilize the OSMP to address trail erosion impacts.
	11. Provide High-Quality, Actively Managed, And Well-Maintained Pros Assets Supported By A Range Of Funding Sources.	
	12. Prioritize Sustainable, Resilient, And Responsible Management And Maintenance Practices, Improvements, And Projects At Pros Sites.	12.B: Continue to support and implement the CAP. 12.C: Integrate stormwater treatment, detention, and storage systems into all parks. 12.E: Transition to LED when replacing and upgrading lighting with special consideration given to minimizing light pollution.

Table 4. Open Space Specific Objectives and Policies

Theme	Objective	Example Policy Description
Environmental Sustainability	**Vegetation Protection**	P.1: Limit trail construction, and facility development in riparian and other wetland areas (and associated buffers) to protect them from disturbance. Recreational, educational, and other programmatic activities should be conducted in previously developed areas, when possible, to minimize impacts to riparian/wetland areas. P.2: Monitor open space conditions with an emphasis on documenting the location, distribution, and abundance of special-status plants and plant communities, native grasses, wildflowers, and other native flora. P.3: Align or relocate, modify trails to avoid impacting sensitive habitats such as wetlands and areas where endangered species are present. Avoid aligning trails along the boundaries of sensitive habitats. P.4: Protect riparian ecosystems and habitat to maintain natural hydrologic process, water quality, and wildlife benefits. If necessary, enhance and restore riparian habitats to improve function. P.5: Protect common native plant species from disturbance, such as trampling, and disease, such as Sudden Oak Death. P.6: Monitor and control exotic or nuisance plant species. P.7: Preserve and enhance riparian, stream, and other wetland communities locally and in coordination with other agencies to continue providing important habitat networks.
	Wildlife Protection	P.8: Monitor sensitive terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species in terms of their presence/absence and potential to occur on City of Belmont open space lands. For all ground disturbing activities conduct protocol level preconstruction surveys. P.9: Avoidance of sensitive wildlife species, critical breeding or nesting seasons, and critical breeding or nesting habitats during trail or facility construction. P.10: Protect common native wildlife species from disturbance, and disease. P.11: Preserve and enhance native wildlife habitat locally and in coordination with other agencies to continue protecting important habitat networks.
	Water Resources	P.12: Protect surface and ground water from chemical contamination. P.13: Minimize unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands.
	Science-based management	P.14: Develop performance measures when designing City projects for the purpose of open space management and collect monitoring data to evaluate project success. P.15: Designation and evaluation of trail improvement project proposals will be based the environmental sustainability and on best available data, including inventories of wildlife, and vegetation resources. The City will undertake site specific and programmatic efforts to extend and improve upon the biological data and recreational benefits underlying its decision-making criteria

Theme	Objective	Example Policy Description
	Expand ability	P. 18: Expand volunteer restoration programs subject to established protocols to ensure optimal environmental protection
Balanced Recreation Uses	**Balanced uses**	P.19: Trail access should be provided for a range of user capabilities and needs (including persons with physical limitations) in a manner consistent with State and Federal regulations. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas will inform trail improvement and maintenance where conditions permit. P.20: Design and improve trails to facilitate safe trail use by all visitors with a focus toward slowing travel speeds, adjusting sight lines for safety and speed calming, and establishing safe passing zones. P.21: The City may prohibit certain trail uses or apply increased trail use restrictions within certain areas to enhance safety, minimize conflicts between trail users, and protect natural resources in sensitive resource areas.
	Trail management	P.24: Authorized trailheads include site and trail identifying signage, allowed uses, posted trail map, garbage can with securable lid, and a dog waste bag dispenser. P.25: Monitor and evaluate open space trail conditions on City open space lands to identify significant erosion, informally created trails, trail redundancy or otherwise unnecessary trail segments. P.26: Maintain trails by improving drainage, hardening, widening based on critical evaluations, and in accordance with trail building standards in Chapter 3.5.3, or equivalent sources. P.27: Conduct any grading activities necessary for trail maintenance before soil conditions inhibit their excavation, movement, and compacting. P.28: Modification to any open space resources on open space lands is prohibited unless authorized personnel have given express approval to perform such tasks, including trail construction, improvement, closing, or decommissioning trails. P.30: Evaluate opportunities to construct new trails that could connect with other regional trails, with existing City recognized trails, and by designating other trails not currently formally recognized as part of the City's open space trail system. P.31: Evaluate opportunities to implement trail calming design features.
	User compatibility	P.32: To provide visitor opportunities to experience natural sounds, no amplified sounds – i.e. portable speakers – are allowed on open space lands unless expressly approved as part of a group activity permit. P.34: Use of Belmont open space lands is subject to the City's existing regulations. Including: hours of operation and, and entry into Waterdog Lake is prohibited.
	Enhance Partnerships	P37: Identify locations where trails can be improved or established in open space to connect the City and other open space areas neighboring Belmont, such as Sugarloaf Mountain. Coordinate with San Mateo County and the City of San Mateo.

Theme	Objective	Example Policy Description
Natural Hazard Mitigation	**Wildfire hazards**	P.38: Evaluate the potential to reduce forest fuel loading through the removal of smaller trees to reduce forest floor fuel buildup and ladder fuels. P.40: Prohibit activities that have a high risk of sparking fires during periods of extreme fire hazard. P.41: Close open space areas of particular concern during extreme fire weather, as determined by San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, and increase patrol levels where appropriate. P.42: Consider use of a grazing program to reduce grassland fuels, brush encroachment, and encourage the vigor of native grass and forb species. P.43: Manage scrub, shrub, and chaparral communities to maintain a mosaic of ages and species within strategic management corridors on roads, ridgetops, and near residential development or other critical infrastructure to compartmentalize preserves and reduce fuel loads. P.44: Minimize and reduce ground disturbance, erosion, and rehabilitation efforts associated with heavy machinery fire suppression. P.46: Limb fallen trees/branches to reduce aerial fuels along trails.
	Protect life and property	P.47: Manage dead and dying trees to limit wind throw and falling trees and limbs. P.48: Manage severe erosion areas on hill slopes and near/within streams. P.49: Respond to trail and open space impacts resulting from severe weather, landslides, or other natural events.
	Improve cooperative planning	P.51: Partner with abutting property owners to manage adjacent vegetation and fuel levels. P.52: Work with PG&E to identify areas where wildlife risks could be reduced through increased vegetation management and/or transmission line undergrounds.

5.2 Recommended Improvements

Based on public engagement, park typologies, and associated strategic actions and policies, recommended improvements or actions for the parks, recreation, and open space areas in the Proposed Project were identified. These recommended improvements represent the implementation recommendations chapter ("How do we get there") of the PROS Plan. Table 5 provides an overview of potential actions that may take place at the sites identified in the Proposed Project. These actions are grouped by Accessibility, Amenity, and Landscape improvements. These actions are discussed briefly below and in greater detail in Chapter 8 of the PROS plan.

Accessibility: The Accessibility classification includes subcategories which increase and/or improve multi-modal access (e.g., car, bicycle, wheelchair, and pedestrian traffic). Accessibility improvements are intended to ensure that community members of different needs and abilities have equal opportunities to enjoy City parks and facilities. Examples of each subcategory include:

- Path additions – adding new paths where there was previously none, increasing path connectivity within park via creating looped paths;
- Path improvements for accessibility – minor repairs or improvements to existing paths or rebuilding path components (e.g., entrance stairs, ramps, and pathways) to bring up to ADA standards, improving existing connections to park facilities and equipment;
- Add Wi-Fi/technology improvements;
- Improve neighborhood connectivity – adding crosswalk to connect to adjacent park, trail, school, community gathering location (schools);
- Parking – increasing standard and/or ADA parking spots, increasing off-street parking spots, adding bike repair stations;
- Placemaking – increasing visibility, adding art, murals, entrance improvements.

Amenity: Park amenities are centered around things that park users directly interact with, like sports fields, park benches, play equipment, water fountains, and BBQs.

- Improve existing facilities - facilities are larger footprint features like sport courts, gathering spaces, bike skills track, play structures, and shade structures. Improvements include; resurfacing and restriping ball courts to increase use options; repairs, and rejuvenating/modernizing spaces; and rejuvenating outdoor classroom space.
- Improving existing equipment – equipment differs from facilities in that it takes up a smaller footprint and consist of individual items like outdoor fitness equipment, benches, picnic tables, bike repair station, BBQ, storage shed, trashcans, smaller play structure elements, drinking fountains, and fencing. Improvements include: equipment repairs and relocation of equipment to optimize use; reorienting benches to improve view; and creating safety barriers between play structures and busy streets.
- Adding facilities and equipment.
- Programming: includes partnership/coordination with schools, creating reservation systems for equipment and facilities, creating accessible social gathering spaces.

Landscape: Landscaping features are focused on the natural landscape that people passively interact with and provide an equally important role in improving user experience. The proposed landscaping actions feature environmental benefits, such as increasing the use of native plants increases habitat and food sources for endemic wildlife. Additional examples include:

- Planting additional native landscaping;
- Maintain existing landscaping (monitor and replace as needed);
- Interpretation additions (educational signage, wayfinding); and
- Synthetic turf (transition some existing fields into synthetic turf).

Table 5. Recommended Improvements

	Accessibility					Amenity						Landscape			
Park Name	Path additions	Path improvements	Technology	Neighborhood connectivity	Parking	Improve facilities	Improve equipment	Add facilities	Add equipment	Programming	Restroom	Add native landscaping	Maintain landscaping	Add Interpretation	Add synthetic turf
Alexander Park	X	X		X		X	X		X						
Barrett Community Center*															
Belameda Park	X		X	X				X	X						
Belmont Sports Complex						X	X	X	X						
Central Elementary School	X					X									X
Cipriani Park	X	X		X		X		X	X						
College View Park		X		X		X	X								
Davey Glen Park													X	X	
Fox Elementary School															X

	Accessibility					Amenity						Landscape			
Park Name	Path additions	Path improvements	Technology	Neighborhood connectivity	Parking	Improve facilities	Improve equipment	Add facilities	Add equipment	Programming	Restroom	Add native landscaping	Maintain landscaping	Add Interpretation	Add synthetic turf
Hallmark Park	X	X		X		X			X			X			
Hastings Tot Lot Park	X	X		X		X	X		X			X		X	
Hidden Canyon Park	X	X		X	X			X	X		X		X		
McDougal Park	X	X		X			X	X	X			X	X		X
Nesbit School															X
O'Donnell Park							X	X	X			X	X		
Patricia Wharton Park		X		X					X			X	X		
Ralston Middle School		X													X
Ralston Ranch Park	X	X		X				X	X			X	X		

	Accessibility					Amenity						Landscape			
Park Name	Path additions	Path improvements	Technology	Neighborhood connectivity	Parking	Improve facilities	Improve equipment	Add facilities	Add equipment	Programming	Restroom	Add native landscaping	Maintain landscaping	Add Interpretation	Add synthetic turf
San Juan Canyon**										X			X	X	
Semeria Park				X					X				X		
Twin Pines Park*															
Wakefield Park		X							X			X		X	
Waterdog Lake**		X								X			X	X	

*Improvements identified for these locations reflect interim improvements recommended by the PROS Plan, improvements required for implementation of the previously prepared plans are not discussed (refer to Chapter 4.2 of this document).

**These open space areas have different types of improvements recommended and discussed in more detail in Chapter 5.2.1.

5.2.1 Open Space Specific Improvements

Recommended improvements in the SJC and WDL open space areas are focused on improving trails and native vegetation, as well as implementing on-site programming and interpretation under the Proposed Project. The recommended improvements described below refer to those which are priorities for implementation (see Chapter 8 of the PROS Plan).[1]

Trail improvements. Recommendations for trail improvements following the trail construction best practices presented on pages 228-232 of the PROS Plan includes the following:

- Improve trail stream crossings at four primary locations in WDL.
- Improve trail conditions at three primary locations in WDL.
- Improve three trail segments to comply with ADA regulations.
- Add trail calming features in steep/narrow areas.

Programming. Recommendations for open space programming within SJC and WDL, including the following:

- Study visitor perceptions and measure visitor use (generally and focused on e-bikes);
- Manage trail use to improve visitor experiences;
- Increase nature-based recreation programs; and
- Formalize volunteer restoration programs.

Interpretation. Recommendations for open space area interpretation within SJC and WDL, including the following:

- Improve wayfinding and site identification signage; and
- Add Sudden Oak Death decontamination stations and signage.

Maintain landscaping. Recommendations for landscape/vegetation maintenance within SJC and WDL, including the following:

- Develop annual wildfire fuel reduction treatment plan;
- Maintain existing wildfire fuel treatment areas in WDL;
- Evaluate wildfire fuel conditions in SJC;
- Conduct protocol-level surveys for special status plant and wildlife species with potential to occur within a specific area;
- Implement early detection and response procedures for invasive plant species; and
- Restore and monitor native plant communities, such as bunchgrasses.

[1] Additional discussion of recommendations and implementation actions can be found in Chapter 9 of the PROS Plan.

6.0 PROJECT-RELATED APPROVALS, AGREEMENTS, AND PERMITS

The information contained in this EIR Addendum will be used by the City (the CEQA Lead Agency) as it considers whether to adopt and implement the Proposed Project. If the Proposed Project is adopted, the EIR addendum would be used by the City and responsible and trustee agencies in conjunction with various approvals and permits. These actions include, but may not be limited to, the following approvals by the agencies indicated. Permits would only be needed for a subset of implementation actions that cause ground disturbance or alter jurisdictional waters (state or federal).

CITY OF BELMONT

- Adoption of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
- Grading Permit

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

- Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for trail stream crossing improvements.

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

- Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit for trail stream crossing improvements.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

- 401 Water Quality Certification for trail stream crossing improvements.

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7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Proposed Project.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Greenhouse Gases	☐ Public Services
☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials	☐ Recreation
☐ Air Quality	☐ Hydrology and Water Quality	☐ Transportation / Traffic
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Utilities
☐ Energy	☐ Noise	☐ Wildfire
☐ Geology and Soils	☐ Population and Housing	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

This Addendum demonstrates that the Proposed Project would not result in new or substantially increased significant environmental impacts that were not previously disclosed in the 2017 EIR certified by the City. The City must incorporate all feasible mitigation measures included in the 2017 EIR into the Proposed Project. The City of Belmont is the lead agency under CEQA and maintains authority to approve this Addendum.

The purpose of the checklist is to evaluate the categories in terms of any "changed condition" (e.g., changed circumstances, project changes, or new information of substantial importance) that may result in a changed environmental effect (e.g., a new significant impact or substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant effect) that would require further environmental review (CEQA Guidelines Section 15162).

The questions posed in the checklist come from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The explanation of the checklist evaluation categories is provided in Chapter 7.1 below.

7.1 Modified Environmental Checklist Form

The purpose of the checklist is to evaluate the categories in terms of any "changed condition" (e.g., changed circumstances, project changes, or new information of substantial importance) that may result in a changed environmental effect (e.g., a new significant impact or substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified significant effect) that would require further environmental review (CEQA Guidelines Section 15162).

The questions posed in the checklist come from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The explanation of the checklist evaluation categories is provided in Chapter 5.1 below.

7.1.1 Explanation of Checklist Evaluation Categories

A. Discussion in the 2017 EIR and related documents?

This column provides a cross-reference to the 2017 EIR and related document(s) where information and analysis may be found relative to the environmental issue listed under each topic.

B. Less Impact than Approved Project?

This column indicates that the Proposed Project would have a lesser environmental impact than the Approved Project under the 2017 EIR.

C. New Less-than-significant impact?

This column indicates the Proposed Project would have a new less than significant environmental impact that was not previously disclosed in the 2017 EIR.

D. New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?

This column indicates that the Proposed Project would have a new significant impact on the environment that would require mitigation measures that were not previously disclosed in the 2017 EIR.

E. New Potentially Significant Impact?

This column indicates the Proposed Project would have a new significant and unavoidable impact on the environment that cannot be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

F. Same Impact as Approved Project?

This column indicates that the Proposed Project would have the same environmental impact as the Approved Project under the 2017 EIR.

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7.2 Aesthetics

Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential aesthetic impacts included in the 2017 EIR, which analyzes the 2035 GP, include the following:

- Less than Significant: Adoption of the land use designations (and corresponding zoning districts) in the Land Use Element of the 2035 GP could result in higher density or intensity development that could partially obstruct views currently available to the public as well as degrade visual quality.

Findings

Implementation of 2035 GP policies will reduce the impacts of development on visual resources. The 2017 EIR found a less-than-significant effect for implementation of the Approved Project on scenic vistas (pages 4.1-16 through 4.1-22). In particular, 2035 GP Policies 2.13-1, 4.4-1, and 4.5-4 emphasize protection of views of open spaces and natural features.

According to the 2017 EIR, there are no state scenic highways within the City. The 2017 EIR (page 4.1-22) found a less-than-significant impact for implementation of the Approved Project on scenic resources within a state scenic highway. The 2017 EIR also states although it is not an officially designated State Scenic Highway, Ralston Avenue is a main thoroughfare through the City and provides a scenic route.

The 2017 EIR found a less-than-significant impact for implementation of the Approved Project on existing visual character (pages 4.1-22 through 4.1-26). 2035 GP Policy 2.13-3 mentions the need for new development to not dominate open space areas, and Policies 4.5-1 and 4.5-4 protect open space areas for scenic quality.

The 2017 EIR found a less-than-significant impact for implementation of the Approved Project on light or glare affecting day or nighttime views (pages 4.1-26 and 4.1-27). The 2035 GP includes a policy about minimizing light and glare from new development (Policy 2.13-4), and a policy requiring shielding and downward direction of light for outdoor lighting (Policy 5.3-6).

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.13-1: Ensure that new development is balanced with preservation of open space and natural features.

Policy 2.13-3: Ensure that the scale and character of new development is appropriate to the setting and intended use. Promote development that is scaled and sited to respect the natural terrain, so that hills, parks, open space, trees, and distant vistas, rather than buildings, dominate the overall landscape, while also developing the Belmont Village PDA and other focus areas for economic growth as concentrated, urban-scale nodes of activity.

Policy 2.13-4: Minimize light and glare from new development. *See also Policy 5.3-6 in the Conservation Element.*

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy 4.4-1: Continue to designate and protect open space lands for the preservation of scenic areas, natural drainage ways, and plant and wildlife habitats; for outdoor recreation; and for public health and safety. *See also policies in the Conservation and Safety elements*.

Policy 4.4-5: Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to establish priorities for the protection, enhancement, and improvement of open space lands and trails for recreation purposes.

Policy 4.5-1: Consider open space dedication or acquisition of fee title land to ensure long-term preservation and protection only if public liability exposure can be acceptably limited to the extent feasible.

Policy 4.5-4: Seek to preserve the existing open space areas in the San Juan Hills and Western Hills, consistent with the Area Plans, especially on steep hillsides and sensitive habitat areas.

Policy 5.3-6: Avoid light pollution and unnecessary glare by requiring development projects to use design features and shielding methods that cast outdoor light downward and minimize glare and to install the minimum amount of outdoor lighting necessary for safety and security.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

The City does not have any scenic vistas as designated in the 2035 GP. The Proposed Project does not include any changes in land use designation which could affect density or intensity of development. While some existing parks and open spaces are visible from Ralston Avenue ('scenic route'), proposed improvements like trail or path improvements or seating additions would not damage the scenic resources therein, and the Proposed Project would not result in impacts greater from those outlined in the 2017 EIR. Furthermore, policies in the Proposed Project are based on policies within the 2035 GP; both sets of policies reduce the impacts to visual resources. Implementation of the Proposed Project would result less impact than those analyzed as part of the Approved Project in the 2017 EIR.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Same as the Approved Project – No Impact

With no state scenic highways within the City, no impact would occur as a result of the Proposed Project. While some existing parks and open spaces are visible from Ralston Avenue, proposed improvements like trail or path improvements or seating additions

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would not damage the scenic resources therein, and the Proposed Project would not result in impacts different from those in the 2017 EIR.

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Same as the Approved Project – No Impact

The Proposed Project maintains and improves existing open space and park areas. Improvements proposed to develop Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks may add amenities like paths, benches, or natural play structures, and would maintain existing vegetation and add native plantings. Overall, these changes would not degrade the visual character of the sites or surrounding areas and not result in impacts different from those in the 2017 EIR. In addition, no changes in zoning are proposed that would change impacts analyzed by the 2017 EIR.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project includes Goal 3: Expand and Enhance the Existing PROS System to Meet Evolving Community Needs by Establishing New Uses, Improved Spaces, and a Variety of Recreation Amenities. This goal includes Policy 3.J: Evaluate fields and courts across the City for the opportunity to provide lighted facilities for evening recreation and play. Proposed nighttime lighting could increase the amount of light or glare associated with parks areas. 2035 GP Policies 2.13-4 and 5.3-6 outline minimizing light and glare (via design features and shielding methods, and installation of the minimum amount of outdoor lighting necessary for safety and security. Furthermore, as part of the Proposed Project, implementing Policy 12.E (transitioning to energy efficient lighting and minimizing light pollution through design) will further support reducing the level of Proposed Project impact to less than significant.

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7.3 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	No	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	No	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	No	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Potential Agricultural and Forestry impacts were not reviewed in the 2017 EIR due to lack of these resources within the 2017 EIR Planning Area.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

Same as Approved Project - No Impact

The California Department of Conservation's California Important Farmland Finder tool indicates that the areas of the Proposed Project are within land mapped as Urban and Built-Up Land or Other Land (California Department of Conservation, 2023). Within the two open space areas and the city's parks there are no lands designated as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of Statewide Importance , thus, there would be no impacts.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

Same as Approved Project - No Impact

California Department of Conservation's California Important Farmland Finder tool indicates that the areas are within land mapped as Urban and Built-Up Land or Other Land. There are no lands designated as having a Williamson Act contract, and no existing agricultural zoning as shown in Figure 2-4 of the 2035 GP Land Use Element, therefore, there would be no impacts.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland(as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

Same as Approved Project - No Impact

The Proposed Project does not include any changes or actions that would conflict with existing zoning and there is no zoned timber or forest land within the Project Area. . The Proposed Project would not result in impacts on forest land or timberland.

d) Result in a loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Same as Approved Project - No Impact

The open space areas within the Proposed Project contain areas with at least 10% native tree canopy cover and could be considered forestland. The Proposed Project would implement selective vegetation removal of understory species to manage invasive plants and reduce wildfire risk (Policies P6, P38, P43, and P46). These actions would remove a small proportion of vegetation currently present and not result in loss or conversion of forest land, therefore, the Proposed Project has no impact.

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e) **Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

Same as Approved Project - No Impact

None of the Proposed Project Planning Area is considered Farmland. As such, no impacts are anticipated to farmland as a result of implementation of the Proposed Project.

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7.4 Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:	*Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)*	*Less Impact than Approved Project?*	*New Less-than-significant impact?*	*New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?*	*New Potentially Significant Impact?*	*Same Impact as Approved Project?*
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING UPDATE

The 2017 EIR was prepared before the current, 2017 Clean Air Plan (2017 Plan) was finalized (Bay Area Air Quality Management Disctrict [BAAQMD], 2017). Thus, a summary of the updated 2017 Clean Air Plan is provided here.

The 2017 Plan updates the most recent Bay Area ozone plan, the Bay Area 2010 Clean Air Plan (BAAQMD, et al., 2010), pursuant to air quality planning requirements defined in the California Health & Safety Code. To fulfill state ozone planning requirements, the 2017 control strategy includes all feasible measures to reduce emissions of ozone precursors, in particular reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NOx), and reduce transport of ozone and its precursors to neighboring air basins.

The 2017 Plan also builds upon and enhances the BAAQMD's efforts to reduce emissions of fine particulate matter and toxic air contaminants. Similar to the 2010 Clean Air Plan, the 2017 Plan

achieves its goals and objectives by implementing control measures. Many of the control measures referenced in the 2017 Plan are found in Table 5-2: Transportation Control Measures. In particular, measures that encourage local transit use (TR3), safe routes to transit (TR7), and bike and pedestrian facilities in local plans (TR9) are the most relevant to Proposed Project, to the extent that the City's parks and two open space areas are readily accessible to non-vehicular modes of transport.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential Air Quality impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- The 2017 EIR (pages 4.2-35 to 4.2-40) found significant and unavoidable impacts with regard to increases in emissions of nitrous oxides (NO_x).
- The 2017 EIR (4.2-40 to 4.2-44) found significant and unavoidable impacts for exposure of sensitive receptors to toxic air contaminants (TACs).
- The 2017 EIR (pages 4.2-44 to 4.2-46) found a less-than-significant impact regarding other emissions such as those leading to odors

Findings

The 2017 EIR analyzed whether the Approved Project would obstruct implementation of the BAAQMD Bay Area 2010 Clean Air Plan . The Approved Project would support implementation of the 2010 Clean Air Plan for construction and operational activities. The 2017 EIR concluded that adoption of the 2010 Clean Air Plan and development under the 2035 GP and BVSP would not fundamentally conflict with the 2010 Clean Air Plan.

The 2035 GP includes policies that address the control measures referenced in the updated, 2017 Clean Air Plan. For example:

> **CIRCULATION ELEMENT**
> **Policy 3.1-2:** Make Complete Streets practices a part of Belmont's planning, design, and operation of its circulation network, acknowledging that a flexible and context-sensitive approach to design will result in each roadway serving most users and the roadway network as a whole serving all users.
>
> **Policy 3.1-4:** Provide a transportation system that is well-connected within the city and to areas outside the city.
>
> **Policy 3.2-3:** Maintain and expand transit and active transportation networks that connect neighborhoods with key destinations to encourage travel by non-automobile modes while also improving public health.
>
> **Policy 3.2-5:** Comply with the adopted Complete Streets Policy of the City of Belmont.
>
> **Policy 3.4-3:** Seek innovative solutions to addressing traffic congestion and barriers to mobility that are due, in part, to Belmont's unique geography.

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Policy 3.4-10: Support the installation of vehicle traffic-calming measures to ensure bicycle and pedestrian safety on roadways where the street typology prioritizes pedestrian and bicycle mobility, and especially on hillside streets.

Policy 3.5-5: Maintain and encourage use of the existing system of main and neighborhood bike routes. Incorporate bike lanes or pathways into the circulation system of any new subdivision, consistent with the citywide bike and trails network.

Policy 3.7-1: Ensure that adequate transit service facilities are provided in Belmont, including roadway geometry or traffic operations improvements when needed, and bus stop amenities including, but not limited to, lighted shelters, benches, and route information signs.

The 2017 EIR includes the full list of 2035 GP policies (pages 4.2-28-4.2-31 of the 2017 EIR) that would be implemented to ensure that impacts would be less than significant. In addition, the 2017 EIR outlines specific mitigation measures to ameliorate significant and unavoidable impacts.

MITIGATION MEASURES

AQ-1: Require Tier 4 engines on construction equipment.

AQ-2: Require construction fleet to use renewable diesel.

AQ-3: Require low-VOC coatings during construction.

AQ-4: Require fugitive dust best practices.

AQ-5: Promote green consumer products.

AQ-6: Require future projects located within 1,000 feet of receptors perform a construction health risk assessment.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

The Proposed Project would not conflict with the 2017 Clean Air Plan. Strategies under Goal 1 in the Proposed Project focus on pedestrian and cycling networks to provide access to parks and open spaces. Construction of park and open space improvements (Table 5) would be required to comply with 2035 GP and 2017 Clean Air Plan policies. The Proposed Project would not result in impacts different than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

Construction-related impacts for both the draft PROS Plan and OSMP would be negligible in comparison to what was analyzed in the 2017 EIR, which included an analysis of about 29,000 square feet of development for parks. In contrast, total planned development that was analyzed in the air quality chapter of the 2017 EIR is approximately 2,900,600 square

feet. Ground-disturbing activity within the two open space areas would be accomplished mostly with manual labor avoiding construction related emissions. Ground-disturbing activities within the City's parks would mostly be accomplished with manual labor as well as handheld construction equipment (e.g., concrete saw, mechanical augur) as well as relatively small construction vehicles such as a Bobcat.

In terms of operational impacts, it is possible that vehicle miles traveled may slightly increase over the 15-year period during which the two plans would be implemented; however, proposed 2035 GP Policies 3.8-1 and 5.10-6, as well as BVSP Policy 3.5-1. Section 8A.7 of the Phase I Zoning regulations, applying citywide, requires implementation of Transportation Demand Management measures for all nonresidential projects greater than 10,000 square feet, and all nonresidential changes in use that would result in a net increase in average daily vehicle trips of 10 percent or greater. Based on the planned improvements to the city's parks and two open space areas, and the emphasis of 2035 GP policies on implementing transportation control measures from the 2017 Clean Air Plan, it is not likely that average daily trips over the 15-year planning horizon would increase by 10 percent given that the majority of Belmont residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park or open space area trailhead. Because only minor improvements would be made to Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks, few additional vehicle trips are expected, rather a redistribution from existing trips to other existing parks. The Proposed Project would have less impact than the Approved Project.

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. Implementation of park and open space improvements could result in temporarily generated emissions of particulate matter and other criteria pollutants such as carbon monoxide or nitrous oxides due to use of construction equipment. However, any construction under the Proposed Project must adhere to the mitigation measures (AQ-1-AQ-4) identified in the 2017 EIR. The Proposed Project would have less impact than the Approved Project.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Based on Table 5 in Chapter 5 of this document, there would be minor improvements made to Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks, minor improvements to five other parks, upgraded or new amenities at five parks, and park redesign at three parks, as well as trail maintenance and vegetation management actions the two open space areas. For the city's parks, much of the construction would be accomplished with manual labor, handheld construction equipment, or small-scale construction equipment. For the open space areas many of the ground disturbing activities would most likely be accomplished with manual labor. Finally, per guidance from the 2017 Clean Air Plan, any construction equipment used would have tier 3 or tier 4 engines to minimize emissions to the extent

possible. Thus, sensitive receptors would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations for TACs. There would be new but less-than-significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Project and overall, less impacts as compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

The Proposed Project would comply with the 2017 EIR mitigation measure AQ-6 for any eligible construction work.

d) **Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?**

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Implementation of the Proposed Project improvements (Table 5) would comply with BAAQMD Regulation 7, which defines substances that cause odors, and how to monitor them, and would result in less than significant impacts, same as than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.5 Biological Resources

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Yes	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING UPDATE

Due to the programmatic nature of the 2035 GP and its associated 2017 EIR, the habitat descriptions (pages 4.3-1 through 4.3-6) and mapping (Figure 4.3-1) are broad. In addition, since the 2017 EIR was certified in 2017, new information regarding natural communities within San Mateo County became available in the form of the San Mateo Fine Scale Vegetation Map (Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, 2022). The 2022 spatial dataset was used for the PROS plan and the OSMP and maps habitats in greater detail than was previously depicted in the 2017 EIR. This provides vegetation classification at an alliance or association level, with global and state ranks provided; therefore, this identifies sensitive natural communities not previously discussed in the 2017 EIR. Sensitive natural communities not previously identified include:

- California bay woodland (*Umbellularia californica,* S3 G4),
- arroyo willow thickets (*Salix lasiolepis*, S3 G4), and
- California buckeye groves (*Aesculus californica*, S3 G3).

The habitat mapping for all other parks identified in the Proposed Project remains unchanged from what is identified in Figure 4.3-1 in the 2017 EIR; these parks are all located within developed or urban habitats. Given the developed and/or urban nature of these parks, potential for special-status plant and wildlife species are typically low. Should potential for species be determined based on a microhabitat analysis, those instances will be addressed by existing 2035 GP policies, as well as those included in the Proposed Project.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Since both WDL and SJC contain similar habitats (e.g., coyote brush scrub, coast live oak woodland, arroyo willow thickets, and annual grasslands), the assessment of special-status species applies to both parks, unless otherwise noted. The environmental assessment, included in Appendix G of the PROS Plan, offers more detailed assessment compared to the programmatic evaluation of special status species in 2017 EIR. Species with a moderate or high potential to occur within WDL and SJC, or that have been documented to be present, are discussed below.

Plants – not previously considered in the 2017 EIR

Additional special-status plant species were considered during the review of the Proposed Project; these species are summarized below. The inclusion of the additional species was guided by regulatory changes and/or inclusion of CNPS Rank 4 species, new documented species occurrences, or the presence of specific habitat components within the parks or open space areas.

Pink star-tulip (*Calochortus comosa*), CRPR 4.2. Moderate Potential. Coastal scrub and meadows and seep habitat are present within the Planning Area along with seasonally moist meadows and forested habitats.

California bottle-brush grass (*Elymus californicus*), CRPR 4.3. Moderate Potential. California bottle-brush grass is a perennial graminoid in the grass family (Poaceae) that blooms from May to November. It typically occurs along stream banks or other mesic sites within broadleaf upland forest, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, and riparian woodland habitat at elevations ranging from 45 to 1,530 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), California bay, red alder (*Alnus rubra*), California hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*), California coffeeberry, California blackberry, sword fern, hedge nettle (*Stachys ajugoides*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and woodland brome (*Bromus laevipes*) (CNPS 2022, California Consortium of Herbaria 2022). California bottle-brush grass has a moderate potential to occur in the Study Area due to the presence of broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, and riparian forest habitats are located within the Planning Area, and microhabitats of sandy humus soils are also present to support this species.

Harlequin lotus (*Hosackia gracilis*), CRPR 4.2. Moderate Potential. Harlequin lotus is a perennial forb in the pea family (Fabaceae) that blooms from March to July. It typically occurs in wetlands or ditches in broadleaf upland forest, coastal scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, meadow and seep, marsh and swamp, North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland habitat at elevations ranging from 0 to 2,275 feet (CNPS 2022). This species has a wetland indicator status of facultative wetland (FACW). Associated species include coyote brush, little quaking grass (*Briza minor*), California oat grass (*Danthonia californica*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), subterranean clover (*Trifolium*

subterraneanum) (CCH2 2022). Suitable habitat of broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, and meadows and seeps and microhabitats of wetlands and roadsides are present.

Bristly leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon acicularis*), CRPR 4.2. Moderate Potential. Bristly leptosiphon is an annual forb in the phlox family (Polemoniaceae) that blooms from April to July. It typically occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, and valley and foothill grassland habitats at elevations ranging from 175 to 4,875 feet (CNPS 2022). Bristly leptosiphon has a moderate potential to occur within the Study Area due to the presence of associated species and vegetation types; however, this species typically occurs in natural open or herbaceous serpentine and/or volcanic areas.

Choris's popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*), CRPR 1B.2. Moderate Potential. Choris's popcornflower is an annual herb that blooms from March to June. It typically occurs in chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub at elevations ranging from 10 to 525 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include common yarrow, coyote brush, common toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), brass buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*), fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), California blackberry and Buck's horn plaintain (*Plantago coronopus*) (CDFW 2022). Chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Planning Area, and microhabitats of mesic sites (and low-lying depressions) are present to support this species.

Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*), CRPR 2B.2. Present. Chaparral ragwort is an annual herb that blooms from January to April. It typically occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub at elevations ranging from 50 to 2625 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), nude buckwheat, stork's bill, redstem filaree, black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California sagebrush, and soap root. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats are present within the Planning Area.

Plants – previously considered in the 2017 EIR

The special-status plant species listed below were assessed as part of the 2017 EIR.

- Franciscan onion (*Allium peninsulare* var. *franciscanum*), CRPR 1B.2.
- Bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), CRPR 1B.2.
- San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*), CRPR 1B.2.
- Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*), CRPR 1B.2.
- San Mateo woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum latilobum*), FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1.
- Arcuate bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus arcuatus*), CRPR 1B.2.
- Woodland woolythreads (*Monolopia gracilens*), CRPR 1B.2.

Wildlife – not previously considered in the 2017 EIR

Additional special-status wildlife species were considered during the review of the Proposed Project; these species are summarized below (refer to Appendix G of the PROS Plan). The inclusion of the additional species was guided by regulatory changes, new documented occurrences, or the presence of specific habitat components within the parks or open space areas.

Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. The olive-sided flycatcher is a summer resident in California, wintering in Latin America. It breeds in a variety of forested habitats, typically coniferous forests at higher elevations, but also in mixed forest and

woodlands at lower elevations. Breeding habitat is often associated with forest openings and edges, both natural (e.g., meadows, canyons) and man-made (e.g., logged areas). Nests are usually in conifers and placed at variable height on the outer portions of branches. This species forages for insects, usually from prominent tree snags. This species has not been documented on the sites, but mixed low-elevation forests are common habitats within the Planning Area and could support nesting by this species.

White tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), CDFW Fully Protected Species. The white-tailed kite is resident in open to semi-open habitats throughout the lower elevations of California, including grasslands, savannahs, woodlands, agricultural areas and wetlands. While this species is usually observed in closer proximity to San Francisco Bay, higher elevation areas characterized by small trees interspersed with grasses and low shrubs could provide nesting or foraging habitat for this species within City parks and open spaces.

American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. The American badger is a large, semi-fossorial member of the weasel family. It is found uncommonly within the region in drier open stages of most scrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats where friable soils and prey populations are present. This species typically avoids highly trafficked areas where trails have been relatively compacted, or densely forested or vegetated habitats that dominate the open space areas; however, friable soils and more open habitats exist in higher elevation locations within the open space areas that could support this species. Thus, this species has moderate potential to occur.

Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*). CDFW Candidate Species. Mountain lions are the second largest felid in North America and have the largest geographic range of any carnivore in the western hemisphere that stretches from southern Chile to the Canadian Yukon (CDFW online, accessed 10/19/2023). This large distribution speaks to the extreme adaptability of the species with respect to its ability to exploit a great variety of different habitats. This adaptability is largely explained by the species' ability to thrive across a huge range of environmental conditions. Mountain lions are mobile predators of the landscapes that they inhabit, with home ranges within the Santa Cruz mountains estimated to be between 40 and 150 square miles. Males tend to defend smaller territories against other males and females tend to have larger territories that may overlap with other lion's territories. Deer and smaller mammals make up the majority of their diets and their hunting activities are mostly nocturnal.

The Planning Area represents a pocket of marginally suitable habitat, largely surrounded by urban development. Highway 280 represents a major barrier to dispersal from more suitable habitat in the Santa Cruz mountains, and areas to the west are very densely populated. While some mountain lions may occasionally pass through the Planning Area, it is likely that most mountain lions would not traverse into this area due to offsite barriers and onsite recreational activities that are currently present. The Planning Area may be temporarily attractive to an individual mountain lion with a higher than typical tolerance for anthropogenic disturbance. However, it is unlikely that the site would remain occupied by a mountain lion for extended periods due to its limited size and correspondingly limited prey availability. Because the species is so adaptable, the recreational improvements proposed by the project would not be expected to have a significant impact on mountain lions, if present, because they would simply move on to another, more suitable part of their range.

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Wildlife – previously considered in the 2017 EIR

The special-status plant wildlife listed below were assessed as part of the 2017 EIR.

- Western (Pacific) pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), CDFW Species of Special Concern.
- San Francisco (saltmarsh) common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*), CDFW Species of Special Concern.
- Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), WBWG Medium.
- San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), CDFW Species of Special Concern.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential Biological Resources impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Direct impacts to special-status species could result from the conversion of habitat either temporarily, as a result of grading, excavation, and construction activities, or permanently from the ongoing operation and/or maintenance of a project or plan. Indirect impacts could result from elevated dust or noise levels or increased sediment loads in runoff from construction activities. Indirect impacts could also result from permanent alterations to hydrology upstream of habitats supporting sensitive species, including increased runoff, sedimentation, or pollutant loads, and increased human activity.
- Development of vacant parcels may affect riparian or sensitive habitat, though the areas that may develop are already designated for urban uses.
- Development resulting from implementation of the 2035 GP may result in both direct and indirect significant adverse impacts to jurisdictional wetlands or waters.
- Large areas of open space or undeveloped areas within the 2035 GP Planning Area may serve as wildlife corridors for common and listed species. Although development is expected on vacant lots currently designated for urban uses in developed areas, there is no future development planned under the 2035 GP in the open space areas, which, given their contiguous nature and geography, are more likely to function as wildlife corridors than small, scattered infill parcels amidst urban development. Therefore, although there may be indirect impacts to the movement of wildlife, these are not expected to result in direct impacts to habitat or fragmentation of open space.

Findings

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.3-30 to 4.3-35) found that implementation of the 2035 GP would have less-than-significant impacts on special-status species. The following is a summary of 2035 GP Policies which apply to reducing impact to special-status plant and wildlife species: Policy 4.4-1 requires the City to continue to designate and protect open space lands; Policy 4.5-4 encourages the City to preserve the existing open space areas in the San Juan Hills and Western Hills; Policy 4.4-6 requires the City to develop programs to control invasive species, which could modify habitats; Policy 5.1-3 protects against ecological succession and pathogen threats; Policy 5.3-1 requires the City to support the protection of habitats of special-status species; Policy 5.3-2 requires the City to protect ecologically important areas; Policies 5.1-1 and 5.1-4 ensure that improvements and planning of open space areas are consistent with the type of open space and the City's open space strategy; and Policies 2.14-3 and 5.1-2 specifically address the interface

between natural and developed areas to support wildlife needs. The 2035 GP analyzed the impacts on biological resources of developing 29,000 square feet in park related actions.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.3-36 and 4.3-37) found impacts would be less than significant regarding riparian habitats and other sensitive natural communities. The 2017 EIR includes policies that would avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive habitat by requiring the protection and preservation of such resources. Policy 4.5-2 protects Belmont Creek from encroachment; Policy 5.3-2 requires the City to ensure that development does not disturb sensitive habitat and special-status species, including the creek corridors; and Policy 5.4-3 requires the City to protect wildlife habitat along Belmont's waterways.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.3-37 and 4.3-38) found a less-than-significant impact would occur to state or federally protected wetlands during the implementation of the 2035 GP due to the implementation of policies and compliance with state, federal, and local regulations. 2035 GP Policy 5.3-2 requires the City to protect and restore the wetlands around O'Neill Slough, and Policy 5.4-3 requires the City to protect and restore a continuous corridor of wildlife habitat along Belmont's wetlands. In addition, if jurisdictional resources are determined to be potentially impacted by a project, all such future development projects would require Clean Water Act Section 404/401 Permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the RWQCB, respectively, and a 1600-Series Streambed Alteration Agreement with the CDFW. Compliance with federal and State standards would ensure that the Proposed Project does not result in a significant impact to federally and/or state-protected wetlands.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.3-39 and 4.3-40) found that there were no significant impacts to movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species. According to the 2035 GP, there is there is no proposed future development that would alter land use from open space to development that would impact existing wildlife. Given the contiguous nature and geography of the open spaces, these areas are more likely to function as wildlife corridors than small, scattered infill parcels amidst urban development; therefore, although there may be indirect impacts to the movement of wildlife, these are not expected to result in direct impacts to habitat or fragmentation of open space. In addition, the 2035 GP includes policies that would minimize or avoid impacts to important wildlife corridors and linkages by requiring the protection and preservation of such resources. Policy 5.3-4 requires the City to maintain wildlife corridors, and Policy 5.4-3 requires the City to protect a continuous corridor of riparian habitat. Since 29,000 square feet of park related actions were already analyzed in the 2017 EIR, and the Proposed Project does not constitute new development or barriers, impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the Approved Project.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.3-40 and 4.3-41) found no impact regarding conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The City has a Tree Ordinance to promote the healthy growth of trees, control the removal of trees, and encourage the replacement of trees within the City. This ordinance requires that any tree removal be approved by the City's Tree Board. Policy 2.4-2 in the 2035 GP requires the City to maintain tree protection and removal standards, implemented by the Tree Ordinance. Implementation of the Proposed Project would continue to follow these regulations. If any Heritage Trees required removal, the trees would be removed in accordance with the City's policies and only after an appropriate permit is acquired. In addition to the City's Tree Ordinance, 2035 GP Policy 4.5-4 encourages the City to preserve the open spaces areas in the San Juan Hills and Western Hills area plans.

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2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.4-2: Maintain adequate and reasonable tree protection and removal standards and best management practices, implemented by the City's Tree Ordinance.

Policy 2.14-3: Create clear design standards for the interface between open spaces and neighborhoods, especially in the Urban/ Wildland Interface Zone. Standards should identify the margin of open space needed to allow wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic values to flourish while also reducing threats of fire and invasive plant species. Incorporate "Defensible Space" standards as needed in areas of high wildfire risk.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy 4.4-1: Continue to designate and protect open space lands for the preservation of scenic areas, natural drainage ways, and plant and wildlife habitats; for outdoor recreation; and for public health and safety. *See also policies in the Conservation and Safety elements.*

Policy 4.4-6: Develop programs to control invasive plant species that threaten the natural resources.

Policy 4.5-1: Consider open space dedication or acquisition of fee title land to ensure long-term preservation and protection only if public liability exposure can be acceptably limited to the extent feasible.

Policy 4.5-2: Protect Belmont Creek from future encroachment through regulation, development review, conservation easements, or other appropriate actions.

Policy 4.5-4: Seek to preserve the existing open space areas in the San Juan Hills and Western Hills, consistent with the Area Plans, especially on steep hillsides and sensitive habitat areas.

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.1-1: Ensure that any improvements recommended for open space areas are appropriate for the type of open space and the use proposed.

Policy 5.1-2: In portions of Belmont that include significant open space resources, use area plans to address the balance and interface between natural and developed areas.

Policy 5.1-3: Reduce risk of wildland fire, ecological succession, and pathogen threats (such as Sudden Oak Death) through active maintenance of public spaces and education and enforcement of development standards on private property.

Policy 5.1-4: Ensure that future acquisitions of open space land are compatible with the City's open space strategy and long-term interests. *See also Policy 4.5-1.*

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Policy 5.3-1: Support the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of habitats of State or federally listed rare, threatened, endangered and/or other sensitive and special status species, and favor enhancement of contiguous areas over small, segmented remainder parcels.

Policy 5.3-2: Continue to maintain, protect, restore, and enhance Belmont's ecologically important areas and seek to reduce impacts on them, including the creek corridors, the open space, and the wetlands around O'Neill Slough.

Policy 5.3-4: Maintain functional wildlife corridors and habitat linkage in order to contribute to regional biodiversity and the viability of rare, unique or sensitive biological resources throughout the city and region.

Policy 5.4-3: Protect, restore, and enhance a continuous corridor of native riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat along Belmont's waterways, water bodies, and wetlands.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?

New Less-than-Significant Impacts

The environmental assessment conducted for the Proposed Project reported special-status plant species documented in the vicinity of the Proposed Project Planning Area (Planning Area). Some species have been documented in the two open space areas (WDL and SJC) and several others have potential to occur within the overall Planning Area based on various habitat and life cycle factors. Special-status wildlife species with moderate to high potential to occur in the Planning Area include hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), and various special-status birds.

As summarized above, the following special-status species have potential to occur within the Planning Area and were not analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR. The inclusion of the additional species was guided by regulatory changes and/or inclusion of CNPS Rank 4 species, new documented species occurrences, or the presence of specific habitat components within the parks or open space areas.

- Pink star-tulip (*Calochortus comosa*), CRPR 4.2. Moderate Potential.
- California bottle-brush grass (*Elymus californicus*), CRPR 4.3. Moderate Potential.
- Harlequin lotus (*Hosackia gracilis*), CRPR 4.2. Moderate Potential.
- Bristly leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon acicularis*), CRPR 4.2. Moderate Potential.
- Choris's popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*), CRPR 1B.2. Moderate Potential.
- Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*), CRPR 2B.2. Present.
- Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), CDFW Species of Special Concern.

- White tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), CDFW Fully Protected Species.
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), CDFW Species of Special Concern.
- Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*). CDFW Candidate Species.

2035 GP policies, as well as Proposed Project policies, reduce the potential impacts to special-status species to a less than significant level. In addition to the 2023 GP policies described above, the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Policies described in Chapter 5.1 of this document and Chapter 7 in the PROS Plan would benefit sensitive biological resources, including special-status species. These collective policies reduce the potential for impacts by avoiding sensitive habitats and maintaining small-impact footprints to the extent feasible while still achieving project goals. For most Proposed Project implementation actions, there would be no substantial adverse effects on special-status species; however, for some Proposed Project activities—such as increasing park accessibility and parking, addition of paths, repairing stream crossings, conducting trail maintenance, and reducing wildfire hazards in areas where special-status species could be present—adverse impacts to special-status species could occur without the implementation of 2035 GP and Proposed Project Environmental Sustainability policies to reduce impacts. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and the Proposed Project policies around special-status species, would result in new, less-than-significant impacts when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

Riparian areas are located within the Proposed Project Planning Area. Per the 2017 EIR and the PROS Plan, riparian communities have been documented within WDL, SJC, and Ralston Ranch Park. Implementation of the following Proposed Project actions could result in potential impacts to riparian communities: trail maintenance, construction of new paths for accessibility, trail stream crossings, invasive plant removal, or wildfire fuel reduction.

Policies from Proposed Project are consistent with and add to the policies in the 2035 GP that aim to conserve and avoid impacts to riparian ecosystems. For example, the following Proposed Project policies further reduces potential impacts to less than significant: P1 limits trail construction and facility development in riparian corridors, wetlands, and each of these habitats' associated buffers to protect them from disturbance, and P2 requires aligning or relocating trails to avoid impacting sensitive habitats. Furthermore, just as the 2017 EIR outlines for the Approved Project, if riparian areas are determined to be potentially impacted by implementation of the Proposed Project, all applicable actions would require coordination with appropriate regulatory agencies. Compliance with federal and State standards would ensure that the Proposed Project does not result in a significant impact to protected riparian areas. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and the Proposed Project policies around

special-status species, would result the same impacts as the Approved Project when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

State or federally protected wetlands are located within the Proposed Project Planning Area; potential wetland areas are present within WDL and SJC Open Space Areas and several City parks may have potential wetlands present, such as Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch. Impacts to these features may occur due to implementation of Proposed Project actions, such as: trail maintenance, construction of new paths for accessibility, stream crossings, or wildfire fuel reduction. Proposed Project policies aim to conserve and avoid impacts to protected wetlands as well. For example, the Proposed Project includes the following policies: P1 limits trail construction and facility development in riparian and other wetland areas (and associated buffers) to protect them from disturbance; P3 states that trails would be aligned, relocated, and/or modified to avoid impacting sensitive habitats such as wetlands and areas where endangered species are present; and P7 states that riparian, stream, and other wetland communities would be preserved and enhanced in coordination with other agencies to continue providing important habitat networks. Furthermore, just as the 2017 EIR outlines for the Approved Project, if jurisdictional wetland resources are determined to be potentially impacted implementation of the Proposed Project, all applicable actions would require Clean Water Act Section 404/401 Permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the RWQCB, respectively, and a 1600-Series Streambed Alteration Agreement with the CDFW. Compliance with federal and State standards would ensure that the Proposed Project does not result in a significant impact to federally and/or state-protected wetlands. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and the Proposed Project policies around state and/or federally protected wetlands, would result the same impacts when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Same Impact as Approved Project - No Significant Impacts

Overall, the Proposed Project would have the same impacts as the Approved Project as analyzed in the 2017 EIR regarding wildlife movements. Wildlife species such as deer, coyote, and mountain lion, are expected to continue moving through the Proposed Project Planning Area as they currently do, or with more efficiency due to improvements to habitat such as invasive species removal and native species restoration, and decommissioning of visitor-created trails, thus creating more habitat areas. The Proposed Project does not include any new development that would hinder the ability of wildlife to move through the area. Proposed improvements at Hidden Canyon which may include new trails and play structure, would not substantially interfere with wildlife movement, in

fact native vegetation improvements in the park would likely improve wildlife movement ability. Ralston Ranch is surrounded by residential development and improvements like new trails are not expected to alter wildlife movement in the area.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Same Impact as Approved Project - No Significant Impacts

Tree removal may be necessary to implement Proposed Project actions, such as at Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks to accommodate park development. Tree removal may also be necessary at WDL and SJC open space areas as part of trail maintenance or wildfire fuel reduction actions. Any actions undertaken in this regard would need to comply with the City's Tree Ordinance, per the policies outlined in the 2035 GP. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and the Proposed Project policies (e.g. P5, P9) around tree protection, would result in the same impact as the Approved Project when compared to those analyzed as part of the Approved Project in the 2017 EIR.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Same Impact as Approved Project - No Significant Impacts

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.3-41 and 4.3-42) found no impact regarding conflict with provisions on an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan because such plans do not exist within the City of Belmont. The Proposed Project is not subject to a HCP, NCCP, or any other habitat plan; therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any habitat conservation plan, and impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.6 Cultural Resources

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential Cultural Resources impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than Significant with Mitigation: Implementation of the 2035 GP may result in actions that could adversely affect historic resources through future ground disturbing activities such as grading and excavation, or the demolition of resources.
- Less than Significant: Future development projects allowed under the Approved Project may involve grading, excavation, or other ground-disturbing activities and would be required to protect known resources. Three prehistoric sites have been recorded in Belmont. There are no archaeological sites currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Belmont.
- Less than Significant: Construction activities associated with the implementation of the Approved Project such as grading, excavation, and ground disturbing activities may result in the accidental destruction or disturbance of paleontological sites. No paleontological resources in the Planning Area have been identified for protection.
- Less than significant: Development has the potential to disturb human remains, and will adhere to state laws pertaining to their discovery.

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Findings

The 2035 GP includes policies that would minimize or avoid impacts to historical resources by requiring the protection and preservation of such resources. Policy 2.23-1 updates the City's inventory of historic resources to ensure that historic resources are preserved and protected in Belmont; Policy 2.23-2 ensures that City ordinances adequately recognize and protect historic resources; Policy 2.23-3 considers creating a Historic Preservation Commission to administer and advise on historic preservation matters, such as updating the inventory of historic resources and updating the historic preservation ordinance; and Policy 2.23-4 encourages adaptive reuse of historic structures. Implementation of these policies would help to minimize or avoid impacts to historical resources. In addition, historic resources in the city are subject to the Structures of historic or Aesthetic Value Article within Belmont's Buildings Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 7, Article VII), which includes criteria for including resources in the city's historic resources inventory and procedures for designating those resources as historical. The Buildings Ordinance also requires permits to work on a historic resource.

To address actions that could adversely affect archaeological resources, the 2035 GP includes policies and regulations that would minimize or avoid impacts by requiring the protection and preservation of such resources. Policy 5.12-1 requires mitigation for development on sites suspected of being archeologically significant, including the three identified prehistoric sites; and Policy 5.12-2 requires that, if archaeological resources are discovered during construction, an evaluation be completed before construction activities resume.

The likelihood of finding new or undiscovered cultural resources within the 2017 EIR Planning Area is limited due to much of the development planned as infill for vacant lots which are known to have fill, not native soil. In addition, the General Plan includes Policy 5.12-1, which requires mitigation for development on sites suspected of being culturally significant; as well as Policy 5.12-2, which requires that, if cultural resources are discovered during construction, an evaluation be completed before construction activities resume. These policies would minimize or avoid impacts to cultural resources.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.23-1: Update the City's inventory of historic resources to ensure that historic resources are preserved and protected in Belmont.

Policy 2.23-2: Ensure that City ordinances adequately recognize and protect historic resources.

Policy 2.23-3: Consider creating a Historic Preservation Commission to administer and advise on historic preservation matters, such as updating the inventory of historic resources and updating the historic preservation ordinance**.**

Policy 2.23-4: Encourage adaptive reuse of historic structures – preserving their original design and character – as an option for preserving sites that are threatened with demolition or degradation.

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.12-1: Ensure that development avoids potential impacts to sites suspected of being archeologically, paleontologically, or culturally significant, tribal or otherwise, or of concern by requiring appropriate and feasible mitigation.

Policy 5.12-2: If cultural, archaeological, paleontological, or cultural resources, tribal or otherwise, are discovered during construction, grading activity in the immediate area shall cease and materials and their surroundings shall not be altered or collected until evaluation by a qualified professional is completed.

Mitigation Measures:

CULT-1: Require façade maintenance of the Firehouse Building.

CULT-2: Require historical signage at Firehouse Square.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

The 2035 GP includes Land Use Policies 2.23-1 through 2.23-4 that would minimize impacts to any previously undiscovered historic resources would apply to any resources found during implementation of the Proposed Project, specifically, Ralston Park, Hidden Canyon Park, and the two open space areas. Other parks are assumed to not have native soil, and thus the chances are low of finding any previously undocumented historic resources. While the Approved Project may adversely impact specific historic resources and the 2017 EIR requires Mitigation Measures CULT-1 and CULT-2, the Proposed Project would not affect these historic resources and the mitigation measures would not apply. Should any previously undiscovered historical resource be found during park development activity identified in the Proposed Project, the above referenced land use policies would result in less than significant impacts than the Approved Project as analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Should any previously undiscovered archaeological resource be found during actions identified in the Proposed Project, 2035 GP Policy 5.12.2 pertaining to protection of archaeological resources and applicable state laws would be followed. If previously undocumented archaeological resources were discovered during construction policies would result in same less than significant impacts as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Should any human remains be encountered during ground disturbing activities associated with the draft Proposed Project, the San Mateo County Coroner would be notified, and if those remains are thought to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage

Commission would also be notified. Additionally, policies 5.12-1 and 5.12-2 from the 2035 GP Conservation Element would also apply to any ground disturbing actions associated with the draft Proposed Project. If any human remains are discovered during park development activities identified in the Proposed Project, the above referenced Conservation Element policies would result in same less than significant impacts as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.7 Energy

Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential Energy impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than Significant: The 2035 GP policies are consistent with and would go beyond State and local energy policies enacted to reduce energy consumption. Operational energy consumption and the intensity of that consumption under the 2035 GP would be lower than existing and 2035 no plan conditions. As such, the Approved Project would not result in a wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary usage of energy.

Findings

The 2017 EIR found impacts from implementation of the 2035 GP would be less than significant regarding waste, inefficient and unnecessary consumption of energy resources. As noted in the 2017 EIR, construction associated with future projects consume gasoline and diesel through the operation of heavy-duty construction equipment and vehicles. In particular the 2017 EIR states:

> *The types of land uses envisioned under the plans would involve construction activities typical of development within the [2035 GP] Planning Area. No land uses are expected to require an extraordinary amount of energy consumption during construction, as may occur with large, industrial facilities, like new power plants or dams, because no such land use are proposed or permitted by the [Approved Project].*

In regard to operational impacts, land uses developed under the 2035 GP would generate new vehicle trips, which would consume gasoline and diesel. Developments would also result in the consumption of electricity and natural gas for power, heating, and cooking. Land Use Element Policy 2.3-2 (encourage higher density residential land use in proximity to commercial services,

employment opportunities, and major transportation corridors) as well as Circulation Element Policies 3.2-1 (promote energy efficiency), Policy 3.2-3 (maintain transit networks that connect neighborhoods), and Policy 3.5-9 (prepare the Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan for on-street and off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the city) would ensure that consumption of energy resources would not be wasteful or inefficient.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.3-2: Encourage higher density residential uses located in close proximity to commercial services, employment opportunities, and major transportation corridors and facilities.

CIRCULATION ELEMENT

Policy 3.2-1: Promote energy efficiency and accommodate new and improved technology, such as alternative fuel vehicles, in meeting transportation needs.

Policy 3.2-3: Maintain and expand transit and active transportation networks that connect neighborhoods with key destinations to encourage travel by non-automobile modes while also improving public health.

Policy 3.5-9: Prepare the Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan for on-street and off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the city.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

In contrast to construction activities associated with 2035 GP, the actions outlined in the Proposed Project such as trail or path installation, stream crossings, and vegetation management would occur on a much smaller scale and generally involve manual labor and the use of handheld construction equipment.

Ground disturbing actions at Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks would occur on a much smaller scale than activities analyzed in the 2017 EIR. The 2035 GP policies applicable to Approved Project operational activities would be likewise applied to operational activities associated with the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project will have the same impacts as the Approved Project and implement the same policies to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Implementation of the construction and operation and maintenance actions associated with the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial adverse effect on local or regional energy supplies, peak or base period energy demand, or resource capacity. All of these actions would follow the same 2035 GP policies described in the Energy and GHG chapter of the 2017 EIR, pages 4.4-22 through 4.6-25. In addition, implementation of construction and operations and maintenance actions at Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks, and at the City's two open space areas would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Actions completed in these areas would need to follow the same 2035 GP policies referenced above. Therefore, the Proposed Project will have the same impacts as the Approved Project and implement the same policies to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

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7.8 Geology and Soils

Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:						
i)	*Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?*	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
ii)	*Strong seismic ground shaking?*	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
iii)	*Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
iv)	*Landslides?*	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

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Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential geology and soils impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than significant: Implementation of the Approved Project may have the following impacts: All locations within the Planning Area could experience considerable groundshaking; Ground failure, including liquefaction, as a result of an earthquake could occur in the 2035 GP Planning Area depending on the underlying conditions including moisture content, relative size of soil particles, and density of subsurface materials within 50 feet of ground surface; and Landslides may occur on slopes of 15 percent or less; however, the probability is greater on steeper slopes that exhibit old landslide features such as scarps, slanted vegetation, and transverse ridges.

Findings

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.5-1 through 4.5-26) found a less-than-significant impact for implementation of the Approved Project in regard to causing potentially substantial adverse impacts related to rupturing of known earthquake faults. 2035 GP policies 3.4-6, 4.4-3, 5.2-1, 6.1-1 would reduce the impact to a less than significant level. According to the California Geological Survey, Belmont is not listed as being affected by an Alquist–Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. 2035 GP Policy 6.1-8 requires that consideration of seismic and geologic hazards is considered early in the development process, and Policy 6.1-10 requires the City to identify structures that may be subject to damage from an earthquake and provide information on ways to rehabilitate the structures to improve safety. Potential adverse effects to people or structures from the rupture of a known earthquake fault would be minimized by implementing the above referenced policies.

The following 2035 GP Policies reduce the potential impact level of liquefaction to less than significant: Policy 6.1-3 prohibits development at high or very high risk of liquefaction; Policy 6.1-9 requires real estate transactions to declare known or suspected geologic hazards, such as liquefaction; and Policy 3.4-6 in the 2035 GP Circulation Element requires the location and design of new roadways to prevent erosion and minimize grading.

According to the Geology and Soils chapter of the 2017 EIR, generally, the younger and looser the sediment and the higher the water table, the more susceptible the soil is to liquefaction. Sediments most susceptible to liquefaction include Holocene (less than 10,000 years old) delta, river channel, flood plain, aeolian deposits, and poorly compacted fills. Dense soils, including well-compacted fills, have low susceptibility to liquefaction. Policy P13 from the OSMP aims to minimize unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands that could otherwise lead to an increase in risk. Additionally, with implementation of the 2035 GP policies, the potential impacts from liquefaction would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.5-1 through 4.5-26) found a less-than-significant impact for implementation of the Approved Project regarding erosion or the loss of topsoil. The 2035 GP policies and the Phase I Zoning regulations would further reduce potential impacts of erosion. 2035 GP Policy 3.4-6 minimizes erosion from new roadways; Policies 6.1-5 and 6.1-6 require geotechnical studies to address the risk of erosion; Policy 6.1-2 requires the City to continue to regulate development to ensure adequate mitigation of erosion hazards; and Policy 6.1-11 requires the City to support erosion prevention through revegetation and other methods. Section 7A, Off-Street Parking and Loading in Commercial Mixed Use and Regional Commercial Districts in the Phase I Zoning requires cross-grades to be designed for slower stormwater flow, which will minimize erosion.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.5-1 through 4.5-26) found a less-than-significant impact for implementation of the Approved Project regarding supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The City of Belmont Sewer Division oversees the collection and treatment of all wastewaters. Proposed 2035 GP Policy 6.5-5 reinforces the City ordinance, mandating all new development be connected to the City's sewer system; accordingly, all proposed improvements would be tied into the existing wastewater collection, as City ordinance requires new development in Belmont to connect to the City's wastewater system. Future development that may result from implementation of the 2035 GP would not require septic systems or other alternative wastewater disposal systems.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

CIRCULATION ELEMENT

Policy 3.4-6: Locate, design, and landscape new roadways to preserve the beauty of the area, prevent erosion, and help shield residents from noise and air pollution. To the extent possible, retain trees and vegetative cover and minimize grading.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy 4.4-3: Consistent with the San Juan Hills and Western Hills area plans, cluster development in the hillside areas of western Belmont in order to maintain contiguous

habitat areas, minimize grading, and limit exposure to steep slopes and other sensitive areas. *See also policies in the Land Use Element.*

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.2-1: Encourage the retention of areas that are hazardous to public safety and welfare as undeveloped open space, including steep hillsides unsuitable for development as identified in area plans and other detailed geotechnical studies; hydrological areas of concern; areas of geological instability; and appropriate setback areas on either side of known active fault traces. *See also discussion and policies in the Safety Element.*

SAFETY ELEMENT

Policy 6.1-2: Continue to regulate development, including remodeling or structural rehabilitation, to ensure adequate mitigation of safety hazards on sites having a history or threat of seismic dangers, erosion, landslides, or shrink swell.

Policy 6.1-3: Prohibit development in areas at risk of landslides or high or very high liquefaction as shown in Figure 6-1, or on slopes steeper than 30 percent, unless detailed site investigations by licensed engineers ensure that risks do not exist, or can be reduced to acceptable levels and the structure will be protected for its expected life.

Policy 6.1-5: Geotechnical studies shall identify any geologic hazards affecting the proposed project site, any necessary mitigation measures, and a statement of the site's suitability for the proposed development and whether or not it will be safe from geologic hazard for its expected life. The study shall identify net developable areas, if any, based on landslide or ground shaking potential or erosion risk. Impacts from the development, such as those resulting from increased water runoff, shall also be determined. Such studies must be signed by a licensed Certified Engineering Geologist or Geotechnical Engineer and are subject to review and approval by City staff and/or contracted employees.

Policy 6.1-6: Require any geotechnical studies to include the study of expansive and creeping soils, as well as analysis of erosion, seismic, and other geotechnical hazards, and make recommendations, as warranted.

Policy 6.1-8: Ensure consideration of seismic and geologic hazards at the earliest possible point in the development process, preferably before comprehensive engineering work has commenced.

Policy 6.1-9: Require real estate transactions, development approval processes, and property titles to declare known or suspected seismic or geologic hazards on a property, including areas suspected of high or very high risk of liquefaction, shrink swell, or landslide.

Policy 6.1-10: Identify and catalogue structures that may be subject to serious structural damage in the event of a major earthquake, such as unreinforced masonry and soft story buildings, and provide information to property owners on ways to pay for rehabilitation of existing buildings.

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Policy 6.1-11: Support erosion prevention of hillside areas at risk of landslide, as identified in Figure 6-1, by revegetation or other acceptable methods.

Policy 6.5-5: Require all new development to be connected to the City's sewer system.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a-i) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the proposed Project would have less impact than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR regarding risks of loss, injury, or death associated with rupturing of a known earthquake fault. The 2035 GP anticipates approximately 2.9 million square feet of new development. In contrast, the draft PROS Plan includes construction of at least one restroom at Hidden Canyon Park. The 2035 GP Policies included in the 2017 EIR would apply to the construction of a restroom (or other proposed park amenity) as part of Proposed Project implementation. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies, would result in less impacts when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

a-ii) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

In general, considering the proximity to the San Andreas fault, all locations within the Planning Area could experience considerable ground shaking. Policy 13 from the Proposed Project aims to minimize unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands that could otherwise lead to an increase in risk because ground shaking tends to be more severe in softer sediments such as alluvial deposits where surface waves can be amplified causing a longer duration. Additionally, with implementation of the 2035 GP policies which supplement the existing building code requirements, the potential impacts from ground shaking would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies, would result in less impacts when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

a-iii) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

According to the Geology and Soils chapter of the 2017 EIR, generally, the younger and looser the sediment and the higher the water table, the more susceptible the soil is to liquefaction. Sediments most susceptible to liquefaction include Holocene (less than 10,000 years old) delta, river channel, flood plain, aeolian deposits, and poorly

compacted fills. Dense soils, including well-compacted fills, have low susceptibility to liquefaction. Policy 13 from the Proposed Project aims to minimize unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands that could otherwise lead to an increase in risk. Additionally, with implementation of the GP policies, the potential impacts from liquefaction would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. The 2017 EIR analyzed the impacts of constructing multiple residential and commercial buildings for a total of 2.9 million square feet. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies, would result in less impacts when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

a-iv) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: Landslides?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Landslides may occur within the Planning Area on slopes of 15% or less, but the probability is greater on steeper slopes. For the Proposed Project, this impact is considered with the small amount of construction of park amenities, potential trail improvements, and stream crossings. Within the 2035 GP, Policy 5.2-1 that encourages that areas with steep slopes remain undeveloped is followed by the Proposed Project with the development of Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch occurring outside of steep slope or high landslide potential areas (see Figure 6-1 in 2035 GP).

Furthermore, 2035 GP Policy 6.1-11 that requires the City to support erosion prevention, and Proposed Project Policy 13 aims to minimize unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands and Policy 48 manages severe erosion areas on hill slopes that could otherwise lead to an increase in unstable slopes. With implementation of the 2035 GP policies, the potential impacts from liquefaction would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies, would result in the same impacts when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Potential impacts associated with substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil could occur during ground disturbing activities as part of implementation of the Proposed Project. These activities include the following: trail maintenance and improvements, inclusion of park amenities, fire fuel reduction, and construction of park infrastructure, such as a bathroom. Policy 13 from the Proposed Project requires minimizing unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands that could otherwise lead to an increase in unstable slopes. Policy 48 manages severe erosion areas on hill slopes near/within streams. The Proposed Project also includes trail construction and maintenance standards and guidelines to reduce potential soil erosion. Additionally, with implementation of the 2035 GP policies, the potential impacts from liquefaction for construction of new park features at Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks, and from ground disturbing actions within WDL and SJC Open Space areas would be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and Proposed Project policies, would result in the same impacts when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

As in the 2017 EIR analysis, the potential hazards of unstable soil or geologic units would be addressed largely through the integration of geotechnical information in the planning and design process for individual projects to determine the local soil suitability for specific projects in accordance with standard industry practices and state-provided requirements, such as California Building Code (CBC) requirements which are used to minimize the risk associated with these hazards. The following 2035 GP policies were applied in the 2017 EIR to reduce impacts to less than significant and would be likewise applied to the Proposed Project: Policy 6.1-4 requires geotechnical site analysis for certain sites; Policy 6.1-6 requires geotechnical investigations to evaluate site specific geotechnical characteristics, including the study of expansive or creeping soils; and Policy 6.1-5 requires the geotechnical studies to propose mitigation measures, if necessary. These measures are enforced through compliance with the CBC to avoid or reduce hazards relating to unstable soils and slope failure. In addition, 2035 GP Policies 6.1-1 and 6.1-2 ensure the enforcement of safety standards for new development related to seismic activity, erosion, landslides, and shrink swell. As discussed in Impact 4.5-1 of the 2017 EIR, Policy 6.1-3 prevents development in areas at risk of landslides and liquefaction. Implementing the Proposed Project in Hidden Canyon, Ralston Ranch parks, and WDL and SJC would involve ground-disturbing activities (e.g., removal of vegetation at the two parks, trail vegetation removal, removal of wildfire prone vegetation), potentially on steep slopes; however, Proposed Project Policy 13 requires minimizing unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands that could otherwise lead to an increase in unstable slopes. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and Proposed Project policies, would result in the same impacts regarding unstable soil when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18 1 B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

As noted in the 2017 EIR, small areas of expansive soils are scattered throughout the Approved Planning Area. Review of Figure 6-1 in the 2035 GP shows that some of these small expansive soil areas overlap with Ralston Ranch, WDL, and SJC. However, the Proposed Project does not include any structures to be built in these areas. The 2035 GP includes policies to address potential impacts associated with expansive soils, including Policy 6.1-2 which regulates development and remodeling on sites with a history of shrink swell. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies would result in the same impacts regarding expansive soils when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The 2017 EIR highlighted the purview of the City Sewer Division, which oversees the collection and treatment of all wastewaters. In addition, the 2017 EIR outlines the 2035 GP policies that apply to septic tanks and wastewater infrastructure, including Policy 6.5-5, which reinforces the City ordinance, mandating all new development be connected to the City's sewer system. The Proposed Project includes only one restroom constructed at Hidden Canyon Park, located at the end of a residential area street. The restroom may connect to the City's existing sewer system. No other developments requiring wastewater disposal are proposed. As such, Proposed Project impacts would be the same as those for the Approved Project as outlined in the 2017 EIR.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The 2017 EIR found a less-than-significant impact (Impact 4.4-3, Cultural Resources Chapter) with regard to directly or indirectly destroying a unique paleontological resource, site, or feature. 2035 GP Action 5.12-2.b refers to protection of archaeological/ paleontological resources through site surveys (Policy 5.20), and site protection (Policy 5.21). Overall, Proposed Project actions, with the implementation of 2035 GP Policies, have less than significant impacts to potential paleontological resources or unique geologic features. These actions include the following: trail maintenance and construction, vegetation and fire fuel management, construction of new park paths and amenities, park landscaping and stream crossings. Should any paleontological resources be found during Proposed Project ground-disturbing activities, implementing the 2035 GP policies will result in the same impacts as the Approved Project.

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7.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING UPDATE

In 2008, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted the *Climate Change Scoping Plan* (2008 Scoping Plan); a framework for change (California Air Resources Board, 2008). This document served as a framework for achieving the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets set by Assembly Bill 32 (passed in 2006). In 2014, the ARB subsequently adopted the *First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan* (2014 First Update) (2014). The 2008 Scoping Plan and 2014 First Update outline a series of technologically feasible and cost-effective measures to reduce statewide GHG emissions. Another update was adopted in 2017, *California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan* (2017 Scoping Plan) (2017), which incorporates, coordinates, and leverages many existing and ongoing efforts and identifies new policies and actions to accomplish the State's climate goals. It requires implementation of Senate Bill 32 (passed in 2016), which requires a 40% reduction in GHGs from 1990 levels by 2030. The 2017 Scoping Plan also includes the implementation of Assembly Bill 617 (passed 2017) to protect community health in disadvantaged communities. More recently, the ARB published the *2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality* (2022 Scoping Plan) (2022) which identifies targets for carbon neutrality and a pathway for implementing Assembly Bill 1279 to reduce GHG emissions by 85% below 1990 levels by 2045. The 2022 Scoping Plan incorporates natural and working lands into GHG emissions and carbon neutrality strategies, identifies new clean technology and energy, and support transportation programs including Executive Order N-79-20 which requires all passenger vehicles sold in California to be zero-emission by 20245. The 2022 Scoping Plan also calls for evaluation and if needed strengthening of statewide programs leveraged in the 2017 Scoping Plan including: SB350, Low Carbon Fuel Standard, Mobile Sources/Sustainable Freight Action Plan, AB 1383, and the Cap and Trade program.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential Greenhouse Gas Emission (GHG) impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed in the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than Significant with Mitigation: Construction associated with later projects under the 2035 GP would result in the temporary generation of GHG emissions. changes in the land use designations of certain areas could result in more intense construction activities under the 2035 GP than would have taken place under the previous general plan.
- Less than Significant: Operation of land uses supported by the 2035 GP would generate direct and indirect GHG emissions.
- Less than Significant: The 2035 GP does not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the reducing the emissions of GHGs.

Findings

The 2017 EIR found there was a less-than-significant impact for both construction and operational phases of the Approved Project; however, the construction phase recommended the addition of mitigation to maintain less-than-significant impact levels. Accordingly, a high-level analysis was performed based on the average annual amount of development that may occur under the 2035 GP, assuming an equal amount of construction over the 17-year buildout period. New development would be required to comply with Best Management Practices (BMPs), which would reduce construction emissions consistent with BAAQMD (Bay Area Air Quality Management District) guidance and statewide emission reduction goals.

The 2017 EIR found less-than-significant impacts regarding conflicts with applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted to reduce greenhouse emissions. AB 32 codifies the State's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for 2020. California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted the 2008 Scoping Plan and 2014 First Update as a framework for achieving the AB 32 targets. The 2008 Scoping Plan and 2014 First Update outline a series of technologically feasible and cost-effective measures to reduce statewide GHG emissions. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) developed as part of the Approved Project would reduce emissions 31% below 2005 levels and would result in emissions per service population of 3.2 metric tons CO2e per Service Population (SP). This goal exceeds ARB's recommendation of 15% below 2005. The 2017 updated Plan goes further, reducing GHG's from 1990 levels by 40 percent. The proposed 2035 GP and BVSP also include numerous policies to reduce operational and construction related GHG emissions. For example, 2035 GP Policies 2.3-2, 2.5-6, 3.2-4, and 3.6-3 and BVSP Policies 2.1-1, 2.1-3 and 2.1-5 support design and implementation of mixed-use developments, which would reduce growth-related Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Expanding transit and increasing opportunities for active transportation (e.g., walking and biking) are also supported by the proposed 2035 GP, CAP, and BVSP (e.g., 2035 GP Policies 3.2-2, 3.2-4, 3.5-8 and BVSP Policies 3.2-2, 3.2-80).

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.1-2: Coordinate land use and transportation planning to ensure that land use patterns and intensities can be supported by and are accessible to the transportation

network, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities. *See also Policy 3.1-1 in Circulation Element.*

Policy 2.3-2: Encourage higher density residential uses located in close proximity to commercial services, employment opportunities, and major transportation corridors and facilities.

Policy 2.5-6: Enhance walkability and pedestrian orientation of the Village to create an identity, improve the atmosphere, and improve access to and utilization of transit, in accordance with the Belmont Village Specific Plan. *See also Policies in the Circulation Element.*

CIRCULATION ELEMENT

Policy 3.1-1: Ensure land use and circulation planning is developed concurrently. In portions of Belmont that include significant open space resources, use area plans to address the balance and interface between natural and developed areas.

Policy 3.2-2: Look for ways to partner with ride-sharing services as a means to reduce the need for car ownership and cover service gaps in the public transportation system.

Policy 3.2-4: Support thoughtful and appropriate land use locations and densities with development or redevelopment in Belmont that promote alternatives to travel via single-occupant vehicles. *See Policy 2.1-2 in the Land Use Element.*

Policy 3.5-8: Support and provide bicycle and pedestrian connections to commercial and employment areas to enhance accessibility.

Policy 3.6-3: Ensure that major new development is adequately served by transit.

MITIGATION MEASURES
AQ-2: Require construction fleet to use renewable diesel.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant with Mitigation.

Construction activities resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project would be on a much smaller scale than those of the Approved Project analyzed in the 2017 EIR. The majority of parks, including the two open spaces will undergo minor improvements or have upgraded or new amenities added. Hidden Canyon Park would add at least one ADA parking space as well as new amenities, and Ralston Ranch would add benches and a walking path. The development of Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks are expected to distribute existing park visitors. Increases in visitation are expected as population increases, but not as a result of the Proposed Project. In addition, Strategies 1.A-1.F of the Proposed Project are focused on increasing pedestrian, bicycle, and transit

connectivity to parks and open spaces. Therefore, the Proposed Project will have the same impacts as the Approved Project and implement the same policies and mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

As noted above, the Proposed Project would result in the development of two parks and relatively minor upgrades or additions to the remaining parks and open spaces. Implementation of Proposed Project Strategies 1.A-1.F to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections to parks and open spaces ensures alignment with 2035 GP policies under the Circulation and Land Use Elements discussed above which support reduction of GHG's in accordance with state law. Therefore, the Proposed Project will have the same impacts as the Approved Project and does not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the reducing the emissions of GHGs.

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7.10 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:		*Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)*	*Less Impact than Approved Project?*	*New Less-than-significant impact?*	*New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?*	*New Potentially Significant Impact?*	*Same Impact as Approved Project?*
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

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Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential hazards and hazardous materials impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Implementation of the Proposed Project would include land uses and renewable energy systems that would require the routine use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste and may increase exposure to risk of hazards. Future construction activities associated with implementation of the Proposed Project may also generate hazardous materials and waste, such as fuels and oils from construction equipment and vehicles.
- Less-than-significant: impacts regarding safety hazards for projects within two miles of a public airport, or within an airport land use plan.
- less-than-significant: impacts regarding impairing implementation of or physically interfering with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project to expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires

Findings

Policies in the 2035 GP further reduce potential hazards and hazardous materials impacts by supporting inspection and cleanup of contaminated sites. Policy 6.3-1 requires the City to facilitate cleanup programs at contaminated sites; Policy 6.3-2 requires applicants for development projects in potentially contaminated locations to perform inspection and cleanup; and Policy 6.3-3 establishes that the City will require project applicants to have sites inspected by a registered Environmental Assessor.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.7-35 to 4.7-37) found less-than-significant impacts regarding safety hazards for projects within two miles of a public airport, or within an airport land use plan. The Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) per California law ensures compatibility between the airport and nearby land uses. The San Carlos ALUCP specifies that the western Approved Project Planning Area is located within Area A of the Airport Influence Area (AIA) requiring state law real estate disclosures, and the eastern portion of the Approved Project Planning Area is within Area B of the AIA requiring review of land use policy actions.[2].

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.7-37 to 4.7-40) found less-than-significant impacts regarding impairing implementation of or physically interfering with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. 2035 GP policies from the Safety Element (Policies 6.7-1 through 6.7-9 and Policies 6.9-1 through 6.9-3, and 6.10-1) ensure impacts of implementing the 2035 GP would remain less than significant.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.7-40 through 4.7-43) found impacts regarding wildfires would be less than significant. Approximately half of the 2035 GP Planning Area is at risk for wildland fires. Development in these areas would be consistent with the City's Fire Code. These requirements reduce the threat to developed areas. In addition, the 2035 GP proposes policies that address the Urban/Wildland Interface Zone, wildland fire risk, and fire-fighting facilities and services. Policy 2.14-3 requires the City to create design standards for the interface between open spaces and neighborhoods, which would include standards for "Defensible Space" development to reduce wildfire risk, and Policy 6.6-9 requires development located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) to maintain 100 feet of defensible space; Policies 4.4-7 and 5.1-3 reduce wildland fire risk through maintenance of public spaces to prevent accumulation of fuel for fires, and require the City to continue programs to reduce the fire danger in open spaces, such as establishing buffers between development projects and adjacent natural areas as well as establishing clear boundaries between open space and private property; Policies 6.6-1 and 6.6-6 support the Belmont Fire Protection District's fire protection services in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) so that resources will be allocated to fire protection; Policy 6.6-2 requires the City to work with the Mid-Peninsula Water District to ensure capacity to fight wildland fire scenarios to reduce the risk from new fires; and Policy 6.6-7 requires the city to participate in State and regional legislative and regulatory efforts to manage the Wildland Urban Interface. In addition, several policies, including 6.6-3, 6.6-4, 6.6-5, 6.6-8, 6.6-9, 6.6-10, and 6.6-11 require the City to continue practices that reduce the threat of fire for new development. Taken together,

[2] The Approved Project was found consistent with the San Carlos ALUCP on September 28, 2017.

the policies will help reduce the risk of fires starting in WUI areas and will allocate resources for fighting any fires that do happen to occur within the Approved Project Planning Area, reducing the significant risk of loss associated with wildfires.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.14-3: Create clear design standards for the interface between open spaces and neighborhoods, especially in the Urban/ Wildland Interface Zone. Standards should identify the margin of open space needed to allow wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic values to flourish while also reducing threats of fire and invasive plant species. Incorporate "Defensible Space" standards as needed in areas of high wildfire risk.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy 4.4-7: Continue programs to reduce the fire danger in the open space. *See Policy 5.1-3 in the Conservation Element.*

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.1-3: Reduce risk of wildland fire, ecological succession, and pathogen threats (such as Sudden Oak Death) through active maintenance of public spaces and education and enforcement of development standards on private property.

SAFETY ELEMENT

Policy 6.3-1: Facilitate clean-up programs at contaminated sites, particularly on properties with the potential to develop or be reused for public purposes.

Policy 6.3-2: Require applicants for development projects in a potentially contaminated location to perform inspection and cleanup if the site is found to be contaminated with hazardous substances.

Policy 6.3-3: Require project applicants of potentially contaminated sites to have the site inspected by a registered Environmental Assessor. Reports detailing the results must be submitted for City review, and level of remediation and cleanup must be in compliance with federal and State standards.

Policy 6.6-1: Support efforts by the Belmont Fire Protection District to meet its response time standards throughout Belmont, especially in areas in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Policy 6.6-2: Work with the Mid-Peninsula Water District to maintain adequate water supply for firefighting, including capacity for peak load under a reasonable worst case wildland fire scenario, to be determined by the Belmont Fire Protection District. In evaluating sites for new water storage facilities, place a priority on locations least subject to impacts from seismic activity and landsliding.

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Policy 6.6-3: Continue to review development proposals to ensure that they incorporate appropriate fire-mitigation measures, including adequate provisions for evacuation and access by emergency responders.

Policy 6.6-4: Continue the Belmont Fire Protection District's participation in plan review of new buildings in potentially fire-prone areas.

Policy 6.6-5: Continue to require a fire prevention inspection of all buildings used as commercial businesses, places of assembly, multi-family residences, and hotels within the Belmont Fire Protection District's boundaries.

Policy 6.6-6: Promote and support the Belmont Fire Protection District's Vegetation Management Program to reduce fire hazards, particularly in areas in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Policy 6.6-7: Continue to participate in State and regional efforts to develop a clear legislative and regulatory framework to manage the Wildland Urban Interface.

Policy 6.6-8: Continue educating the public about local fire hazard prevention programs, including landscaping with fire resistant plants between residential and open space areas, weed control, brush control, controlled burns, and placement of trails and roads to serve as firebreaks. Work cooperatively with the Belmont Fire Protection District to promote public awareness of fire safety and emergency life support.

Policy 6.6-9: Continue to require development located within the VHFHSZ to maintain 100 feet of defensible space consistent with California Government Code Section 51182. *See also Policy 2.14-3 in the Land Use Element regarding defensible space.*

Policy 6.6-10: Continue to require development located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to follow the code requirements in Chapter 7A of the California Building Code, and require buildings to be constructed of ignition-resistant materials and methods.

Policy 6.6-11: Lessen the risk of wildfire and maintain clear and safe access and evacuation routes in areas of high and very high fire hazard severity by continuing to enforce Belmont Municipal Code section 7-401, which classifies nuisances as, in part, overgrown vegetation; dead, decayed, diseased, or hazardous trees, firewood; weeds and other vegetation that may be a fire hazard.

Policy 6.7-1: Adopt, maintain, and periodically update a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, coordinating with regional planning efforts as possible.

Policy 6.7-2: Continue to monitor changes in the Federal Disaster Act and applicable State laws, keep City officials and residents aware of the impacts of these changes, and update as necessary the City's Emergency Response Plan, which provides adequate response to disasters, including emergency ingress and egress, and defines the expected roles of City, County, and regional agencies.

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Policy 6.7-3: Update City codes and ordinances dealing with public safety and emergency preparedness and relief to comply with State law and reflect the latest information on hazards and mitigation strategies.

Policy 6.7-4: Continue to upgrade preparedness strategies and techniques in all departments so as to be prepared when a disaster, either natural or man-made, occurs.

Policy 6.7-5: Develop effective mechanisms for a coordinated response to natural and man-made emergencies by:

- Conducting regular emergency planning meetings and disaster preparedness exercises with City departments, the Fire District, the County, medical centers, and other emergency service providers and relevant public agencies;
- Holding emergency drills that require all City staff to be adequately trained to handle different kinds of emergency scenarios; and,
- Coordinating with the County on regional emergency communications.

Policy 6.7-6: Work with the Mid-Peninsula Water District to ensure that it has a plan and infrastructure for providing adequate water service and storage, including peak load water supply requirements, during and immediately after an emergency, including a major seismic event.

Policy 6.7-7: Require companies providing public utilities in Belmont to have plans for reestablishing service in the event of a major seismic event or other natural disaster.

Policy 6.7-8: Do not locate structures necessary for the protection of the public's health and safety, public assembly, or emergency services in hazardous areas, unless no reasonable alternative exists.

Policy 6.7-9: Ensure critical use facilities that are important to protecting health and safety in the community remain operational during an emergency.

Policy 6.9-1: Initiate periodic public information programs that explain the City's emergency preparedness programs, including the emergency communications system, evacuation routes, the importance of defensible space, the Community Emergency Response Teams, and shelter locations.

Policy 6.9-2: Promote programs to educate the public concerning the nature of earthquake, fire, and flood hazards in Belmont and measures that individuals can take to reduce risk.

Policy 6.9-3: Encourage school districts, agencies, and organizations that work with vulnerable populations, such as seniors, to develop and carry out education programs on disaster preparedness and response needs.

Policy 6.10-1: Ensure that new roadways are developed in accordance with standards in the Municipal Code (Sec. 7-11) requiring all-weather access prior to issuance of building permit. In all new development, require adequate access to be provided for emergency vehicles, including adequate widths, turning radii, hard standing areas, and vertical clearance; also require home addresses and street signage to be visible.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

Implementation of the Proposed Project would include operational and construction activities that would require the routine use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials such as gasoline and diesel fuel and herbicides. Future construction activities associated with the implementation of the Proposed Project may also generate hazardous materials and waste, such as fuels and oils from construction equipment and vehicles. Policy 6.4-1 in the 2035 GP requires the City to continue to support hazardous waste collection by San Mateo County, the State of California, and the Water Resources Control Board, and Policy 6.4-2 requires the City to educate residents and businesses about proper use and disposal of hazardous materials. These efforts would also apply to Proposed Project and would help prevent hazardous materials from being improperly handled or disposed of, keeping such material out of the environment.

The Proposed Project would not involve construction of new dwelling units, industrial facilities, or commercial spaces. Additionally, Proposed Project maintenance and management action largely entail hand tools and small mechanized equipment with some use of gasoline and diesel fuel. Based on implementation of existing State, and local programs and regulations as well as the policies of the 2035 GP, the impacts of the Proposed Project are the same as the Approved Project as analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less than Approved Project

The Proposed Project does not include the development of industrial land uses, such as dry cleaners, gas stations, or manufacturers that could result in accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Furthermore, the activities included in the Proposed Project would not require the use of hazardous materials associated with industrial or commercial land uses. Therefore, impacts would be less than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.7-31 to 4.7-33) found less-than-significant impacts regarding emitting hazardous emissions within a quarter mile of an existing or new school. Several parks in the Proposed Project (Cipriani, McDougal, and O'Donnell parks) are within one quarter mile of schools. Any handling of hazardous materials used for construction or operation and maintenance actions at these locations would need to comply with federal,

state, and county regulations pertaining use of hazardous materials as described on page 4.7-21 of the 2017 EIR. Crystal Springs Middle School is within a quarter mile of the WDL Open Space area. In some cases, mechanized hand tools would be used to removal wildfire hazards, exotic vegetation, and clear vegetation along trails resulting in negligible emissions from gas powered engines. Based on implementation of existing State, and local programs and regulations as well as the policies of the 2035 GP, the impacts of the Proposed Project are the same as the Approved Project as analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

Ralston Middle School is a recognized hazardous waste site and is adjacent to the WDL Open Space Area. There are no documented hazardous material sites located in Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks. Policies in the 2035 GP referenced above would further reduce potential impacts by supporting inspection and cleanup of contaminated sites. Based on implementation of existing State, and local programs and regulations as well as the policies of the 2035 GP, the impacts of the Proposed Project are the same as the Approved Project as analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project Planning Area is located entirely within the footprint as the Approved Project Planning Area. As such, the Proposed Project Planning Area is located within Area A of the Airport Influence Area (AIA), and the eastern portion of the Proposed Project Planning Area is within Area B of the AIA. Implementation of actions contemplated for the Proposed Project will occasionally involve construction and operations and maintenance workers in those areas. No land use or zoning changes are proposed. Impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project would result in new or upgraded trails and amenities to parks and open spaces. Any changes to the distribution of visitors to parks and open spaces resulting from the Proposed Project are not expected to interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans. Construction, maintenance, and use of parks and open spaces resulting from the Proposed Project must adhere to 2035 GP Safety Element policies including 6.7-1 through 6.7-5 which require the development and updating of mitigation and response plans, compliance with state laws and City codes, as well as refining preparedness and response efforts. The Proposed Project impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Same Impact as Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project will result in the development of new amenities at Hidden Canyon Park which is surrounded by WDL on three sides. The Proposed Project will also result in fuel reduction treatments at WDL, with efforts focused in the region around Hidden Canyon Park (Lake Road, Hastings Drive, and Hallmark Drive), thus reducing risk of fire. The Proposed Project will result in replacing non-native vegetation across parks and open spaces with native vegetation reducing risk of loss from fire in these areas. Proposed Project Policies 38-52 address wildfire prevention, response, and mitigation in open space areas. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies, would result in the same impacts regarding fire hazard when compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.11 Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:						
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
release of pollutants due to project inundation?						
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Potential Hydrology and Water Quality impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

Impacts

- Less Than Significant: The 2017 EIR (pages 4.8-18 and 4.8-19) found less-than-significant impacts regarding violating water quality standards. Implementation of the 2035 GP allows for additional development within the city that would increase the amount of impervious surfaces and could therefore increase the amount of runoff and associated pollutants during both construction and operation.
- Less than Significant: The 2017 EIR (pages 4.8-20 and 4.8-21) found less-than-significant impacts regarding decreasing groundwater supplies or interfering with groundwater recharge.
- Less than significant: The 2017 EIR (pages 4.8-22 to 4.8-25) found less-than-significant impacts regarding substantially altering the existing drainage pattern of a site or area. Implementation of the 2035 GP would not involve the direct alteration of existing streams, rivers, or other drainage patterns. However, future development/redevelopment allowed under the 2035 GP could impact the existing drainage system. Increases to impervious surfaces in connection with new development, such as roofs, patios, driveways, and parking areas could lead to increased stormwater flow and runoff into the local storm drains and creeks in the 2035 GP Planning Area, which could result in hydromodification effects to the local creek systems.
- Less than significant: Per the 2017 EIR, the Approved Project has less-than-significant impacts regarding the release of pollutants into flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones.
- Less than significant: The 2017 EIR found (pages 4.8-18 and 19) less than significant impacts with regard to obstructing implementation of a water quality control plan.

Findings

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.8-18 and 4.8-19) found less-than-significant impacts regarding violating water quality standards. The 2035 GP contains goals and policies pertaining to water quality, as listed below. Policy 6.2-9 requires the City to continue to comply with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit requirements, and Policy 6.2-10 requires compliance with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), both of which define standards for water quality and impose requirements that will also limit the severity of any potential environmental effects caused by developments associated with the 2035 GP. In addition, Policy 5.5-3 requires development projects to incorporate best management practices (BMP) consistent with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit guidelines to ensure new construction is required to reduce its contribution of water pollutants to less-than-significant levels. Implementation of these practices would reduce the volume of runoff from impervious surfaces and increase the amount of natural filtration of pollutants from stormwater occurring on the site, generally improving the quality of stormwater before it enters the city's stormwater system.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.8-20 and 4.8-21) found less-than-significant impacts regarding decreasing groundwater supplies or interfering with groundwater recharge. Policy 5.9-2 in the 2035 GP requires the City to encourage site design measures that facilitate groundwater recharge, and Policy 5.3-5 requires new construction to use best practices to preserve permeable surfaces. Policy 4.4-1 and 4.4-3 protect open space lands to allow for groundwater recharge. Similarly, the Phase I Zoning protects open space areas with the continuation of the Hillside Residential and Open Space and Open Space Public zoning districts, and the addition of the Open Space Privately-Owned district. These zoning districts preserve permeable surfaces from development, which will facilitate groundwater recharge.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.8-22 to 4.8-25) found less-than-significant impacts regarding substantially altering the existing drainage pattern of a site or area. Several policies in the 2035 GP are intended to preserve natural watercourses or naturalized drainage channels, and to ensure future development incorporates BMPs to reduce runoff from a site. Policies 3.4-6 and 6.1-11 reduce the potential for erosion, which will help to preserve the existing drainage pattern within the General Plan Planning Area; Policies 4.4-1, 4.4-3, and 5.9-2 help protect open spaces areas from new development, which in turn will protect against increased rates of surface runoff within the 2035 GP Planning Area; Policies 4.5-2, 5.3-2, 5.4-1, 5.4-2, 5.4-3, and 5.4-4 address the maintenance and restoration of Belmont Creek and other waterways, thereby preventing alteration of the course of a stream or river in connection with future development permitted under the 2035 GP; and Policy 5.9-1 requires the City to continue to make improvements to the drainage system to improve drainage in areas that are currently underserved.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.8-25 to 4.8-28) found less-than-significant impacts regarding the release of pollutants into flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones. As noted on page 4.8-37 of the 2017 EIR, the City is at low risk for being exposed to flood hazards, tsunamis, or seiches. Additionally, policies in the 2035 GP further reduce the potential impact. Policy 6.1-2 requires the City to regulate development to ensure mitigation of safety hazards on sites with a threat of landslides; Policy 6.1-3 prohibits development in areas at risk of landslides; Policy 6.1-5 requires geotechnical studies to identify hazards and mitigation measures; and Policy 6.1-9 requires real estate transactions to declare suspected geologic hazards.

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The 2017 EIR found (pages 4.8-18 and 19) less-than-significant impacts with regard to obstructing implementation of a water quality control plan. The Approved Project Planning Area lies within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which has adopted the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the San Francisco Bay Region, including the San Francisco Bay Estuary to implement plans, policies, and provisions for water quality management. The 2012 Basin Plan contains descriptions of the technical, legal, and programmatic bases of water quality regulations for the San Francisco Bay Region, which includes the Approved Project Planning Area. The Basin Plan defines beneficial uses for water bodies in the region, including municipal domestic supply, freshwater replenishment, cold freshwater habitat, fish migration, preservation of rare and endangered species, fish spawning, warm freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, body contact recreation, and non-contact recreation. All actions in the 2035 GP must comply with Municipal Permit Order No. R9-2015-0049, NPDES Permit No. CAS612008, issued by the San Francisco Bay RWQCB, as well as General Plan policies 6.2-9 and 6.2-10.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

CIRCULATION ELEMENT

Policy 3.4-6: Locate, design, and landscape new roadways to preserve the beauty of the area, prevent erosion, and help shield residents from noise and air pollution. To the extent possible, retain trees and vegetative cover and minimize grading.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy 4.4-1: Continue to designate and protect open space lands for the preservation of scenic areas, natural drainage ways, and plant and wildlife habitats; for outdoor recreation; and for public health and safety. *See also policies in the Conservation and Safety elements.*

Policy 4.4-3: Consistent with the San Juan Hills and Western Hills area plans, cluster development in the hillside areas of western Belmont in order to maintain contiguous habitat areas, minimize grading, and limit exposure to steep slopes and other sensitive areas. *See also policies in the Land Use Element.*

Policy 4.5-2: Protect Belmont Creek from future encroachment through regulation, development review, conservation easements, or other appropriate actions.

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.3-2: Continue to maintain, protect, restore, and enhance Belmont's ecologically important areas and seek to reduce impacts on them, including the creek corridors, the open space, and the wetlands around O'Neill Slough.

Policy 5.3-5: In design and construction, require use of best practices that preserve natural resources, such as soil, trees, native plants, and permeable surfaces.

Policy 5.4-1: Restore Belmont Creek to enhance ecological functions, biological resources, hydrology function, and flood control.

Policy 5.4-2: Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses or provide naturalized drainage channels within the city. Where necessary and feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation measures.

Policy 5.4-3: Protect, restore, and enhance a continuous corridor of native riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat along Belmont's waterways, water bodies, and wetlands.

Policy 5.4-4: Preserve and enhance the natural riparian environment along waterway corridors, including Belmont Creek, by minimizing environmental and visual impacts. *See also Policy 4.5-2 in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element*.

Policy 5.5-3: Require development projects to incorporate structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate or reduce the projected increases in pollutant loads, in accordance with the NPDES permit guidelines.

Policy 5.9-1: Continue to make improvements and upgrades to the drainage system. Priorities should be to provide curbs and gutters to underserved areas (as feasible), improve facilities in areas that are subject to seasonal flooding, increase capacity of the system, and replace damaged lines in the storm drain system.

Policy 5.9-2: Encourage development projects of all sizes to incorporate site design measures that facilitate groundwater recharge and natural hydrological processes, allowing stormwater to infiltrate the ground on-site and/or be collected for reuse in landscaping and designated to on-site stormwater detention facilities. Such measures may include:

- Canopy trees or shrubs to absorb rainwater;
- Grading that lengthens flow paths over permeable surfaces and increases runoff travel time to reduce the peak hour flow rate;
- Partially removing curbs and gutters from parking areas where appropriate to allow stormwater sheet flow into vegetated areas;
- Installation of green roofs on buildings;
- Use of permeable paving in parking lots and other areas characterized by significant impervious surfaces;
- On-site stormwater detention, use of bioswales and bioretention basins to facilitate infiltration; and
- Integrated or subsurface water retention facilities to capture rainwater for use in landscape irrigation and other non-potable uses.

SAFETY ELEMENT

Policy 6.1-2: Continue to regulate development, including remodeling or structural rehabilitation, to ensure adequate mitigation of safety hazards on sites having a history or threat of seismic dangers, erosion, landslides, or shrink swell.

Policy 6.1-3: Prohibit development in areas at risk of landslides or high or very high liquefaction as shown in Figure 6-1, or on slopes steeper than 30 percent, unless detailed site investigations by licensed engineers ensure that risks do not exist, or can be reduced to acceptable levels and the structure will be protected for its expected life.

Policy 6.1-5: Geotechnical studies shall identify any geologic hazards affecting the proposed project site, any necessary mitigation measures, and a statement of the site's suitability for the proposed development and whether or not it will be safe from geologic hazard for its expected life. The study shall identify net developable areas, if any, based on landslide or ground shaking potential or erosion risk. Impacts from the development, such as those resulting from increased water runoff, shall also be determined. Such studies must be signed by a licensed Certified Engineering Geologist or Geotechnical Engineer and are subject to review and approval by City staff and/or contracted employees.

Policy 6.1-9: Require real estate transactions, development approval processes, and property titles to declare known or suspected seismic or geologic hazards on a property, including areas suspected of high or very high risk of liquefaction, shrink swell, or landslide.

Policy 6.1-11: Support erosion prevention of hillside areas at risk of landslide, as identified in Figure 6-1, by revegetation or other acceptable methods.

Policy 6.2-9: Periodically review maps prepared by FEMA and the State Department of Water Resources to identify changes in mapping of areas subject to flooding and amend the General Plan or Municipal Code as warranted.

Policy 6.2-10: Continue to comply with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit requirements for municipal authorities to address water quality and flow-related impacts of stormwater runoff; continue to enforce NPDES permits in Belmont; and continue to participate in the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Implementation of the Proposed Project may include construction actions at Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks, and actions in the two open space areas that involve repairing trails at multiple stream crossings. Furthermore, Proposed Project actions may include the continued use, maintenance of, or improvements to trail networks. These potential actions may have impacts on riparian vegetation and on localized erosion, thus potentially degrading water quality. In addition to the 2035 GP policies addressing water quality, the Proposed Project includes policies P7, P12 and P13; these policies center on conservation of water resources through the protection of surface and ground water from chemical contamination and minimization of soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and the Proposed Project policies around water, would result the same, less-than-significant impacts as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project may include minor increases in impervious or semi-impervious surfaces as a result of some activities, such as path improvements like widening for accessibility. These potential actions may have impacts on local surface permeability. A negligible amount of impervious surfaces would be created through construction activity at Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks compared to development of residential, industrial, or commercial areas as analyzed in the 2017 EIR. 2035 GP policies, as well as policies included as part of the Proposed Project (P7, P12 and P13) center on conservation of water resources through the protection of surface and ground water from chemical contamination and minimization of soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands. In addition, P4 protects riparian ecosystems and habitat to maintain natural hydrologic processes, water quality, and wildlife benefits. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and the Proposed Project policies around water, would result in less impacts compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; (ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site; (iii) create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or (iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Implementation of the Proposed Project may include improvements to existing parks, trails, park accessibility, park equipment, and landscaping. These potential actions may have impacts through the increase of impervious surfaces and construction-related impacts during trail and park improvements. From the construction of parking spaces, a nominal amount of impervious surface could be added to Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks. 2035 GP policies, as well as policies included as part of the Proposed Project (P7, P12 and P13) center on conservation of water resources through the protection of surface and ground water from chemical contamination and minimization of soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and the Proposed Project policies around water and drainage patterns, would result in the same, less than significant impacts compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks and the two open space areas (WDL and SJC) are at low risk of exposure to floods, seiche or tsunamis. As noted on pages 4.8-37 through 4.8-39 of the 2017 EIR none of these areas are in a 100-year flood zone, and the entire city of Belmont would be buffered by land in Redwood City and Foster City if a seiche or tsunami was to occur. Proposed Project impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project Planning Area is located within the Approved Project Planning Area. As noted in both the 2035 GP and the 2017 EIR, the Approved Project Planning Area is located within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which has adopted the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan). Furthermore, all actions in the 2035 GP, as well as the Proposed Project, would need to comply with Municipal Permit Order No. R9-2015-0049, NPDES Permit No. CAS612008, issued by the San Francisco Bay RWQCB, as well as General Plan policies 6.2-9 and 6.2-10. There would be new but less than significant impacts compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR. Within the Proposed Project, policies further reduce impacts: P7, P12, and P13 center on conservation of water resources; P8 centers on monitoring sensitive terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species; P9 highlights avoidance of sensitive and critical habitat during trail or facility construction accordingly; P3 states that trails will be aligned, relocated, or modified to avoid impacting sensitive habitats such as wetlands and areas where endangered species are present; and P4 protects riparian ecosystems and habitat to maintain natural hydrologic processes, water quality, and wildlife benefits. Overall, the Proposed Project policies and objectives align with the Basin Plan. The Proposed Project, when paired with the 2035 GP policies and the Proposed Project policies around water and drainage patterns, would result in the same, less than significant impacts compared to those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.12 Land Use and Planning

Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a)	Physically divide an established community?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential land use and planning impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than significant impacts on community connectivity.
- Less-than-significant impact for implementation of the Approved Project conflicting with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

Findings

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.9-22 through 4.9-24) found a less-than-significant impact for implementation of the 2035 GP on community connectivity. In particular, 2035 GP Policies 2.1-2, 2.3-4, 2.5-5, and 2.8-1 emphasize connectivity in land use planning. These policies would also apply to implementation of the PROS Plan and would have less impact than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR regarding community connectivity. The draft PROS Plan and OSMP include policies and implementation actions that would take place within and around the City's existing parks.

The 2017 EIR (pages 4.9-24 through 4.9-27) found a less-than-significant impact for implementation of the Approved Project conflicting with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. 2035 GP Policies 2.1-1, 2.12-1, and 2.14-2 emphasize consistency between the Approved Project and applicable land use plans, policies, and regulations, including the City's Zoning Ordinance.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.1-1: Maintain consistency between the General Plan and the *Zoning Ordinance* and Zoning Map.

Policy 2.1-2: Coordinate land use and transportation planning to ensure that land use patterns and intensities can be supported by and are accessible to the transportation network, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities. *See also Policy 3.1-1 in Circulation Element*.

Policy 2.3-4: Focus new development in or directly adjacent to already-developed areas, where it can be served by existing public services and infrastructure.

Policy 2.5-5: In accordance with the Belmont Village Specific Plan, provide incentives for infill development and redevelopment and adaptive reuse and restoration of existing buildings where appropriate in Belmont Village.

Policy 2.8-1: Enable infill properties to develop with uses and development intensities supporting a cohesive development pattern.

Policy 2.12-1: Designate parks and open space in the *Zoning Ordinance* using appropriate zoning classifications, which should be consistent with the General Plan land use designations "Public/Community" and "Open Space." Park zones should include recreational uses along with associated structures and infrastructure, and open space should include more passive uses.

Policy 2.14-2: Simplify and make consistent the land use and zoning designations for parks, open space, and hillsides. *See also Policy 2.12-1.*

CIRCULATION ELEMENT

Policy 3.1-1: Ensure land use and circulation planning is developed concurrently. In portions of Belmont that include significant open space resources, use area plans to address the balance and interface between natural and developed areas.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Physically divide an established community?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

2035 GP policies 2.1-2, 2.3-4, 2.5-5, and 2.8-1 emphasize connectivity in land use planning. These policies would also apply to implementation of the Proposed Project, which would have less impact than the Approved Project due to less proposed development activity. As previously discussed, the Proposed Project includes policies and implementation actions that would take place within and around the City's existing parks. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not cause physical division of an established community, as proposed actions would take place within the boundaries of existing parks and open space areas. Therefore, potential Proposed Project impacts which would physically divide any established community would be less than the Approved Project as assessed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation. The Proposed Project contain policies and implementation actions that are consistent with policies described in the 2035 GP, including recommendations for balanced recreation uses, trail management, user compatibility, and cooperative planning. Impacts would be less than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR. Therefore, potential Proposed Project impacts regarding conflicting with any land use plan, policy, or regulation would be less than the Approved Project as assessed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.13 Mineral Resources

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

The 2017 EIR found there to be no mineral resource impacts based on the implementation of the 2035 GP.

Findings

The 2017 EIR did not identify any impacts of the Approved Project on mineral resources. A search of the California Department of Conservation's "Mines Online" mapping tool indicated that no mines are located within the City of Belmont (California Department of Conservation, 2016). Moreover, an online search of Google Maps indicated that there are no quarries located in Belmont (Google Maps, 2023). The 2035 GP and BVSP do not identify any locally important mineral resource recovery sites in Belmont; therefore, because there are no known mineral resources regionally, or locally, there would be no impacts for both significant thresholds "a" and "b."

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

Same as Approved Project – No Impact

There are no known mineral resources regionally, or locally within the City. Therefore, there would be no impacts for loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

Same as Approved Project – No Impact

There are no known mineral resources regionally, or locally within the City. Therefore, there would be no impacts for loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site.

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7.14 Noise

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential noise impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Significant and Unavoidable Impact: Implementation of the Approved Project would be in excess of standards established in the 2035 GP (page 4.10-22 to 4.10-39). Specifically, the Approved Project would allow for increased density in the Approved Project Planning Area, resulting in construction activities which will produce temporary increases in ambient noise levels that would exceed noise standards set forth in the 2035 GP. In

addition, the increased development density facilitated by the Approved Project would result in changes to traffic noise within the City.

- Significant and Unavoidable Impact: Implementation of the Approved Project would generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels from construction activities.
- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project would result in a less-than-significant impact regarding generation of excessive noise levels within the vicinity of a private airstrip, airport land use plan, or public airport.

Findings

The 2017 EIR found significant and unavoidable noise impacts from implementation of the Approved Project that would be in excess of standards established in the 2035 GP (page 4.10-22 to 4.10-39). Specifically, the Approved Project would allow for increased density in the Planning Area, resulting in construction activities which will produce temporary increases in ambient noise levels that would exceed noise standards set forth in the 2035 GP. Future development and redevelopment facilitated by the Approved Project will comply with Policy 7.1-3 of the 2035 GP and Policies 6.5-2 and 6.5-3 of the BVSP, which require that projects to implement adequate noise-reducing mitigation sufficient to meet noise exposure standards and require developers to mitigate noise exposure to sensitive receptors from construction activities to the extent feasible.

Additionally, the increased development density facilitated by the Approved Project would result in changes to traffic noise within the City. The Approved Project would also change the noise exposure standards for land uses in the City. The 2017 EIR found that implementation of the Approved Project will result in noise levels that increase to above thresholds contained in the 2035 GP and out of the normally acceptable range for some uses, which will constitute a significant and unavoidable noise impact.

New development facilitated by the Approved Project could also be exposed to train noise from the Caltrain commuter trail line that runs through the Planning Area, as well as other stationary sources of noise within the Planning Area. Several 2035 GP policies (7.1-1, 7.1-2, 7.1-4, 7.1-5, 7.1-6, 7.1-8, 7.1-9, 7.2-1, 7.3-1, and BVSP Policy 6.5-2) will help prevent the exposure of new sensitive land uses to excessive train noise and stationary source of noise. These impacts are classified to be less than significant by the 2017 EIR, and no mitigation measures are required.

The 2017 found that implementation of the Approved Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts regarding generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels from construction activities (page 4.10-39 to 4.10-42). Development facilitated by the Approved Project will result in construction activities that would include pile driving, resulting in temporary substantial increases in groundborne vibration. Vibration will also be produced by heavy duty equipment associated with some construction activities that may be felt by adjacent uses. 2035 GP Policies 7.1-10, 7.1-11, and BVSP Policy 6.5-4 will require developers of new development projects to implement mitigation practices to reduce vibration associated with construction activities. The 2017 EIR found that implementation of the Approved Project would result in less-than-significant impacts regarding groundborne vibration from stationary source vibration, traffic, and trains.

The 2017 EIR found that implementation of the Approved Project would result in a less-than-significant impact regarding generation of excessive noise levels within the vicinity of a private

airstrip, airport land use plan, or public airport (page 4.10-44 to 4.10-46). The Planning Area is situated within the vicinity of two airports: the San Carlos Airport and the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). A small portion of the Approved Project Planning Area is located in close proximity to the lowest established noise contour line associated with future operation of the San Carlos Airport, however, the noise level at this contour line would not conflict with any potential future land use associated with the Approved Project. No parts of the Approved Project Planning Area are located within forecasted noise contour lines for SFO, and it is unlikely that people associated with development or redevelopment of the Approved Project would be exposed to excessive noise levels from SFO for any substantial amount of time. 2035 GP Policy 7.3-2 would enhance coordination with the San Carlos Airport in improving its noise abatement program, which would reduce noise impacts associated with the San Carlos Airport.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

NOISE ELEMENT

Policy 7.1-1: Update the City's Noise Ordinance as needed to be in conformance with the General Plan policies and noise standards.

Policy 7.1-2: Use the Community Noise Level Exposure Standards, shown in Table 7-1, as review criteria for new land uses. Require all new development that would be exposed to noise greater than the "normally acceptable" noise level range to reduce interior noise through design, sound insulation, or other measures.

Policy 7.1-3: Require noise-reducing mitigation to meet allowable outdoor and indoor noise exposure standards in Table 7-2. Noise mitigation measures that may be approved to achieve these noise level targets include but are not limited to the following:

- Construct façades with substantial weight and insulation;
- Use sound-rated windows for primary sleeping and activity areas;
- Use sound-rated doors for all exterior entries at primary sleeping and activity areas;
- Use minimum setbacks and exterior barriers;
- Use acoustic baffling of vents for chimneys, attic and gable ends; and
- Install a mechanical ventilation system that provides fresh air under closed window conditions.

Alternative acoustical designs that achieve the prescribed noise level standards may be approved, provided that a qualified Acoustical Consultant submits information demonstrating that the alternative designs will achieve and maintain the specific targets for outdoor activity areas and interior spaces.

Policy 7.1-4: Exclude residential and noise-sensitive uses located in the Belmont Village PDA from outdoor noise standards in Table 7-2, where it is determined application of noise mitigation measures will be detrimental to the realization of the General Plan's goals and policies to realize a vibrant activity center in the Village.

Policy 7.1-5: Ensure that building regulations require that noise-generating appliances serving new multi-family or mixed-use residential development are located or adequately insulated to protect residents from the noise.

Policy 7.1-6: Promote the use of noise attenuation measures to improve the acoustic environment inside residences where existing single-family residential development is located in a noise-impacted environment, such as along an arterial street or adjacent to a noise-producing use.

Policy 7.1-8: Continue to enforce applicable Federal and State Noise Insulation Standards (CCR, Title 24) and noise requirements.

Policy 7.1-9: Establish noise level performance standards for new equipment and vehicles purchased by the City consistent with the best available control technology (BACT) to minimize noise and vibration.

Policy 7.1-10: Require developers of new development anticipated to generate a substantial amount of vibration during construction to implement mitigation practices to reduce vibration, which can include: operating heavy equipment as far as practical from residential uses; using smaller bulldozers (operating weight less than 20,000 pounds) when grading must occur within approximately 50 feet of residential uses or other vibration sensitive uses; and using quiet pile driving technology when feasible.

Policy 7.1-11: Require development projects to include mitigation measures to protect the development from ground borne vibration from the railway if located within 120 feet of the centerline of Caltrain rail tracks. *See Policy 6.5-4 in the Environmental Sustainability, Health, and Safety chapter of the Belmont Village Specific Plan.*

Policy 7.2-1: Use the noise-sensitive land uses and transportation noise sources table (Table 7-2) and Future Noise Contours map (Figure 7-3) as criteria to determine acceptability of noise-sensitive land uses. Do not permit new noise-sensitive uses—including schools, hospitals, and places of worship—where noise levels are "normally unacceptable" or higher, if alternative locations are available for the uses in the city.

Policy 7.3-1: Work with Caltrans, Caltrain, SamTrans, and other agencies to mitigate transportation-related noise impacts on residential areas and sensitive uses. This may include encouraging installation of sound barriers or bus stop relocation in selected locations.

Policy 7.3-2: Continue to work with the San Carlos Airport in improving and implementing its noise abatement program.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

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Less Impact than the Approved Project

2035 GP policies would apply to actions contemplated in the Proposed Project. Implementation of Proposed Project actions may generate temporary increases in noise from the use of construction equipment for the purposes of trail improvements, vegetation management, and park improvements. New use of Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks is expected to have a nominal increase in ambient noise. Both parks are identified as "Neighborhood Tier 2" parks in the Proposed Project which are designed to support individuals and small groups and the majority of users are expected to arrive by walking or biking. Under the Proposed Project, no major construction projects (e.g., new sports fields, buildings or swimming pools) would be undertaken, construction periods would be shorter compared to other development type projects analyzed in the 2017 EIR. Therefore, Proposed Project actions are expected to have less impacts than Approved Project impacts analyzed in the 2017 EIR regarding generating a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

2035 GP policies would apply to actions contemplated in the Proposed Project. Construction activities resulting from the Proposed Project, including restroom installation, play structure replacement, and path/trail development may produce minimal produce groundbourne noise or vibration. However, these activities are expected to produce significantly less groundbourne noise and vibration than the building development related construction, traffic, and train noise and vibration analyzed in the 2017 EIR. The impacts regarding generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels would be less for the Proposed Project than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project Planning Area is contained within the Approved Project Planning Area and the 2035 GP policies would apply to implementation of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

7.15 Population and Housing

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential population and housing impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project has an either directly or indirectly inducing substantial unplanned population growth.
- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project will have less than significant impacts regarding displacement of substantial numbers of people or housing that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing .

Findings

The 2017 EIR found a less-than-significant impact for the Approved Project on either directly or indirectly inducing substantial unplanned population growth in an area (page 4.9-28 and 4.9-29). The 2035 GP and Phase I Zoning were designed to support population growth based on Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) projections: approximately 4,100 people by 2035. The updated Phase I Zoning would accommodate growth in Belmont that is proportionate with the City's size, growth rate, and regional placement. Multiple policies in the 2035 GP would also help reduce the impact of population growth. 2035 GP Policy 2.9-1 would ensure that infrastructure would be built as growth occurs, rather than provided prematurely or in excess of reasonably expected growth

projects. Policy 2.8-1 would allow infill properties to be developed with uses and development intensities supporting a cohesive development pattern. In addition, various policies in the 2035 GP and measure TL.2 in the Climate Action Plan promote the expansion of roadways to encourage the use of public transit, bicycles, and walking, rather than extending roads or adding lanes.

The 2017 EIR found a less-than-significant impact for the Approved Project regarding displacement of substantial numbers of people or housing that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere (2017 EIR page 4.9-30 through 4.0-32). The Approved Project would not cause significant land use changes to residential use areas within the Approved Project Planning Area. The 2035 GP and Phase 1 Zoning increase the capacity for the overall number of dwelling units within the City. Specifically, 2035 GP Policy 2.3-1 encourages the provision of lower- and moderate-income housing, and Policy 2.17-3 requires the City to prioritize support for affordable housing and public infrastructure. Additionally, BVSP Policies 2.3-1 2.3-3, 2.3-4, 2.3-6, 2,3-7, 2.3-8 and 5.8-5 encourage the development of affordable housing at all income levels, promote the assembly of multiple continuous parcels to create larger project sites for mixed-use and multi-family residential development, and promote infill development.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.3-1: Encourage the provision of lower- and moderate-income housing to meet the objectives of the Housing Element.

Policy 2.8-1: Enable infill properties to develop with uses and development intensities supporting a cohesive development pattern.

Policy 2.9-1: Allow sufficient density and intensity to enable new development to support all required infrastructure, community facilities, and open space.

Policy 2.17-3: Establish priorities for City funding to fulfill economic development objectives, including possible support for affordable housing and public infrastructure.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

The Proposed Project would provide a structured management approach to managing the City's parks, recreation, and open space areas for the next 15 years. The Proposed Project does not propose new homes, business, or the expansion of roads or other infrastructure. Therefore, actions facilitated by the Proposed Project would not, either directly or indirectly, induce substantial population growth in Belmont; the impact would be less than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project will not displace existing people or housing – Proposed Project action will occur within existing City parks and Open Spaces. A small number of 'vacant parcels' are slated for potential new park development; these parcels are not currently zoned for residential and, thus, will not displace planning housing projects. For the Proposed Project, this impact would be less than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.16 Public Services

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:						
Fire protection?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Police protection?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Schools?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parks?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential public services impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project would impact on fire and police protection.
- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project would impact public school facilities.
- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project would impact public park facilities.

Findings

The 2017 EIR found that implementation of the Approved Project would have a less-than-significant impact on fire and police protection (page 4.11-24 to 4.11-29). Development and population growth facilitated by the Approved Project would likely increase the demand for fire and police protection services within the Approved Project Planning Area. 2035 GP Policies 6.8-3, 2.3-4, 2.9-1, 6.6-8, and 6.9-2 would reduce the impact by requiring new development to be focused in already urbanized areas near existing services, requiring periodic evaluations of fire and police service capacities, and promoting fire safety education which would reduce the need for service calls. 2035 GP Policies 2.14-3, 4.4-7, 5.1-3, 6.6-6, and 6.6-7 would help reduce wildfires by implementing programs to manage natural hazards and effectively fight potential wildfires, and Policy 6.6-2 would require maintenance of adequate water supply for firefighting

and prioritize locations for new water storage facilities. BVSP Policies 5.6-2 and 5.6-3 would require the City to work with the Belmont Fire District to ensure adequate emergency access and fire flow capacity.

The 2017 EIR found that implementation of the Approved Project would have a less-than-significant impact on public school facilities (page 4.11-29 to 4.11-31). The 2017 EIR analyzed projected future school enrollment after implementation of the Approved Project using past trends of Belmont-Redwood Shores School District (BRSSD) and Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) enrollment. It was found that projected enrollment would likely exceed the capacity of existing school facilities, however SUSHD would complete construction of a new 10-classroom building at Carlmont High School in July 2017, which would serve 917 students. Implementation of the Approved Project could possibly require provision of new elementary school facilities, the siting of which would be regulated by the California Department of Education, rather than the City. Individual school development projects would be required to conduct environmental review pursuant to CEQA prior to project approval. To the extent feasible, any adverse environmental impacts caused by the development of new schools would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.2035 GP Policy 2.10-3 and BVSP Policy 5.7-1 encourage the City to continue to work with public school districts to ensure accommodation of future student populations facilitated by implementation of the Approved Project.

The 2017 EIR found that implementation of the Approved Project would result in a less-than-significant impact on public park facilities (page 4.11-31 and 4.11-32). Implementation of the 2035 GP would result in a population increase of 4,100 residents, which would place additional physical demands on existing parks and recreational areas. Parks elements such as vegetation, water resources, built structures, walking/biking paths, sport facilities, and others would face increased wear-and-tear due to the increased park use over longer periods of time and/or more intensive use over the course of a typical day. Without proper maintenance, the useful lifetime of park amenities could be shortened. Furthermore, development facilitated by the Approved Project is expected to result in a need for additional parkland per the City's park acreage standards, established by 2035 GP Policy 4.1-2. The 2017 EIR concluded that this impact would be less than significant, as there is a sufficient amount of vacant land in the Approved Project Planning Area to meet future parkland needs. In addition, the Approved Project Planning Area contains 294 acres of undeveloped public open space, which is widely accessible to the public through a system of trails. These open spaces are not formally considered "parkland," however they complement the City's parks, recreation, and open spaces by providing a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities to the public.

A variety of 2035 GP, BVSP, and CAP policies would reduce the impact of the Approved Project on park facilities. 2035 GP Policy 4.7-1 requires the City to ensure that new development contributes park impact fees; Policies 2.10-1, 4.1-1, 4.2-1, and 4.4-5 support facilities performance standards established by the PROS Plan and OSMP; Policy 4.1-3 ensures compliance with the Quimby Act which requires development projects to provide adequate land for parks; Policies 4.6-1 and 4.6-2 improve access to parks and to the Belmont Creek; Policies 4.3-1 and 4.3-2 support additional recreational programs in Belmont; Policies 4.7-2 and 4.7-3 aim to find new funding sources for parks and recreation through public and private partnerships; Policy 4.2-3 supports maintaining the joint use agreement with Belmont-Redwood Shores School District for public use of recreational facilities, as well as pursuing other joint use agreements with Sequoia Union High School District and Notre Dame de Namur University. BVSP Policy 5.9-1 calls for addition of 2.2 acres of neighborhood parks in the BVSP area; Policies 5.9-2, 5.9-3, and 6.3-3 support the

development of new parks and community gathering spaces; policies 5.9-6 and 5.9-7 support improved connections to existing parks near the BVSP area, Policy 5.9-5 ensures safety and accessibility for parks in the BVSP area; and Policy 5.9-9 requires all development to comply with the City's parkland requirement. Measure TL2 in the CAP requires the remake of urban landscapes to include improved streetscapes, active transportation infrastructure, and beatification, which may provide recreational opportunities and gathering spaces that supplement existing park facilities. Phase I Zoning updates would also rezone various parcels within the Planning Area from Agriculture to Open Space and Public, which would more clearly delineate parks and open space land within Belmont. New parks would be planned and developed from impact fees charged to new development to ensure that the park acreage in the City increases over time commensurate to population growth.

The 2017 EIR identified that the construction of new park facilities necessitated by development facilitated by the Approved Project has the potential to negatively impact the environment (page 4.11-39 to 4.11-42). Impacts could include habitat disturbance and water pollution during construction, increased exposure of sensitive habitats to human activity and traffic, installation of impermeable surfaces, introduction of invasive species, and the conversion of open space that could otherwise have been preserved. In accordance with the projected population increase of 4,100 residents by 2035, the total amount of new parkland required would be 33.3 acres. The 2035 GP and Phase I Zoning focus development of new park land on underused and vacant parcels, thus minimizing impacts to undisturbed and undeveloped land. Specifically, 2035 GP Policy 2.9-1 requires the City to ensure that development standards require new development to support all required infrastructure, community facilities, and open space, and Policy 4.1-2 pursues opportunities to convert underutilized parcels into mini parks or community spaces, as feasible. Other proposed policies, as discussed in Chapter 4.3 "Biological Resources" of the 2017 EIR (page 4.3-1 to 4.3-42), establish guidelines and best management practices for construction, siting, and design that would require protection of water quality, identification of sensitive environmental habitats, and the protection of sites determined to have high habitat value. Specifically, Policy 2.3-4 requires new development to be within or adjacent to existing development, Policy 2.14-3 requires clear design standards for the interface between open spaces and development, and Policy 2.10-1 requires that plans for future recreational facilities are based on the PROS Plan and OSMP. BVSP Policy 6.3-3 requires the City to promote the development of parks that provide habitat services. Park and public facilities construction that would have the potential to adversely impact the environment would be required to conduct project-level environmental review in accordance with CEQA. Construction actions would need to be consistent with 2035 GP policies pertaining to protection of biological and cultural resources as well water resources and water quality (see Conservation Element).

The 2017 EIR found that implementation of the Approved Project would increase demand for library, city administrative, and other community facility services, but 2035 GP and BVSP policies would reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level (page 4.11-41 and 4.11.42). 2035 GP Policy 4.2-2 would ensure that these public services are improved and expanded to meet demand as development occurs, Policy 2.3-4 requires new development to be located within or adjacent to existing development, Policy 2.9-1 promotes new development to provide required facilities, BVSP policies 5.9-2, 5.9-3, 5.9-4, and 5.9-5 encourage new activity centers and community gathering spaces in the BVSP area, and BVSP Policy 5.9-7 encourages better connectivity to community facilities within one half mile of the BVSP area.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.3-4: Focus new development in or directly adjacent to already-developed areas, where it can be served by existing public services and infrastructure.

Policy 2.9-1: Allow sufficient density and intensity to enable new development to support all required infrastructure, community facilities, and open space.

Policy 2.10-1: Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to plan for future public facility and programming needs. *See Policy 4.2-1 in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element.*

Policy 2.10-3: Continue to coordinate and collaborate with the public school districts that serve the Belmont community on school facilities and planning land use, and circulation issues to support high quality educational opportunities in Belmont, including access to schools, facility expansion and modernization, and strategies to address school enrollment and space needs or constraints, in order to ensure that school facilities will be adequate to accommodate student growth.

Policy 2.14-3: Create clear design standards for the interface between open spaces and neighborhoods, especially in the Urban/ Wildland Interface Zone. Standards should identify the margin of open space needed to allow wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic values to flourish while also reducing threats of fire and invasive plant species. Incorporate "Defensible Space" standards as needed in areas of high wildfire risk.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy 4.1-1: Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to define the vision, goals, and strategies for maintaining and improving Belmont's park system and to guide implementation efforts.

Policy 4.1-2: Strive to achieve and maintain a citywide standard of at least 5.0 acres of mini, neighborhood, and community parks per 1,000 residents, targeting a breakdown of 3.0 acres/1,000 residents for community parks and 2.0 acres/1,000 residents for neighborhood parks.

Policy 4.1-3: Ensure that all development projects comply with the City's parkland dedication requirements, in accordance with the Quimby Act, to provide adequate land for parks, open space, landscaping, and trails in appropriate locations through the dedication of land or otherwise providing for mini parks, planned trails, and other recreational space.

Policy 4.2-1: Review and update the types, amounts, and locations of community and recreation facilities as part of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

Policy 4.2-2: Building on the needs assessment, improve the quality and quantity of public community facilities in Belmont.

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Policy 4.2-3: Continue joint use agreements with other agencies, institutions, and private organizations for public use of recreational facilities not owned by the City, especially in neighborhoods deficient in recreational facilities, if the joint use agreements can help meet the city's recreational needs and if the terms are favorable to the City.

Policy 4.3-1: Continue to provide recreational programs and services to serve the entire Belmont community.

Policy 4.3-2: Support other agencies, private organizations, and institutions that serve the Belmont community with recreational, social, and cultural activities.

Policy 4.4-5: Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to establish priorities for the protection, enhancement, and improvement of open space lands and trails for recreation purposes.

Policy 4.4-7: Continue programs to reduce the fire danger in the open space. *See Policy 5.1-3 in the Conservation Element.*

Policy 4.6-1: Maintain and improve access to parks and open space, especially in areas that lack land for additional parkland dedication and in areas where topography and lack of sidewalks inhibits easy pedestrian access to parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 4.6-2: Improve public access and connections to Belmont Creek. Promote use of this waterway corridor for passive recreation, education, and research.

Policy 4.7-1: Ensure that residential and nonresidential development projects contribute to the City's park, recreation, and open space resources commensurate with their impacts, through the Quimby Act and establishment and collection of park impact fees.

Policy 4.7-2: Continue to work with local, regional, and State agencies, nonprofit and community organizations, foundations, and grant sources to provide funding for Belmont's open space, parks, and recreation and assistance with maintenance and programming.

Policy 4.7-3: Support, where appropriate and feasible, partnerships with private businesses to conduct limited operations in park and recreation facilities (e.g., a concessions stand) to generate a revenue stream that may contribute to operations and maintenance costs.

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.1-3: Reduce risk of wildland fire, ecological succession, and pathogen threats (such as Sudden Oak Death) through active maintenance of public spaces and education and enforcement of development standards on private property.

SAFETY ELEMENT

Policy 6.6-2: Work with the Mid-Peninsula Water District to maintain adequate water supply for firefighting, including capacity for peak load under a reasonable worst case wildland fire scenario, to be determined by the Belmont Fire Protection District. In

evaluating sites for new water storage facilities, place a priority on locations least subject to impacts from seismic activity and landsliding.

Policy 6.6-6: Promote and support the Belmont Fire Protection District's Vegetation Management Program to reduce fire hazards, particularly in areas in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Policy 6.6-7: Continue to participate in State and regional efforts to develop a clear legislative and regulatory framework to manage the Wildland Urban Interface.

Policy 6.6-8: Continue educating the public about local fire hazard prevention programs, including landscaping with fire resistant plants between residential and open space areas, weed control, brush control, controlled burns, and placement of trails and roads to serve as firebreaks. Work cooperatively with the Belmont Fire Protection District to promote public awareness of fire safety and emergency life support.

Policy 6.8-3: Periodically evaluate police and fire services to ensure that the City is providing adequate protection in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

Policy 6.9-2: Promote programs to educate the public concerning the nature of earthquake, fire, and flood hazards in Belmont and measures that individuals can take to reduce risk.

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DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) ***Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:***

- **Fire Protection?**
- **Police Protection?**
- **Schools?**
- **Parks?**
- **Other Public Facilities?**

Fire and Police Protection

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of Proposed Project actions would not directly or indirectly result in population growth which would require the provision of or need for new or physically altered fire or police facilities. Therefore, no adverse environmental impact would occur due to the provision of new or physically altered police or fire facilities. The impact would be less than the Approved Project.

Schools

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly result in population growth which would require the provision of or need for new school facilities. Therefore, no adverse environmental impact would occur due to the provision of new or physically altered public school facilities. Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in less impacts than the Approved Project.

Parks

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The implementation of the Proposed Project would meet the policy set forth in the 2035 GP. The development of the Proposed Project is in response to the park needs identified in the 2035 GP and the 2017 EIR. Implementation of the Proposed Project, in association with applicable policies from the 2035 GP, would result in a nominal increase in visitor use and impacts would be less than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

Other Public Facilities

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of Proposed Project actions would not directly or indirectly result in population growth which would require the provision of or need for other public facilities. Therefore, no adverse environmental impact would occur due to the provision of new or physically altered library, city administrative, or other community facilities. The impact would be less than those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.17 Recreation

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential recreation impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project will impact use of existing neighborhood and regional parks and other recreational facilities.
- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project will impact the environment via construction or expansion of recreation facilities.

Findings

The 2017 EIR found less-than-significant impacts with regard to increasing use of existing neighborhood and regional parks and other recreational facilities. The EIR concluded that when the two open spaces are accounted for in meeting park and recreation demand, there is sufficient land to support future park and recreational areas. Policy 4.1-1 from the Park and Recreation Element directs the City to update its Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

The 2017 EIR found less-than-significant impacts with regard to construction or expansion of recreational facilities having an adverse physical effect on the environment. 2035 GP Policies 4.1-1. 4.2-1, and 4.4-5 would ensure the City updates the existing PROS plan to ensure demand for park and recreation resources are met.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy 4.1-1: Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to define the vision, goals, and strategies for maintaining and improving Belmont's park system and to guide implementation efforts.

Policy 4.2-1: Review and update the types, amounts, and locations of community and recreation facilities as part of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

Policy 4.4-5: Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to establish priorities for the protection, enhancement, and improvement of open space lands and trails for recreation purposes.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Community surveys conducted for the Proposed Project support the idea that many City residents use WDL and SJC to meet their recreation needs. Eighty percent of survey respondents indicated that they used the City's open space areas one to three times per week. Implementation of the Proposed Project may result in a minor increase in visitation, but it would not result in substantial physical deterioration of recreational facilities. Proposed Project Policies P19 through P23 address opportunities for a variety of type of users, and for providing for safe recreation opportunities. Additional applicable policies include: trail management policies (P24-P31) to protect natural resources, enhance wayfinding and help provide for visitor safety; user compatibility policies(P32-P35); and partnership policies (P36 and P33) which would encourage partnerships to help more effectively manage WDL and SJC. None of these policies would result in a substantial increase in visits that could cause substantial physical deterioration of park facilities; potential impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

Proposed Project actions – including development of Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks-- could enhance visitor experiences and may result in a minor increase in visitation. Parking that would be added to Hidden Canyon would be used to encourage visitors who currently park on Carlmont Drive to use the parking lot instead. Development actions at Ralston Ranch would involve adding a seating area and a walking path. These actions are not expected to increase use of existing neighborhood and regional and other recreational facilities. Impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Proposed Project Environmental Sustainability Policies (see Table 5 in Chapter 5 of this document) would ensure any construction of expansion of facilities would not have an adverse physical effect. Some of the applicable policies include P1 (limits on trail construction), P3 (align, relocate or modify trails to avoid impacts), and P13 (control of erosion). Additional Balanced Recreation Use Policies are also applicable including, P25 (monitor erosion), and P26 (maintain trails with improved drainage and hardening). Proposed Project Impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR. Furthermore, Proposed Project implementation – including actions at Hidden Canyon, Ralston Ranch parks, and WDL and SJC -- would involve minimal ground disturbance. The effects of these actions have been analyzed in previous chapters of this document, including the following: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gases, and Noise. Impacts would be the same as those analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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7.18 Transportation

Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a)	Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	No	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING UPDATE

Senate Bill (SB) 743 established Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) associated with a project as the metric for use in determining a project's transportation impacts, replacing the use of the delay-based criteria associated with a Level of Service (LOS) analysis. SB 743 was signed into law in 2013, and starting on July 1, 2020, all lead agencies were required to include an analysis of VMT, instead of LOS, into their CEQA analyses. Because the 2017 EIR was certified in 2017, the EIR included a discussion of LOS impacts, rather than VMT. Section 21099 subd. (b)(1) of the Public Resources Code directed the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to prepare and develop criteria for determining VMT thresholds of significance. The OPR identifies a screening threshold for small, land use projects as a project that generates or attracts fewer than 110 trips per day. Projects that generate fewer trips than this threshold may be assumed to result in a less-than-significant transportation impact. Generally, projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. In addition, projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 15064.3). While VMT was not considered in the 2017 EIR, caselaw states that it is acceptable to analyze LOS in an

addendum to an EIR that was prepared before VMT was the standard (Olen Properties Corp. v. City of Newport Beach, 2023).

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Impacts

Potential transportation impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than Significant: Implementation of the Approved Project would result in the expansion of pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit facilities.
- Less than Significant: No policies, mobility, or structural heights in the Approved Project were found to result in air traffic safety risks.
- Less than Significant: The Approved Project may result in increased transit ridership.
- Less than Significant: The Approved Project would not result in hazardous design features.
- Significant and Unavoidable: Implementation of Approved Project would result in increased vehicular traffic congestion from development and population increases that would affect emergency vehicle response times.

Findings

The Approved Project exceeds the goals of City and County bicycle and pedestrian plans through implementation of 2035 GP Policies 3.5-1 through 3.5-7 that ensure active transportation connections between neighborhoods, provide design guidelines for Complete Streets, and ensure equitable access consistent with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

Increasing transit ridership was designed into the 2035 GP and Circulation Element Policies including 3.2-3 are aimed at expanding transit and active transportation networks. BVSP policies focus on improvement and location of transit stops. CAP measures aim to expand active transportation infrastructure which may reduce impacts resulting from increased transit ridership.

Development and roadway improvements proposed in the Approved Project would be implemented over time and be constructed to local, regional, and federal standards. 2035 GP Policy 3.9-1 ensures clear signage for designated truck routes.

Mitigation Measure 4.12-9 requires signal priority and adherence to emergency vehicle passing priority, but the impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

CIRCULATION ELEMENT

Policy 3.2-3: Maintain and expand transit and active transportation networks that connect neighborhoods with key destinations to encourage travel by non-automobile modes while also improving public health.

Policy 3.5-1: Preserve and maintain Belmont's existing sidewalks and pedestrian paths.

Policy 3.5-2: Require public sidewalks in conjunction with all new non-residential development.

Policy 3.5-3: Require public sidewalks in all new residential developments except in areas where construction of sidewalks would be incompatible with existing development and/or require excessive grading or tree removal. In such cases, adequate roadway shoulders, or alternative trails and pathways shall be provided to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Policy 3.5-4: Design sidewalks to comply with requirements set in the Belmont Village Specific Plan within the plan area.

Policy 3.5-5: Maintain and encourage use of the existing system of main and neighborhood bike routes. Incorporate bike lanes or pathways into the circulation system of any new subdivision, consistent with the citywide bike and trails network.

Policy 3.5-6: Preserve and maintain the system of pathways providing access to the open space areas in the Western Hills and the San Francisco Watershed, and develop the pathway network to provide access to the Bay.

Policy 3.5-7: Provide bicycle and pedestrian paths within scenic corridors wherever possible.

Policy 3.9-1: Identify and sign designated truck routes in Belmont, ensuring that clear signage is provided from the freeway to truck routes in the city.

MITIGATION MEASURES

4.12-9: Signal priority preemption equipment and strict adherence to emergency vehicle passing priority.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

Same Impact as the Approved Project- Less than Significant

Implementation of the Proposed Project would support existing active transportation plans through Strategic Actions 1.B and 1.E that aim to provide facilities for pedestrians and cyclists using active transportation networks between parks and open spaces. Development of Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park would comply with 2035 GP Policies governing circulation including Policy 3.1-1 that ensures land use and circulation planning are developed concurrently. Any temporary “pop-up” parks that may potentially occur in locations not currently used as parks (e.g., parking lots or roadways) would be required to comply with City municipal codes and 2035 GP Policies 3.4-1-3.4-10 that guide the maintenance and improvement of roads. The Proposed Project would result in the same impacts analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project may result new vehicle trips to Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park after their development. Improvement of open space areas and developed parks is not expected to result in increased visitation or vehicle trips to open space or park locations. Vehicle trips to Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks are not expected to exceed 110 trips per day given the limited parking at these locations. Hidden Canyon Park currently has a 12-stall parking lot that also serves a trailhead for WDL which is proposed to be expanded and include ADA spaces. The development of Ralston Ranch Park does not include off-street parking. In the Proposed Project, these parks are categorized as Neighborhood Tier 2 parks (see Chapter 5.0) where visitors are expected to primarily arrive by walking or biking. Both Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks are less than 0.5mile from existing public transit (stops serviced by the San Mateo County Transportation District). The Proposed Project also supports pedestrian and bicycle access to parks and open spaces through Strategic Actions 1.A-1.F which guide pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit connections to park, recreation, and open space areas. These strategies may result in fewer vehicle trips and increased pedestrian, bicycle, and transit trips. The Proposed Project will also comply with the 2035 GP Policies in the Circulation Element. Therefore, the Proposed Project is expected to result in less impact to LOS than the Approved Project given the limited development and emphasis on pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Same Impact as the Approved Project - Less than Significant

The Proposed Project would result in improvements within park and open space boundaries. No changes to roads are proposed and therefore would not create any hazards due to design features. Potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Project would be the same as the Approved Project.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Same Impact as the Approved Project - Significant and Unavoidable

Implementation of the Proposed Project may result in new vehicle trips to Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park after their development. Improvement of open space areas and developed parks is expected to result in redistributing existing visitation levels given that these parks and open spaces serve local residents. Increased visitation may occur over time as population increases. Therefore, visitation or vehicle trips to Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks are not expected to increase vehicle congestion and thus not expected to affect emergency vehicle access. The Proposed Project would adhere to 2035 GP Safety Element Policies as well as Mitigation Measure 4.12-9. The Proposed Project

also supports pedestrian and bicycle access to parks and open spaces through Strategic Actions 1.A-1.F which guide pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit connections to park, recreation, and open space areas. These strategies may result in fewer vehicle trips and increased pedestrian, bicycle, and transit trips, which may improve emergency vehicle access. Potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Project on emergency access would be the same as the Approved Project.

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7.19 Tribal Cultural Resources

Would the project:	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:						
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

While the 2017 EIR was prepared before the inclusion of the Tribal Cultural Resources topic area, the analysis criteria presented below stem from the prior Criterion 5 under the Cultural Resources topic area which was discussed in the 2017 EIR.

Impacts

Potential tribal cultural resources impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than Significant; There is a low potential of finding new or undiscovered paleontological resources within the 2017 EIR Planning Area.

Findings

The 2017 EIR found a less-than-significant impact on tribal cultural resources, as defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 (page 4.4-26 and 4.4-27). Within the 2035 GP Planning Area, there are three sites listed in the National Register of Historic Resources, eight properties identified as eligible for the National Register of Historic Resources, and four properties listed in the California Office of Historic Properties Directory. None of these listed resources are identified as a tribal cultural resource, in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21074. The City contacted five tribes to further investigate the presence of tribal cultural resources within the 2035 GP Planning Area, however no requests for consultation were received. No available evidence suggested that tribal cultural resources are present that were not already identified as archaeological or historic resources. The City is required to comply with AB 52 for all future development within the Planning Area, which provides tribes the right to formal consultation with project lead agencies and requires tribal consultation if requests for consultation are received. 2035 GP Policy 5.12-1 requires mitigation for development on sites suspected of being culturally significant, and Policy 5.12-2 requires that, if cultural resources are discovered during construction, all construction activities must halt until an evaluation of the resource is completed.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.12-1: Ensure that development avoids potential impacts to sites suspected of being archeologically, paleontologically, or culturally significant, tribal or otherwise, or of concern by requiring appropriate and feasible mitigation.

Policy 5.12-2: If cultural, archaeological, paleontological, or cultural resources, tribal or otherwise, are discovered during construction, grading activity in the immediate area shall cease and materials and their surroundings shall not be altered or collected until evaluation by a qualified professional is completed.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Implementation of the Proposed Project resulting in the development of Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks, improvements to developed parks (see Table 5 in Chapter 5 of this document) and trail and wildfire fuels improvements at open spaces, will not adversely affect the significance of a tribal cultural resource since all parks and open spaces are within the Planning Area of the 2017 EIR and none of the listed resources in the 2017 EIR were identified as a tribal cultural resource, in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21074. However, there is potential for tribal cultural resources to be discovered during ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Project, specifically within Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch parks, and the two open space areas (WDL and SJC). Implementation of the Proposed Project actions would be required to comply with policies 5.12-1 and 5.12-2 contained in the 2035 GP, which would reduce the potential impact to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, the Proposed Project will have the same impacts as the Approved Project and implement the same policies to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

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7.20 Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:		*Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)*	*Less Impact than Approved Project?*	*New Less-than-significant impact?*	*New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?*	*New Potentially Significant Impact?*	*Same Impact as Approved Project?*
a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
d)	Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Would the project:		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

Note that the 2017 EIR included a Utilities chapterrather than the Utilities and Service Systems required by CEQA currently. The impacts discussed are similar between criteria and criteria are thus treated as equivalent between the 2017 EIR and this Addendum.

Impacts

Potential utilities and service system impacts included in the 2035 GP and analyzed as part of the 2017 EIR include the following:

- Less than significant with Mitigation: Implementation of the Approved Project would result in increases in population, increasing demand for water and wastewater services over established levels. Construction of water infrastructure would occur in existing developed and disturbed areas.
- Less than significant: The Approved Project would result in development that would generate increased stormwater volumes to the level of needing new stormwater infrastructure. Construction of this infrastructure would only occur in already disturbed and developed areas.
- Less than significant: Water demand is expected to grow as a result of the Approved Project, from developed and increasing population.
- Less than significant with Mitigation: Increased development and population resulting from the Approved Project would generate wastewater and increase collection and treatment needs over current levels.
- Less than significant: New industrial, commercial, and residential development is expected to increase solid waste generation under the Approved Project.
- Less than significant: Development under the Approved Project would be served by existing agreements with waste collection and disposal services (Rethink Waste and Recology) and be required to comply with federal, state, and local regulations for solid waste.

Findings

Policies 5.6-1, 5.6-3, and 5.6-5 in the 2035 GP aim to reduce water consumption per capita by expanding water conservation efforts. The CAP provides additional strategies to reduce water consumption by prioritizing higher density, infill projects, rebates for water efficient fixtures, and adopting recognized water conservation standards. Implementation of the BVSP would allow growth that would require the construction of new water facilities and associated mitigation

measures including UTIL-1: Require water line upsizing, UTIL-2: Require sewer line upsizing, and UTIL-3: Require Shoreway Pump Station upsizing.

Phase I zoning provides design standards to maximize parking lot permeability, reducing stormwater runoff, and CAP prioritizes development near existing infrastructure. 2035 GP policies that apply to the BVSP would reduce potential development impacts on stormwater infrastructure including Policies 6.2-9 and 5.9-2 which ensure compliance with stormwater permits (San Francisco Bay Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit [MRP] and NPDES) and encourage water recharge design standards.

While water demand is expected to grow under the Approved Project, water supplies will be preserved as a result of water conservation programs and efforts. 2035 GP Conservation Policies discussed above, including 5.7-3, which works to develop a recycled water program, would reduce potential impacts to water supplies.

The 2035 GP includes several policies aimed at increasing wastewater services including Policies 5.7-1 which requires improvements to the City's wastewater system that are consistent with local and regional plans, and 5.7-2 which ensures funding for such improvements. The same mitigation measures discussed above would also be required.

The City is able to meet current waste diversion targets and landfills have capacity that meets the projected needs of the Approved Project. The CAP includes measures to support waste diversion and recycling and 2035 GP Policy 5.8-1 promotes waste reduction, recycling, and composting.

Existing agreements with waste collection and disposal services Rethink Waste and Recology will continue to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations with increased development under the Approved Project. The CAP also includes measures to reduce solid waste disposal needs.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.6-1: Work with the Mid-Peninsula Water District to meet State targets for reducing per capita urban water use.

Policy 5.6-3: Encourage the Mid-Peninsula Water District to continue and expand its water conservation programs.

Policy 5.6-5: Continue the City's Water Conservation Strategy to reduce water use, control water cost, and promote environmental sustainability in municipal buildings, parks, landscaped areas, and athletic fields, as feasible and appropriate.

Policy 5.7-1: Continue to make improvements and upgrades to the wastewater system, consistent with the City's Sanitary Sewer System Capacity Analysis and the Silicon Valley Clean Water Conveyance System Master Plan.

Policy 5.7-2: Periodically review and update development impact fees, wastewater connection charges, and monthly service charges to ensure that adequate funds are collected to operate and maintain existing facilities and to construct new facilities.

Policy 5.7-3: Partner with Silicon Valley Clean Water to develop and implement a local purified/recycled water (treated wastewater) program for Belmont, as technology and infrastructure allow.

Policy 5.8-1: Promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting to Belmont residents and businesses as an important way to conserve limited natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy 5.9-2: Encourage development projects of all sizes to incorporate site design measures that facilitate groundwater recharge and natural hydrological processes, allowing stormwater to infiltrate the ground on-site and/or be collected for reuse in landscaping and designated to on-site stormwater detention facilities. Such measures may include:

- Canopy trees or shrubs to absorb rainwater;
- Grading that lengthens flow paths over permeable surfaces and increases runoff travel time to reduce the peak hour flow rate;
- Partially removing curbs and gutters from parking areas where appropriate to allow stormwater sheet flow into vegetated areas;
- Installation of green roofs on buildings;
- Use of permeable paving in parking lots and other areas characterized by significant impervious surfaces;
- On-site stormwater detention, use of bioswales and bioretention basins to facilitate infiltration; and
- Integrated or subsurface water retention facilities to capture rainwater for use in landscape irrigation and other non-potable uses.

SAFETY ELEMENT

Policy 6.2-9: Periodically review maps prepared by FEMA and the State Department of Water Resources to identify changes in mapping of areas subject to flooding and amend the General Plan or Municipal Code as warranted.

MITIGATION MEASURES

UTIL-1: Require water line upsizing.

UTIL-2: Require sewer line upsizing.

UTIL-3: Require upsizing of Shoreway Pump Station.

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DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

The Proposed Project would potentially result in the construction of a new restroom through the development of Hidden Canyon Park. While the details of this restroom are uncertain at this time, and could be installed separate from the wastewater system (i.e., as a pit toilet or composting toilet). A new restroom could also be connected to the City's wastewater system requiring additions to the system and adding to the amount of wastewater needing to be treated. Upgrades to the wastewater system required by 2035 GP Policy 5.7-1 would be implemented in addition to mitigation measures UTIL-1, 2, and 3, which would accommodate a restroom at Hidden Canyon given the expectation of population increases examined in the 2017 EIR.

The development of Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park may result in an increase of impermeable surfaces and subsequently increase stormwater runoff. Improvements to these parks would follow 2035 GP Policy 5.9-2 that encourages development to incorporate natural hydrologic process design to reduce the need for construction of stormwater drainage facilities. The native landscaping proposed for park improvements would aid in reduction of stormwater runoff.

The impact of park improvements and a potential restroom under the Proposed Project would be less than the expected development and population growth under the Approved Project on relocation or expansion of service systems.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project could result in the construction and use of a restroom at Hidden Canyon Park which would require additional water from City to operate. 2035 GP Policies 5.6-1, 5.6-3, and 5.6-5 would be implemented to support water conservation at all parks and CAP measures encouraging water efficient fixtures would be followed. The Proposed Project would also result in the installation of native vegetation and recommends the replacement of grass fields with artificial turf which would reduce or eliminate the need for irrigation. With the use of native plants, turf and adhering to exiting 2035 GP policies, impacts resulting from the Proposed Project on water supplies would be the same as the Approved Project.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project could result in an increase in wastewater generation through a new restroom at Hidden Canyon Park. Under 2035 GP Policies 5.7-1 and 5.7-2, improvements to the wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities and associated funding will be implemented. Mitigation measures UTIL-1, 2, and 3 from the 2017 EIR will also be implemented to expand wastewater system capacity for the projected population and development increases. The impact of the restroom in the Proposed Project on wastewater treatment will be less than the projected population and development increases of the Approved Project.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Implementation of the Proposed Project may result in solid waste generation during construction activities of park improvements such as concrete or asphalt from paved path replacement, materials associated with restroom construction, or disposal of old play or exercise equipment during replacement. Wildfire fuel reduction activities and replacement of landscaping with native plants may result in generation of solid waste in the form of vegetation. 2035 GP Policies including 5.8-1 promoting waste reduction, recycling, and composting would be followed which would reduce potential impacts of solid waste. Vegetation removed from parks and open spaces may be composted in alignment with CAP Measure WC4 aimed at diverting landscaping-related waste from landfills. The potential impacts of park improvements and development of Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks under the Proposed Project would be the same as the Approved Project analyzed under the 2017 EIR.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Development of Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks, other park improvements, and open space wildfire fuels reduction activities under the Proposed Project would result in generation of solid waste. The Proposed Project would follow 2035 GP Policy 5.8-1 that promotes solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting, as well as CAP measures that support waste reduction and diversion. All solid waste generated as part of the Proposed Project would be required to comply with federal, state, and local solid waste regulations. Impacts resulting from the Proposed Project would be the same as the Approved Project.

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7.21 Wildfire

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	*Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)*	*Less Impact than Approved Project?*	*New Less-than-significant impact?*	*New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?*	*New Potentially Significant Impact?*	*Same Impact as Approved Project?*
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	No	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	No	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	No	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

In the 2017 EIR, wildfire impacts were addressed under Chapter 4.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials and include:

Impacts

- Less than significant: Implementation of the 2035 GP would result in new developments and population growth, subsequently increasing demand for emergency services, potentially affecting the implementation of the San Mateo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).
- Less than significant: While the Approved Project focuses on infill development, development could also occur in areas of High Fire Hazard or Very High Fire Hazard (Figure 4.7-3 in the 2017 EIR), potentially increasing the risk of life or structure loss due to fire.

Findings

The 2017 EIR found a less than significant impact of the Approved Project on emergency response or emergency evacuation plans (pages 4.7-37-4.7-40). Policies within the 2035 GP and BVSP would further reduce the potential impact including Policies 6.7-6 and 6.7-9 which require the City to coordinate with the County and local public utility agencies and companies on emergency preparedness.

The 2017 EIR found a less than significant impact of the Approved Project on exposure of people or structures to significant risk of loss involving wildfire (pages 4.7-40-4.7-43). The 2035 GP anticipates primarily infill development and its policies would reduce the risk of fire. Specifically, Policies 2.14-3, 6.6-9, 4.4-7, 5.1-3 require defensible space around structures including buffers between development and natural areas and maintenance of public spaces to prevent accumulation of fuels.

2035 GP POLICIES THAT REDUCE IMPACTS:

LAND USE ELEMENT

Policy 2.14-3: Create clear design standards for the interface between open spaces and neighborhoods, especially in the Urban/ Wildland Interface Zone. Standards should identify the margin of open space needed to allow wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic values to flourish while also reducing threats of fire and invasive plant species. Incorporate “Defensible Space” standards as needed in areas of high wildfire risk.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

Policy 4.4-7: Continue programs to reduce the fire danger in the open space. *See Policy 5.1-3 in the Conservation Element.*

CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Policy 5.1-3: Reduce risk of wildland fire, ecological succession, and pathogen threats (such as Sudden Oak Death) through active maintenance of public spaces and education and enforcement of development standards on private property.

SAFETY ELEMENT

Policy 6.6-9: Continue to require development located within the VHFHSZ to maintain 100 feet of defensible space consistent with California Government Code section 51182. *See also Policy 2.14-3 in the Land Use Element regarding defensible space.*

Policy 6.7-6: Work with the Mid-Peninsula Water District to ensure that it has a plan and infrastructure for providing adequate water service and storage, including peak load water supply requirements, during and immediately after an emergency, including a major seismic event.

Policy 6.7-9: Ensure critical use facilities that are important to protecting health and safety in the community remain operational during an emergency.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project would result in the development of Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks, and potentially increase temporary on-street parking in adjacent neighborhoods. Implementation of the Proposed Project would also result in the development of wildfire fuel treatment plans and maintenance of existing wildfire fuel treatment areas. The park developments would not increase demand for emergency services and wildfire fuels treatment plans and actions would benefit emergency response plans by reducing the risk of fire. 2035 GP Safety Element policies would be followed by the Proposed Project, as would the Proposed Project Natural Hazard Mitigation policies (Policies 38-52). Implementation of the Proposed Project would result the same impact as the Approved Project on emergency response plans.

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

Development of Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park would result in more hardened surfaces in these locations. Development of these locations and improvements at existing parks would be consistent with Belmont's Fire Code. While increased public use is expected once Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch Parks are developed, it is not expected that this use will exacerbate wildfire risk in these areas or the adjacent open space areas. The Proposed Project would result in wildfire fuels treatment in existing and

new areas within open spaces. The Proposed Project would also result in the development of wildfire fuels treatment plans within open spaces. Because the Proposed Project will implement the 2035 GP Policies 2.14-3 and 4.4-7 to reduce the threat of fire in open spaces near neighborhoods through the Proposed Project Natural Hazard Mitigation Policies (Policies 38-52), it would result in the same impact as the Approved Project on exacerbating wildfire risks.

c) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

Same Impact as the Approved Project - Less than Significant

Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in fire fuels treatment in open space areas which would reduce the threat of fire, and reduce the potential post-fire hazards. Implementation of the Proposed Project would also result in trail improvements including restoration of decommissioned trails which would involve revegetation. This revegetation would reduce the risk of landslides. Development of Hidden Canyon Park would result in installation of vegetation potentially increasing fire fuels. 2035 GP policies 2.14-3, 4.4-7, 5.1-3 included in the 2017 EIR as reducing potential impact of the Approved Project on risk loss of structures and life describing appropriate vegetation management in open spaces and neighboring private properties would be followed by the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would have the same impact as the Approved Project.

d) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

Same Impact as the Approved Project – Less than Significant

The Proposed Project would not result in the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure. The Proposed Project would implement wildfire fuel treatment activities within open space areas that would follow 2035 GP Conservation Element policies (specifically 5.1-3) that describe reducing threat of fire while maintaining value for wildlife, recreation and aesthetics. In addition, Policy 43 in the Proposed Project recommends maintaining a mosaic of species and ages in fire adapted vegetation communities like chaparral especially near roads and infrastructure to reduce fuel loads. Policy 52 in the Proposed Project works with utility companies like Pacific Gas & Electric to target open space vegetation management activities to reduce wildfire risk associated with electrical lines. The Proposed Project would have the same impact as the Approved Project.

7.22 Mandatory Findings of Significance

		Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	*Less Impact than Approved Project?*	*New Less-than-significant impact?*	*New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?*	*New Potentially Significant Impact?*	*Same Impact as Approved Project?*
a)	Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Discussed in the 2017 EIR? (Yes/No)	Less Impact than Approved Project?	New Less-than-significant impact?	New Less-than-significant impact with Mitigation Incorporated?	New Potentially Significant Impact?	Same Impact as Approved Project?
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	Yes	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2017 EIR

The 2017 EIR identified significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality, noise, and transportation.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

a) ***Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

Less Impact than the Approved Project

Implementation of the Proposed Project may result in short term potential impacts to habitat or cultural resources from ground-disturbing or vegetation removal activities. The Proposed Project however, would result in long-term benefits to habitat from native plant installation and trail drainage improvements. The Proposed Project would have no new significant impacts related to the potential for the degradation of the quality of the environment, a substantial reduction in the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, the drop of a fish or wildlife population below self-sustaining levels, a substantial reduction in the number or restriction on the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to any known cultural resources which would be less impact than the Approved Project.

b) ***Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?***

Same Impact as the Approved Project

The 2017 EIR found the Approved Project to have cumulatively considerable impacts to air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse gases, noise, public utilities, and

transportation. This Addendum to the 2017 EIR found that the Proposed Project would have less impact than the Approved Project related to these topics. However, when these impacts from the Proposed Project are considered in addition to the impacts from the Approved Project, they would remain cumulatively considerable. Therefore, the Proposed Project's contribution to the significant cumulative air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse gases, noise, public utilities, and transportation impacts would result in the same cumulatively considerable impacts as the Approved Project as analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

c) ***Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?***

Less Impact than the Approved Project

The Proposed Project has not been found to generate new or substantially more severe environmental effects than those previously analyzed in the 2017 EIR; therefore, there is no likelihood of the Proposed Project causing substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly and indirectly, beyond that which was previously analyzed in the 2017 EIR.

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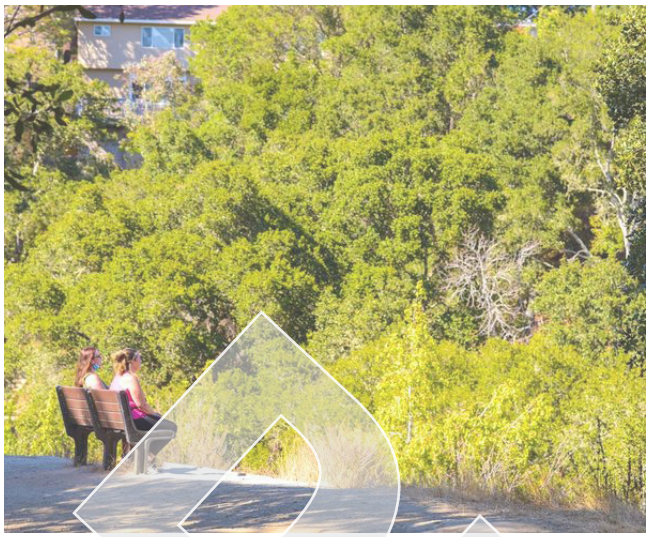
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PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

LET'S BUILD OUR BACKYARD

CITY OF BELMONT













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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

LET'S BUILD OUR BACKYARD

PURPOSE

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) is a strategic, forward-looking document. It studies the existing park system, outdoor recreation facilities and programming, and open spaces to identify a decision-making framework and recommendations to plan, maintain, develop, rehabilitate, and connect the City's network of parks, recreation, and open space for the next 15 years.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
2. Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
3. Make all users feel **welcome and safe**
4. Offer services and activities across a **range of interests, abilities, and ages**
5. Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience and sustainability**
6. Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
7. Advance community **health and well-being**
8. Foster a sense of community and encourage **social interaction**
9. Provide **well-maintained** and actively managed facilities
10. **Adapt** to changing conditions and needs
11. Utilize a **transparent community process** to inform decisions

VISION

RE-IMAGINE THE BELMONT PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) SYSTEM TO **CREATE THE CITY'S BACKYARD** THAT FOSTERS **INCLUSIVE, EXPERIENTIAL, AND NURTURING PUBLIC SPACES** BY SETTING THE **FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKERS** IN THE PLANNING, MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT, AND/OR REHABILITATION, IMPLEMENTABLE OVER A **15 YEAR HORIZON**.

VISION

The Belmont community recognizes the essential role that a well-designed PROS system plays in both individual and community health. The community engagement process revealed that Belmont residents are proud of their parks and open spaces and the recreation opportunities they provide. Be it a baseball game at Belmont Sports Complex, a basketball game at O'Donnell Park, climbing the playground at Semeria Park, attending an outdoor movie at Twin Pines Park, or exploring Waterdog Lake, Belmont's PROS system is intrinsically linked to the community's identity and social cohesion.

The National Recreation and Park Association found that in 2019, parks and recreation agencies generated $218 billion in economic activity nationwide, with California benefiting from $23 billion of the total. Statewide, parks and recreation agencies are significant employers. Park operations and capital spending positively influence the local economy, and Belmont is no exception.

The PROS Plan complements the goals and strategies of key planning documents such as the 2035 General Plan. Thoughtful management of the PROS system carries the responsibility of addressing climate resiliency and furthering active transportation strategies, as outlined in the City's Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. Together, the City's planning documents identify innovative solutions and look proudly towards the future of Belmont.

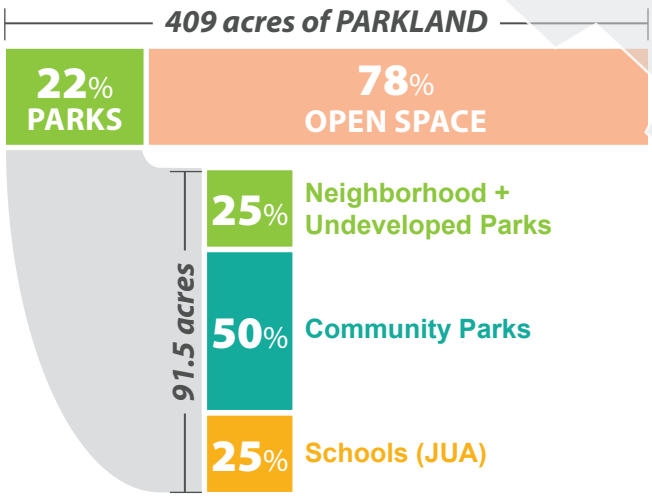
Learn more about the Purpose, Vision, and Guiding Principles in Chapter 1.

BELMONT'S PROS SYSTEM

The City of Belmont offers 409 acres of parks and open space—almost 14 percent of the city's land area. Belmont's parks, recreation, and open space system (PROS system) consists of 17 parks (of which 15 are developed), two open space areas, and four schools under a joint-use agreement with the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. The parks and school sites are distributed across the city, while the open spaces are located only in the western hills.

The parks range in size, from less than 1 acre to over 20 acres, and vary in intensity of use. While not directly correlated, smaller parks tend to provide fewer amenities and therefore generate less use intensity. The PROS Plan uses a set of criteria known as Park Typologies to organize the sites and establish a baseline service level that Belmont parks must meet.

Learn more about the Context and Existing Conditions that served as the foundation for this PROS Plan in Chapters 2 and 3.



Source: Parks and Recreation Department

Figure ES-1: Parkland Distribution



Semeria Park



Alexander Park



Twin Pines Park

PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE SITES

1. Alexander Park
2. Barrett Community Center
3. Belameda Park
4. Belmont Sports Complex
5. Central Elementary School
6. Cipriani Park
7. College View Park
8. Davey Glen Park
9. Fox Elementary School
10. Hallmark Park
11. Hasting Tot Lot Park
12. Hidden Canyon Park
13. McDougal Park
14. Nesbit School
15. O'Donnell Park
16. Patricia Wharton Park
17. Ralston Middle School
18. Ralston Ranch Park
19. San Juan Canyon
20. Semeria Park
21. Twin Pines Park
22. Wakefield Park
23. Waterdog Lake

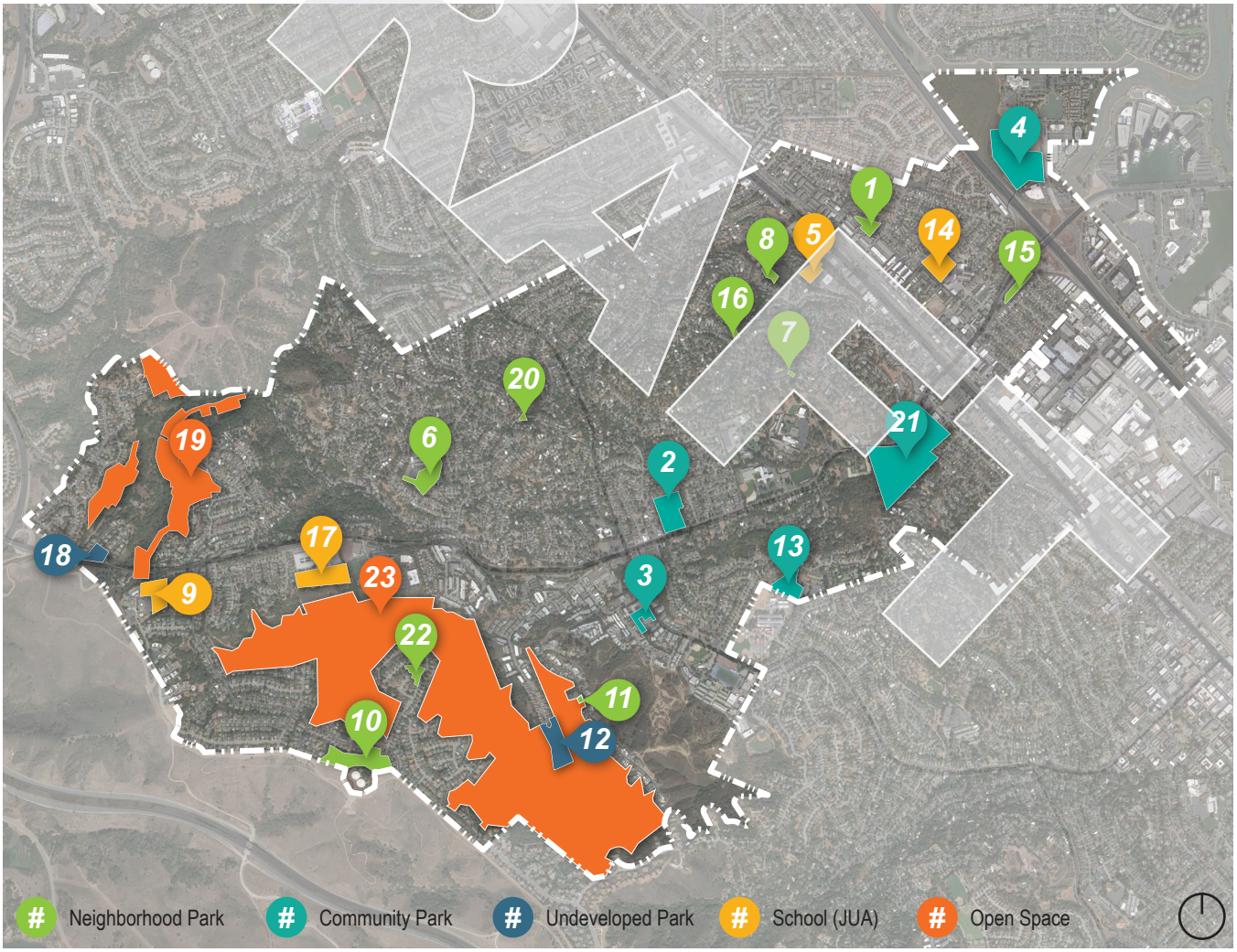


Figure ES-2: Belmont Parkland Distribution

COMMUNITY INPUT

Community outreach was an integral component of the development of the PROS Plan. Beginning in Spring 2021, community engagement opportunities were held in a hybrid manner, utilizing virtual platforms and in-person events to hear from the Belmont community.

OUTREACH METHODS

Approximately 5,000 comments and responses were collected across all outreach methods. Participants were asked to share their preferences, priorities, and desired improvements for the PROS system. This process offered a wide range of outreach materials and input opportunities to maximize project awareness and community participation, including the development of an Advisory Committee, an online survey, in-person and virtual focus groups, pop-up and open house events, neighborhood meetings, a comprehensive social media campaign, and presentations at City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission public meetings.

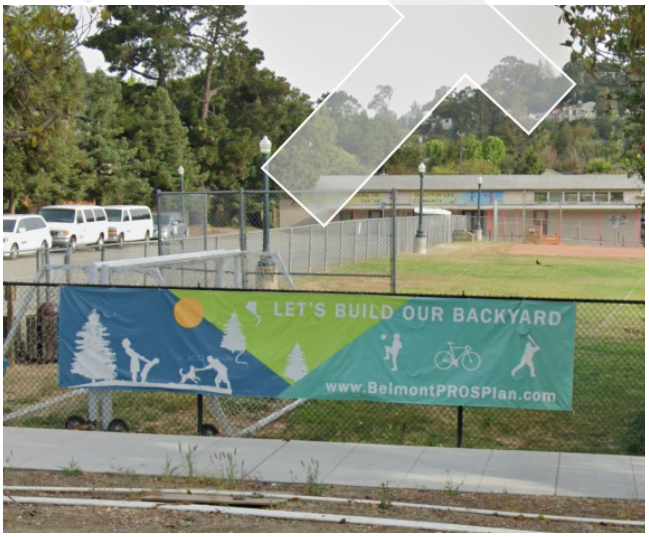
COMMUNITY THEMES

The following community themes emerged as a result of the engagement process:

- Amenities For Social + Physical Activity
- More Seating Opportunities
- Physical Connections
- Amenities For Diverse Interests
- Accessible For All Abilities
- Create More With Less
- Connecting With Nature
- Available For Many Uses + Users
- Natural Resources
- Honor Belmont's Unique Landscapes

Learn more about the Community Input that directed the creation of this PROS Plan in Chapter 4.

EMAILS + COMMENTS	**1,600+** (JANUARY 2021 TO JANUARY 2024)
FOCUS GROUPS	**11** MEETINGS **75+** PEOPLE
ONLINE SURVEY	**2,800+** RESPONSES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	**5** MEETINGS
PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION	**20+** MEETINGS
CITY COUNCIL	**5** PRESENTATIONS
POP-UP + OPEN HOUSE EVENTS	**5** EVENTS



PROS Plan Banner at Barrett Community Center

BIG IDEAS + GOALS

Through community outreach, four **BIG IDEAS** emerged to define Belmont's vision for the future of the PROS system.

These four Big Ideas were used as the framework to present the Goals of the PROS Plan. They are also influenced by the General Plan's Park, Recreation, and Open Space Element and Conservation Element.

Learn more about the Goals for the PROS Plan in Chapter 6.



THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD



OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL



CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS



ENVIRONMENTAL + FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD

PROS Goal 1 Connect Belmont and unify PROS sites by encouraging a robust pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit network.

PROS Goal 2 Foster a healthy community through spaces, amenities, programs, and public art that promote and encourage physical activity, social interaction, and Belmont's culture.

PROS Goal 3 Meet evolving community needs by establishing new uses, improved spaces, and a variety of recreation amenities.

OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL

PROS Goal 4 Improve community health through diverse, equitable, and inclusive spaces and amenities with accessible routes.

PROS Goal 5 Ensure future success through adaptability, flexibility, and support for many uses and users.

PROS Goal 6 Actualize PROS Plan by developing strong partnerships across private, public, and community groups.

CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS

PROS Goal 7 Develop and implement an Open Space Management Plan (OSMP).

PROS Goal 8 Highlight local ecosystems through educational opportunities across parks and open spaces.

PROS Goal 9 Enrich outdoor recreation through trail improvements, volunteer collaborations, and wayfinding features.

ENVIRONMENTAL+FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROS Goal 10 Nurture and strengthen natural resources through efficient and innovative landscape design.

PROS Goal 11 Diversify funding sources to ensure high-quality, actively-managed, and well-maintained PROS assets.

PROS Goal 12 Prioritize sustainable, resilient, and responsible management and maintenance practices.

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FRAMEWORK

PROS PLAN

The organizational flowchart shown in Figure ES-3 summarizes the structure of the plan's framework. The Purpose and Vision established the Guiding Principles, which were used to plan the Community Input process. Community Themes emerged from the collected feedback and were further synthesized into Big Ideas and Goals. The PROS Plan used this framework to craft the Strategies and Recommendations that aim to provide guidance over a 15-year horizon.

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Goal 7 calls for the development of an Open Space Management Plan (OSMP). Developed in tandem with the PROS Plan, this study reviews Belmont's two open spaces utilizing an approach that adjusts for the unique components, considerations, and uses of these valuable outdoor community spaces.

As an attachment to the PROS Plan, the OSMP presents its Objectives, Policies, and Recommendations specific to the open spaces. The findings of the OSMP are presented throughout this document where appropriate as they complement the PROS Plan.

Learn more about the Planning Process for the PROS Plan in Chapter 1.



Figure ES-3: PROS Framework



PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



Davey Glen Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK TYPOLOGIES

Parks were assigned a category, or Park Typology, that defines general expectations and character, establishes minimum amenities, and anticipates common methods of travel to the site. This also defines the Access Radius, or the distance used to delineate areas around a site that are easily reachable by the surrounding community. This approach identifies neighborhoods with low access to PROS sites and can demonstrate high-impact opportunities to expand the PROS system.

	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK **TIER 1**	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK **TIER 2 ***	COMMUNITY PARK
Character	Nature and Neighborhood Social Space	Nature, Group Gathering, and Play	Nature, Community Gathering, Recreation, and Play
Uses + Users	Passive Individuals to Small Groups	Passive + Active Individuals to Medium Groups	Passive + Active Individual to Large Groups
Standard Baseline Amenities	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Identifiable Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity 7. Off-Street Parking 8. Permanent Restroom 9. Multi-Use Athletic Field or Community Facility
Size	No Size Requirements Typically less than 1 acre	No Size Requirements Over 2 acres should provide off-street parking	No Size Requirements
Transport Modes	Walking Biking	Walking Biking Some Driving	Walking Biking Driving
Access Radius	¼ mile	½ mile	Entire City
Previous Planning	Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park Special Facility

Table ES-1: Park Typologies

** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2.*

Note: School (JUA) and Open Space Park Typologies do not have attributes such as Standard Baseline Amenities.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)

A Neighborhood Park Tier 1 is a small pocket of natural green space that supports local gatherings, promotes unplanned social interactions, and provides a peaceful place to talk or play. A Neighborhood Park Tier 1 has the lowest use intensity, meaning the few amenities at the site are expected to be used by only a handful of people at a single time. This Park Typology has an Access Radius of one quarter (¼) mile.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2)

A Neighborhood Park Tier 2 provides a local connection to nature, supports social gatherings of small groups, and offers recreation and play activities. A Tier 2 Park is more intense in amenities and uses than a Tier 1 Park, but it still oriented toward a single visitor or smaller groups of less than 20 people. As such, there are at least two play and recreation amenities designed for use by multiple diverse visitors at a single time, as well as picnic amenities that support small group gatherings. These sites have an Access Radius of one half (½) mile.

COMMUNITY PARK

Community Parks are notable parks that act as community event venues, offering spaces and amenities for large group gatherings that can support dozens of users and multiple recreation programs simultaneously. Community Parks have high use intensities and generate the most visitors. For the purposes of this PROS Plan, this Park Typology has an Access Radius that spans the entire city.

UNDEVELOPED PARK

Undeveloped Parks are sites owned by the City that have limited or no amenities. Sites with this designation are slated for development into amenitized outdoor public spaces. For the purposes of the PROS Plan, the two Undeveloped Parks are planned as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2. This designation is used to evaluate park access within the Park Typologies framework by utilizing the same characteristics.

SCHOOL (JOINT USE AGREEMENT)

The City entered into a joint-use agreement with the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District for the public right to use recreational spaces in exchange for a maintenance commitment by the City. These sites have an Access Radius of one half (½) mile.

OPEN SPACE

Open Spaces are minimally improved or undeveloped natural areas open to the public for recreational activities. The OSMP, included in the Appendix, reviewed the two Open Space sites. Trailheads are depicted on Figure ES-4. For the purposes of this PROS Plan, this Park Typology has an Access Radius that spans the entire city.



Open Space

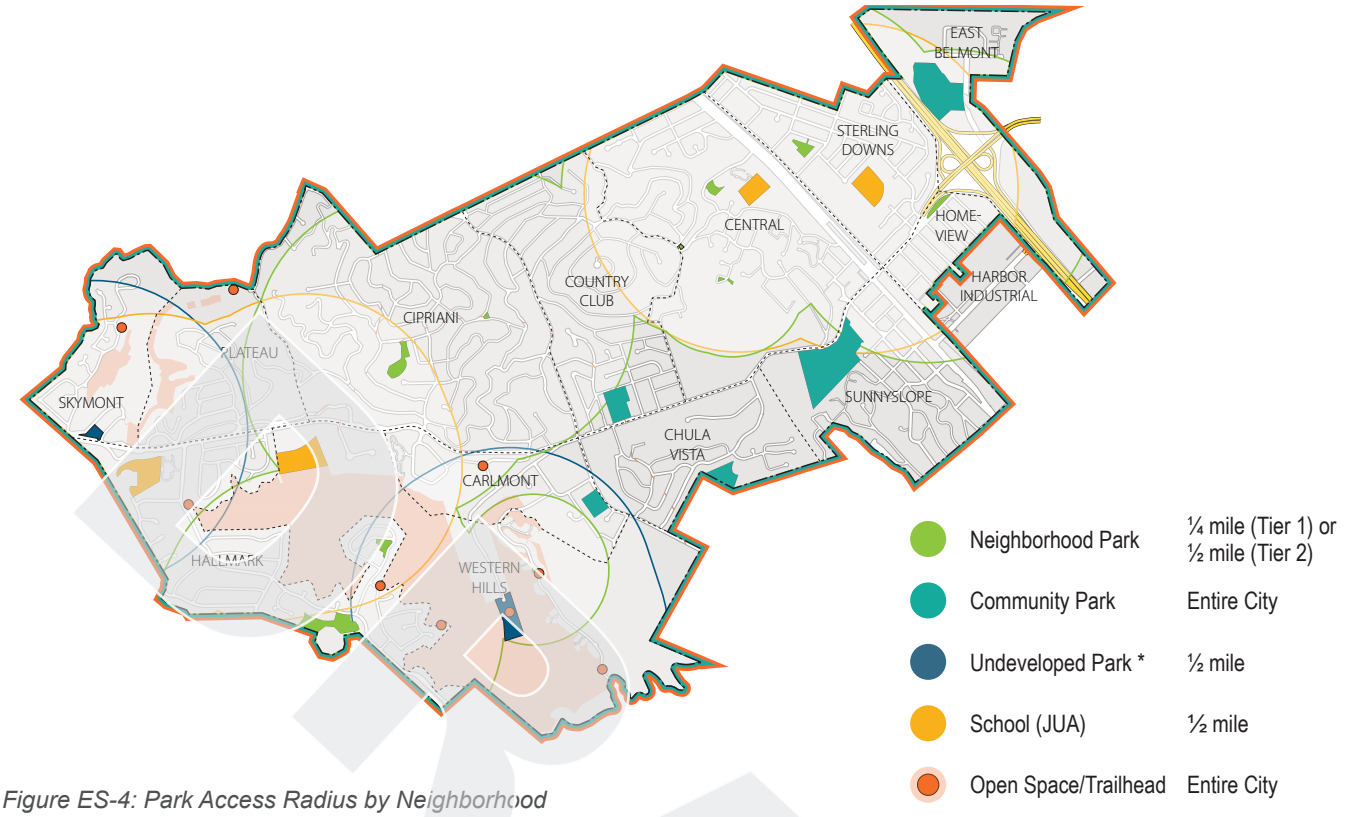


Figure ES-4: Park Access Radius by Neighborhood
** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2.*

ACCESS + CONNECTIONS

Figure ES-4 highlights portions of the city where PROS sites are less accessible, as determined by the site's Park Typology and Access Radius. Overall, Belmont provides a high level of access to parks. Almost 90 percent of the population lives within a 10-minute (or ½-mile) walk of a PROS site. The national average for the percent of population that lives within a 10-minute walk of a park is 55 percent, based on data compiled by the Trust for Public Land. Belmont well surpasses this average.

Given the limited availability of land to establish new parks, enhancing connections to and between existing PROS sites is paramount. The 2016 Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan gives parks high priority for pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements. Safe and enjoyable multi-modal connections between parks are critical because they reduce transit-related injuries, improve circulation, and increase accessibility.

The City's improvements to Ralston Avenue as part of the Safe Routes to School program illustrate the ongoing effort to reduce conflict and increase connections between parks and recreation amenities for non-motorized transport.

AMENITY INVENTORY

An Amenity Inventory was conducted to document the quantity and quality of existing amenities within the PROS system. This study enables a comparison between a park's amenity offerings in relation to the minimum amenities it should be providing as defined by its Park Typology.

Learn more about the Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment that served as the foundation of this PROS Plan in Chapters 3 and 5.

STRATEGIES

This plan presents a suite of Strategies, applicable to the PROS system as a whole, to provide guidance to the City for future improvements to Belmont's outdoor amenities.

The Strategies build upon the PROS Goals, represent the opportunities and constraints within the PROS system, and serve as the guiding inspiration for future improvements as available resources and conditions evolve over time. The Strategies also include Objectives and Policies that are specific to Belmont's open spaces.

Learn more about the Strategies in Chapter 7.



Volunteers Working to Improve PROS Sites



Belmont Sports Complex

RECOMMENDATIONS

The PROS Plan presents a comprehensive set of Recommendations that are derived from the analyses and considerations that guided this study. The Recommendations directly respond to the Strategies presented in the plan, focusing on the equitable distribution of amenities throughout the community.

Recommendations are broken down into two primary categories: System-wide and Park-specific. System-wide Recommendations are informed by a holistic review of Belmont's unique PROS system and best management practices applicable to the City. Park-specific Recommendations are informed by individual site assessments and inventories. The Recommendations also include potential sites for new parks or joint-use agreements, as well as proposed improvements for Belmont's open spaces. Recommendations were driven by the community engagement process, which served as a key component of the PROS Plan.

SYSTEM-WIDE

System-wide Recommendations are pathways to carry out the established Goals and Strategies across the entire PROS system. These include:

- Activation Plan
- Inclusive+All-Abilities Play
- Interconnect Toolkit
- Pop-up Park Installations
- Social Gathering Space
- Usage Study

PARK-SPECIFIC

Each park in the City was evaluated for access, proximity, and available space to host new or enhanced amenities. A Recommendation Spectrum was used to contextualize the Park-specific Recommendations presented in the PROS Plan in terms of the magnitude of change. This tool organizes potential improvements into six categories based on the degree of intensity, spanning from the creation of a new park to the implementation of a minor improvement or existing master plan.

OPPORTUNITIES

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES

The PROS Plan identifies three potential sites for new parks in Belmont. As an almost completely built-out city, there are limited opportunities for new park sites. These sites are on land currently owned by a public entity and should be considered as opportunities to provide additional park acreage to Belmont residents. The new park opportunity sites are listed below by their priority ranking:

- Ralston Avenue + Old County Road
- Oak Knoll Drive
- Alameda de las Pulgas

POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS

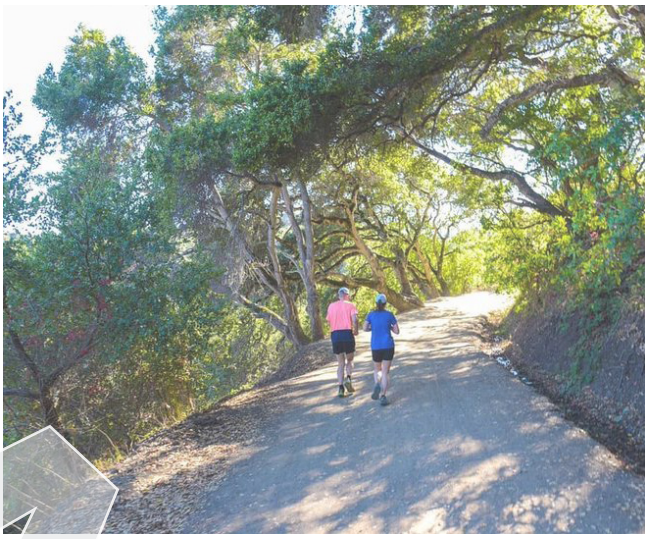
The City may consider a joint-use agreement with the local schools and other organizations to facilitate or enhance public access. These are listed below, in order of their level of education:

- Carlmont High School
- Crystal Springs Middle School
- Notre Dame High School
- Notre Dame de Namur University/Stanford University

OPEN SPACE

Recommendations for Belmont's open spaces aim to improve the condition of existing trails, manage existing and future recreational uses, and protect environmental resources found in San Juan Canyon and Waterdog Lake Open Spaces.

Explore the Recommendations for improvements to the PROS system in Chapter 8.



Recreational Use on Open Space Trails

INCREASING MAGNITUDE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Magnitude	EXISTING MASTER PLAN	MINOR IMPROVEMENT	UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY	PARK REDESIGN	UNDEVELOPED PARKS	NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY
Existing Condition	Master plans recently adopted Created with extensive community input	Parks recently developed or in very good condition	Current park functioning well	Rethink accessibility and park layout No change in use	Existing park is undeveloped	Add parkland To fill gaps in park access City-owned property
Recommendation	Implement existing Master Plan	Minor improvements identified to maintain high quality	Upgrade existing amenity or new amenity to meet identified needs or gaps	Undertake park design plan	Develop and amenitize site	Create, develop, and amenitize site

Figure ES-5: Recommendations Spectrum

Note: The Recommendation Spectrum is used to frame Park-specific Recommendations for the Community Park, Neighborhood Park, and Undeveloped Park Typologies. It is not applied to School (JUA) or Open Space Typologies.

IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIZATION

Implementation of the PROS Plan will require multiple funding sources over many years. As such, a prioritization approach is crucial to meet the most pressing needs in the Belmont community in an effective and equitable manner. System-wide, Park-specific, and Open Space Recommendations are uniquely prioritized based on the feasibility of implementation and their ability to satisfy the PROS Goals. As circumstances, opportunities, resources, and demands evolve, criteria to prioritize implementation should be re-evaluated periodically, ideally every five years. The following factors were considered while developing the prioritization approach, listed alphabetically:

- Advances diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Aligns with other projects
- Funding availability
- Reduces operating costs or generates revenue
- "Quick win"
- Time-limited opportunity

PARK-SPECIFIC PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS

As funding to further develop PROS sites is limited and competitive, a Prioritization Matrix was developed to guide the implementation of Park-specific Recommendations as funds become available. Park-specific Recommendations were assigned point values for each of the four criteria, informed by the factors listed above. The point criteria categories, listed below, reflect the ability of the proposed project to:

- Further PROS Plan goals
- Respond to community priorities
- Resolve an existing deficiency
- Address an existing condition

For each PROS site, the total points were summed, averaged, and ranked to highlight which PROS sites have the highest potential to positively impact the community as a result of the proposed site-specific improvements. This prioritization approach intends to focus the City's efforts when determining which PROS sites to improve first but is not an absolute directive for the sequencing of development.

OVERALL PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS

SITE *	AVG POINTS	SITE RANK
Ralston Ave + Old County Road *	21.9	1
Oak Knoll Drive	18.8	2
Ralston Ranch Park	18.0	3
Alameda de las Pulgas	17.4	4
Alexander Park	14.5	5
O'Donnell Park	12.2	6
Hidden Canyon Park	12.0	7
Belameda Park	11.5	8
Twin Pines Park	11.4	9
Barrett Community Center	10.9	10
McDougal Park	10.9	
Cipriani Park	10.4	11
Hallmark Park	10.4	
Wakefield Park	10.4	
Hastings Tot Lot Park	10.2	12
Central Elementary School	10.0	13
Patricia Wharton Park	10.0	
College View Park	9.9	14
Belmont Sports Complex	9.4	15
Fox Elementary School	9.0	16
Nesbit School	9.0	
Ralston Middle School	9.0	
Davey Glen Park	8.0	17
Semeria Park	7.8	18

** Recommendations for this site may be temporary. The City is evaluating all development options.*
Note: Open Spaces are not included in rankings.
Note: Several parks are tied for the same rank. The tied parks are listed in alphabetical order.

Table ES-2: Overall Prioritization Rankings

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan provides an implementation pathway for the realization of the PROS Plan by organizing next steps into three time frames: short term, long term, and ongoing. This tool is informed by partnership opportunities and overall priorities, and is intended to highlight projects that resolve deficiencies or repair unsafe conditions so that they are implemented sooner than other less impactful improvements.

OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES

There are seven priorities for open space improvements. These actions were selected in consideration of their implementation feasibility as well as their urgency in relation to conservation laws, wildfire safety, and visitor experience. The open space priorities are listed below:

- Stream crossing improvements
- Seasonal and weather dependent restrictions on maintenance activities
- Monitor use and survey visitors during e-bike pilot
- ADA-compliant trails
- Fuels reduction plan
- Volunteer restoration programs
- Nature-based recreation programs
- Trail calming features



Volunteers Working to Improve PROS Sites

FUNDING STRATEGIES

The PROS Plan identifies several sources of funding to implement the proposed improvements. These sources include the City's General Fund, revenue from the Parks and Recreation Department, Park Development Impact Fees, assessments, and bonds. This document also discusses alternative funding sources such as competitive grant programs, corporate and non-profit philanthropy, and universities that support Belmont's PROS system. The City will utilize a portfolio of funding strategies for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships between City departments, school districts, parks and recreation foundations, local volunteer groups, and service organizations will be instrumental in the realization of the PROS Plan.

Learn more about Implementation of the PROS Plan in Chapter 9.



Twin Pines Park

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PART 1.

WHERE WE ARE

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 2 CONTEXT

CHAPTER 3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

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PART 1.
WHERE WE ARE

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This plan serves as a road map for the future of the City's outdoor amenities and recreational programming. The plan evaluates the City's existing parks and open spaces using environmental and benchmark assessments, extensive community engagement, and recreational trend analysis to develop recommendations for improvement. It aims to inspire creative design and use of old and new spaces, honor the natural environment that makes Belmont unique, and provide enjoyable and safe recreational opportunities for all.

PURPOSE

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) is a strategic, forward-looking document. It studies the existing park system, outdoor recreation facilities and programming, and open spaces to identify a decision-making framework to plan, maintain, develop, and rehabilitate Belmont's parks, recreation, and open space system (PROS system) for the next 15 years.

VISION

The Belmont community recognizes the essential role that a well-designed PROS system plays in both individual and community health. The community engagement process revealed that Belmont residents are proud of their parks and open spaces and the recreation opportunities they provide. Be it a baseball game at Belmont Sports Complex, a basketball game at O'Donnell Park, climbing the playground at Semeria Park, attending an outdoor movie at Twin Pines Park, or exploring Waterdog Lake, Belmont's PROS system is intrinsically linked to the community's identity and social cohesion.

The National Recreation and Park Association found that in 2019, parks and recreation agencies generated $218 billion in economic activity nationwide, with California benefiting from $23 billion of the total. Statewide, parks and recreation agencies are significant employers. Park operations and capital spending positively influence the local economy, and Belmont is no exception.

The PROS Plan complements the goals and strategies of key planning documents such as the 2035 General Plan. Thoughtful management of the PROS system carries the responsibility of addressing climate resiliency and furthering active transportation strategies, as outlined in the City's Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. Together, the City's planning documents identify innovative solutions and look proudly towards the future of Belmont.

PURPOSE

SET THE **FRAMEWORK** FOR DECISION MAKERS IN THE **PLANNING, MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT,** AND/OR **REHABILITATION** OF BELMONT'S **PARKS, RECREATION, + OPEN SPACE SYSTEM** FOR A 15 YEAR HORIZON.

VISION

RE-IMAGINE THE BELMONT PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) SYSTEM TO **CREATE THE CITY'S BACKYARD** THAT FOSTERS **INCLUSIVE, EXPERIENTIAL, AND NURTURING PUBLIC SPACES** BY SETTING THE **FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKERS** IN THE PLANNING, MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT, AND/OR REHABILITATION, IMPLEMENTABLE OVER A **15 YEAR HORIZON**.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
2. Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
3. Make all users feel **welcome and safe**
4. Offer services and activities across a **range of interests, abilities, and ages**
5. Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience and sustainability**
6. Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
7. Advance community **health and well-being**
8. Foster a sense of community and encourage **social interaction**
9. Provide **well-maintained** and actively managed facilities
10. **Adapt** to changing conditions and needs
11. Utilize a **transparent community process** to inform decisions

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process undertaken for this PROS Plan is similar to many strategic planning processes:

- Define the scope of work and prepare a demographic analysis
- Perform a needs assessment to identify goals and recommendations
- Structure an implementation plan

The PROS Plan provides a clear path to accomplishing the community's vision through achievable steps in both the short term and long term, maximizing the sustainability and accessibility of the PROS system. It sets forth a framework that will guide the City as new opportunities arise and the needs of the diverse community evolve over time. For this study, Belmont's geography and demography were contextualized, previous planning documents were reviewed, existing conditions of the PROS system were evaluated; the need for new, expanded, or renovated PROS sites was assessed; the community was surveyed; and an implementation strategy was established (Figure 1-1).

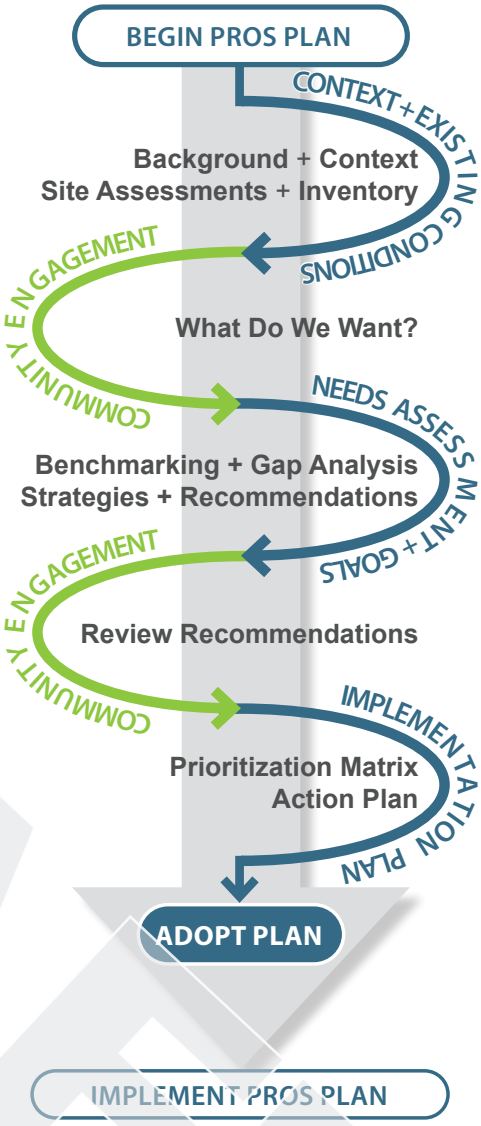


Figure 1-1: Planning Process

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DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The PROS Plan is organized into three parts, each containing three chapters.

PART 1. WHERE WE ARE

This section provides context for the PROS Plan and summarizes the current conditions of the existing parks and open spaces. It serves as the foundation that the rest of the PROS Plan is built upon.

Chapter 1. **Introduction**
This chapter gives a brief overview of the purpose and value of the PROS Plan and its planning process.

Chapter 2. **Context**
This chapter provides contextual information such as community demographics and a discussion of existing planning documents.

Chapter 3. **Existing Conditions**
This chapter documents existing PROS sites, assessed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

PART 2. WHERE WE WANT TO GO

This section identifies the desired changes to the PROS system, supported by data from community feedback and extensive research.

Chapter 4. **Community Input**
This chapter outlines the community outreach efforts and the collective themes that emerged.

Chapter 5. **Needs Assessment**
This chapter documents parks and recreation service levels in comparable cities, identifies national and local recreation trends, and outlines standard amenity ratios.

Chapter 6. **Goals**
This chapter summarizes what the community desires for their PROS system and serves as the foundation for the recommendations presented in this plan.

PART 3. HOW WE GET THERE

This section looks to the future and explores the collective community vision. It presents the strategies and recommendations to further the PROS Goals and provides an implementation pathway to Build our Backyard.

Chapter 7. **Strategies**
This chapter outlines the strategic approach to realizing the vision of the PROS Plan.

Chapter 8. **Recommendations**
This chapter presents system-wide and park-specific recommendations, identifies opportunities for new parks, and describes methods to steward Belmont's treasured open spaces.

Chapter 9. **Implementation**
This chapter outlines the prioritization approach that drives the improvement, repair, and maintenance schedules for each park. It discusses potential funding strategies and partnerships for the implementation of the PROS Plan.

APPENDICES

The appendices are provided under a separate cover and include supporting data, relevant studies, and correspondence for the PROS Plan.



PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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PART 1.
WHERE WE ARE

CHAPTER 2
CONTEXT

The City's vision statement captures Belmont's distinctive community character:

- Belmont prides itself on being **unique**
- Its small-town ambiance sets it apart as a **tranquil, safe, and desirable place** to live
- We get involved in town matters because **we care** about living here
- We **connect with each other** in all kinds of gathering places
- Our **strong sense of community** and enjoyment of the town's assets and activities deepen as we become better informed and connected



Source: 2035 General Plan

Figure 2-1: Regional Location Map

THE CITY OF BELMONT

SETTING

The City of Belmont incorporated in 1926. Located midway between San Francisco and San Jose on the San Francisco peninsula, the city covers just over 4.6 square miles in Northern California (Figure 2-1). Belmont is known for its wooded hills, spectacular views of the Bay, and acres of open space. It spans from Redwood Shores and the marshlands near the Bay's edge to the east to Crystal Springs Reservoir and the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west. The topography rises from sea level in the eastern areas to over 800 feet in the western hills.

Belmont is bisected north/south by Highway 101, El Camino Real (State Route 82), Caltrain railroad tracks, and Alameda de las Pulgas. The main transportation artery running east/west is Ralston Avenue.

Belmont offers 409 acres of parks and open space—totaling almost 14 percent of the city's geographical land area. There are 15 developed parks, 2 existing but undeveloped park sites, 4 school sites under a joint-use agreement (JUA), and 2 areas of dedicated open space. Park sites range in size from approximately 0.1 acres to over 19 acres. The open space areas range from 35 acres to over 280 acres.



Views from Belmont

DEMOGRAPHICS

The City's previous PROS Plan was completed over 30 years ago. Since then, the City has transformed in many ways. The four recent decennial censuses show that Belmont is diversifying, aging, and densifying (Table 2-1 and Figure 2-2).

POPULATION

While Belmont's population has remained relatively stable over the last 30 years, increasing less than 10 percent from 1990 to 2020, its demographics have changed. Belmont now includes a greater proportion of Asian and Pacific Islander populations than in 1990, and more residents identify with two or more races. As of 2020, 35 percent of households speak a language other than English at home. Belmont is and will continue to be ethnically and culturally diverse.

AGE

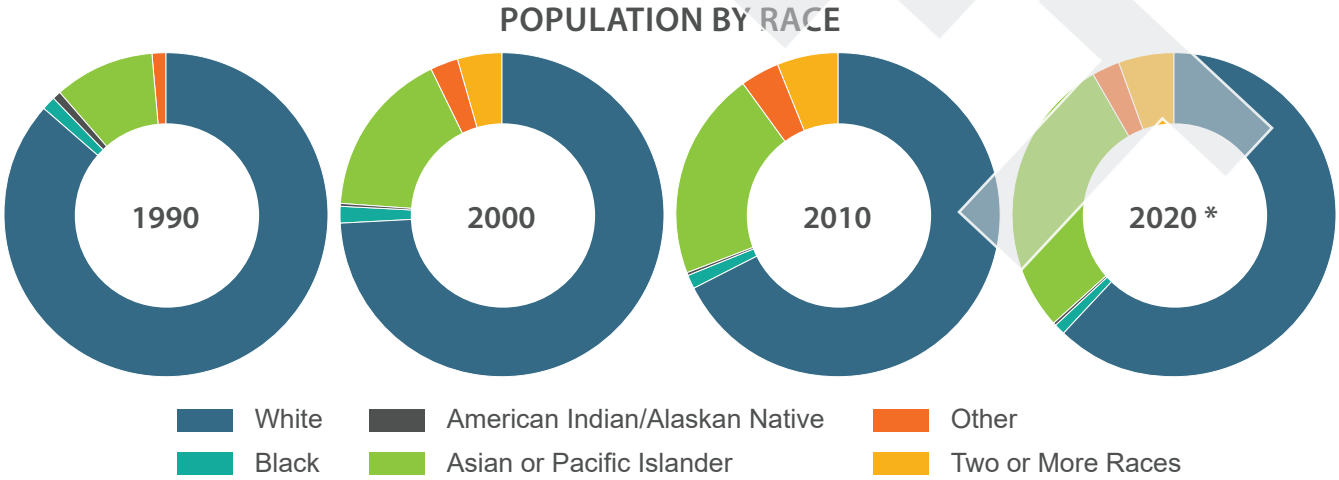
With over 20 percent of the age distribution within Belmont being under 18, and nearly 20 percent of the population being aged 65 and over, considerations for the needs and desires of multiple age groups are important for a well-rounded PROS system now and into the future. The median age increased since 1990, currently at approximately 41 years old.

BELMONT DEMOGRAPHICS
1990 TO 2020

	1990	2000	2010	2020 *
Population	24,127	25,123	25,835	26,470
% under 18	17.7%	19.3%	23.0%	23.0%
% over 65	11.4%	13.2%	16.7%	16.7%
Population Density (per square mile)	5,133.4	5,348.5	5,496.8	5,631.9
Median Age	36.3	38.8	40.9	40.9
Male / Female % of Population	49.2% / 50.8%	49.2% / 50.8%	48.8% / 51.2%	49.7% / 50.3%
Housing Units	10,335	10,577	11,028	11,283
Median Household Income	$50,859	$80,905	$99,913	$156,052
Median House Value (owner-occupied)	$418,021	$593,200	$900,100	$1,527,500

Source: US Census Bureau Census Data for 1990, 2000, 2010. 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. CA Dept of Finance Population Estimates Jan 1, 2020. Full tables are found in the Appendix.
** 2020 values are 2019 ACS estimates.*

Table 2-1: Belmont Demographics, 1990 to 2020



Source: US Census Bureau Census Data for 1990, 2000, 2010. 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. CA Dept of Finance Population Estimates Jan 1, 2020. Full tables are found in the Appendix.
** 2020 values are 2019 ACS estimates.*

Figure 2-2: Demographic Data for Belmont, from 1990 to 2020

POPULATION FORECAST

To align with other planning documents guiding the City, the PROS Plan uses the 2035 forecasted population of 30,500 from the 2035 General Plan (adopted 2017) for all build-out scenarios. State-mandated increases in housing development impact every City on the peninsula, and Belmont is no exception. The City's Housing Element (2023-2031) is under revision to reflect additional housing units, which may have a higher projected population increase than the projections in the 2017 General Plan.

COMPARABLE CITIES

As a method to evaluate Belmont's PROS system, comparable cities were identified based on proximity, similar topography, and commensurate demographics. Burlingame, San Carlos, and Saratoga were chosen as benchmarks because of their similarities to Belmont: geographically (located in the southern Bay Area), topographically (hillsides and Bay edge), climate, population (similar quantity and growth over the last decade), as well as other social factors.

Belmont is the least populous of the comparable cities, although the population difference across all four is within a 15 percentage point range (Table 2-2). The age distributions are relatively similar, hovering at an average of approximately 23 percent under 18 years old and 17 percent over 65 years old. Population density, median household income, and land area are sufficiently comparable to Belmont.

PARKLAND

Public space makes up about 32 percent of Belmont's footprint (Figure 2-3). Of that area, approximately 43 percent is parks and open space. The remaining 57 percent is comprised of streets, sidewalks, and other rights-of-way. Belmont's parkland percentage is approximately 14 percent of its total land area, just below the national median of 15 percent.

The City provides 409 acres of parks and open space (Table 2-3). Of this, 91.5 acres (22 percent) are parks or school athletic fields with JUAs for public access and 317.5 acres (78 percent) are open space. The 91.5 acres of parkland consist of Community Parks (50 percent), Neighborhood Parks (developed and undeveloped, 25 percent) and athletic fields at local schools (25 percent).

The General Plan establishes the goal of 5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents (Policy 4.1-2), specifically 2 acres of neighborhood parkland and 3 acres of community parkland. Currently, Belmont provides 3.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This includes 0.9 acres of neighborhood parkland and 1.7 acres of community parkland. However, the General Plan does not consider open space in the calculation of parkland per 1,000 residents. Currently, Belmont provides 12 acres of open space per 1,000 residents, for a total of 15.5 acres of park and open space land per 1,000 residents (Table 2-3).

DEMOGRAPHICS
BELMONT AND COMPARABLE CITIES

	BELMONT	BURLINGAME	SAN CARLOS	SARATOGA
Population	26,470	29,746	29,814	30,546
% under 18	23.0%	23.6%	24.8%	20.6%
% over 65	16.7%	14.4%	15.6%	23.1%
Median Household Income	$156,062	$128,447	$182,083	$191,677
Land Area (square miles)	4.62	4.41	5.54	12.38
Population Density (Square Mile)	5,590.2	6,538.1	5,129.3	2,416.9

Source: 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. CA Dept of Finance Population Estimates for Jan 1, 2021

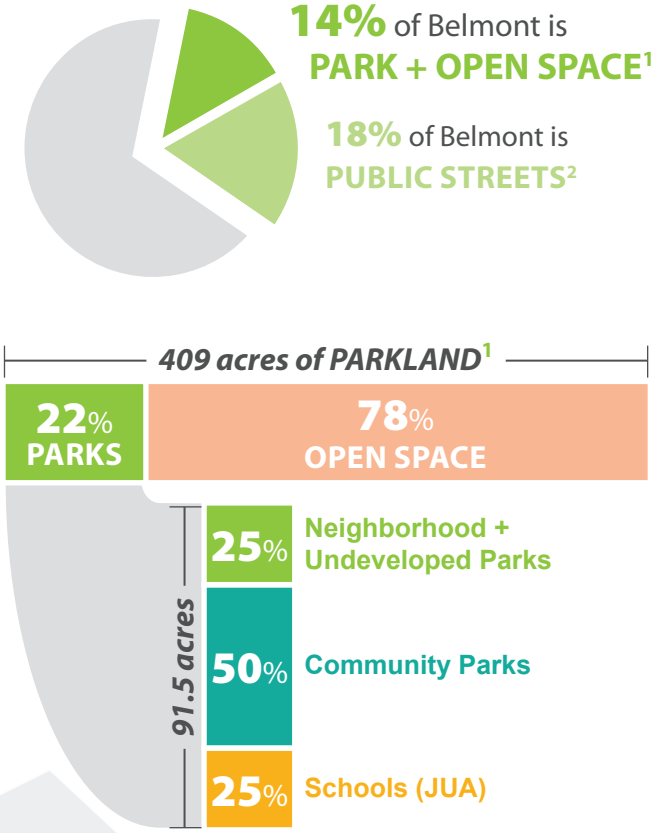
Table 2-2: Demographics, Belmont and Comparable Cities

Belmont provides more park acreage and open space acreage than any of the comparable cities (Table 2-4). The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Pacific Southwest region, which includes Northern California, has a median of provided parkland (excluding open space) of 3.9 acres per 1,000 residents. Nationally, the average provided parkland is 10.6 acres per 1,000 residents for jurisdictions of a similar size as Belmont (20,000 to 49,999 population).

PARKLAND ACREAGE			
	ACRE	% OF TOTAL ACREAGE	ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
PARK	68.1	16%	2.6
SCHOOL	23.4	6%	0.9
OPEN SPACE	317.5	78%	12.0
TOTAL	409.0	100%	15.5

Source: Parks and Recreation Department, 2035 General Plan

Table 2-3: Parkland Acreage



1 Calculated from Parks and Recreation Department data
2 General Plan (2017)

Figure 2-3: Belmont Parkland Distribution

PARKS + OPEN SPACE BELMONT AND COMPARABLE CITIES				
	BELMONT	BURLINGAME	SAN CARLOS	SARATOGA
PARKS				
Quantity (developed)	15	15	14	14
Acres	68.1	93.6	68.1	71.0
Acres per 1,000 residents	2.6	3.1	2.3	2.3
SCHOOLS AND PARKS				
Acres	91.5	93.6	90.4	71.0
Acres per 1,000 residents	3.5	3.1	3.0	2.3
OPEN SPACE				
Acres	317.5	37.8	73.6	74.8
Acres per 1,000 residents	12.0	1.3	2.4	2.4
PARKS, SCHOOLS, + OPEN SPACE				
Acres per 1,000 residents	15.5	4.4	5.4	4.7

Source: CA Dept of Finance Population Estimates for January 1, 2020

Table 2-4: Parks + Open Space, Belmont and Comparable Cities

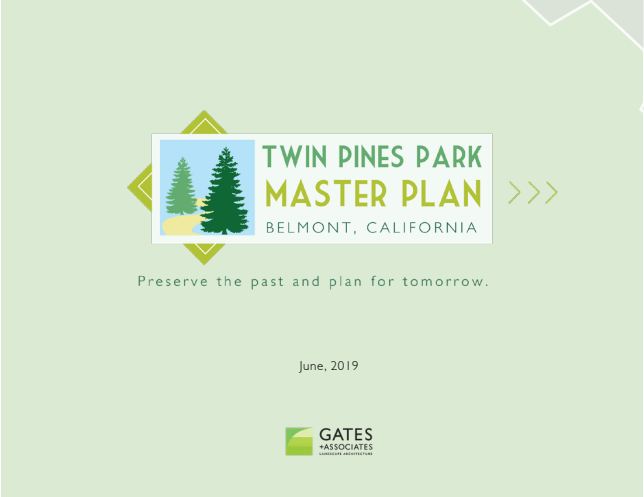
PLANNING CONTEXT

This PROS Plan is a forward-looking document to prepare Belmont's PROS system for future needs. Where appropriate, it references the following current and historical planning documents:

- 2035 General Plan (2017)
- Strategic Plan (2020, updated 2023)
- Public Art Master Plan (2020)
- Green Infrastructure Plan (2019)
- ADA Transition Plan (2018)
- Belmont Village Specific Plan (2017)
- Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan (2016)
- Complete Streets Policy (2013)
- Athletic Field Master Plan (2001)
- Open Space Trail Master Plan (1998)
- Parks and Open Space Master Plan (1992)
- Western Hills Area Plan (1990)
- San Juan Hills Area Plan (1988)

Two recent master plans are incorporated into this plan:

- Twin Pines Park Master Plan (2019)
- Belmont Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)



Twin Pines Master Plan (2019)

2035 GENERAL PLAN

The City adopted the 2035 General Plan in 2017. The Vision Statement of the General Plan has five components:

- Distinctive Community Character
- Easy Mobility
- Natural Beauty
- Thriving Culture
- Thriving Economy

The PROS Plan builds upon the following key strategies from the General Plan:

- **Preserve Existing Neighborhoods and High Quality of Life:** Ample parks and open space for residents.
- **Continue Commitment to Parks, Recreation, and Open Space:** Continued preservation of the natural open spaces and enhanced recreational facilities.

The system of park classification from the General Plan was used as the foundation for the Park Typologies and associated Standard Baseline Amenities used in the PROS Plan. The General Plan defines and classifies each park as a Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, School Park, or Special Facility.

An implementation priority of the General Plan, approved in 2017, is an update to the 1992 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The General Plan acknowledged that the 1992 document was outdated and no longer guiding the City's parks and recreation efforts. In response, the City developed this PROS Plan to continue to look forward and build a better Belmont. This plan fulfills a General Plan priority.

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element and Conservation Element of the General Plan outline goals, policies, and actions to guides the City into the future that support efforts of the PROS Plan.

Parks and Recreation Goal 4.1
Provide an expanded, high quality, and diversified park system that serves the entire Belmont community, enhances community identity, and is conveniently located for community use.

- Policy 4.1-1: Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to define the vision, goals, and strategies for maintaining and improving Belmont's park system and guide to implementation efforts.
- Policy 4.1-2: Strive to achieve and maintain a citywide standard of at least 5.0 acres of mini, neighborhood, and community parks per 1,000 residents, targeting a breakdown of 3.0 acres/1,000 residents for community parks and 2.0 acres/1,000 residents for neighborhood parks.

Parks and Recreation Goal 4.2
Ensure that a wide variety of public community and recreation facilities are available to the entire Belmont community for recreational, social, and cultural activities.

- Policy 4.2-1: Review and update the types, amounts, and locations of community and recreational facilities as part of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.
- Policy 4.2-2: Building on the needs assessment, improve the quality and quantity of public community facilities in Belmont.
- Policy 4.2-3: Continue joint use agreements with other agencies, institutions, and private organizations for public use of recreational facilities not owned by the City, especially in neighborhoods deficient in recreational facilities, if the joint use agreements can help meet the city's recreational needs and if the terms are favorable to the City.

Parks and Recreation Goal 4.3
Improve the quantity and quality of recreational programming and services to provide varied recreational opportunities for the entire Belmont community.

Open Space Goal 4.4
Continue to develop and support a balanced and integrated open space system reflecting a variety of considerations, including natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and public health and safety, to ensure synergies between various open space components and compatibility with land use planning.

- Policy 4.4-1: Continue to designate and protect open space lands for the preservation of scenic areas, natural drainage ways, and plant and wildlife habitats; for outdoor recreation; and for public health and safety.
- Policy 4.4-2: Maintain connectivity between large open spaces in Belmont and the region, including Waterdog Lake area, San Juan Hills area, Sugarloaf Mountain, and the open space in the San Francisco Public Utility District's Crystal Springs watershed.
- Policy 4.4-3: Consistent with the San Juan Hills and Western Hills area plans, cluster development in the hillside areas of western Belmont in order to maintain contiguous habitat areas, minimize grading, and limit exposure to steep slopes and other sensitive areas.
- Policy 4.4-4: Maintain and enhance trails in open spaces in Belmont. Continue to support opportunities for shared use of trails among multiple users, including pedestrians and mountain bicyclists. Promote knowledge, trail etiquette, and consideration of multiple users on trails through education programs and signage.
- Policy 4.4-5: Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to establish priorities for the protection, enhancement, and improvement of open space lands and trails for recreational purposes.
- Policy 4.4-6: Develop programs to control invasive plant species that threaten the natural resources.
- Policy 4.4-7: Continue programs to reduce the fire danger in the open space.
- Policy 4.4-8: Develop interpretive programs to help engender appreciation for the open space resources in Belmont.

Open Space Goal 4.5
Preserve and protect open space resources using various methods available to the City.

- Policy 4.5-1: Consider open space dedication or acquisition of fee title land to ensure long-term preservation and protection only if public liability exposure can be acceptably limited to the extent feasible.
- Policy 4.5-2: Protect Belmont Creek from future encroachment through regulation, development review, conservation easements, or other appropriate actions.
- Policy 4.5-3: Continue to prohibit off-road motorized vehicle use in open space areas to prevent damage to the environment.
- Policy 4.5-4: Seek to preserve the existing open space areas in the San Juan Hills and Western Hills, consistent with the Area Plans, especially on steep hillsides and sensitive habitat areas.

Open Space Goal 4.6
Improve and increase public access into open space areas where feasible and safe.

- Policy 4.6-1: Maintain and improve access to parks and open space, especially in areas that lack land for additional parkland dedication and in areas where topography and lack of sidewalks inhibits easy pedestrian access to parks and recreational facilities.
- Policy 4.6-2: Improve public access and connections to Belmont Creek. Promote use of this waterway corridor for passive recreation, education, and research.
- Policy 4.6-3: In multimodal transportation planning efforts, such as corridor studies and active transportation plans, ensure that parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces are considered key destinations for linkages to the bicycle and pedestrian networks.

Support for Parks, Recreation and Open Space Goal 4.7
Pursue sufficient and dedicated funding for acquisition, operations, protection, maintenance, and management of parks, recreation facilities, and natural open spaces and to meet the recreational programming and service needs of the Belmont Community.

- Policy 4.7-1: Ensure that residential and nonresidential development projects contribute to the City's park, recreation, and open space resources commensurate with their impacts, through the Quimby Act and establishment and collection of park impact fees.
- Policy 4.7-2: Continue to work with local, regional, and State agencies, nonprofit and community organizations, foundations, and grant sources to provide funding for Belmont;s open space, parks, and recreation and assistance with maintenance and programming.
- Policy 4.7-3: Support, where appropriate and feasible, partnerships with private businesses to conduct limited operations in park and recreation facilities (e.g. a concessions stand) to generate a revenue stream that may contribute to operations and maintenance costs.
- Policy 4.7-4: Encourage community involvement in the stewardship of Belmont's natural resources, including public and private work programs and special events to maintain open space lands.

The Conservation Element of the General Plan outlines goals, policies, and actions to guides the City into the future that support efforts of the PROS Plan.

DRAFT

Conservation Goal 5.1

Protect and maintain open space for the preservation of natural resources.

- Policy 5.1-1: Ensure that any improvements recommended for open space areas are appropriate for the type of open space and the use proposed.
- Policy 5.1-2: In portions of Belmont that include significant open space resources, use area plans to address the balance and interface between natural and developed areas.
- Policy 5.1-3: Reduce risk of wildland fire, ecological succession, and pathogen threats (such as Sudden Oak Death) through active maintenance of public spaces and education and enforcement of development standards on private property.
- Policy 5.1-4: Ensure that future acquisitions of open space land are compatible with the City's open space strategy and long-term interests.

Conservation Goal 5.2

Protect and preserve open space for public health, safety and recreation in areas that require special management for regulation.

- Policy 5.2-1: Encourage the retention of areas that are hazardous to public safety and welfare as undeveloped open space, including steep hillsides unsuitable for development as identified in area plans and other detailed geotechnical studies; hydrological areas of concern; areas of geological instability; and appropriate setback areas on either side of known active fault traces. See also discussion and policies in the Safety Element.
- Policy 5.2-2: Involve the public in stewardship of Belmont's open space resources.

Conservation Goal 5.3

Protect and restore biological and ecological resources in Belmont, including sensitive wildlife species and their habitats.

- Policy 5.3-1: Support the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of habitats of State or federally listed rare, threatened, endangered and/or other sensitive and special status species, and favor enhancement of contiguous areas over small, segmented remainder parcels.
- Policy 5.3-2: Continue to maintain, protect, restore, and enhance Belmont's ecologically important areas and seek to reduce impacts on them, including the creek corridors, the open space, and the wetlands around O'Neill Slough.
- Policy 5.3-3: To the greatest extent feasible, ensure that development does not disturb sensitive habitat and special status species by requiring appropriate and feasible mitigation measures.
- Policy 5.3-4: Maintain functional wildlife corridors and habitat linkage in order to contribute to regional biodiversity and the viability of rare, unique or sensitive biological resources throughout the city and region.
- Policy 5.3-5: In design and construction, require use of best practices that preserve natural resources, such as soil, trees, native plants, and permeable surfaces.
- Policy 5.3-6: Avoid light pollution and unnecessary glare by requiring development projects to use design features and shielding methods that cast outdoor light downward and minimize glare and to install the minimum amount of outdoor lighting necessary for safety and security.
- Policy 5.3-7: Encourage the planting of native trees, shrubs, and grasslands in order to preserve the visual integrity of the landscape, provide habitat conditions suitable for native vegetation, and ensure the maximum number and variety of well-adapted plants are maintained.
- Policy 5.3-8: Use native or drought-resistant vegetation in landscaping on City-owned property, and encourage private property owners to use native or drought-resistant vegetation in landscaping on private property.
- Policy 5.3-9: Promote the healthy growth of trees and control the removal of trees within the city.
- Policy 5.3-10: Allow neighborhood community gardens as a permitted use in all residential zoning districts.

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Conservation Goal 5.4

Preserve and restore Belmont's waterways and adjacent corridors as valuable community resources that serve as plant and wildlife habitats, groundwater recharge facilities, flood control and irrigation components, and connections between open space areas.

- Policy 5.4-1: Restore Belmont Creek to enhance ecological functions, biological resources, hydrology function, and flood control.
- Policy 5.4-2: Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses or provide naturalized drainage channels within the city. Where necessary and feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation measures.
- Policy 5.4-3: Protect, restore, and enhance a continuous corridor of native riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat along Belmont's waterways, water bodies, and wetlands.
- Policy 5.4-4: Preserve and enhance the natural riparian environment along waterway corridors, including Belmont Creek, by minimizing environmental and visual impacts. See also Policy 4.5-2 in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element.



Belmont Open Space Inhabitant

Conservation Goal 5.5

Preserve water quality by promoting the protection of Belmont's creeks and other natural water bodies from pollution.

- Policy 5.5-1: Continue to participate in the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program.
- Policy 5.5-2: Encourage residents and businesses to use best management practices (BMPs) to reduce water pollutant loads that result from daily activities, such as using landscaping chemicals and fertilizers and repairing and washing cars outdoors.
- Policy 5.5-3: Require development projects to incorporate structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate or reduce the projected increases in pollutant loads, in accordance with the NPDES permit guidelines.
- Policy 5.5-4: Ensure that the design and construction of new infrastructure elements does not contribute to stream bank or hillside erosion or creek or wetland siltation, and incorporates site design and source control BMPs, construction phase BMPs, and treatment control BMPs to minimize impacts to water quality.
- Policy 5.5-5: Implement water pollution prevention methods to the maximum extent practicable, supplemented by pollutant source controls and treatment.

Conservation Goal 5.12

Preserve and protect areas and sites of prehistoric, cultural, and archaeological significance.

- Policy 5.12-1: Ensure that development avoids potential impacts to sites suspected of being archaeologically, paleontologically, or culturally significant, tribal or otherwise, or of concern by requiring appropriate and feasible mitigation.
- Policy 5.12-2: If cultural, archaeological, paleontological, or cultural resources, tribal or otherwise, are discovered during construction, grading activity in the immediate area shall cease and materials and their surroundings shall not be altered or collected until evaluation by a qualified professional is completed.

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STRATEGIC PLAN

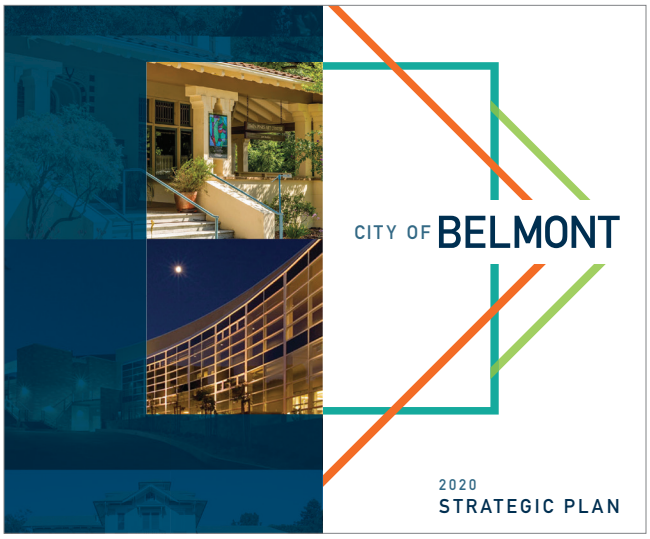
The Strategic Plan (2020) is a robust planning document that builds a unified vision for the future of Belmont's resources. Updated in 2023, this document presents five Strategic Focus Areas (SFA):

- Infrastructure and Mobility
- Economic Development and Housing
- Fiscal and Organization Sustainability
- Public Safety
- Quality of Life

The Infrastructure and Mobility SFA includes an objective to "improve parks and facilities" which identifies improvements to the Belmont Community Center, improvements to athletic fields, and an assessment of facility needs.

The Quality of Life SFA includes an objective to "improve parks and recreation programs and facilities," which identifies completion of the Barrett Community Center Master Plan, completion of this PROS Plan, and delivering an accessible, inclusive, age-friendly services, programs, and facilities.

The Public Safety SFA includes an objective to align forward-thinking public safety services with community need, which includes ensuring public safety with police and fire to leverage technology and innovation to protect the community against risks and threats.



Strategic Plan (2020, updated 2023)

PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

In 2017, the City undertook a placemaking effort that culminated in the adoption of the Public Art Master Plan (2020). This plan developed nine recommendations to guide public art implementation in Belmont; relevant recommendations are listed below.

Program Recommendation #1: Build upon Belmont's tradition of community engagement to expand citywide arts opportunities.

- Short-term: Create temporary artwork with the theme "environment" at Twin Pines Park and other locations.
- Mid-term: Create a permanent pop-up park space on the corner of Ralston Avenue and Old County Road or adjacent to City Hall on Sixth Street plaza.

Program Recommendation #4: Commission art that helps define city gateways and enhances neighborhood character.

- Short-term: Install an iconic gateway at Ralston Ave and Old County Road.

Program Recommendation #5: Encourage changing artwork displays and place them in both busy and unexpected places.

- Short-term: Install temporary artwork at Twin Pines Park and other locations.

Program Recommendation #7: Integrate art into new City capital construction projects.

- Mid-term: Include an artist in the design team for the Belmont Community Center.

Program Recommendation #9: Commission artwork that enhances people's experience of nature.

- Short term: Develop artwork for Twin Pines.
- Mid-term: Develop artwork for Waterdog Lake.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Green infrastructure is stormwater infrastructure that uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage water and create healthier urban environments. Green infrastructure consists of natural and landscaped areas that provide habitat, flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water.

Belmont's Green Infrastructure Plan (2019) advances goals and guidelines from the General Plan, demonstrates intention to shift away from the existing gray storm drain infrastructure; supports achievement of County and regional goals; coordinate plans, policies, codes, standards, and ordinances; provides design guidance; a basis for coordination and collaboration among projects at the City, County, and regional scale; and raise public awareness. The plan identifies potential green infrastructure projects, many of which are within park sites or at schools. Barrett Community Center, McDougal Park, Twin Pines Park, and O'Donnell Park were identified as locations for potential projects of high importance. Incorporating green infrastructure in all park redesigns will benefit the Belmont community now and into the future.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN

The ADA Transition Plan (2018) includes an ADA Self-Evaluation Report of City services, policies, and practices. The Evaluation Report included an evaluation of all PROS sites and public right-of-way including sidewalks, curb ramps, and pedestrian signals. The report documented accessibility barriers to the City's programs, services, facilities, and activities, and outlines a transition from a state of non-compliance to compliance.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

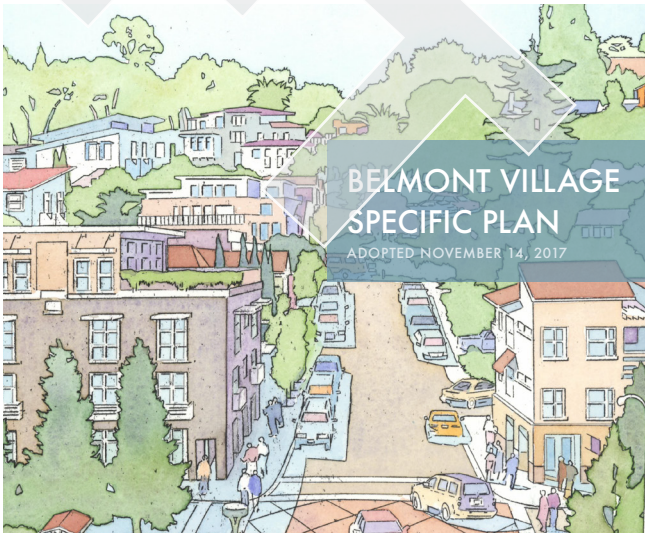
The Climate Action Plan (2017) offers pathways for residential energy efficiency. It recommends smart development patterns and vibrant complete neighborhoods that allow residents to travel safely and effectively via foot, bicycle, or public transportation. The proposed Climate Action Strategies and their respective measures focus on energy, transportation and land use, solid waste, and climate adaption solutions.

BELMONT VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN

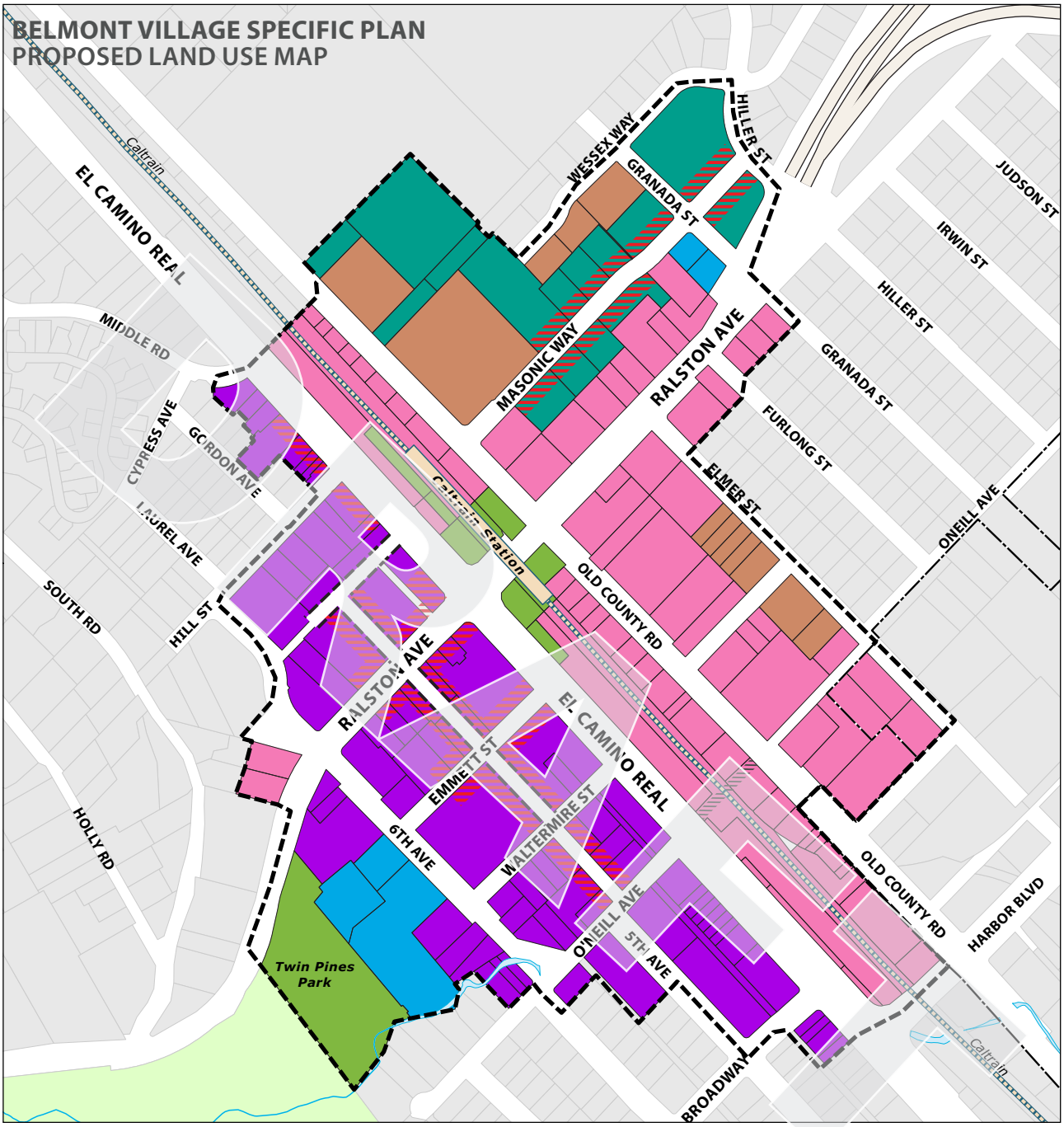
The Belmont Village Specific Plan (2017) covers Belmont's downtown area, approximately 80 acres in size (Figure 2-5). The area is designated a Priority Development Area (an area identified for future growth) by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments, and is expected increase in density through development of multi-family housing. The planning area includes the Ralston Avenue and Old County Road intersection, and the eastern portion of Twin Pines Park.

The plan's vision is to "realize Belmont Village's potential as the city's center of civic life with a unique sense of place. Create an attractive, vibrant, mixed use town center for Belmont, offering shopping, restaurants, entertainment, employment, and residential users in a compact, pedestrian-oriented setting. Enhance pedestrian and bicycle connections so that residents, visitors, and workers can walk, bike, and take transit. Design streets and public spaces to create a lively and attractive public realm with a distinctive identity."

Of particular importance to the PROS Plan are the public realm areas identified in the build-out scheme. The proposed land use near the Caltrain station, on City-owned land at the intersection of Ralston Avenue and Old County Road, is public Park/Plaza. Additionally, conceptual public areas are identified on privately-owned parcels as urban design community benefits.



Belmont Village Specific Plan (2017)



Source: Belmont Village Specific Plan (2017)

Figure 2-4: Belmont Village Specific Plan Proposed Land Use Map

PEDESTRIAN + BICYCLE PLAN

The Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan (2016) outlines goals and objectives that support a safe and connected active transportation network across Belmont.

- **Goal 1.** Create a safe and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment that will encourage people of all ages to bike or walk.
- **Goal 2.** Increase the rate of walking and bicycling in Belmont.
- **Goal 3.** Promote multimodal transportation infrastructure that accommodates all users.
- **Goal 4.** Support adopted citywide, regional, and State goals related to the provision of complete streets.
- **Goal 5.** Provide a continuous network of pedestrian facilities that connects neighborhoods with key destinations and transit stops.
- **Goal 6.** Support the development of a citywide bicycle network.

The plan outlines measurable objectives, of which four of the seven directly relate to the PROS system.

- **Objective 2.** Reduce pedestrian network gaps by providing continuous sidewalks on 1) at least one side of most arterial and collector streets by 2030; and 2) at least one side of local streets that provide access to schools, parks, employment locations, and transit stops by 2030.
- **Objective 3.** Provide bicycle facilities on most segments of Belmont's 21-mile network of arterial and collector streets by 2030, including Class II bicycle lanes on at least half of the City's 11-mile arterial street network.
- **Objective 4.** Provide site-specific pedestrian and bicycle crossing enhancements wherever feasible at locations where pedestrian priority routes and bikeway corridors intersect arterial and collector streets, and at locations where such enhancements would reduce walking distance to adjacent school and transit stops.
- **Objective 5.** Increase the provision of secure bicycle parking, particularly within Downtown, at major parks and civic facilities, and consider updating zoning ordinance parking requirements to include bicycle-parking standards for non-residential development by 2021.

Enhancing access to and between destinations, with an emphasis on connecting downtown areas, schools, neighborhoods, transit hubs, and parks, is the primary focus of the plan. All PROS sites are considered destinations within this framework, and as a result, they are high priorities for multi-modal corridor improvement projects. The plan also focuses on reducing gaps and optimizing linkages to support regional access into and out of Belmont. The plan identifies neighborhoods that are lacking in active transportation infrastructure and proposes an extensive network of interconnected pedestrian and bicycle routes.

The proposed bicycle network connects beyond the city's boundary. Most recommendations are for Class III bike routes across the city. On certain streets, such as Ralston Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas, Class II bike lanes are recommended. For these heavily trafficked and well-connected corridors, transforming on-street parking to active transportation infrastructure is a key recommendation.

The implementation of the recommendations are prioritized based on continuity, condition, and cost and availability of funding. The pedestrian projects focus on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and intersection crossings. Ralston Avenue, El Camino Real, and Alameda de las Pulgas are the top three streets for pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

The City Council adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2013 in support of a comprehensive and integrated transportation network. This includes infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across street for all users. The policy promotes safe, equitable, and convenient travel for all users while preserving flexibility, recognizing community context, and using the latest and best design. This policy directly influenced the General Plan and the Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

ATHLETIC FIELD MASTER PLAN

Recognizing the high-use and limited availability of space to increase the quantity of athletic fields, the City developed the Athletic Field Master Plan in 2001 to improve and maintain the playability of existing fields with significant upgrades. This plan is focused solely on the athletic turf areas and related athletic equipment and infrastructure. The Barrett Community Center, Cipriani Park, and McDougal Park were identified for improvements, as well as Central Elementary School, Fox Elementary School, Nesbit Elementary School, and Ralston Middle School.

PARKS + OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The 1992 Parks and Open Space Master Plan outlined objectives and policies for development of the park system and preservation of open space. The plan set a park acreage goal of 5 acres for every 1,000 residents (2 acres Community Parks and 3 acres for Neighborhood or Mini Parks). Open space is defined in the 1992 plan as areas for passive recreation, education, and aesthetics. Preservation and expansion of open space is highly prioritized in the plan.

The plan's strategies and goals are the same goals furthered by this PROS Plan: improvements and redesigns to existing parks to meet community needs, improvements to joint-use sites, new park development where possible, open space management, and park connections. Similar to the 1992 plan, the PROS Plan aims to develop a high-quality public park system with adequate space and facilities to provide an appropriate mix of recreation activities for the City's residents (Objective 1: Park System Development) and preserve and enhance the existing open space resources of the City (Objective 2: Open Space).

OPEN SPACE TRAIL MASTER PLAN

The Open Space Trail Master Plan was adopted in 1998. It was developed by a citizens committee and identified existing and proposed multi-use and single-use trails, as well as trails to be removed.

WESTERN HILLS AREA PLAN

The City has taken steps in the last 30 years to purchase open space parcels in the Western Hills neighborhood to protect the natural environment for public use. Land use controls limit development due to the natural topography for safety, access, and to protect views. Adopted in 1990, the goals and objectives relevant to the PROS Plan revolve around land use regulations and the preservation of open space.

Land Use Goal: Encourage Open Space Protection

Encourage the preservation of open space in areas of scenic, natural resource, and recreational value, as well as areas that are geologically hazardous or steeply sloped. Assist private landowners in finding ways for them to manage and permanently preserve private open space.

Open Space Areas

- Policy 17. Preserve and maintain existing open space areas.
- Policy 18: Allow the use of open space areas for hiking trails and passive recreation where appropriate. Prohibit off-road motorized vehicles.
- Policy 19: Obtain open space and trail easements in favor of the City of Belmont over privately held open space land when cluster developments are approved.
- Policy 20: Coordinate trails on publicly owned open space with opportunities to expand trails onto large tracts of privately held open space, including a trail connection from Carlmont Drive to Water Dog Lake.

SAN JUAN HILLS AREA PLAN

For over 40 years, the City has recognized the San Juan Hills as a valuable natural feature with stunning views of Belmont and the surrounding area. The City established land use controls in 1988 to protect the natural topography and preserve the open space.

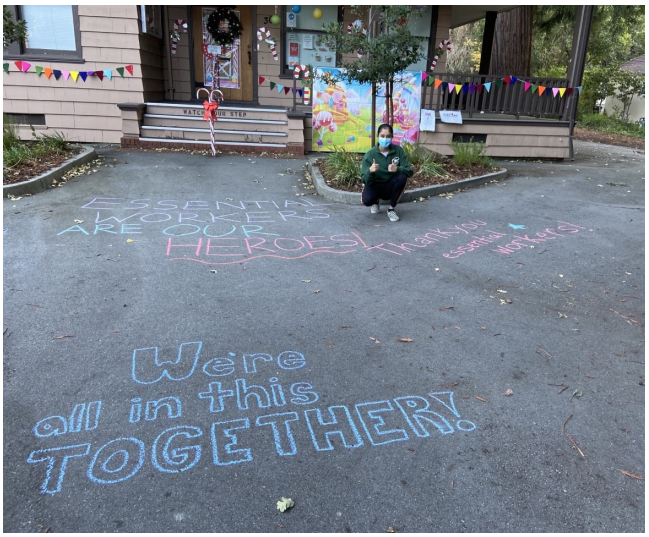
RECREATION TRENDS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic altered public perception of parks and outdoor recreation amenities. Local parks and open spaces offer refuge, respite, and the opportunity to enjoy fresh air and reconnect with nature to improve our physical and mental wellbeing.

Parks and public land saw higher-than-normal usage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both anecdotal and documented evidence has shown increased use of park and recreation resources throughout the San Francisco Bay Area since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, WRA conducted a study in San Mateo County Parks that showed a 40 percent increase in use of Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Parks from 2019 to 2020. Indeed, in 2020, more Americans reported participating in outdoor recreation than ever before (Outdoor Foundation, 2022). However, the Outdoor Foundation found that as many as 25 percent of participants reported that they were unlikely to continue their activities once pandemic impacts subsided. In fact, National Park Service visitation in 2021 was lower compared to the 3 years preceding the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (National Park Service, 2022). Therefore, it is possible that Belmont's open space areas experienced a surge in visitor use during 2020, but that use levels have decreased to pre-pandemic levels in 2022.

The increase in usage prompted a review of distribution disparities, accessible and inclusive spaces, and infrastructure maintenance requirements. Public parks and streetscapes enhance a community's quality of life, and as a result, jurisdictions are expanding parks and recreation opportunities in acknowledgment of their highly-visible role in a diverse and healthy urban realm.



Parks and Recreation Support at Twin Pines Park During COVID-19

CURRENT TRENDS

Recreation trends are explored as an evolving response to community desires and prediction of future needs. In order to plan for the future, recreation trends are utilized in conjunction with community input to inform recommendations, prioritize projects, and ultimately used to guide decisions.

Current and potential future recreation uses of the Belmont open space areas were assessed by examining national, statewide, regional surveys of outdoor recreation participation, as well as results from the community survey for the PROS Plan. Nationally, about 50 percent of people participate in outdoor recreation activities (Outdoor Foundation, 2022). According to the 2012 Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures report, nationally, both how long and how often people spend time outdoors have increased over the previous 15 years (Cordell, 2012). However, the 2012 Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California, suggested that the amount of time California respondents spend in outdoor recreation activities had remained roughly the same over the previous five years (California State Parks, 2014). This same study found that common activities for respondents were walking, hiking, and picnicking.

California State Parks (2014) also found that over 38 percent of San Francisco Bay Area respondents[1] visited parks at least once a week and about 27 percent used trails at least once a week. San Francisco Bay Area respondents also reported that their time spent at parks was increasing. Additionally, the most common activities reported by San Francisco Bay Area respondents were walking, hiking, and picnicking.

A study of visitors to San Mateo County parks found that respondents most often reported walking/hiking and running while much smaller proportions of visitors reported biking (Roberts et al., 2016). Respondents also indicated that they visit the parks to improve their physical fitness, be with family/friends, connect with nature, improve mental wellbeing, dog walking, and to experience scenic views.

PUBLIC HEALTH + WELL-BEING

Parks and open space are important elements to improve physical and mental health by promoting active living, stress reduction, and healthy lifestyles. Accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and associated isolation due to the closures, parks and open spaces are recognized as an outlet for stress relief as well as an outlet for physical activity and relaxation.

RECONNECTING WITH NATURE

The positive physical and mental health benefits of green space are well-documented, as well as the ill effects of a sedentary lifestyle, excessive screen time, and lack of exploratory, unstructured outdoor play. Public health organizations and parks departments are working to reverse these negative impacts.

General recreation trends indicate that photography and nature-based activities are increasing in popularity, replacing more traditional outdoor activities like fishing and hunting (Cordell, 2012). In addition, the Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California found latent demand for some activities where respondents reported that they wanted to start participating or participate more in picnicking and camping activities (California State Parks, 2014). Implications for these trends may include a decrease in fishing in Waterdog Lake and an increase in shoreline picnicking.

A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Parks are social spaces for community building activities and interactions. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily closed places that foster social connections, such as schools and cafes. Parks offer the opportunity for planned and spontaneous social interactions that bolster community cohesion in an outdoor setting.

In addition to social connections, physical connectivity between parks is a priority. Dedicated infrastructure for active transportation modes (such as walking, bicycling, scootering, and skating) boosts community accessibility. Intermodal transportation is increasingly preferred over the private automobile, and the planning of safe and efficient alternative transportation modes to and from public gathering spaces is increasingly important on a local and regional level.

RECLAIMING PUBLIC SPACE

Cities and urban areas have been reallocating public spaces in many ways. These include transitioning of street right-of-way allocation to increase sidewalk widths and incorporate bicycle lanes, adding parklets to expand natural environments in urban environments, and adding outdoor dining experiences, which are even more prevalent in California's moderate climate.



Waterdog Lake Open Space Trail

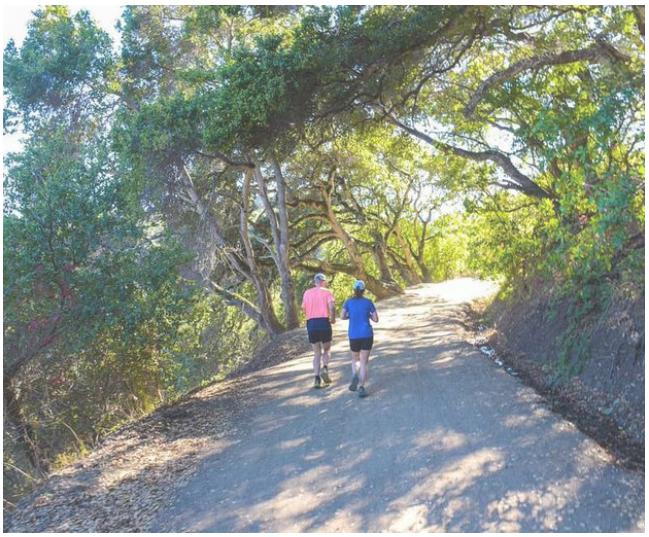
ACTIVE AGING POPULATION

Approximately 40 percent of the current population is either under 18 or over 65 years old and are actively driving outdoor recreation trends. As the average lifespan increases, our population includes multiple generations of older adults seeking leisure activities or multi-generational park amenities and programs. Older adults are also looking for programs and amenities to stay physically active and socially engaged with their community and younger family members, such as hiking and gardening.

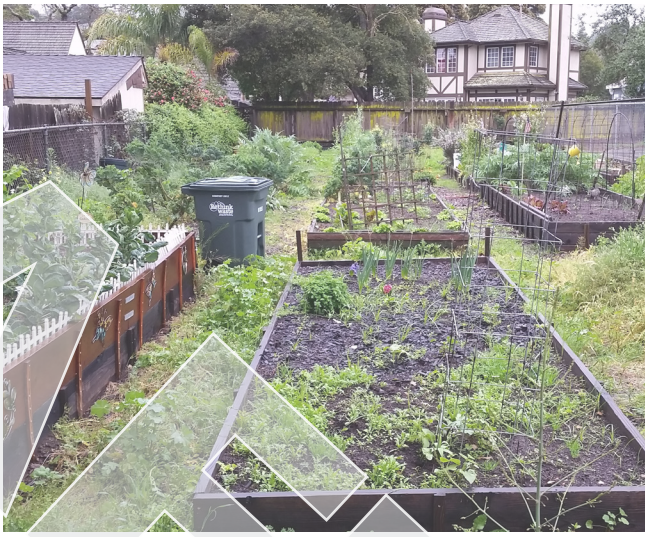
BICYCLES, E-BIKES, + OTHER TRAVEL MODES

In general, cycling participation has been rising in recent years especially in large cities like San Francisco (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, 2022). One likely contributor to cycling participation is the growing use of electric pedal assist bicycles (e-bikes) which have had sales increase nearly 50 percent per year since 2013 (PeopleForBikes, 2017). In addition, e-bike use on trails within parks and protected areas appears to be increasing (PeopleForBikes, 2017). Though mountain biking participation is also increasing nationally (Newcomb, 2020), whether e-bikes are driving this increase is actively being researched (Federal Highway Administration, 2022). According to the 2020 study E-bikes on Public Lands, the majority of e-bike owners who ride on natural surface trails (henceforth: trails) reported owning multiple standard bikes in addition to an e-bike (Perry and Casey, 2020). This finding suggests that existing cyclists are the primary users of e-bikes on trails rather than those who are new to cycling. The implication for this that the number of cyclists on trails may not be increasing dramatically, but rather existing cyclists on trails are switching to e-bikes instead of standard bikes.

Some concerns over the use of e-bikes on trails have been focused on the potential for increased environmental impacts due to e-bikes being heavier, having wider tires, or being able to be ridden further than traditional bikes (Chaney et al., 2019). However, it has been found that e-bikes are essentially equivalent to traditional mountain bikes in terms of trail impact effects (The International Mountain Bicycling Association, 2015). Alternatively, riders of standard mountain bikes



Active Recreation Spaces for All Ages



Community Garden in Belmont



Bikes on Belmont Trails

have historically expressed concerns about visitor conflict and e-bike riders' behavior potentially resulting in getting all bikes banned from trails, but tensions seem to have eased in recent years as general bike restrictions have not come to fruition (Felton, 2015).

In California, e-bikes are not considered motor vehicles and are divided into three classes, where Class 1 e-bikes require pedaling to gain electric assist and have a maximum speed of 20 mph. Class 2 bikes with throttle-controlled motor and Class 3 allow higher speeds, up to 20 mph and 28 mph, respectively. References to e-bikes in this discussion refer solely to Class 1, as agencies that allow e-bikes on trails limit the policy to Class 1. Still, agency policies regulating Class 1 e-bikes on trails vary widely. The National Park Service has adopted the policy that e-bikes are allowed wherever bicycles are allowed (General Provisions; Electric Bicycles, 2020). California State Parks only allows e-bikes on trails in certain park types, i.e. e-bikes are allowed on trails in State Recreation Areas, while e-bikes are not allowed on trails in State Parks (California State Parks, 2021).[2] East Bay Regional Parks District allows e-bikes only on select paved paths (East Bay Regional Parks District, 2019).

More recently, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which does not allow e-bikes on trails, commissioned a set of studies to investigate visitor perceptions and ecological impacts of e-bikes. A report on these studies was submitted to the Board of Directors in March 2022 and recommended that e-bikes be allowed wherever bikes were allowed (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 2022); on June 29, 2022, the Board of Directors passed e-bike policies that permitted their use only on specific trails in 2 out of 25 of its preserves.



Waterdog Lake Open Space Trail

The use of other electric transportation devices, such as electric skateboards, has the potential to increase usage on trails in open space lands. In fact, major manufacturers of electric skateboards already market some models for trail or "all-terrain" use.[3] Additionally, electric transportation devices can often be categorized as powered mobility devices which are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (Department of Justice, 2014).

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, + INCLUSION

Parks serve diverse communities and should offer inclusive spaces that can be enjoyed by all ages, abilities, and cultures. When visitors from different backgrounds enter an environment that allows them to feel comfortable and connected, they tend to engage in more positive, impactful ways. Societal changes in recent years have created an increased demand for inclusivity in public spaces, and as a result, accessibility, sensory experiences, and community support are basic requirements for today's parks.[4]

ENDNOTES

1 Respondents comprised of residents from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma counties.

2 E-bikes are allowed on paved roads in California State Parks and generally on paved roads that allow cars.

3 See Onewheel.com and BoostedUSA.com

4 National Recreation and Park Association. (2023). Diversity, equity and inclusion in parks and recreation. NRPA.org. PDF.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Belmont Parks and Recreation



Native California Tree Planting (Quercus agrifolia, Coastal Live Oak)

In response, park and recreation departments play an important role by offering a diverse selection of park amenities and recreation programs that appeal to a broad range of groups. This includes locating new parks and green spaces in historically underserved areas with low park access as well as considering all ability levels and cultures when planning and designing new parks, programs, and facilities.

SUSTAINABILITY + RESILIENCY

Park and recreation agencies have the unique ability to build resilient communities through the incorporation of innovative and sustainable practices in their parks and open spaces. They have the opportunity to mitigate the impact of severe weather and climate change, improve tree canopy coverage across their jurisdiction, and restore flourishing and ecologically-functional habitats.

They also serve as community advocates, educators, and early adopters of new and proven environmental strategies. Following principles of low-impact design, incorporating green stormwater infrastructure, and installing native vegetation are examples of critically important approaches when designing resilient parks in the drought-prone and wildfire-prone environments of California.



Habitat Restoration Underway

The NRPA Sustainability in Parks and Recreation report (2022) identifies that the most common park and recreation agency sustainability actions, which include planting trees, transitioning to native and climate-adaptive vegetation, and updating or retrofitting buildings and other park infrastructure.[5] Belmont's Parks and Recreation Department looks towards the Climate Action Plan (2017), Green Infrastructure Plan (2019), and General Plan (2017) for relevant and impactful sustainability practices, goals, and regulations.

ENDNOTES

5 National Recreation and Park Association. (2022). Sustainability in parks and recreation. NRPA.org. PDF.

DRAFT

PART 1.
WHERE WE ARE

CHAPTER 3
EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Belmont Parks and Recreation Department oversees 15 developed parks and over 300 acres of open space, as well as playgrounds, athletic fields, community gardens, passive recreation areas, and trails. This chapter evaluates the existing parks, open spaces, and athletic fields to provide a foundation for recommendations and future improvements. The detailed site and condition assessment intends to inventory existing amenities, evaluate current conditions, record recreational uses, document potential accessibility issues, and generally review the overall park and open space environmental health.

OVERVIEW

Belmont's PROS system currently consists of 17 parks (15 developed and 2 undeveloped parks), two open spaces, and four schools under a joint-use agreement (JUA) with Belmont-Redwood Shores School District (BRSSD). The parks and school sites are distributed across Belmont, while the open spaces are located in the western hills (Figure 3-1 and Table 3-1).

The parks range in size, from less than an acre to over 20 acres, and vary in intensity of use. While not directly correlated, smaller parks tend to provide fewer amenities and therefore generate less use intensity. Park Typologies and their associated characteristics are used to organize the PROS sites to create a baseline service level that all parks must provide.

This assessment views the PROS system as a single, connected system. Considering how people arrive to a park via non-motorized transportation methods and the quality of the routes connecting park destinations are important aspects of the overall park visit experience. Additionally, the assessment emphasizes opportunities to enhance the experience in the existing parks, developed and undeveloped, over new parkland development to increase acreage.



Figure 3-1: Belmont Parkland Distribution

PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE SITES				
	SITE	TYPOLOGY	SIZE (AC.)	ADDRESS
1	Alexander Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 2	1.3	400 Block of Yorkshire Way
2	Barrett Community Center	Community Park	5.1	1835 Belburn Drive
3	Belameda Park	Community Park	3.0	1110 Alameda de las Pulgas
4	Belmont Sports Complex	Community Park	11.0	550 Island Parkway
5	Central Elementary School	School (JUA)	3.4	525 Middle Road
6	Cipriani Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 2	6.0	2525 Buena Vista Avenue
7	College View Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 1	0.1	1 College View Way
8	Davey Glen Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 2	0.1	500 Davey Glen Road
9	Fox Elementary School	School (JUA)	6.1	3100 St James Road
10	Hallmark Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 2	5.2	2599 Hastings Drive
11	Hasting Tot Lot Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 1	0.3	2400 Hastings Drive
12	Hidden Canyon Park *	Undeveloped Park	4.8	End of Carlmont Drive
13	McDougal Park	Community Park	4.5	1405 Solana Drive
14	Nesbit School	School (JUA)	6.5	500 Biddulph Way
15	O'Donnell Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 2	0.9	400 Block of Ralston Avenue
16	Patricia Wharton Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 1	0.1	Notre Dame Ave / Middle Road
17	Ralston Middle School	School (JUA)	7.4	2675 Ralston Avenue
18	Ralston Ranch Park *	Undeveloped Park	1.3	Across from 1 Ralston Ranch Rd
19	San Juan Canyon	Open Space	35.0	4122 Marsten Avenue
20	Semeria Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 2	0.1	2322 Casa Bona Ave
21	Twin Pines Park	Community Park	21.1	30 Twin Pines Lane
22	Wakefield Park	Neighborhood Park Tier 1	1.0	Wakefield Drive / Elder Drive
23	Waterdog Lake	Open Space	282.5	Across from 2839 Hallmark Drive

Table 3-1: Belmont Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Sites

** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Park Tier 2.*



Neighborhood Park Tier 1 (Wakefield Park)



Neighborhood Park Tier 2 (Davey Glen Park)



Neighborhood Park Tier 2 (Alexander Park)

PARK TYPOLOGIES

Every PROS site in Belmont has been categorized as shown in Table 3-2. Each of these categories have intrinsic expectations and identified minimum standards or characteristics that the park type must provide. The previous Parks and Open Space Master Plan (1992) and 2035 General Plan used the categories Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, School Park, and Special Facility. This PROS Plan began the assessment exercise with these categories. Through site assessments, community input, and conversation with Parks and Recreation staff, the Park Typologies were refined:

- Neighborhood Park Tier 1
- Neighborhood Park Tier 2
- Community Park
- Undeveloped Park
- School (JUA)
- Open Space

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

Each Park Typology includes a set of Standard Baseline Amenities that the parks must provide at a minimum. The quantity of Standard Baseline Amenities compound as the use intensity increases, while also becoming more complex. These amenities are described in detail later in this chapter and defined in the Appendix.

ACCESS RADIUS

The Park Typology defines the Access Radius, or the value used to delineate an area around a park considered easily reachable, based on the anticipated methods to travel to the site. These areas are also delineated to prioritize connections for active transportation networks, as reflected in the Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

A small Access Radius is tied to a lower intended intensity of use. As the park use intensity increases, the Access Radius increases. Community Parks have the highest quantity of amenities, use intensity, and arrival modes so their Access Radius spans the entire city. The Access Radius definition was revised from the 1992 Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

	TIER 1 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	TIER 2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK *	COMMUNITY PARK
Character	Nature and Neighborhood Social Space	Nature. Group Gathering, and Play	Nature, Community Gathering, Recreation and Play
Uses + Users	Passive Individuals to Small groups	Passive + Active Individuals to Medium groups	Passive + Active Individual to Large Groups
	INCREASING PARK SIZE, AMENITY DENSITY, AND USE INTENSITY		
Standard Baseline Amenities	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Identifiable Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity, Inclusive+All-Abilities 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity 7. Off-Street Parking 8. Permanent Restroom 9. Multi-Use Athletic Field or Community Facility
Size	No Size Requirements Typically less than 1 acre	No Size Requirements Over 2 acres should provide off-street parking	No Size Requirements
Transport Modes	Walking Biking	Walking Biking Some Driving	Walking Biking Driving
Access Radius	¼ mile	½ mile	Entire City
Previous Planning	Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park Special Facility

Table 3-2: Park Typologies

** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2..*

Note: School (JUA) and Open Space Park Typologies do not have attributes such as Standard Baseline Amenities.

In the PROS Plan, the Access Radius approach is used to identify areas of Belmont where residents are outside of an existing buffer area and are therefore underserved. This not only identifies neighborhoods with low access to parks, but also heightens awareness for opportunities to increase parkland in underserved and under-accessible areas in Belmont.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)

A Neighborhood Park Tier 1 supports interaction with nature and acts as a neighborhood gathering space. It is the quintessential pocket of natural green space in a neighborhood, the hub of unplanned social interactions, and a peaceful place to talk or play.

These parks have the lowest use intensity, meaning the few existing amenities at the site are expected to be used by only a handful of people at a single time. These small parks have the lowest anticipated draw for users across the city and are expected to be reached mostly by walking or bicycling.

There are three Standard Baseline Amenities associated with a Tier 1 Park. The park provides access to a natural environment with a variety of plantings (trees, shrubs, ground cover) and seating. The site must provide at least one other Identifiable Amenity, such as a play area or small lending library. All amenities should be accessible by a paved route in good condition.

There is no minimum or maximum size for a Tier 1 Park, although they tend to be one acre or less. The Access Radius is one quarter (¼) mile. Visitors are expected to arrive by walking or biking.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2)

A Neighborhood Park Tier 2 supports connection to nature, social gathering of small groups, and recreation and play activities.

A Tier 2 Park includes more amenities and uses than a Tier 1 Park, but it still oriented towards a single visitor or smaller groups of less than 20 people. As such, there are at least two amenities—play and recreation—designed for use by multiple and diverse visitors at a single time, as well as amenities that support small group gatherings such as picnics.

A Tier 2 Park provides, at minimum, the three Standard Baseline Amenities required for a Tier 1 Park and three additional amenities. The Identifiable Amenity required in a Tier 1 Park is a Play Amenity for Tier 2 Parks. The three additional Standard Baseline Amenities for a Tier 2 Park are Picnic Opportunity, Multi-Purpose Flexible Space, and Recreation Amenity. While not a requirement, some Tier 2 Parks currently offer permanent or portable restroom facilities.

There is no minimum or maximum size for a Tier 2 Park. The Access Radius is one half (½) mile. A majority of users are expected to arrive by walking or biking. As a more amenitized park, visitors arriving by car is anticipated. Neighborhood Parks (of either tier) over 2 acres in size should provide off-street parking.

COMMUNITY PARK

Community Parks are notable parks that offer spaces for large group gatherings, amenities that support dozens of users simultaneously, and the characteristics of a public community space. Community Parks are heavily used and therefore have high use intensities, generating the most visitors as a result of the amenities and recreational programming opportunities.

A Community Park provides, at minimum, the six Standard Baseline Amenities required for a Tier 2 Park and three more (Off-street Parking, a Permanent Restroom, and an Athletic Field or Community Facility). The Play Amenity at Community Parks should offer Inclusive+All-Abilities Play.

There is no minimum or maximum size for a Community Park. For the purposes of this PROS Plan, this Park Typology has an Access Radius area that spans the entire city. Visitors are expected to arrive by walking, biking, and driving.

UNDEVELOPED PARK

Undeveloped Parks are sites owned by the City that currently have limited or no park improvements. These areas are slated for development into amenitized parks within the PROS system. For the purposes of the PROS Plan, the two Undeveloped Parks are planned as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2. This designation sets the foundation to assess existing conditions within the Park Typologies framework.

SCHOOL (JOINT USE AGREEMENT)

The City entered into JUA with BRSSD for the right to use recreational spaces in exchange for a maintenance commitment by the City. School (JUA) sites typically provide an athletic field for public use outside of school hours. Organized recreational activities such as soccer, baseball, and softball are programmed at these sites. In prior planning documents, these parks were categorized as "School Parks."

There are no Standard Baseline Amenities for School (JUA) sites because the City does not own the sites. Visitors expected to arrive by walking, biking, and driving. The Access Radius is one half (½) mile.

OPEN SPACE

Open Spaces are minimally improved or undeveloped natural areas open to the public for various recreational activities. Open Spaces offer hiking, bicycling, running, dog walking, and passive enjoyment of nature. There is no minimum or maximum size or Standard Baseline Amenities for Open Spaces. For the purposes of this PROS Plan, this Park Typology has an Access Radius area that spans the entire city.

PARKLAND BY NEIGHBORHOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD	PARK	SCHOOL	OPEN SPACE
Carlmont	3.0		
Central	1.3	3.4	
Chula Vista	4.5		
Cipriani	7.3		
Country Club	5.1		
East Belmont	11.0		
Hallmark	6.2	6.1	
Homeview	0.9		
Plateau			35.0
Skymont	1.3		
Sterling Downs	1.3	6.5	
Sunnyslope	21.1		
Western Hills	5.1	7.4	282.5
CITY TOTAL	**68.1**	**23.4**	**317.5**

Source: Parks and Recreation Department, 2035 General Plan

Table 3-3: Parkland by Neighborhood

PARKLAND DISTRIBUTION

The parkland in Belmont is well distributed across the City and throughout the many neighborhoods (Figure 3-2). All but one neighborhood (Plateau) has at least one developed or undeveloped park.

Belmont provides 3.5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. As shown in Table 3-3, there are two neighborhoods that far exceed the City's cumulative parkland acreage per 1,000 residents (Sunnyslope and East Belmont). They provide over 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. There are over 25 acres of parkland in these neighborhoods for approximately 2,470 people, which is the most parkland and the fewest residents of any census tract in Belmont.

As an almost completely built-out city—only 8 percent of land is identified as vacant in the General Plan—opportunities to increase the quantity of parkland are limited. Undeveloped parcels are scarce and transitioning a developed parcel can be cost prohibitive. Belmont must prioritize the improvement of the experience in existing PROS sites over increasing park acreage due to various constraints.

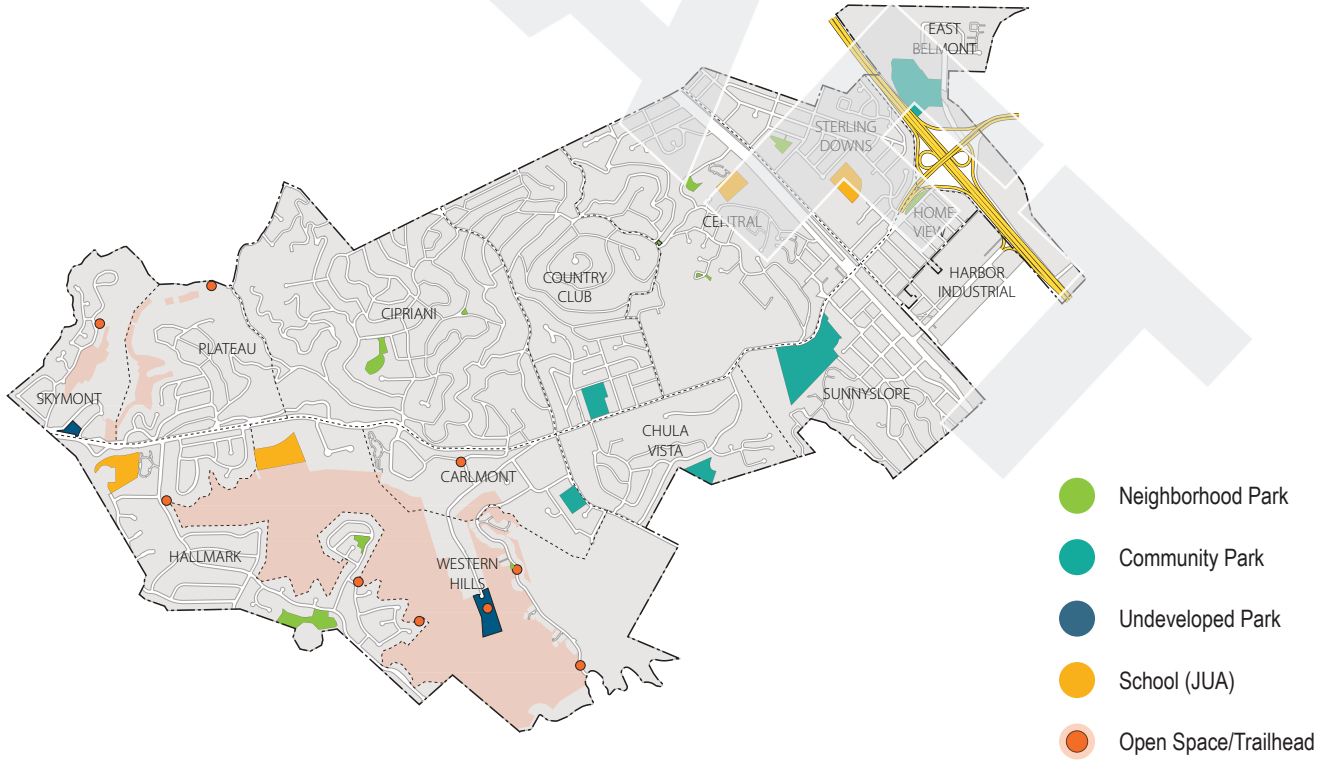


Figure 3-2: Parkland Distribution in Belmont Neighborhoods

ACCESS + CONNECTIONS

While all neighborhoods have parkland or open space, the entire neighborhood may not be within a 10-minute walk, typically considered as one half (½) mile. The Access Radius approach identifies areas around a PROS site that are considered accessible transit-wise, and highlight portions of the City where parks are not as easily reachable. The Access Radius for each Park Typology, shown in Figure 3-3, is dependent on the intended use intensity and anticipated modes of arrival. The Access Radius for Undeveloped Parks is based on the Park Typology it will become, and both Undeveloped Parks identified in the PROS Plan are considered Neighborhood Parks Tier 2. Neighborhoods with low access to existing park amenities are:

- Plateau
- Cipriani
- Country Club

These neighborhoods are considered under-served, and improvements to increase access to the existing PROS sites is paramount.

Overall, Belmont provides a high level of access to parks, with almost 90 percent of the population living within a 10-minute (½-mile) walk of a park. The national average for the percent of population that lives within a 10-minute walk of a park is 55 percent, based on data compiled by the Trust for Public Land. Belmont well surpasses this average.

Due to the limited availability of land to create more PROS sites, creating connections to support access to and between existing parks is key. In the Belmont Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, parks are identified as destinations prioritized for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements. Creating safe and enjoyable connections between parks reduces access barriers and mitigates pedestrian-vehicle conflicts. The City's improvements on Ralston Avenue and collaboration with the Safe Routes to School program align with reducing conflict and increasing connections between parks for non-motorized transport.

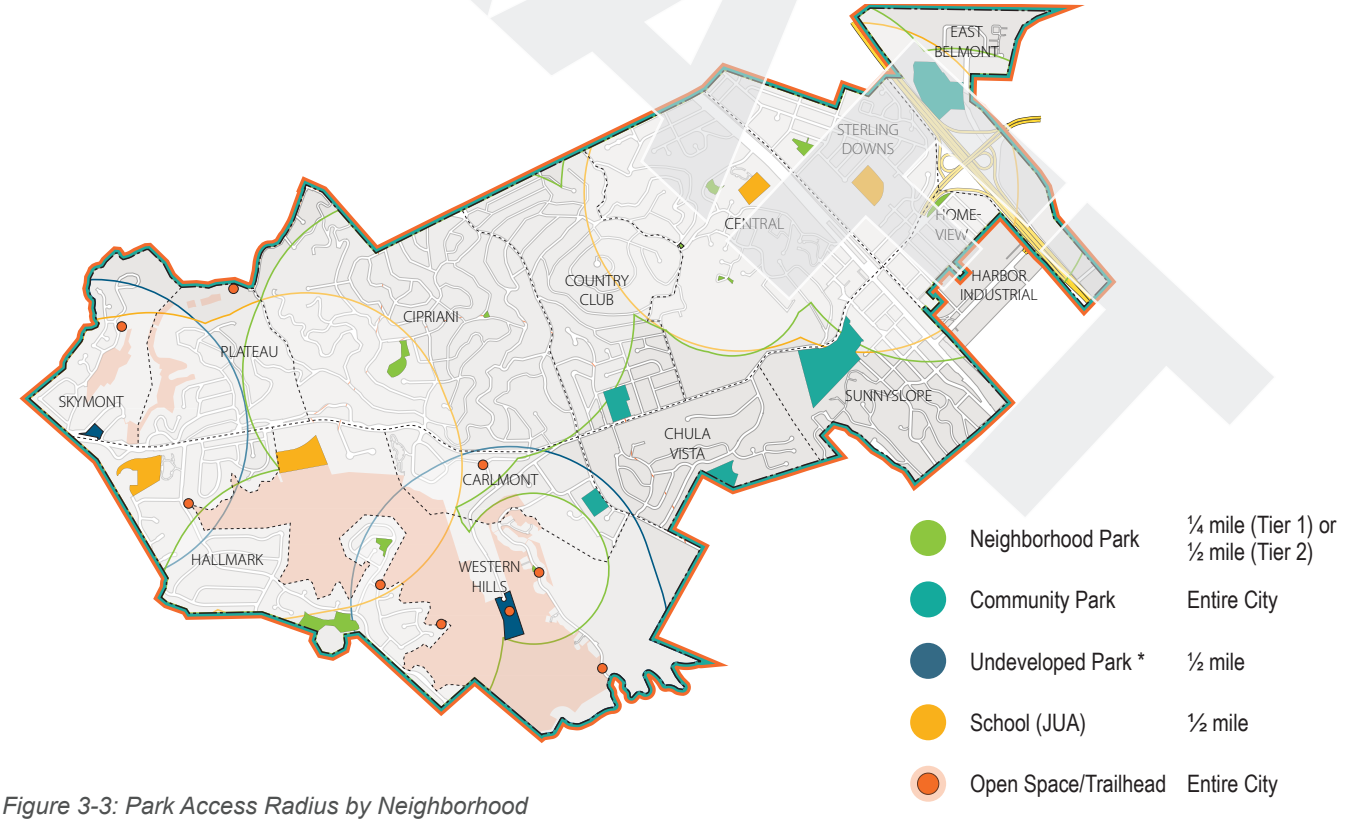


Figure 3-3: Park Access Radius by Neighborhood

** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2.*

AMENITIES

This plan used a standardized list of amenities to inventory existing offerings within the PROS system and evaluate their condition. Athletic fields at School (JUA) sites are included in the inventory. There are four categories of Amenities: Standard Baseline, Benchmarked, Priority, and Secondary. Full definitions of the amenities are included in the Appendix.

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

Shown in Figure 3-4 are the Standard Baseline Amenities for each Park Typology that clearly define the amenities a park must provide to meet the minimum requirements. The quantity of Standard Baseline Amenities required compound as the use intensity increases, while also becoming more complex.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)

The simplest park in Belmont, a Neighborhood Park Tier 1, has the fewest Standard Baseline Amenities. A Tier 1 Park must provide a natural environment with seating and an Identifiable Amenity.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2)

A Neighborhood Park Tier 2 includes all Standard Baseline Amenities encompassed by a Tier 1 Park, replacing an Identifiable Amenity with a Play Amenity. Additionally, a Tier 2 Park must provide a Picnic Opportunity, Multi-Purpose Flexible Space, and a Recreation Amenity. Since both Undeveloped Parks are planned as Tier 2 Parks, they also have this attribute.

COMMUNITY PARK

A Community Park provides the most amenities for the public. A Community Park provides all amenities of a Tier 2 Park, as well as Off-Street Parking, Permanent Restroom, and either a Multi-Use Athletic Field or Community Facility. Playgrounds should be designed to offer Inclusive+All-Abilities Play.



Figure 3-4: Standard Baseline Amenities

** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2.*

Note: School (JUA) and Open Space Park Typologies do not have Standard Baseline Amenities.



Playground at Davey Glen Park



Community Garden at Barrett Community Center



Reservable Picnic Area at Twin Pines Park

BENCHMARKED AMENITIES

Benchmarked Amenities are elements typically provided by a park and recreation system. The Benchmarked Amenities are:

- All-Abilities Playground
- Basketball Court (Full and Half)
- Multi-Use Athletic Field
- Play Element and Playground
- Reservable Picnic Area (Small and Large)

The quantity of Belmont's Benchmarked Amenities have been counted to generate a level of service amenity ratio. Comparisons of benchmarked amenity quantities and level of service Standard Amenity Ratios for comparable cities and at the national, regional, and state-wide level are discussed in Chapter 5.

PRIORITY AMENITIES

Priority Amenities were highly ranked in the community input survey or were a topic of importance in feedback discussions. These are amenities also considered common in California public parks that are either limited or nonexistent in Belmont. The Priority Amenities are:

- Community Garden
- Dog Park
- Dog Parklet
- Pump Track (Bike Park)
- Skate Park
- Water Play (Pool and Spray Element)

SECONDARY AMENITIES

These are amenities not identified as Standard Baseline, Benchmarked, or Priority, but in existence currently or identified through community input as potential amenities to provide in Belmont's PROS system. The Secondary Amenities are:

- Fitness Equipment Cluster
- Handball / Wallball Court
- Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court
- Outdoor Classroom
- Performance Space
- Teen Outdoor Space

PARK AMENITY INVENTORY			
BENCHMARKED AMENITY	TOTAL *	PARK	SCHOOL
All-Abilities Playground	**0**	0	0
Basketball Court (Full)	**13**	0	12
Basketball Court (Half)	**6**	4	2
Multi-Use Athletic Field	**12**	8	4
Play Element	**0**	0	0
Playground	**20**	15	5
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	**2**	2	0
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	**2**	2	0
Tennis Court	**4**	4	0
PRIORITY AMENITY			
Community Garden	**2**	2	0
Dog Park	**1**	1	0
Dog Parklet	**0**	0	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)	**0**	0	0
Skate Park	**0**	0	0
Water Play, Pool	**0**	0	0
Water Play, Spray Element	**0**	0	0
SECONDARY AMENITY			
Fitness Equipment Cluster	**1**	1	0
Handball / Wallball Court	**5**	1	4
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	**5**	5	0
Outdoor Classroom	**0**	0	0
Performance Space	**2**	2	0
Teen Outdoor Space	**1**	1	0

** Quantities do not include any amenities at Open Spaces*

Table 3-4: Park Amenity Inventory (2021)

AMENITY INVENTORY

The Amenity Inventory evaluates current conditions and accessibility of amenities to determine overall park health. Each amenity is identified with a green callout.

Table 3-4 provides a tally of the final inventory. The full Amenity Inventory matrix, identifying amenities at each park site, is included in the Appendix.

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

Standard Baseline Amenities for the Park Typologies were catalogued. A ✓ means that amenity exists on the site. A ✘ means that amenity does not exist on the site.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)

Natural Environment

Seating

Identifiable Amenity

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2)

Tier 1 Requirements

Play Amenity

Picnic Opportunity

Multi-Purpose Flexible Space

Recreation Amenity

COMMUNITY PARK

Tier 2 Requirements

Off-Street Parking

Restroom, Permanent

Athletic Field or Community Facility

AMENITY CONDITION

Every park amenity was evaluated and assigned a condition rating of good, fair, or poor.

- **GOOD:** Features and facilities are functioning as intended with minimal wear/damage. No immediate action beyond preventative maintenance is required.
- **FAIR:** Features and facilities are showing some signs of wear/damage. Function and service is minimally impacted, and preventative maintenance is recommended.
- **POOR:** Features and facilities are damaged or worn to the point where basic functionality or user safety is compromised. Immediate replacement is recommended.

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ALEXANDER PARK

400 Block of Yorkshire Way

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

1.3 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Alexander Park is a high-use park tucked within a residential neighborhood. The park's entrance is off Yorkshire Way through a narrow access path between houses. The entrance is framed by a wooden trellis at the street that establishes the park within the surrounding neighborhood. A concrete walking path circles a majority of the main lawn area and leads to a picnic area. There are two play structures, two tennis courts, a half basketball court, a handball court, and two horseshoe pits. A new permanent restroom was constructed in 2017.











ALEXANDER PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- No accessible benches.
- Paved areas and paths need to be evaluated.

AMENITY

- Wood benches are in fair condition.
- BBQ is in poor condition.
- Restroom is new and in good condition.
- Horseshoe pits are underutilized and in poor condition.
- Tennis courts were resurfaced in 2022.

LANDSCAPE

- Entrance planting is in good condition. Some planting areas are bare.
- Lawn is in fair condition.
- Trees around perimeter of site are in fair condition.
- Pear trees near playground require trimming.
- Ivy needs removal by picnic areas.
- Large oak needs removal.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2

- ✓ Tier 1 Requirements
- ✓ Play Amenity
- ✓ Picnic Opportunity
- ✓ Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- ✓ Recreation Amenity

1. Picnic and Horseshoe Area
2. Restroom, Permanent
3. Planting Area
4. Basketball Court (Half)
5. Playground
6. Tennis Courts
7. Multi-Use Lawn

BARRETT COMMUNITY CENTER

1835 Belburn Drive

Community Park

5.1 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Barrett Community Center is a repurposed school building that offers classes, programs, and activities such as dance and preschool. The site includes a large athletic field, full basketball court, a playground, outdoor fitness equipment, a community garden, and a baseball field. In 2020, a conceptual design was developed that includes a new community center building, pool, increased on-site parking, a dedicated dog park area, and relocated and improved athletic fields.



CONTEXT MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020









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BARRETT COMMUNITY CENTER

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Most areas are accessible.
- Some ADA-accessible parking is available.

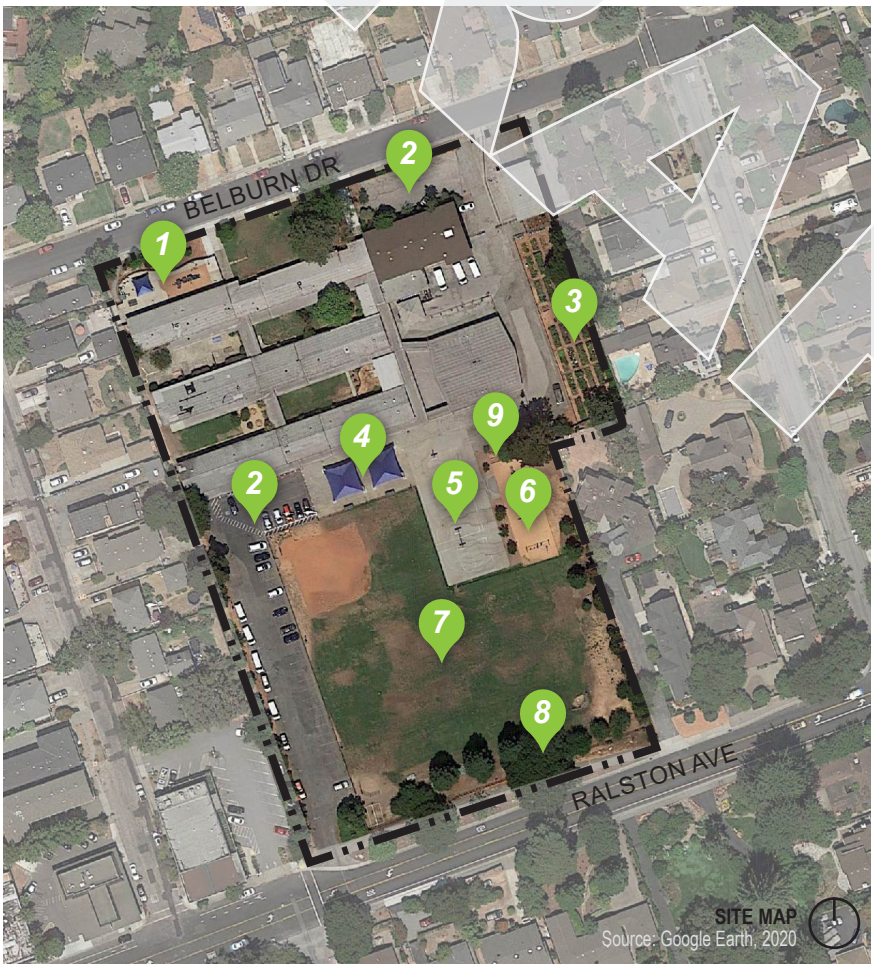
AMENITY

- Shade structure is in good condition.
- Picnic tables are in poor condition in lawn area.
- Outdoor fitness equipment in good condition.
- Playground in fair condition (not Inclusive + All-Abilities).
- Community garden space appears well maintained.

LANDSCAPE

- Turf is in fair condition with some drainage concerns.
- Trees around perimeter of site are in fair condition.
- Trees around playground are in good condition.
- Ivy near entrance needs remediation.
- Entrance planting is sparse.





COMMUNITY PARK

- ✓ Tier 2 Requirements
- ✓ Off-Street Parking
- ✓ Restroom, Permanent
- ✓ Athletic Field or Community Facility

1. Day Care Facility
2. Parking / Drop-Off
3. Community Garden
4. Shade Structure / Picnic Tables
5. Basketball Court (Full)
6. Playground
7. Multi-Use Athletic Field
8. Redwood Trees
9. Fitness Equipment

BELAMEDA PARK

1110 Alameda de las Pulgas

Community Park

3 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Belameda Park is adjacent to Belmont Library. Large, old-growth oak trees line the paths, which create a sense of arrival to the park and the library. There is setback and protected from the roadway with slight elevation and a retaining wall. The playground was completed in 2008 and is in good condition. Picnic tables are in good condition. The rear of the site is multi-family residential structures, with a small access path to Village Drive. There is ADA access to tables and walking paths. There is a bus stop on Ralston Avenue adjacent to the park entrance. There are areas that present opportunities for further development.











BELAMEDA PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

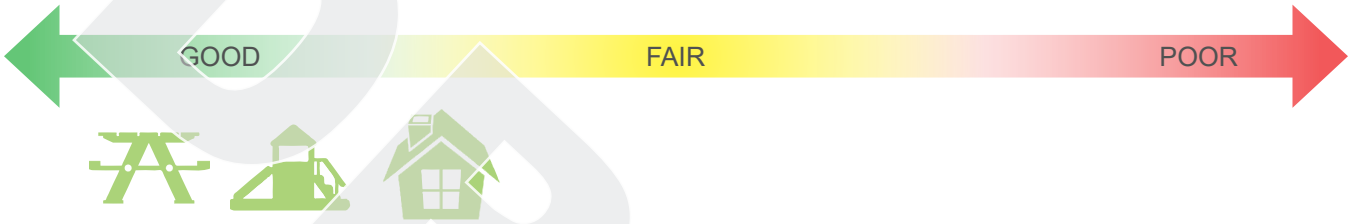
- Site has accessible walkways and table.
- Playground has accessible entrance and some ground-level play.
- Concrete path is in good condition.

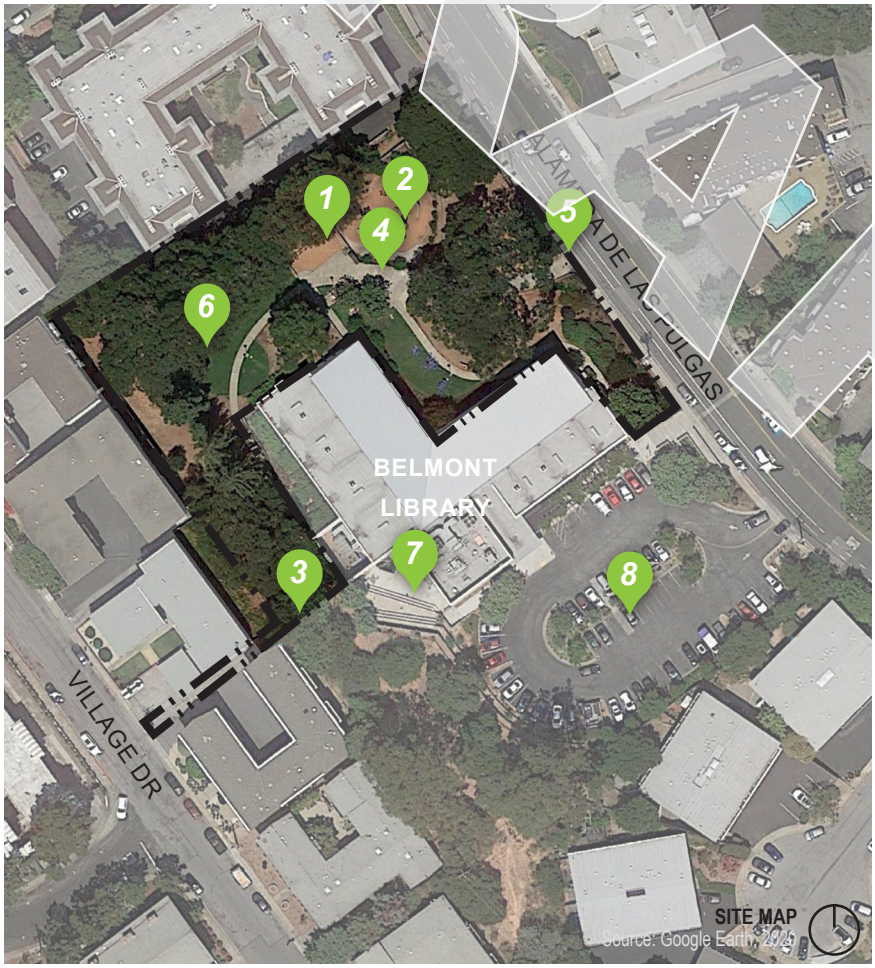
AMENITY

- Tables are in good condition
- Playground is in good condition (not Inclusive + All-Abilities).
- Swings are in good condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Mature trees appear in good condition, no hardscape crowding.
- Turf is in good condition.
- Entrance planting is sparse.
- Playground planting is sparse.





COMMUNITY PARK

- ✓ Tier 2 Requirements
- ✓ Off-Street Parking
- ✓ Restroom, Permanent
- ✓ Athletic Field or Community Facility

1. Play Element (Swing Set)
2. Playground
3. Walking Path (connects to Village Drive)
4. Picnic Tables
5. Bus Stop
6. Multi-Use Lawn
7. Library Amphitheater Space
8. Off-Street Parking

BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX

550 Island Parkway

Community Park

11 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

The Belmont Sports Complex consists of three multi-use athletic fields. Baseball, softball, and soccer are the primary activities that occur at the site. The North Field was recently renovated with synthetic turf, a new backstop, new foul ball fencing, and new home-run fencing. The Marina and South Fields need new turf and some hardscape elements look problematic. There is a fenced playground, a picnic area with a BBQ area, and stored soccer nets north of the North Field. Adjacent to the picnic and playground is an open marsh area. The site was previously a landfill. There is a Conference Center that can be rented for events.











BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- New field has ADA-accessible bleachers.
- Path is accessible.
- Picnic area is accessible.
- Concrete walkway from parking lot is accessible.
- Near Bay Trail connection and bicycle bridge connection.

AMENITY

- New PA system is needed.
- Hardscape is problematic.
- Foot bridge wood planks are in poor condition.
- Bleachers are in good condition (North Field) and poor condition (Marina and South Fields).
- Restroom needs renovation.
- Picnic area needs renovation.
- BBQ is in poor condition.

LANDSCAPE

- North Field is in great condition.
- Adjacent fields are in fair condition.
- Landscape near picnic area is empty and needs separation from marsh area.
- Trees near empty lot are in good condition, needs planting near tables.





COMMUNITY PARK

- ✓ Tier 2 Requirements
- ✓ Off-Street Parking
- ✓ Restroom, Permanent
- ✓ Athletic Field or Community Facility

1. Playground
2. Picnic Area
3. Concession Stand / Restroom
4. Multi-Use Athletic Field
5. Synthetic Turf
6. Conference Center
7. Parking Lot
8. Bay Trail Connection
9. Pedestrian Bridge
10. Drop-Off Area

CIPRIANI PARK

2525 Buena Vista Avenue

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

6 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Cipriani Park is immediately adjacent to Cipriani Elementary School, but the site does not have a JUA. Cipriani Park provides the only dedicated dog park in Belmont. There is a multi-use athletic field, playground, and picnic area. The dog park is reachable from either the school parking lot or from the Buena Vista Drive park entrance. The dog park is a dirt lot with a chain link fence, a small shade structure, and a fenced small dog area. There is a playground located near the street, with a picnic area shaded by large trees. The site has low accessibility, steep terrain, and poor walking paths.











CIPRIANI PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- No ADA access to the dog park.
- Entrance from school parking lot is informal.
- Walk from park is not accessible given the slopes and problematic pavement.

AMENITY

- Small dog park area has a low level of wood chips.
- Playground is in fair condition.
- Shade structure is in fair condition
- Benches, tables, and fountain within dog areas are in fair condition.
- Fences are in fair condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Dog park users complain about the area getting too muddy.
- Park has limited planting.
- Mature trees near picnic areas appear in good to fair condition.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2

- ✓ Tier 1 Requirements
- ✓ Play Amenity
- ✓ Picnic Opportunity
- ✓ Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- ✓ Recreation Amenity

1. Playground
2. Picnic Area
3. Multi-Use Athletic Field
4. Small Dog Park
5. Large Dog Park

COLLEGE VIEW PARK

1 College View Way

Neighborhood Park Tier 1

0.1 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

College View Park is a small park nestled within a residential area. The park sits adjacent to the Notre Dame de Namur University campus, which is reachable through a pedestrian gate behind the playground. The park contains a playground suitable for 5 to 12 year olds and a small picnic area. Site irrigation is battery operated. The central area is used by the community as a small gathering space. The central lawn supports various activities



CONTEXT MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020









COLLEGE VIEW PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

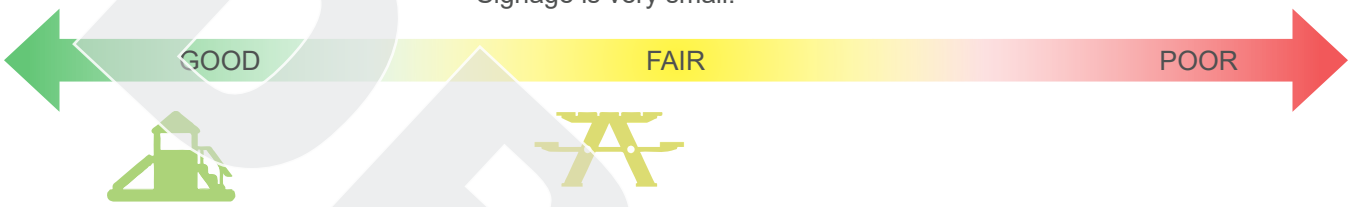
- Park is accessible with walkways that appear compliant.
- Central space has problematic hardscape.

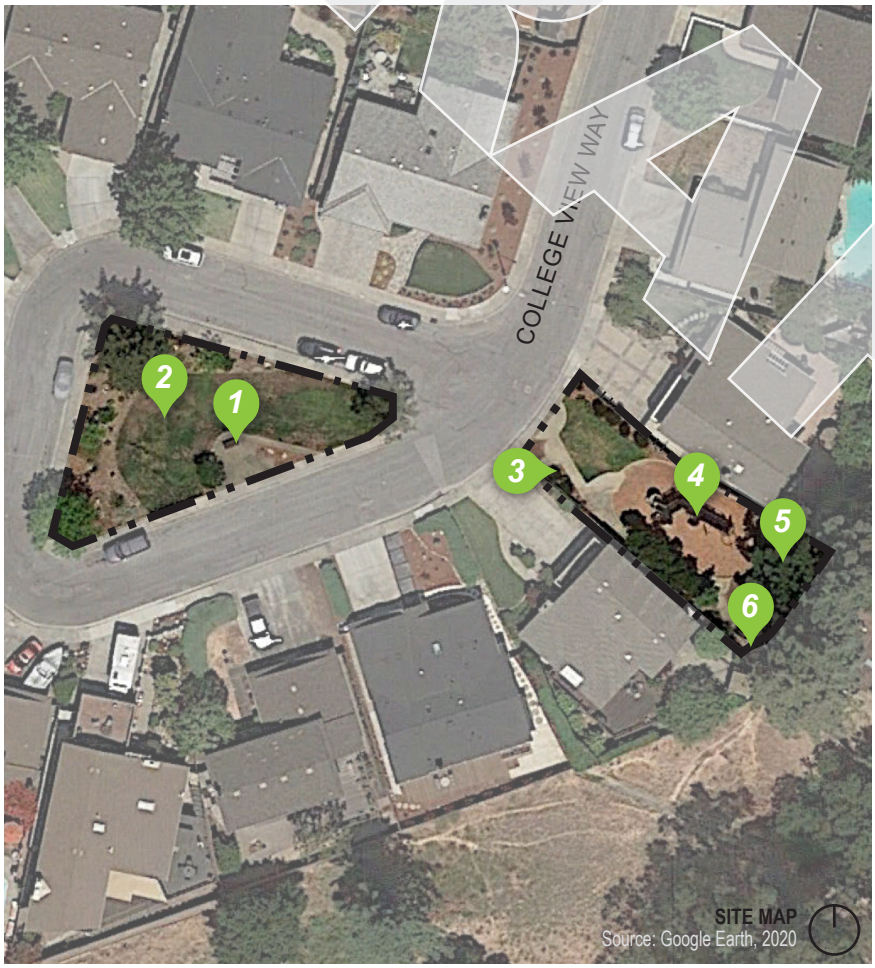
AMENITY

- Playground is in good condition.
- Playground wood chips levels are low.
- Bench is in poor condition.
- Fence line is in fair condition.
- Picnic area is not established, tables are in fair condition.
- Benches in central area are in poor condition.
- Signage is very small.

LANDSCAPE

- Lawns are in fair condition.
- Large redwoods are in a neighboring yard.
- Planting areas have disorganized spacing.
- Trees appear to be in fair condition.
- Area by picnic tables is bare without planting.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1

- ✓ Natural Environment
- ✓ Seating
- ✓ Identifiable Amenity

1. Bench
2. Multi-Use Lawn
3. Drinking Fountain
4. Playground
5. Picnic Area
6. Access to Notre Dame de Namur University

DAVEY GLEN PARK

500 Davey Glen Road

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

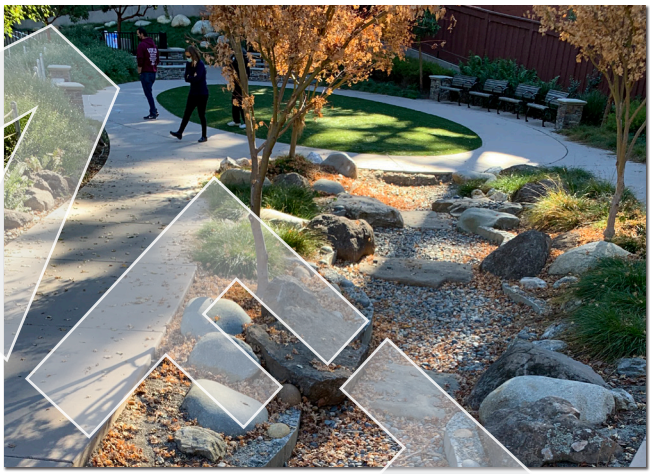
1.1 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

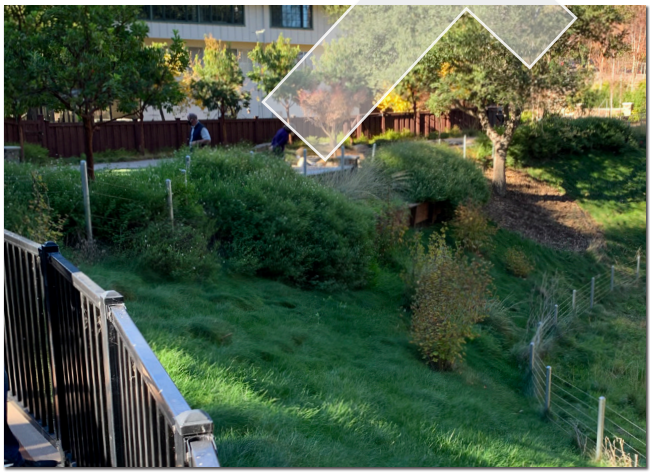
Davey Glen Park is a fully accessible park on a hillside surrounded by a eucalyptus grove. The park sits slightly lower than the adjacent road. There are stairs and an ADA-accessible ramp into the park. The park contains a rain garden and beautiful Marina Strawberry trees line the fence separating adjacent homes. The park provides a synthetic turf area, accessible picnic tables, benches, and an intricate play structure with rubber fall zones. The hillside is planted with a no-mow grass species and decorative boulders for visual interest.











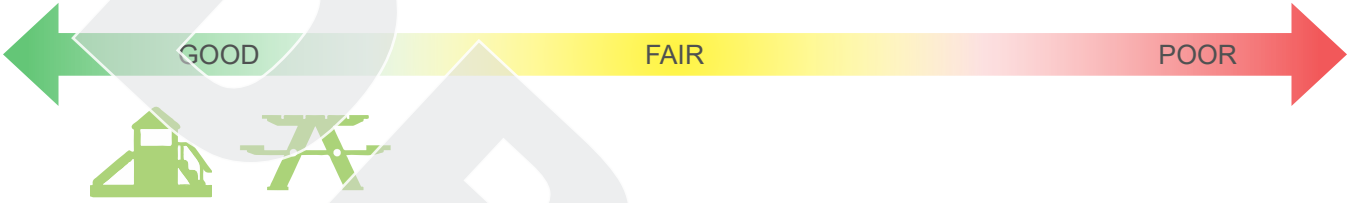
DAVEY GLEN PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY
- Park is accessible.
- Picnic tables are accessible.

AMENITY
- Playground is in great condition.
- Picnic tables have some graffiti.
- Signage is in good condition.
- Concrete is in good condition.
- Benches are in good condition.
- Synthetic turf is in good condition.

LANDSCAPE
- Plantings are thriving and appear to be in good condition.
- Trees appear healthy.
- No-mow grass on hillside provides a visual appeal.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2
- ✓ Tier 1 Requirements
- ✓ Play Amenity
- ✓ Picnic Opportunity
- ✓ Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- ✗ Recreation Amenity

1. Entry Signage
2. Stairs
3. ADA-Accessible Ramp
4. Decorative Boulders
5. Rain Garden
6. Multi-Use Lawn (Synthetic Turf)
7. Benches
8. Picnic Areas
9. Playground
10. No-Mow Grass Hillside

HALLMARK PARK

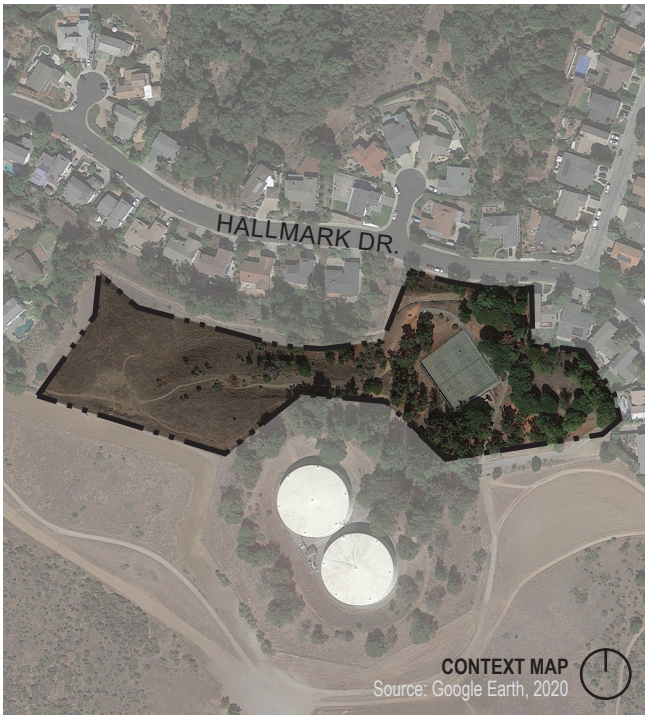
2599 Hallmark Drive

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

5.2 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

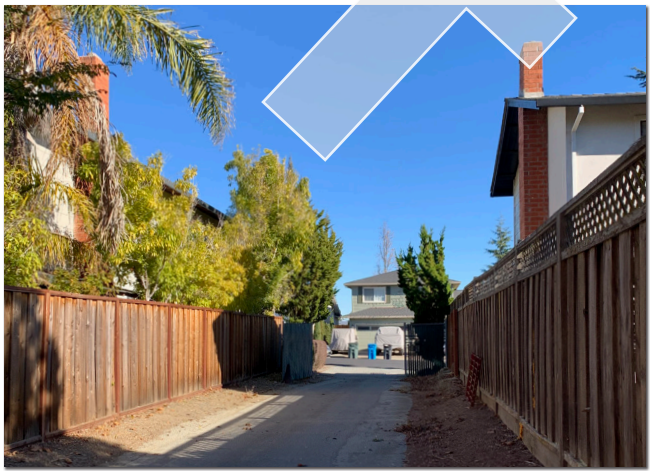
Hallmark Park has a residential community to the north and open space to the south. The land to the south belongs to the water district land and has a cross country course. The park include two tennis courts, a small playground, picnic tables, and some benches. There is an access road for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) that park visitors can pass through. Large growth pines are prevalent on site. The site is only partially developed, with the western half of the site untouched. Access is limited due to terrain and condition of paths.











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HALLMARK PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Path slope near entrance appears problematic.
- Uprooting is causing problems for the asphalt and tennis courts.

AMENITY

- Tennis courts were resurfaced in 2022.
- Benches are in fair condition.
- Playground is in fair condition.
- Picnic tables are in fair condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Trees are uprooting the hardscape and tennis court areas.
- Large areas are not planted.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2

- ✓ Tier 1 Requirements
- ✓ Play Amenity
- ✓ Picnic Opportunity
- ✗ Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- ✓ Recreation Amenity

1. Benches
2. Tennis Courts
3. Asphalt Path
4. Playground
5. Picnic Area
6. Open Space
7. Access Gate
8. SFPUC Land
   Cross County Course

HASTINGS TOT LOT PARK

2400 Hastings Drive

Neighborhood Park Tier 1

0.3 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Hastings Tot Lot Park is a small park on a steep residential street. There is a trail connection to Waterdog Lake Open Space. The park overlooks the open space and offers excellent views. A small playground with seating areas is the main attraction of this park. A wooden stake fence surrounds the site.



CONTEXT MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020









HASTINGS TOT LOT PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Slope and on-street parking pose concerns for accessibility.
- Benches are not accessible.
- Tables are not accessible

AMENITY

- Playground is in fair condition.
- Playground fiber levels are low.
- Tables are in fair condition.
- Benches are in poor condition.
- Wood stake fence is in poor condition.
- Playground lacks safety barrier from adjacent street.

LANDSCAPE

- Site lacks planting around the playground areas.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1

- ✓ Natural Environment
- ✓ Seating
- ✓ Identifiable Amenity

1. Unplanted Area
2. Playground
3. Wood Post Fence
4. Bench
5. Picnic Table

● Trailhead

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HIDDEN CANYON PARK

End of Carlmont Drive

Undeveloped

4.8 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

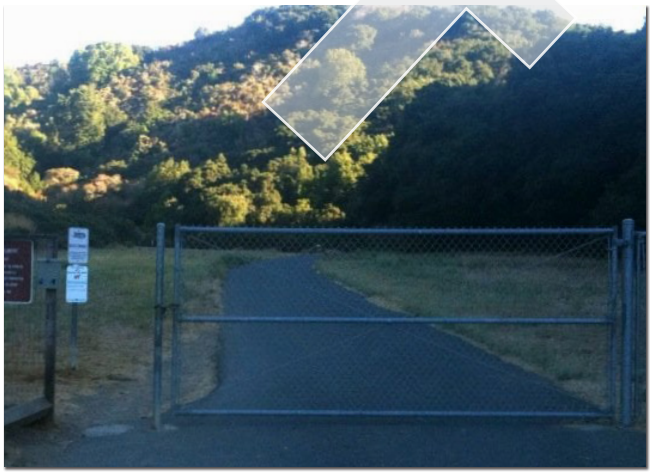
Hidden Canyon Park is an area that provides a connection to the various multi-use trails within Waterdog Lake Open Space. Near the entrance of the park is a large rectangular space with a single paved road that leads back to various trailheads. There is a gravel parking lot. Street parking is somewhat limited due to the location of the park at the terminus of a neighborhood street.











HIDDEN CANYON PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

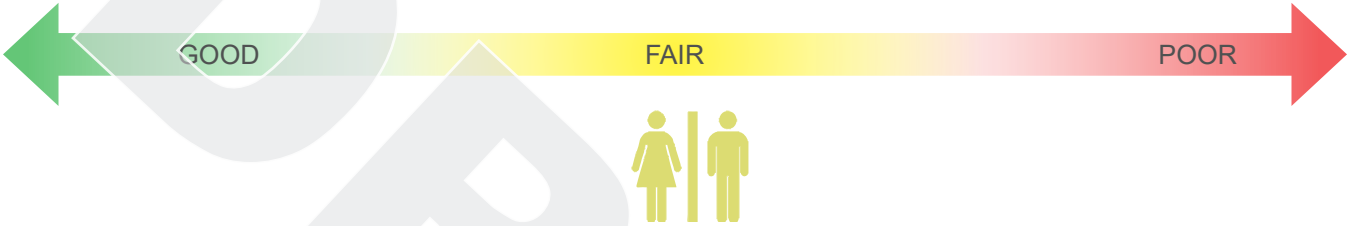
- Park is accessible from gravel parking lot.
- Paved linear strip is within the park area.

AMENITY

- Paved road is in good condition.
- Fence line is in good condition.
- Parking gravel levels are low in some locations.
- Parking stops are in fair condition.
- Bench is in fair condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Naturalized area with native plants on the hillsides.
- Park area is not planted.
- Parking lot is not planted.
- Parking lot trees are in good condition and provide shade for cars.





1. Parking Lot
2. Restroom, Portable
3. Fence Line
4. Boot Brush
5. Paved Road
6. Cleared Space
7. Terminus of Paved Road
8. Box Culvert

Trailhead

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MCDOUGAL PARK

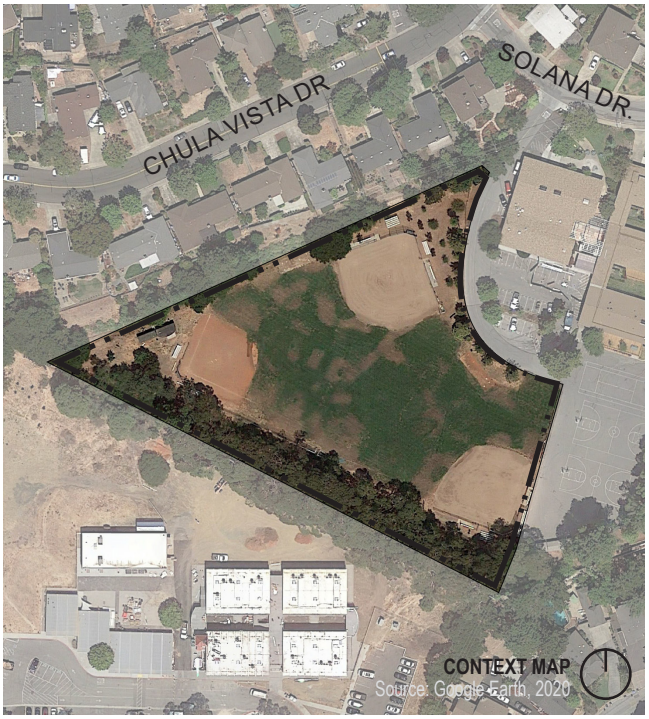
1405 Solana Drive

Community Park

4.5 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

McDougal Park is adjacent to the Charles Armstrong School (private school). The City grants the school limited use of the park. Amenities consist of three multi-use fields and a picnic area. The park has limited street parking and no off-street parking. The park is adjacent to residential homes to the north and the school to the east. A line of eucalyptus trees visually screen another adjacent school to the south. There are two shipping containers utilized as storage and a concession stand during games located away from the bulk of the park behind a backstop. There are portable restrooms on site.











MCDOUGAL PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park is not accessible.
- ADA-accessible seating and walkways are needed

AMENITY

- Infield creep is occurring.
- Portable restroom is in fair condition.
- Storage containers are in poor condition.
- Picnic tables are in poor condition.
- Benches are in poor condition.
- Fencing for diamonds is in fair condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Fields appear to be in fair condition.
- Hillside is overgrown.
- Trees near entrance appear to be in poor condition.





COMMUNITY PARK

- ✓ Tier 2 Requirements
- ✗ Off-Street Parking
- ✗ Restroom, Permanent
- ✓ Athletic Field or Community Facility

1. Restroom, Portable
2. Picnic Area
3. Storage Container
4. Concession Stand
5. Bleachers
6. School Parking
7. Batting Cage
8. Eucalyptus Trees
9. Multi-Use Athletic Field

O'DONNELL PARK

400 Block of Ralston Avenue

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

0.9 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

O'Donnell Park is located at the intersection of Ralston Avenue and the on-ramp to Highway 101 South. The park's two playgrounds were installed in 2019. Park amenities include a wooden shade structure, picnic areas, benches, a community garden, and two half basketball courts. There is abundant gathering space where trees provide ample shade. Lawn areas provide flexible space near the playgrounds. There is a portable restroom on site.











O'DONNELL PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Pathways near BBQ areas are problematic.

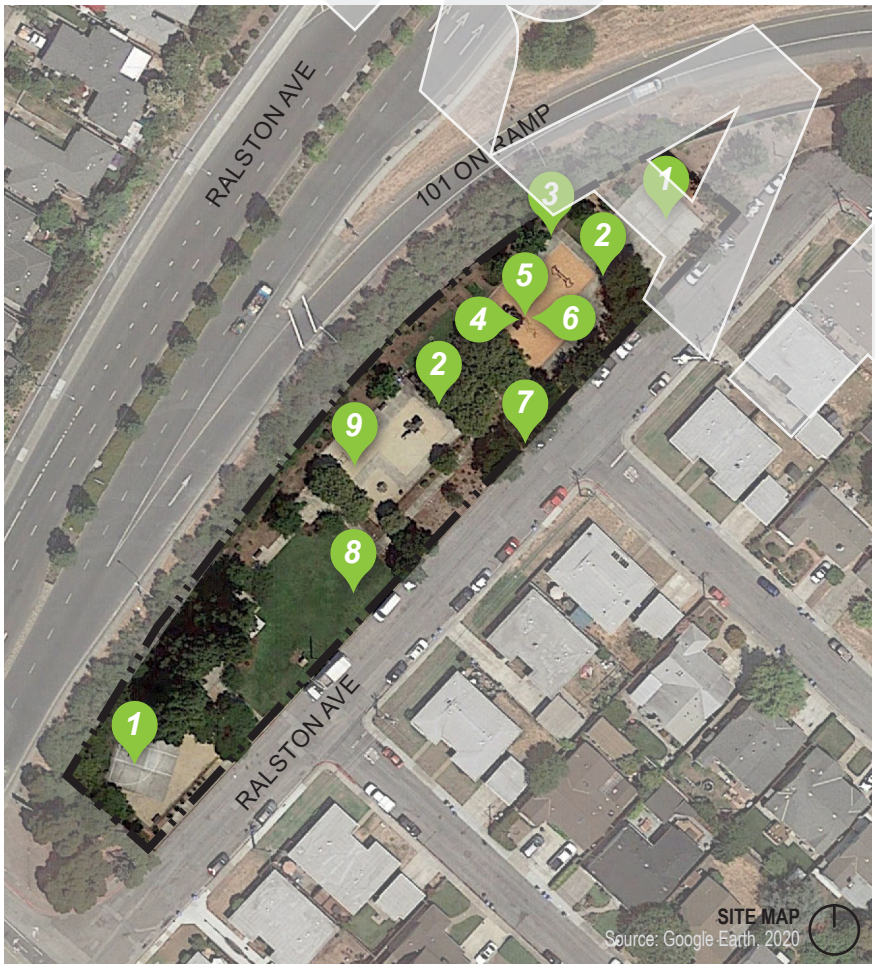
AMENITY

- BBQs are in poor condition.
- Shade structure is in fair condition.
- Tables in BBQ areas are in fair condition.
- Playgrounds are new and in good condition.
- Basketball courts are in fair condition.
- Community garden is in good condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Some areas are devoid of planting.
- Trees appear to be in good condition.
- Lawn is in good condition.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2

- ✓ Tier 1 Requirements
- ✓ Play Amenity
- ✓ Picnic Opportunity
- ✓ Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- ✓ Recreation Amenity

1. Basketball Court (Half)
2. Playground
3. Community Garden
4. Shade Structure
5. BBQ Area
6. Picnic Seating Area
7. Signage
8. Multi-Use Lawn
9. Restroom, Portable

PATRICIA WHARTON PARK

Notre Dame Avenue + Middle Road

Neighborhood Park Tier 1

0.1 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Patricia Wharton Park is a small park that sits between Notre Dame Avenue and Middle Road within a residential neighborhood. The park is immediately adjacent to a bus stop. The park contains two benches and planting areas. The rear of the site slopes down into a residential property.











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PATRICIA WHARTON PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Path of travel is accessible.
- Concrete has cracks.
- Concrete is has trip hazards in some locations.

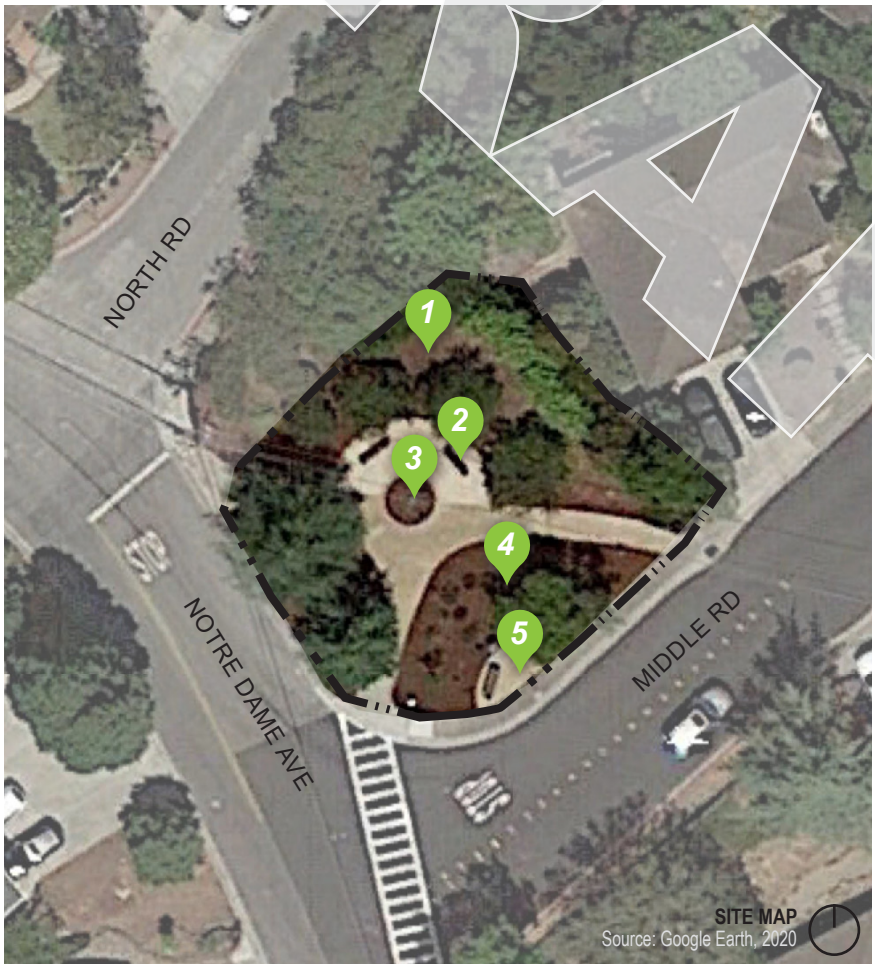
AMENITY

- Benches are in poor condition.
- Bench footings are exposed.

LANDSCAPE

- Plantings are in good condition.
- Slope is not planted.
- Trees appear to be in good condition.





SITE MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1

- ✓ Natural Environment
- ✓ Seating
- ✓ Identifiable Amenity

1. Sloped Hillside
2. Benches
3. Central Planting
4. Planting Area
5. Bus Stop / Free Library

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RALSTON RANCH PARK

Across from 1 Ralston Ranch

Undeveloped

1.3 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Ralston Ranch Park is an undeveloped park site that sits at the front of a neighborhood community along Ralston Avenue. The site slopes down from the street towards the residential area and sits slightly lower than the street. The site has various trees, minimal planting, and views of the Bay.











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RALSTON RANCH PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Undeveloped space.
- Road has a high slope off of Ralston Ranch Road (East).
- Road has less of a slope on Ralston Ranch Road (West).

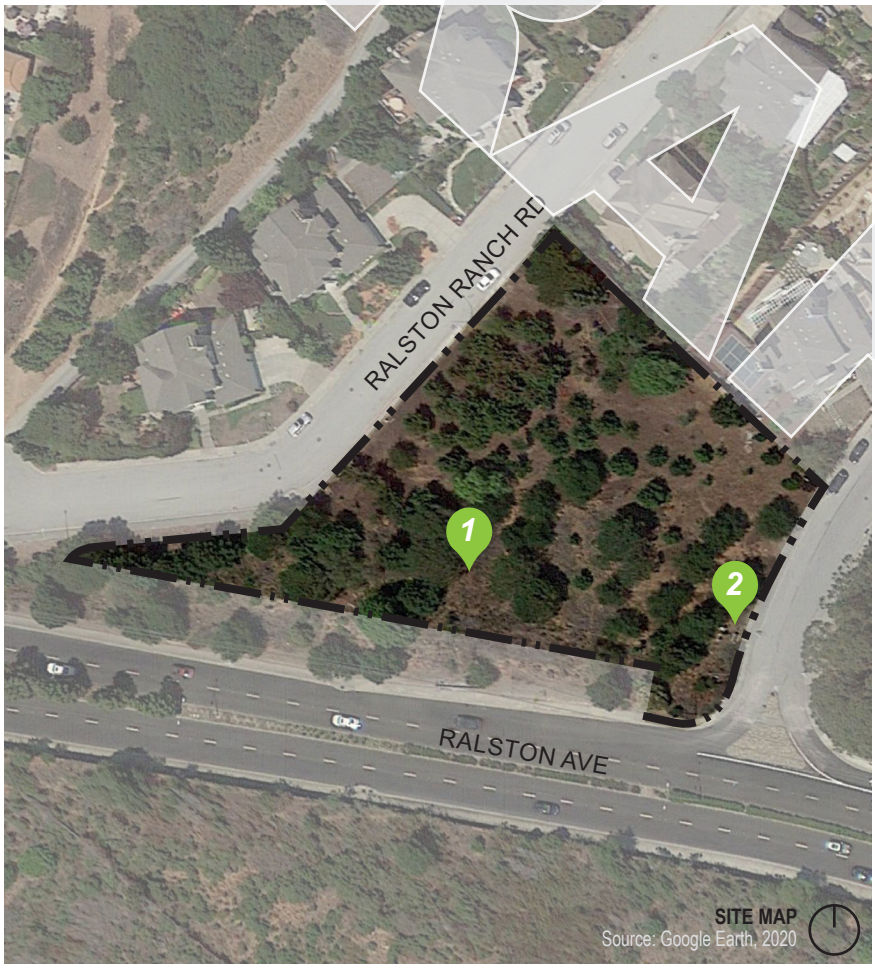
AMENITY

- No furnishings are on site.

LANDSCAPE

- Some trees need evaluation.
- Redwoods appear to be in fair condition.
- Very little planting on hillside, needs erosion control.





1. Sloped Hillside
2. Fuse Box and Irrigation Controller

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SEMERIA PARK

2322 Casa Bona Avenue

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

0.1 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Semeria Park sits within a residential community. Park amenities include a playground, swing set, lawn, fenced area, a single on-street ADA-accessible parking space, benches, picnic area, and new planting areas. The site is located at the divergence of two roadways, which creates an appealing open space for the community to gather within the neighborhood context.











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SEMERIA PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

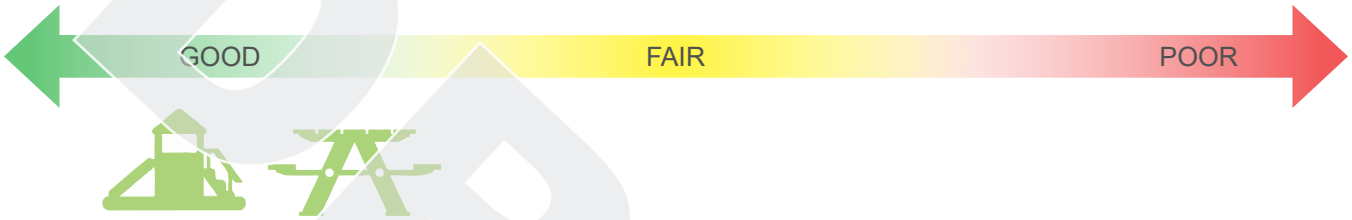
- Park is accessible.
- ADA-accessible parking stall is provided.
- Fall zone is rubber.
- Table is accessible.
- Fence in good condition.

AMENITY

- Playground is in good condition.
- Swing set is in good condition.
- Fall zones are in good condition.
- Decorative boulders are in good condition.
- Benches are in good condition.
- Concrete is in good condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Lawn is in fair condition.
- Trees provide shade to seating areas and are in good condition.
- Plantings appear to be in good condition.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2

- ✓ Tier 1 Requirements
- ✓ Play Amenity
- ✓ Picnic Opportunity
- ✓ Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- ✓ Recreation Amenity

1. Entry Sign / Seating
2. Multi-Use Lawn
3. Play Element (Swing Set)
4. Playground
5. Decorative Boulders
6. Accessible Parking
7. Picnic Area

TWIN PINES PARK

30 Twin Pines Lane

Community Park

21.1 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Twin Pines Park is a central and important park within Belmont and home to the Parks and Recreation Department. The park is bisected by Belmont Creek and include a large grove of eucalyptus trees with various programmed areas. The park contains playgrounds, nature play areas, group picnic areas with BBQs, horseshoe pits, rentable recreation buildings, and trail connections. There is a lawn used for community events. Creek exploration is attractive for children and various groups use the trail connections as recreational space. A Master Plan for the park was completed in 2019.



CONTEXT MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020









TWIN PINES PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Parking is located near playground.
- Redwood picnic area has an accessible pathway.
- Restroom pathway is not paved.

AMENITY

- Playgrounds are in good to fair condition (not Inclusive + All-Abilities).
- Tables are in fair to poor condition.
- Restroom by parking lot is in fair condition.
- Drinking fountains are in poor to fair condition.
- BBQs are in poor to fair condition.
- Picnic areas are in fair condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Entrance area, creek, and picnic areas lack planting.
- New tree plantings appear to be in good condition.
- Eucalyptus logs sit in open space.
- Trails are not delineated on the south side.
- Creek erosion needs addressing.
- Creek access needs improvement.
- Eucalyptus trees should be assessed.





COMMUNITY PARK

- ✓ Tier 2 Requirements
- ✓ Off-Street Parking
- ✓ Restroom, Permanent
- ✓ Athletic Field or Community Facility

1. Parking Lot
2. Twin Pines Manor
3. Senior / Community Center
4. Open Green
5. Performance Stage Area
6. Horseshoe Pit
7. Twin Pines Lodge
8. Restroom
9. Playground
10. Belmont Creek
11. Picnic Area

WAKEFIELD PARK

Wakefield Drive + Elder Drive

Neighborhood Park Tier 1

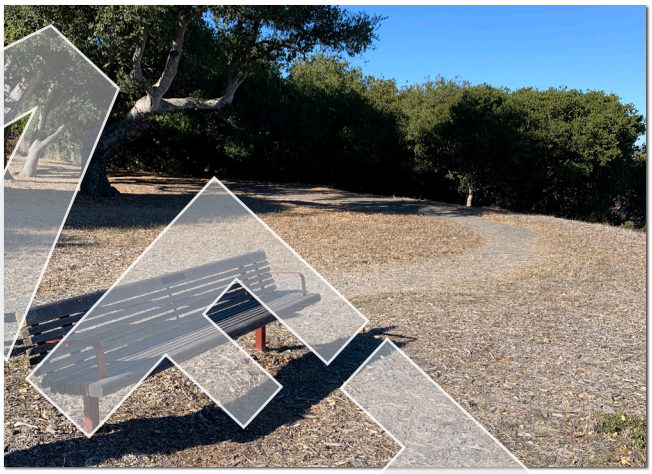
1 acre

PARK OVERVIEW

Wakefield Park is a small undeveloped park site that sits elevated from the surrounding neighborhood. There are panoramic views of San Francisco, East Bay, and Fremont areas. The space has minimal planting, with a few old growth trees that create a sense of arrival and destination. There is a wonderful sense of security created within the park because of its notable elevated from the surrounding context. The site offers a peaceful respite in an otherwise busy and congested environment.











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WAKEFIELD PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Site is not accessible.
- Entry area grade is problematic.
- Site has no paved path of travel.

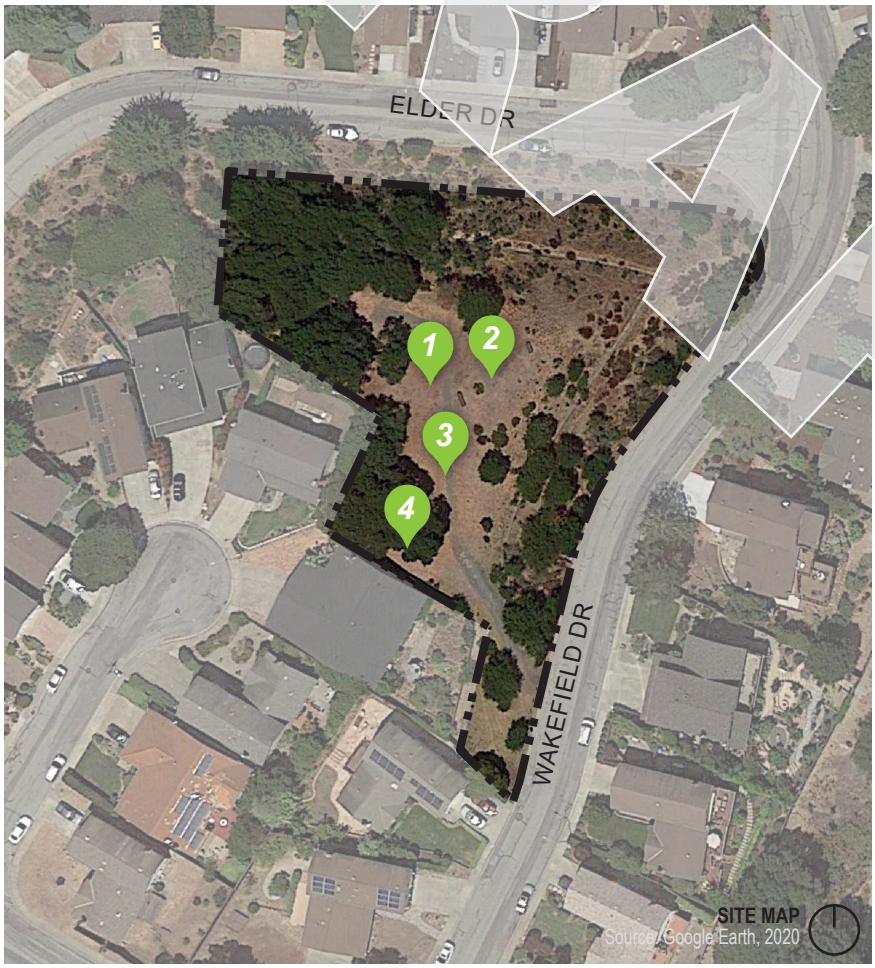
AMENITY

- Benches are in fair condition.
- Trash receptacle is in good condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Sparse planting on site, mostly naturalized shrubs.
- Old growth trees appear to be in good condition.
- Area is mostly empty.





NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1

- ✓ Natural Environment
- ✓ Seating
- ✗ Identifiable Amenity

1. Cleared Space
2. Benches
3. Trash Receptacle
4. Old Growth Trees

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CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL

525 Middle Road

School (JUA)

3.4 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

This multi-use athletic field is under a JUA. There is a playground and outdoor learning space adjacent to the rectangular, medium-sized field. The playground has been recently constructed. Current conditions for irrigation are unknown due to construction of the new playground. The field is separated from the adjacent neighborhood apartments by a 6-foot chain link fence and buffered visually with planting. There is a temporary restroom near the field. Not included in the JUA are blacktop amenities, such as basketball courts, a handball court and other game spaces typical of an elementary school.











CENTRAL SCHOOL

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

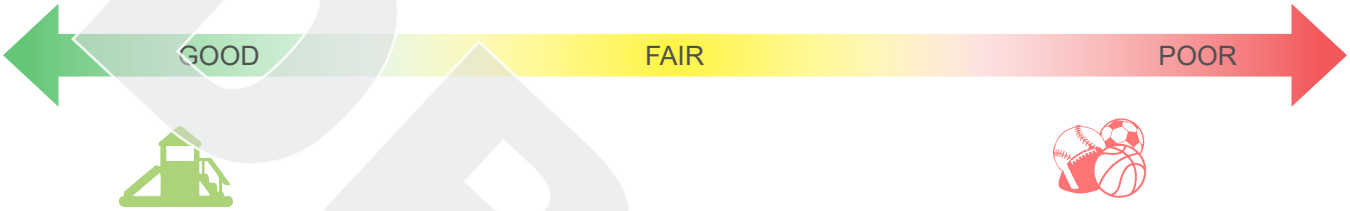
- Field turf is in fair condition.
- Site is accessible from parking lot.
- No bleachers for watching field games.

AMENITY

- Soccer nets appear to be in fair condition.
- Fence is in fair condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Turf needs replacement in some areas.
- Uneven grades in some areas.
- Perimeter trees appear to be in good condition.





1. Outdoor Classroom
2. Multi-Use Athletic Field
3. Playground
4. Restroom, Portable
5. Perimeter Trees
6. Blacktop

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FOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

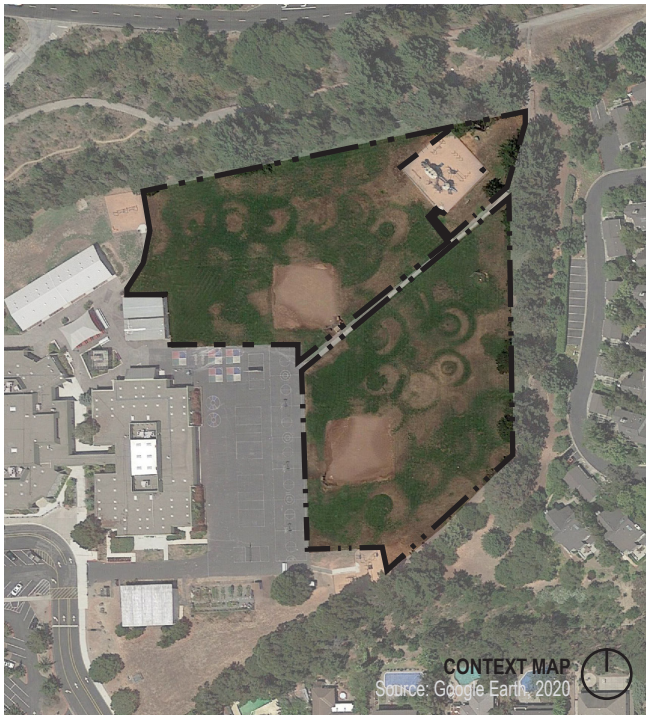
3100 St. James Road

School (JUA)

6.1 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

This multi-use athletic field is under a JUA. There is an old playground with benches surrounded by turf, connected to the path bisecting the park and a trailhead. Students use the trail to travel to and from school. There are problems with irrigation due to the system's age. Gophers are an issue on site. A new playground (not shown in the aerial) is located close to the blacktop. Not included in the JUA are blacktop amenities, such as basketball courts, wall ball courts, and other game spaces typical of an elementary school.











FOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

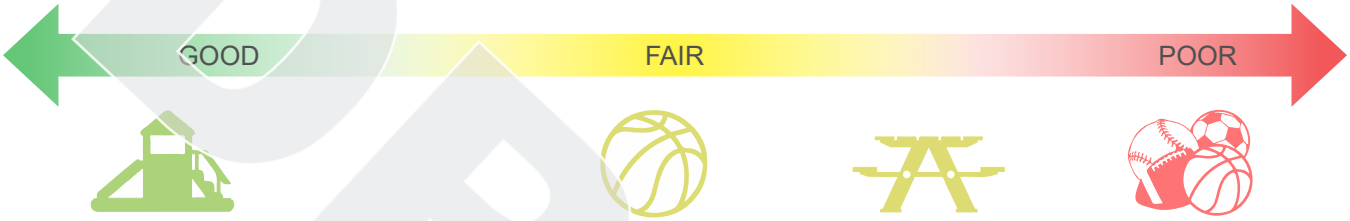
- Pathway to playground is accessible.
- New playground is accessible from asphalt.

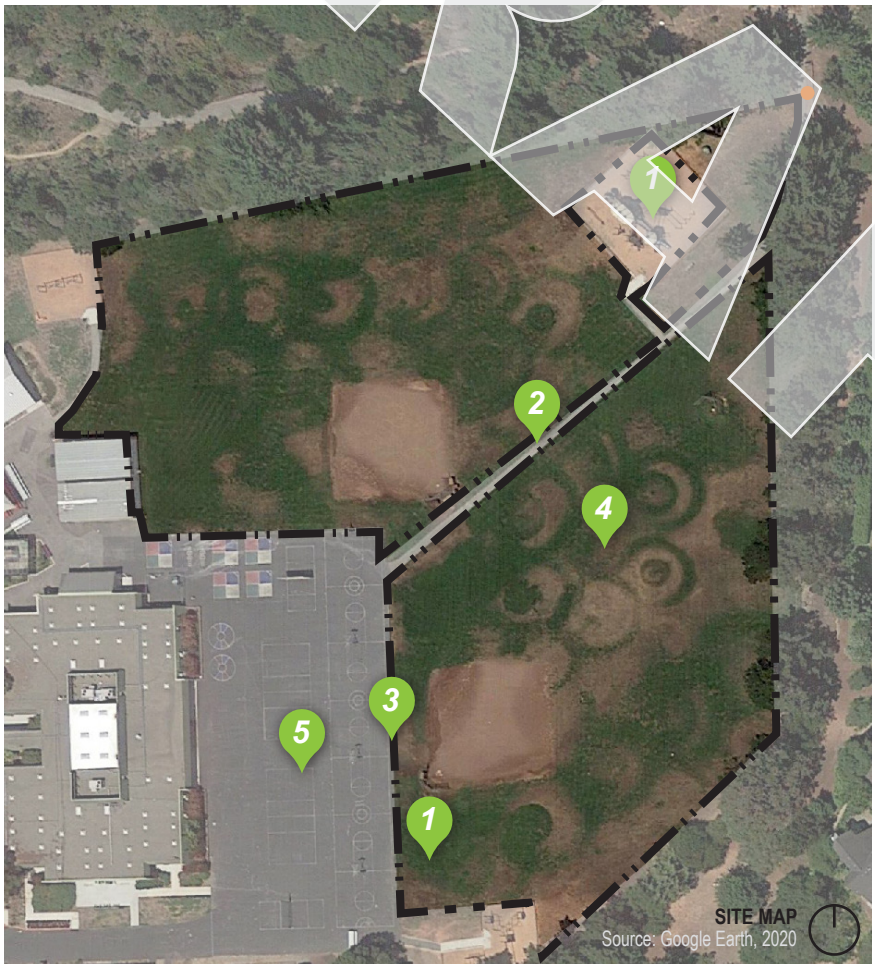
AMENITY

- Multi-use field is in poor condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Fields are in poor condition with a very uneven surface.
- Irrigation system is not operating properly.
- Rodent problem in the fields.
- Tree near old playground appears to be in fair condition.





1. Playground
2. Bisecting Path
3. Fence Line
4. Multi-Use Athletic Field
5. Blacktop Amenities

Trailhead

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NESBIT SCHOOL

500 Biddulph Way

School (JUA)

6.5 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

This multi-use athletic field is under a JUA. Nesbit School is an elementary and middle school. The field is available for public use outside school hours, typically between the hours of 4pm to 8pm on weekdays and all day on the weekends. There is a preschool to the north of the lawn. Not included in the JUA are blacktop amenities, such as basketball courts, wall ball courts, and other game spaces typical of an elementary school.











NESBIT SCHOOL

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

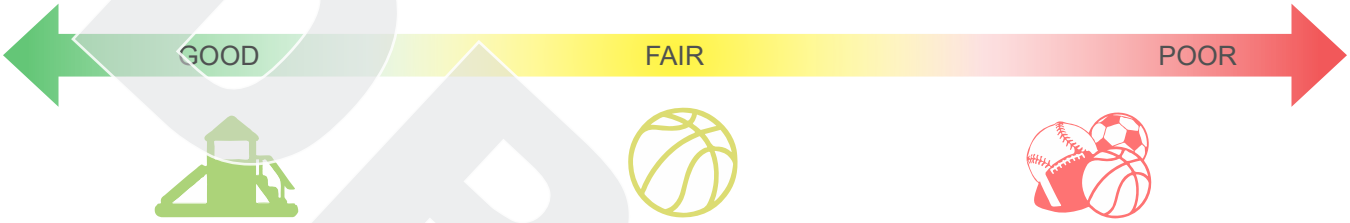
- School has accessible parking.
- Field is accessible from school's blacktop area.

AMENITY

- Infields appear to be in fair condition.
- Backstops are in poor condition.
- Portable restroom is on site.

LANDSCAPE

- Fields are in poor condition
- Irrigation concerns due to the age of the system.
- Trees in field appear to be in good condition.
- Geese are prevalent on fields.





1. Foul Ball Fencing
2. Infield
3. Preschool
4. Parking Lot
5. Soccer Nets
6. Blacktop Amenities
7. Restroom, Portable

RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

2675 Ralston Avenue

School (JUA)

7.4 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

This multi-use athletic field is under a JUA. There is a walking track surrounding the open field. A concrete amphitheater was recently constructed that faces out towards the lawn. Large eucalyptus trees line the east side of the field. The site is susceptible to wind due to its location on the hilltop surrounding Waterdog Lake, which is immediately south of the site. There is an old ropes course straddling City property that is no longer in use. Not included in the JUA are blacktop amenities, such as basketball courts.











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RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Walking track is only half paved.

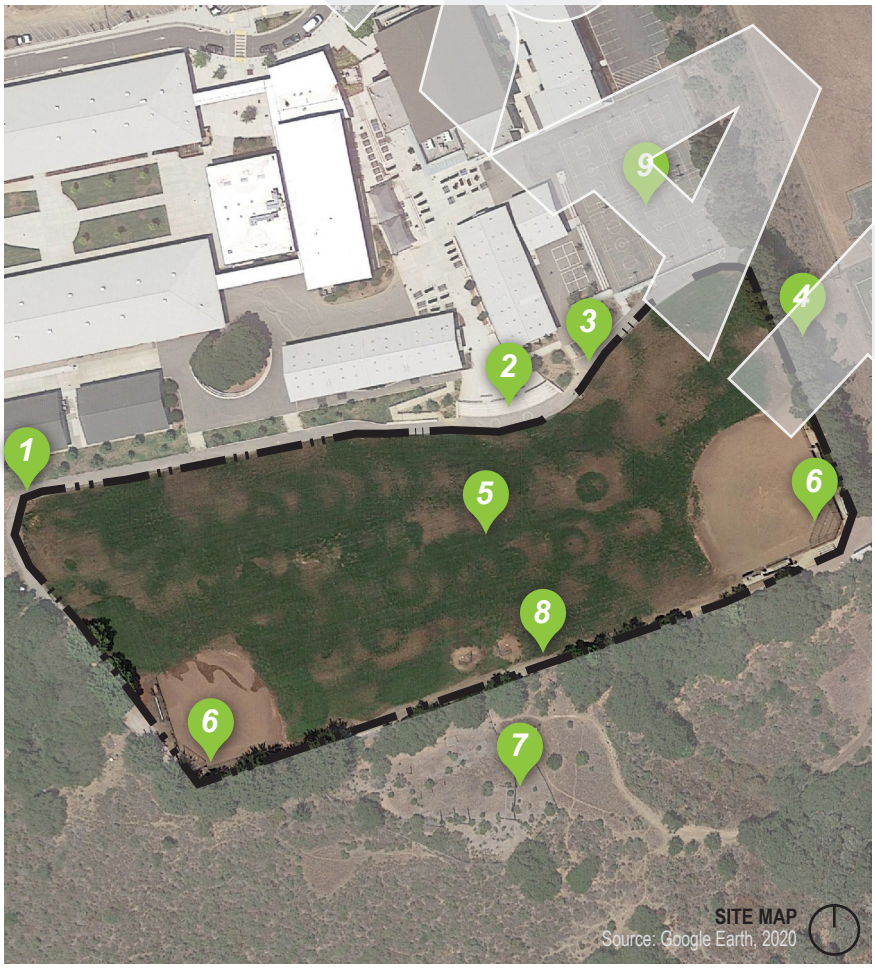
AMENITY

- Fields are in fair condition.
- Backstops are in fair condition.
- Paved path is in good condition.

LANDSCAPE

- Irrigation concerns due to the age of the system and rodents.
- Dirt path is not delineated in some areas.
- Trees to the east appear problematic.
- Cracked concrete housings.
- No plantings along loop.
- Field is overgrown beyond the fence line.





1. Public Entry
2. Amphitheater Seating
3. Paved Loop
4. Eucalyptus Trees
5. Multi-Use Athletic Field
6. Foul Ball Fencing
7. Ropes Course
8. Dirt Loop
9. Blacktop Amenities

SAN JUAN CANYON

4122 Marsten Avenue / 3500 Bartlett Way

Open Space

35 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

San Juan Canyon is a large undeveloped open space area with various trailheads leading into San Mateo with connections to Sugarloaf Mountain. There are various entry points for this trail system off Bartlett Way, Marsten Avenue, and Bishop Road. The trail system has idyllic views and old growth trees. Native species line the trails and create a serene atmosphere. The City acquired the land in 2009.

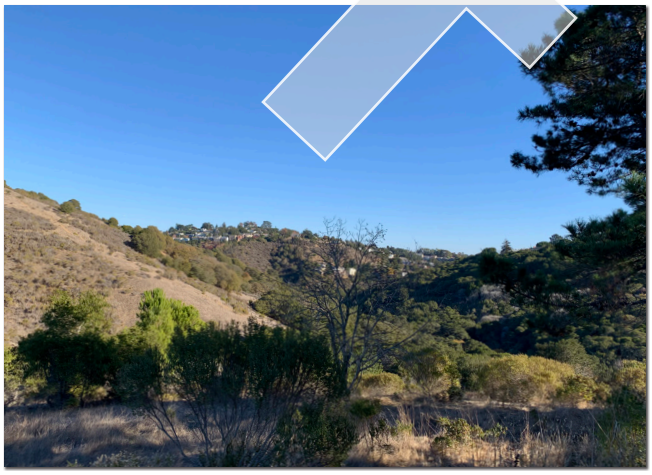


CONTEXT MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020









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SAN JUAN CANYON

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

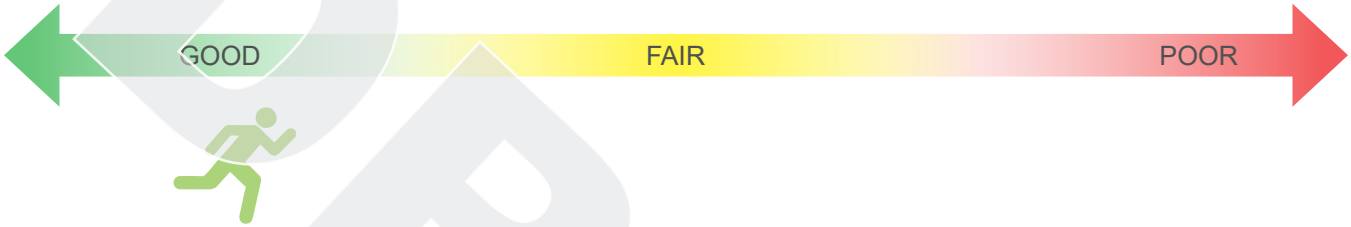
- Trails are not paved.
- Dirt trails have problematic grades.
- Trails are rugged but are clear of debris.

AMENITY

- No furnishings are on site.
- Some signage is present at new trailheads.
- Lacking signage within the trail network.

LANDSCAPE

- Naturalized areas.
- Old growth trees provide natural scenery.
- Native species are present.





1 Entry (Bartlett Way)

2 Entry to Sugarloaf

3 Entry (Marsten Road)

Trailhead

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WATERDOG LAKE

Across from 2839 Hallmark Drive

Open Space

282.5 acres

PARK OVERVIEW

Waterdog Lake is an expansive undeveloped open space. Many of the open space trails are accessible from Hidden Canyon Park. A path from Ralston Avenue leads users through beautiful groupings of native oaks, California buckeye, and eucalyptus trees, which eventually leads to Waterdog Lake. The site does not have a restroom. The open space offers various activities such as hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and dog walking.











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WATERDOG LAKE

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY

- Path to lake is partially unpaved but in fair condition.
- No paved areas near the lake.

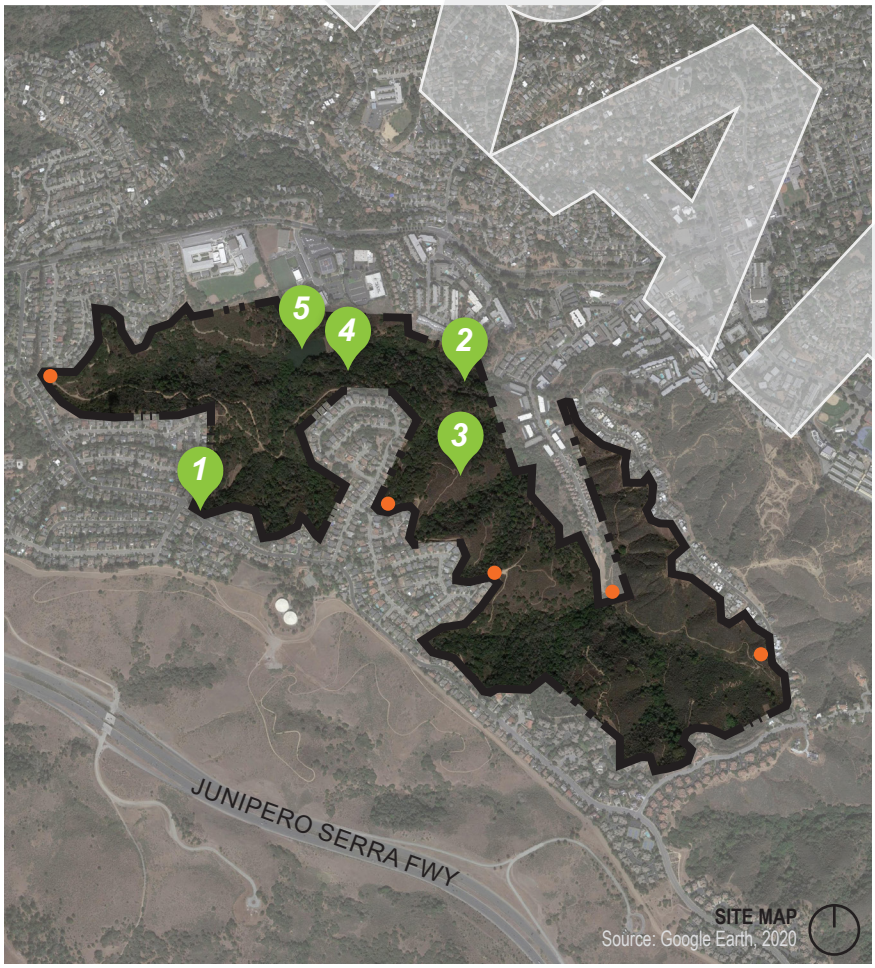
AMENITY

- Benches are in fair condition.
- No permanent restrooms.
- Portable restrooms at trailheads.

LANDSCAPE

- Erosion control is needed for areas on pathway leading to the lake.
- Mostly old growth trees and naturalized or native species.





1 Hallmark Drive Entrance
2 Trail to Lake
3 Open Space
4 Trail Connection
5 Waterdog Lake
Trailhead

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OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENTS

In spring 2022, WRA Environmental Consultants evaluated Belmont's open spaces. The study includes an Environmental Assessment and a Recreation Use Assessment. WRA was specifically engaged for this due to their science-based process and professional expertise. This study was conducted to inform and support the development of the PROS Plan. Given the trail damage that occurred as a result of storms taking place in 2023, stewardship of Belmont's open spaces remains a priority to the City and its residents.

The Environmental Assessment collected data regarding sensitive biological communities, special-status species, and trail conditions. The Recreation Use Assessment uses various measurement techniques to collect data regarding recreation use and trends. Both site visits and desktop research were used to compile the information and findings provided in the Open Space Management Plan (OSMP). The OSMP, found in the Appendix, is supplemented by data tables, a discussion of the regulatory background and methodology, and the overall conclusions of both assessments.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Assessment reviewed the existing conditions of the biological resources, recreation, and wildfire hazards at Waterdog Lake (WDL) and San Juan Canyon (SJC). It assessed both areas for the presence of sensitive biological communities, special-status plant species, and special-status wildlife species. It also assessed the potential for the site to support special-status species and assessed the baseline quality of habitats near trails. This enables the City to track and evaluate any changes in habitat quality to implement management actions accordingly.

WDL is approximately 293 acres and features trails which meander through chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian habitats; a viewshed of the San Francisco Bay; and Waterdog Lake at its center. SJC is approximately 82 acres, located approximately three quarters (¾) of a mile west of WDL across from Ralston Avenue. WDL and SJC feature similar habitats and both sites are generally surrounded by single-family residential land use. Figure 3-5 depicts both open spaces, their trail networks, and residential surroundings.



Waterdog Lake Open Space

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Figure 3-5: San Juan Canyon and Waterdog Lake Open Spaces

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ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

WILDLIFE AND PLANT SPECIES

In WDL and SJC, 7 special-status wildlife species have moderate to high potential to occur (Table 3-5), while 13 special-status plant species are present or have moderate to high potential to occur (Table 3-6). Plant species observed are mostly native with the exception of developed portions of the site, non-native annual grasslands, and eucalyptus groves. Over 90 percent of the study area consists of native biological communities with both non-sensitive and sensitive communities present (Table 3-7). Invasive species were observed, generally limited to patches of less than 50 square feet, representing a small portion of the overall area.

The overall habitat quality in both open spaces was determined to be high to moderate, with the areas adjacent to trails and residential development generally being of moderate quality. Areas with limited anthropogenic influence (set back from residential uses and major trails) contain high quality habitats. Figures 3-6 and 3-7 show the location of biological communities in WDL and SJC, respectively.

WILDLIFE	
POTENTIAL	SPECIES
Moderate or higher potential to occur	• Western (Pacific) pond turtle (Actinemys marmorata), CDFW Species of Special Concern • Olive-sided flycatcher (Contopus cooperi), CDFW Species of Special Concern • White tailed kite (Elanus leucurus), CDFW Fully Protected Species • San Francisco (saltmarsh) common yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas sinuosa), CDFW Species of Special Concern • Hoary bat (Lasiurus cinereus), WBWG Medium • San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (Neotoma fuscipes annectens), CDFW Species of Special Concern • American badger (Taxidea taxus), CDFW Species of Special Concern
Unlikely to occur	• California red-legged frog (Rana draytonii). Federal Threatened, CDFW Species of Special Concern

Table 3-5: Wildlife Likelihood to Occur in Study Area



Waterdog Lake Open Space Trail

PLANTS	
POTENTIAL	SPECIES
Present	• Franciscan onion (Allium peninsulare var. franciscanum), CRPR 1B.2. • San Francisco collinsia (Collinsia multicolor), CRPR 1B.2. • Western leatherwood (Dirca occidentalis), CRPR 1B.2. • Arcuate bush-mallow (Malacothamnus arcuatus), CRPR 1B.2. • Woodland woolythreads (Monolopia gracilens), CRPR 1B.2. • Chaparral ragwort (Senecio aphanactis), CRPR 2B.2.
High potential to occur	• San Mateo woolly sunflower (Eriophyllum latilobum), FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1.
Moderate potential to occur	• Bent-flowered fiddleneck (Amsinckia lunaris), CRPR 1B.2. • Pink star-tulip (Calochortus comosa), CRPR 4.2. • California bottle-brush grass (Elymus californicus), CRPR 4.3. • Harlequin lotus (Hosackia gracilis), CRPR 4.2. • Bristly leptosiphon (Leptosiphon acicularis), CRPR 4.2. • Choris's popcornflower (Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus), CRPR 1B.2.

Table 3-6: Plant Likelihood to Occur in Study Area

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Figure 3-6: Waterdog Lake Open Space Land Cover Types

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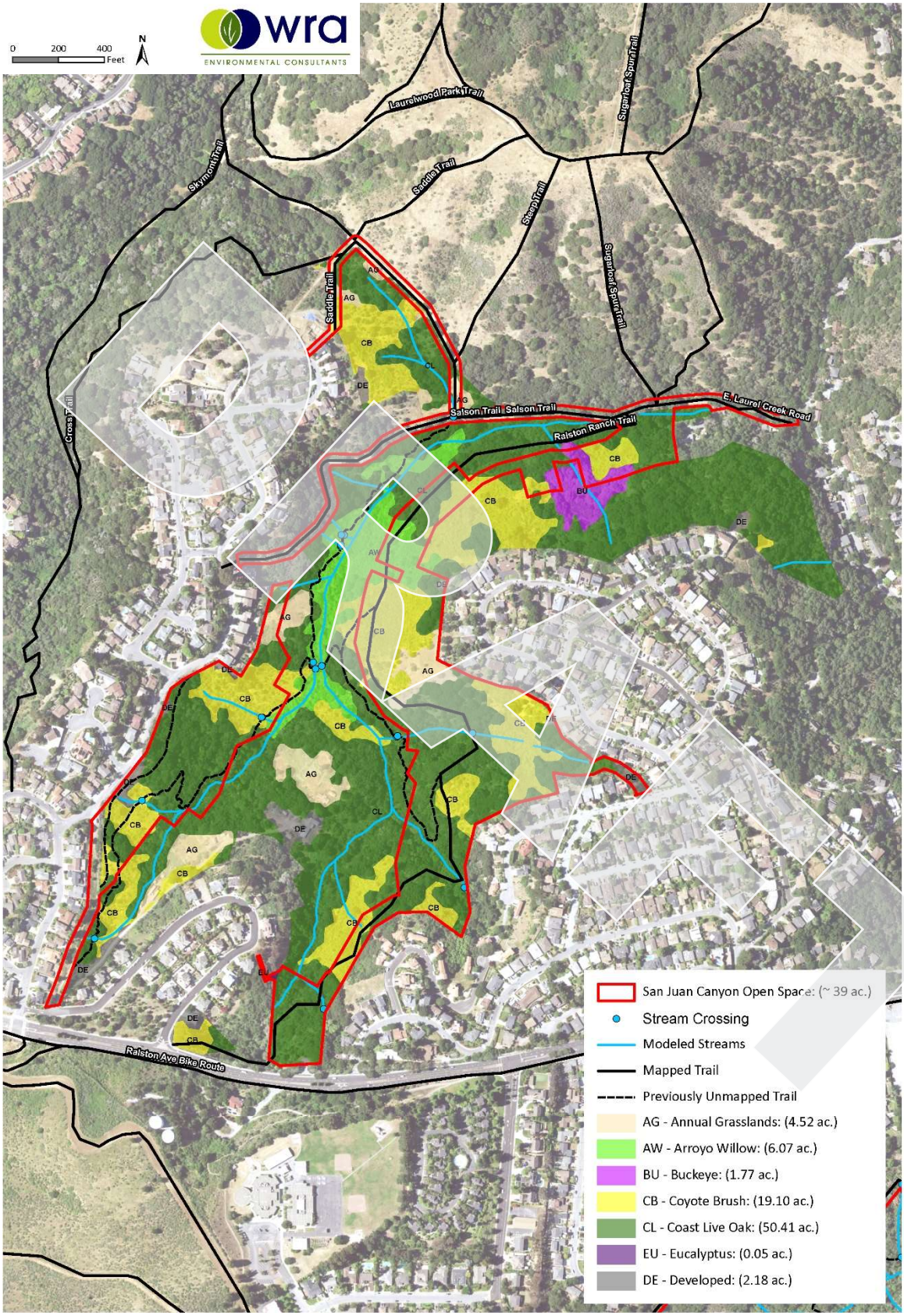


Figure 3-7: San Juan Canyon Open Space Land Cover Types

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Habitat: Coyote Brush Scrub



Habitat: Annual Grassland

BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY[1]	NATURAL COMMUNITY[3]	WATERDOG LAKE (ACRES)	SAN JUAN CANYON (ACRES)	% STUDY AREA
Non-sensitive				
Broadleafed Upland Forest	Coast Live Oak Woodland	146.75	48.59	52.1
Broadleafed Upland Forest	Eucalyptus Groves	1.59	0.05	0.4
Coastal Scrub	Coyote Brush Scrub	18.82	18.45	9.9
Chaparral	California Sagebrush Scrub	22.84	-	6.1
Chaparral	Chamise Chaparral	52.01	-	13.9
Chaparral	Mixed Shrub	8.97	-	2.4
Valley and Foothill Grassland	Non-Native Annual Grassland	8.78	4.93	3.7
Developed[2]		0.84	2.07	0.8
Sensitive[4]				
Broadleafed Upland Forest	California Bay Woodland	22.62	-	6.0
Riparian Woodland	Arroyo Willow	7.23	5.87	3.5
Riparian Woodland	California Buckeye Groves	1.70	1.68	0.9

1 Holland (1986)

2 Biological community not described in Holland (1986)

3 Sawyer et al. (2009)

4 Determination based on the List of California Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2021)

Table 3-7: Biological Communities within the Study Area

WILDFIRE

Table 3-8 shows the fire hazard ratings for fuel vegetation types as determined by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The majority (approximately 147 acres) of vegetation in the WDL area is coastal live oak, which has a low hazard rating and ignition potential, since it is associated with Oak-Bay woodland. This also applies to the SJC, with the majority of vegetation there mapped as coastal live oak. However, based on the San Mateo County Hazard Mitigation Plan, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has rated Belmont's open spaces as having very high wildfire hazards for WDL and high wildfire hazards for SJC. These hazard ratings are based on multiple factors including vegetation type and density, topography, weather, potential fire behavior, and potential for damage to human life and structures.

Both WDL and SJC have steeply sloped, vegetated areas adjacent to residential areas. Fires that start on slopes tend to travel uphill. The area west of Hastings Drive is classified as chamise which is associated with the North Coastal Scrub-Xeric vegetation type and has an extreme fuel hazard rating. Based on aerial photograph review, there is a buffer of grass or no vegetation between much of the housing west of Hastings Drive and the chamise vegetation.

Figures 3-8 and 3-9 depict areas that were treated for wildfire fuel reduction by the City between 2019 and 2021.

FIRE HAZARD RATING FOR FUEL VEGETATION TYPES

VEGETATION TYPE	HAZARD RATING	IGNITION POTENTIAL[1]
Grasslands + Herbaceous Vegetation		
Coastal Prairie	Moderate	2
Serpentine Bunchgrass Grasslands	Low	2
California Annual Grasslands	Moderate	1
Ruderal Vegetation	Moderate	3
Scrub Vegetation		
Maritime Chaparral (Manzanita-Chinquapin)	Extreme	6
North Coastal Scrub-Xeric	Extreme	4
North Coastal Scrub-Mesic	High	8
Coyote Brush Scrub	High	4
Non-native Scrub	High	6
Woodlands + Forest Plantations		
Mature Eucalyptus Forest	High	1
Young Eucalyptus Forest	High	2
Mature Monterey Pine Forest	Moderate to High	2
Young Monterey Pine Forest	High	2
Oak-Bay Woodland	Low	6-8
Redwood Forest	Low	8
Riparian Woodland	Low	8

Source: Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan, EBRPD, 2010

1 Ignition potential was ranked 1 to 10, where the highest potential is represented by a "1" and the lowest potential is ranked by a "10."

Table 3-8: Fire Hazard Rating for Fuel Vegetation Types



Figure 3-8: Wildfire Fuel Reduction Areas near Hastings Drive

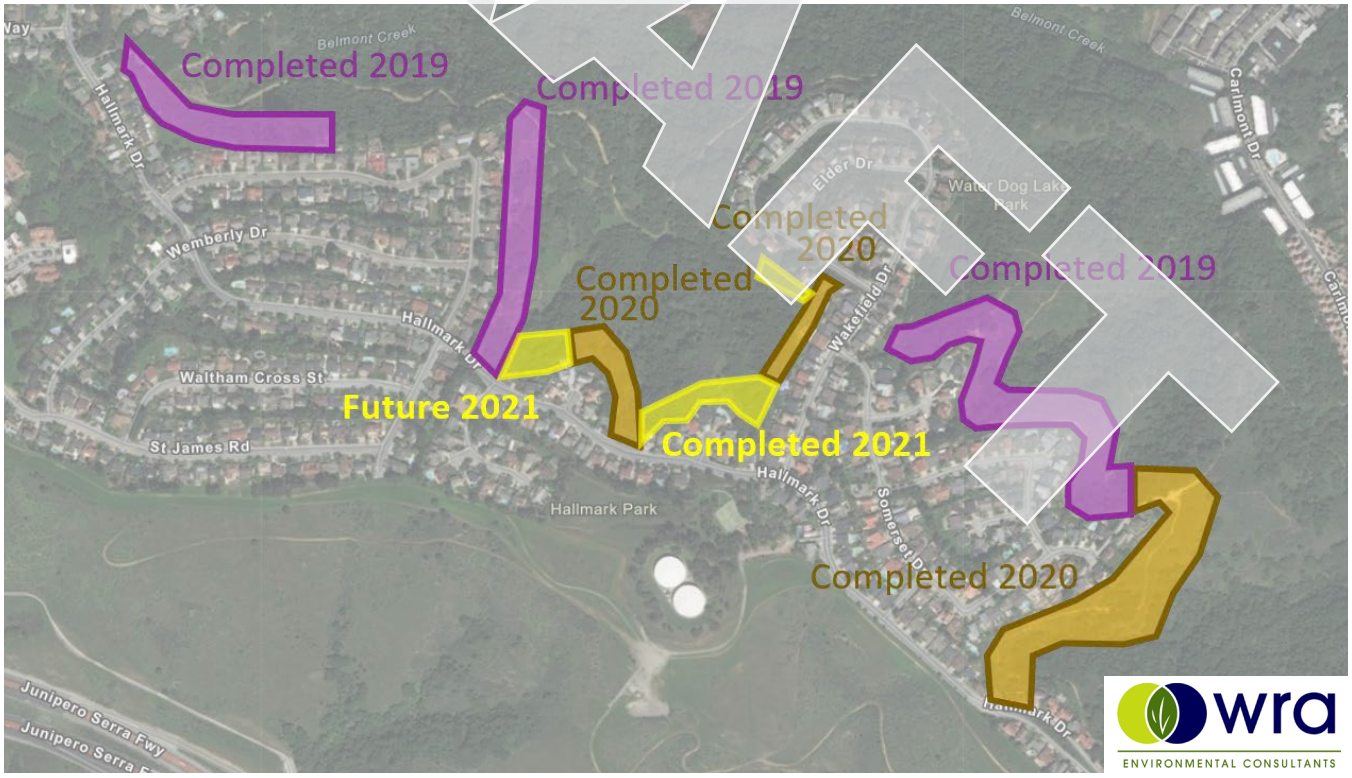


Figure 3-9: Wildfire Fuel Reduction Areas near Hallmark Drive

TRAIL EROSION

WRA documented trail conditions for approximately 13 miles of trails during March and April 2022. The purpose of the evaluation was to generally characterize environmental conditions in the trail network, which were used to develop recommendations presented later in this document. This effort was not a comprehensive inventory. The qualitative review of trail conditions on both mapped trails (those shown by City maps) and previously unmapped trails (those which are not shown on City maps, and are not permitted for public use) was based on the level of erosion and vegetation impacts observed.

Trail erosion categories include high, medium, and low erosion; these categories are defined in Table 3-9, along with a representative photo of the category. Point data were collected along the trail feature which are shown in Figure 3-110 and Figure 3-101. In addition, WRA noted stream crossing locations and determined if adjacent vegetation shows signs of impacts (trampling and/or what appears to be obvious/illegal vegetation trimming). Approximately 50 stream crossings were identified along existing trails with varied crossing mechanisms, such as a free-span wooden footbridge, a plank placed across the stream, or stepping stones that may pose risks to the riparian habitat below.

TRAIL CONDITIONS

EROSION CATEGORY		SAMPLE IMAGE
HIGH	There are more than two deep ruts located along the length of the trail, and there are several observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities where it causes trail users to create additional pathways to avoid this erosion feature. For this category, evidence of trail user impacts resulting from the erosion feature includes more than one of the following: trail widening, braided trails, unsanctioned trails, soil compaction, and vegetation trampling.	
MEDIUM	There are one or two noticeable ruts forming along the length of the trail, and there are some observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities. For this category, evidence of trail user impacts resulting from the erosion feature includes one of the following: trail widening, braided trails, unsanctioned trails, soil compaction, and vegetation trampling.	
LOW	There is a shallow rill forming along the length of the trail, but there are no observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities. There is no evidence of trail users negatively impacting adjacent vegetation to avoid this erosion feature.	

Table 3-9: Trail Conditions

Note: Sample images above were taken within Belmont's open spaces.

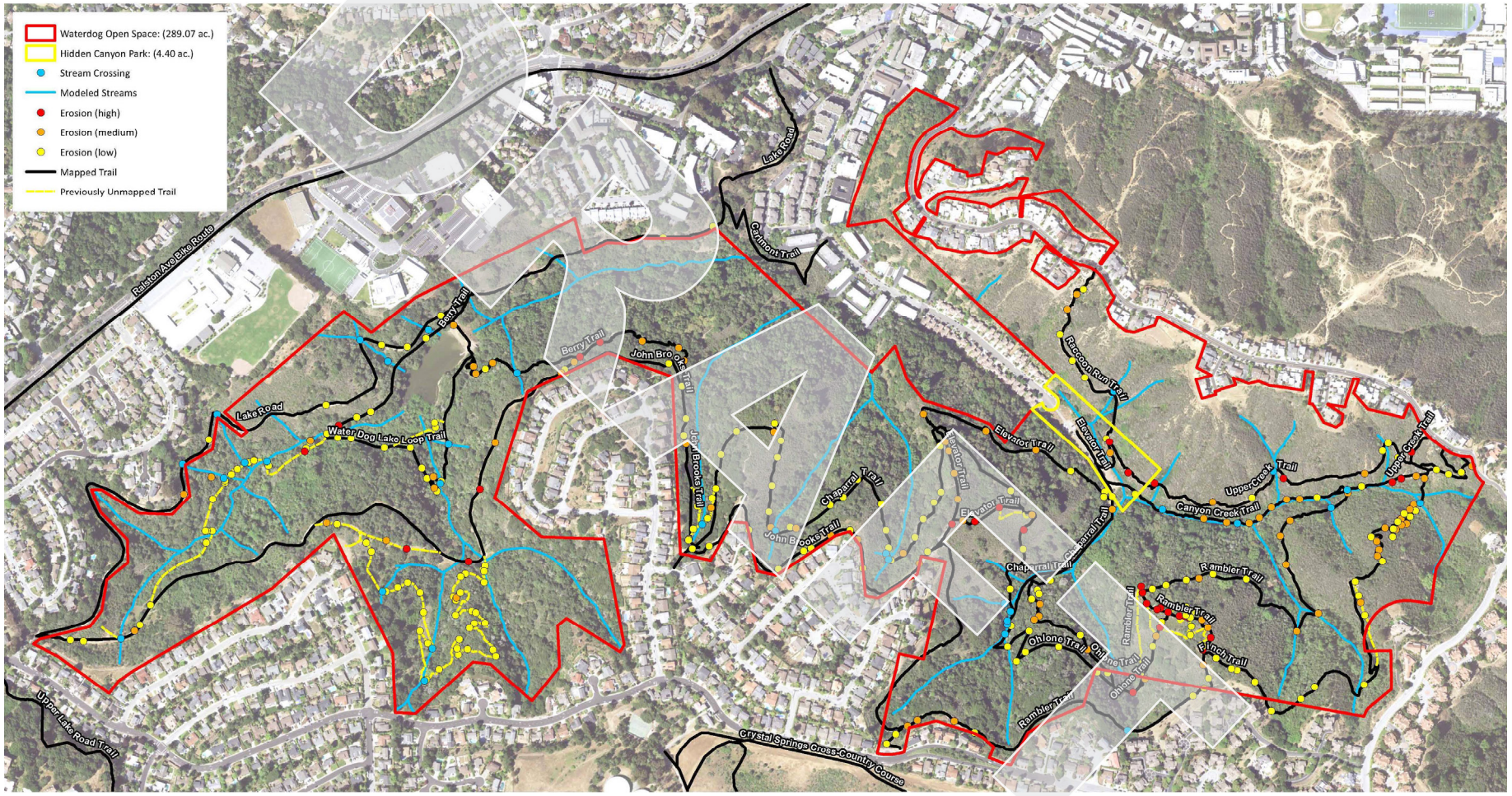


Figure 3-10: Waterdog Lake Open Space Trail Assessment

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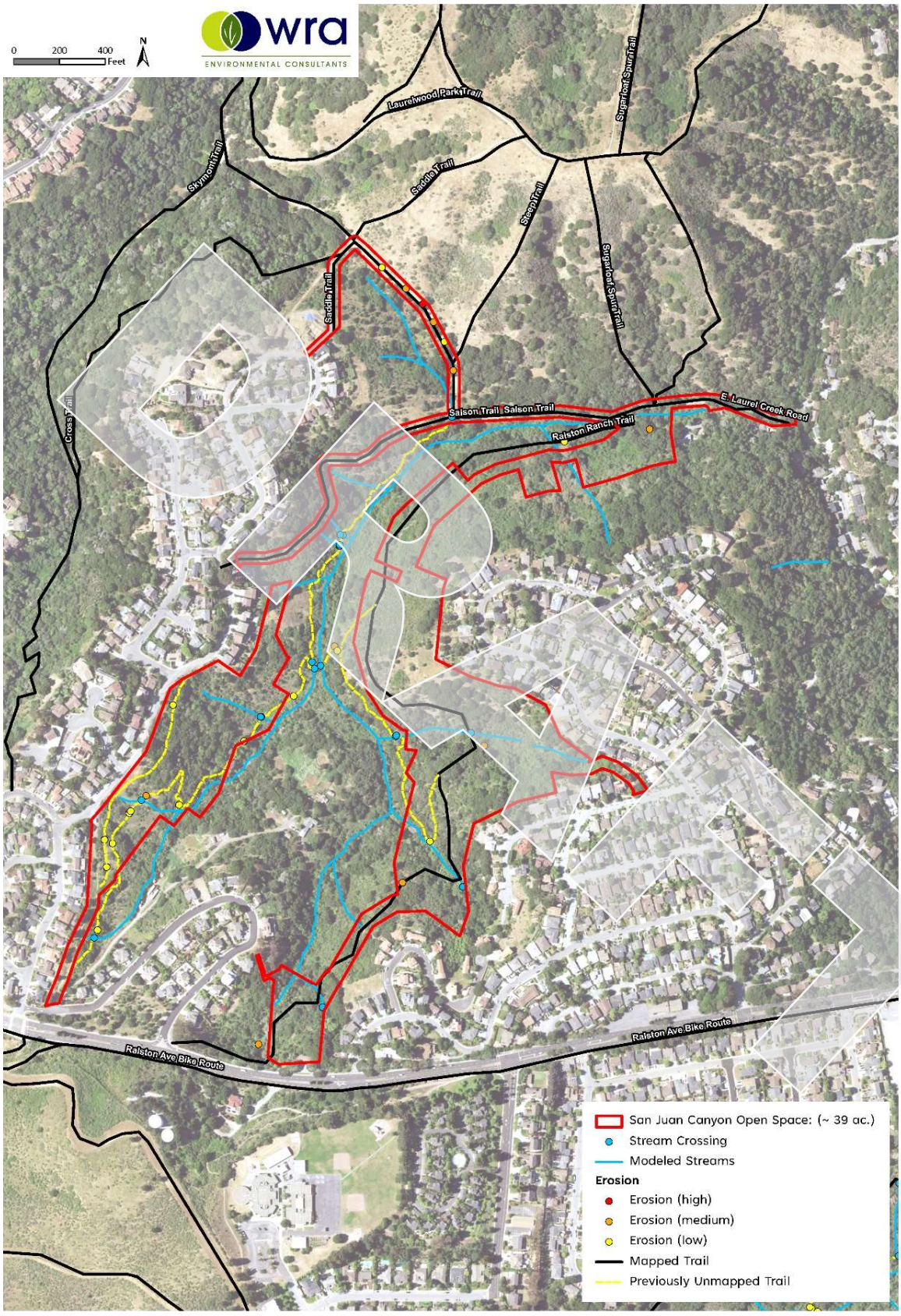


Figure 3-11: San Juan Canyon Open Space Trail Assessment

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The trails have a relatively small footprint, representing approximately 5 acres or 1.3 percent of the total open space acreage. Most trail erosion locations were found in the larger WDL area, and among those locations, the majority were assessed as exhibiting a low level of erosion. The number of locations assessed as having high erosion were about 1 in 10, or 8 to 11 percent for WDL and 0 to 8 percent for SJC.

These results demonstrate that the trail systems are in relatively good condition overall, but that there are specific locations of high erosion that should be addressed immediately.

Table 3-10 summarizes the trail erosion instances.

TRAIL EROSION INSTANCES

TYPE	LOW	MED	HIGH	TOTAL
WATERDOG LAKE				
Mapped	127 *(56%)*	77 *(34%)*	25 *(11%)*	229
Unmapped	59 *(83%)*	7 *(10%)*	6 *(8%)*	71
SAN JUAN CANYON				
Mapped	5 *(38%)*	7 *(54%)*	1 *(8%)*	13
Unmapped	11 *(85%)*	2 *(15%)*	0 *(0%)*	13

Table 3-10: Trail Erosion Instances

Note: Public access is not permitted on unmapped trails.



Waterdog Lake Open Space Trail Over Stream



Waterdog Lake Open Space Trail Over Stream



Recreational Use of Waterdog Lake Open Space Trails

RECREATION USE ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

Recreation use is typically categorized as follows: who the visitors are, what activities they do, where they go, and how many visits a site receives. Measuring recreation use can provide monthly, seasonal, and annual data for visitation, but also can be used for funding requests, facility and open space planning, utility capacity estimates, and future management actions. Understanding the visitors and their perceptions can help the City meet visitor preferences for open space recreation. Table 3-11 provides a summary of methods available to evaluate recreation use. The Recreation Use Assessment also reviewed current and potential future open space recreation trends to identify best practices for trail usage, layout, and maintenance within the City of Belmont. The OSMP in the Appendix contains an in-depth overview of data collection methodologies that were chosen for this study.

RECREATION USE FINDINGS

TRAIL USAGE

The activities occurring on trails in both open spaces seem to be consistent, allowing hiking, dogs on leash, and biking. These types of activities are generally referred to as passive, which makes the recreation use occurring in both areas consistent with existing policy on all parcels. The Environmental Assessment found that wildlife habitats in WDL and SJC are in good condition, further suggesting that the current trail usage and trail density are not having undue negative impacts.

TRAIL DENSITY

Trail density is calculated by the total miles of trail over the acreage of the open space. Table 3-122 and 3-13 show the total trail mileage and trail density, respectively, for both mapped and previously unmapped trails.

SUMMARY OF VISITOR SURVEY AND COUNT METHODS

METHOD	WHO VISITORS ARE / VISITOR PERCEPTIONS	WHAT ACTIVITIES VISITORS DO	WHERE VISITORS GO	NUMBER OF VISITS
On-site visitor survey *Pros:* gather lots of information at once for people actively using the area *Cons:* time and resource intensive, only a snapshot in time	X	X	X	X
Online visitor survey *Pros:* gather lots of information at once, assess latent demand and reasons for not using open space areas, or decreased open space use *Cons:* Not all potential respondents have internet access, more difficult to control the sample of respondents selected to survey	X	X	X	X
Visitor counts from on-site observer *Pros:* easily collect digital data *Cons:* time and resource intensive		X	X	X
Visitor counts from remote motion-activated camera *Pros:* remote data collection *Cons:* time intensive or expensive data analysis		X	X	X
Visitor counts from automated counters *Pros:* remote data collection *Cons:* more types of data are more expensive		X	X	X
Visitor counts from cellphone location data *Pros:* data is voluntarily collected and preexisting *Cons:* unknown data reliability and potentially expensive			X	X

Table 3-11: Summary of Visitor Survey and Count Methods

MILES OF TRAILS IN BELMONT OPEN SPACES			
	TRAIL MILES		
TYPE	WATERDOG LAKE	SAN JUAN CANYON	TOTAL
Mapped	8.57 *(81%)*	1.04 *(45%)*	9.61 *(75%)*
Previously Unmapped	1.96 *(19%)*	1.26 *(55%)*	3.22 *(25%)*
All	10.53 *(100%)*	2.3 *(100%)*	12.83 *(100%)*

Table 3-12: Miles of Trails in Belmont Open Spaces

TRAIL DENSITY (TRAIL MILES PER ACRE)		
TYPE	WATERDOG LAKE	SAN JUAN CANYON
Mapped	0.03	0.01
Mapped + Previously Unmapped	0.04	0.03

Table 3-13: Trail Density in Belmont Open Spaces

COMPARABLE TRAIL DENSITIES (TRAIL MILES PER ACRE)		
	TOTAL SIZE (ACRES)	TRAIL DENSITY
Laurelwood/Sugarloaf Open Space	225	0.02
Big Canyon + Easton Parks	74	0.05

Table 3-14: Comparable Trail Densities

WDL and SJC have trail systems that are similar in density when compared to nearby open space areas (Table 3-14).

WDL (293 acres) has a trail density of about 0.03 miles per acre for mapped trails. Comparable to WDL in area, the Laurelwood/Sugarloaf Open Space (225 acres) in San Mateo has a trail density of 0.02 miles per acre. The Laurelwood Park and Sugarloaf Mountain Open Space Management Plan Amendment (2015) found a number of existing trails which are not mapped and not utilized in the trail density calculation (City of San Mateo Parks and Recreation, 2015). When WDL's previously unmapped trails are included, the trail density increases to 0.04 miles per acre.

SJC (81 acres) has a trail density of 0.01 miles per acre for mapped trails. When unmapped trails are included, the density increases to 0.03 miles per acre. Similar in size to SJC are Big Canyon and Eaton Parks (74 acres combined) in San Carlos, where the combined trail density is 0.05 miles per acre. The 2012 San Carlos Hillside Trails Plan also indicated that well established, unmapped trails existed (City of San Carlos, 2012). These unmapped trails would further increase the trail density in Big Canyon and Eaton Parks. These San Carlos parks allow hiking and dogs on leash, but do not allow bikes.



San Juan Canyon Open Space

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PART 2.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

CHAPTER 4 COMMUNITY INPUT

CHAPTER 5 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CHAPTER 6 GOALS

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PART 2.
WHERE WE WANT TO BE

CHAPTER 4
COMMUNITY INPUT

Community engagement is the first step in identifying "Where We Want To Be." Community input was foundational to the PROS Plan and instrumental in the creation of the recommendations herein.

A majority of community feedback was collected virtually due to restriction in place for the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost 5,000 instances of engagement were recorded from participants for the PROS Plan, providing significant guidance for Belmont's PROS system over the next 15 years.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES		
EVENT / MEETING	LOCATION	DATE(S)
Citywide Survey	Virtual	4/1 thru 4/30/2021
Focus Groups + Neighborhood Meetings		
Youth & Teen	Virtual	6/3/2021
District / Joint-Use	Virtual	6/4/2021
Dog Owners	Cipriani Park	6/8/2021 6/15/2021
Seniors	Virtual	6/8/2021
Youth Sports	Virtual	6/24/2021
Schools	Virtual	6/29/2021
Inclusion	Virtual	6/29/2021
Hidden Canyon Park	Virtual	10/18/2021
Ralston Ranch Park	Virtual	10/20/2021
Youth Advisory Committee	Virtual	11/18/2021
Pop-Up Booths		
Concerts in the Park	Twin Pines Park	8/29/2021 9/19/2021
Egg Adventure Hunt	Twin Pines Park	4/16/2022
Earth Day	Twin Pines Park	4/23/2022
Open House		
Open Space Management Plan	Hidden Canyon Park	6/13/2022
Advisory Committee		
#1 Goals + Guiding Principles	Virtual	3/4/2021
#2 Outreach Summary	Virtual	5/31/2021
#3 Park-Specific Recommendations	Virtual	9/30/2021
#4 Open Space Management Plan	Virtual	4/5/2022
#5 Open Space Management Plan	Virtual	5/31/2022

Table 4-1: Community Engagement Opportunities

OVERVIEW

Beginning in Spring 2021, community outreach efforts were conducted in a hybrid manner, utilizing virtual platforms and in person participation opportunities to hear from the Belmont community. Table 4-1 and Table 4-2 summarize the engagement opportunities and presentations that were held for the PROS Plan.

OUTREACH METHODS

Approximately 5,000 instances of engagement were recorded from participants for the PROS Plan. Respondents shared preferences, priorities, and identified gaps for improvement in the PROS system. The PROS engagement efforts employed a wide range of materials and formats to maximize project awareness and community participation. Methods included the creation of an Advisory Committee, an online survey, in-person and virtual focus groups, community pop-up events, neighborhood meetings, a comprehensive social media campaign, and public presentations. Throughout the duration of the PROS planning process, a dedicated project website and email address were available for the public to learn more about the PROS Plan, stay up-to-date on the project process, and share their thoughts with the project team.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The PROS Advisory Committee was formed at the outset of the project to provide insights, support outreach, and advise the PROS Plan.

- **Insights:** Represent a diverse perspective of interests and ideas
- **Outreach:** Gather feedback and serve as community liaison to Master Plan team
- **Advise:** Review and provide input on the Master Plan process

The Advisory Committee is a group of engaged community members, with representatives from City commissions and Belmont residents with different backgrounds and interests. Brief bios for all Advisory Committee members are included in the Appendix.

The Advisory Committee members are:

- Rui Bao
- Lynn Bell
- David Braunstein
- Nelson Corteway
- Dan Deguara
- Ulla Foehr
- Karen Haas-Foletta
- Sanaa Kapur
- Eli Latimerlo
- Austin Lee
- Craig Michaels
- Caroline Pyrz
- Sergio Raddavero
- Abby Sanders
- Scott Sisemore
- Bob Stahl
- Dean Wilson
- Susan Wright

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

The Parks and Recreation Commission were heavily involved in the PROS Plan. The seven appointed members and two appointed youth members provided updates at each month's meeting about the PROS Plan and provided regular content for the PROS Plan team to consider and address. The PROS Plan was discussed at over 20 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings.

PROJECT WEBSITE + EMAIL

The project website (BelmontPROSplan.com) was launched in January 2021 as a resource for the community to learn about the project and stay up-to-date on the project progress, receive announcements on events, review presentations and draft excerpts, and share input on the PROS Plan. From January 2021 to January 2024, the website was visited approximately 12,000 times by about 9,600 unique visitors.

The project email (info@BelmontPROSplan.com) allowed interested community members to share their thoughts and comments to inform the planning process. In total, over 950 emails were received (January 2021 through January 2024). All emails were posted to the project website to increase project transparency. All emails received at the project email address are included in the Appendix.

Additionally, emails received by the Parks and Recreation Commissioners were posted to the project website. From November 2020 through January 2024, over 650 emails were received.

FOCUS GROUPS + NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Throughout 2021, over 75 people participated in 11 focus group interviews. Focus group topics are listed in Table 4-1. Neighborhood meetings were held for the two Undeveloped Parks (Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park) in October 2021. Conducted virtually, the meetings were advertised by postcards sent to nearby residences of the site and announced on the project website's event page. Over 50 people participated in both neighborhood meetings.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

EVENT / MEETING	LOCATION	DATE(S)
Parks + Recreation Commission		
Project Updates	Virtual	*Monthly*
Amenity Ratios	Virtual	2/3/2021
Park-specific Recommendations	Virtual	11/3/2021
Draft Final Plan	Virtual	7/6/2022
Draft Final Plan	Virtual	1/10/2024
Draft Final Plan	Virtual	2/7/2024
City Council		
Outreach Strategy	Virtual	3/9/2021
Park-specific Recommendations	Virtual	11/23/2021
Goals + Strategies	Virtual	3/22/2022
Draft Final Plan	Virtual	7/12/2022
Final Plan	Virtual	3/12/2024
Planning Commission		
Status Update	Virtual	4/6/2021
Other		
Belmont-Redwood Shores School District	Virtual	3/9/2021
Belmont + Redwood Shores Rotary Club	Virtual	3/29/2021
Council of Cities	Virtual	5/28/2021
Youth Advisory Committee	Virtual	11/18/2021

Table 4-2: Community Presentations

ONLINE SURVEY

The online survey was conducted online using the SurveyMonkey platform. Over 2,800 responses were received. The survey informed the PROS Plan about current likes and uses of Belmont's PROS sites and identified desired amenities. The full survey results are included in the Appendix.

COMMUNITY THEMES

Through the community engagement process, the following 10 common themes arose:



AMENITIES FOR SOCIAL + PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Community members articulated a preference for their PROS system to continue to offer amenities for social and physical activity. Of survey respondents, 90 percent reported using Belmont parks and facilities for individual exercise, while 47 percent reported using the parks to gather with friends and family. Twin Pines Park (which offers reservable picnic areas and hosts citywide events like Concerts in the Park) and Belmont Sports Complex received the highest satisfaction ratings from survey takers, highlighting the community's desire to utilize these public facilities for social and physical activity.



MORE SEATING OPPORTUNITIES

Belmont residents expressed a desire for additional amenities that encourage people to linger, gather, and socialize in the parks. Participants in the youth, senior, and dog park focus groups cited additional seating as a high priority for park improvements. These three focus groups also requested additional shade, spaces for gathering and socializing, as well as other amenities to enhance comfortability at PROS sites.

A significant percentage of survey respondents cited using Belmont parks for more reflective, nature-based activities, with 60 percent identifying "commune with nature" and 55 percent selecting "peace and quiet" as their primary reason to visit Belmont's PROS sites. This use pattern supports the community desire for more seating opportunities, with over 50 percent of respondents identifying additional benches and places to sit as one of the top six amenities to enhance the Belmont PROS experience.



PHYSICAL CONNECTIONS

A cohesive, physically-connected PROS system is desired for Belmont. This theme was noted by the PROS Advisory Committee and at several Parks and Recreation Commission meetings as an overarching goal to foster active transportation modes to PROS sites. A robust and connected bicycle and pedestrian-friendly network makes it easier for residents and visitors to access the City's facilities without a car.



AMENITIES FOR DIVERSE INTERESTS

The Belmont community desires a PROS system that offers amenities for a diverse range of interests. At the conclusion of the online survey and focus group efforts, priority amenities were identified as important based on the amount community input. Priority amenities include a community garden, dog parklet, skate park, pump track, and water play options. At the youth focus group, participants expressed support for a pump track, which are becoming more popular throughout the nation. Addition of a skate park facility was also a popular suggestion noted in emailed comments.



ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL ABILITIES

Belmont's PROS sites should be accessible and inclusive for all abilities. They should accommodate users with both physical and/or developmental differences, and future improvements should be designed and implemented to increase inclusivity at Belmont's parks. The theme of inclusion was cited as one of the guiding principles of the PROS plan process.

Participants in the inclusivity focus group noted desires for inclusive play elements for older individuals, so as to accommodate more than just small children. They also desired opportunities for sensory and tactile play options, and protected spaces with multiple sight-lines and access points for easy supervision.

CREATE MORE WITH LESS

With Belmont's finite amount of available and undeveloped land, it is a priority to create more with less. In order to increase and create new amenities, it is critical to strategically layer uses at existing PROS sites to meet public demand. Potential strategies particularly identified at the school district and youth sports focus groups include implementing and maintaining joint-use agreements with school sites, and extending usable time to existing facilities by adding lighting to sports fields or utilizing synthetic turf so that nighttime and/or winter use is an option.

CONNECTING WITH NATURE

Connecting with nature is important to Belmont residents, and both the Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission agree. There is an identified need for accessible opportunities to enjoy the City's natural beauty and outdoor spaces. Approximately 60 percent of survey respondents reported communing with nature as one of the top five reasons to visit one of the City's parks, recreation facilities, or open spaces. Seeking "peace and quiet" was reported by 55 percent of respondents as another one of the top reasons to visit Belmont's PROS sites, echoing the community's value on simply enjoying the natural landscape aspects within their parks. Survey respondents also expressed an interest in "more nature-oriented activities," when asked about activities that would enhance their experience with outdoor recreation programs.

Furthermore, a large number of public comments from residents throughout the Bay Area were received from Waterdog Open Space enthusiasts voicing support for the trail network, balanced recreation use, and expanded access.



Open Space Management Plan Open House

AVAILABLE FOR MANY USES + USERS

The community desires their PROS sites to be able to accommodate a range of uses and users. Concerns around usage conflicts on Open Space trails were a frequent topic of discussion at Parks and Recreation Commission meetings and within emails received from the public. Belmont's open spaces offer opportunities for fishing, interpretive walks, nature watching, volunteering, and partnering with schools for educational adventures. To create an inclusive PROS system and cultivate appreciation of Belmont's natural resources, it is important for the City to thoughtfully develop ways to accommodate different uses on trails and maintain a safe experience for all users. Participants and Advisory Committee members overwhelmingly supported implementation of balanced recreation use in Belmont's open spaces at the fifth Advisory Committee meeting.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Residents of Belmont value the natural beauty found within their parks and open spaces. There is a demonstrated desire among community members and the Parks and Recreation Commission for a stronger focus on environmental stewardship, sustainability, and resiliency with the City's natural resources. Specifically, Belmont's tree canopy was cited as an important natural resource. Approximately 65 percent of survey respondents identified maintaining and enhancing the tree canopy as one of the top six amenities that would enhance the Belmont park experience. The Parks and Recreation Commission also emphasized the importance of adding more trees in parks and beyond. Trees offer shade and cooler microclimates for recreation and social interaction and a changing tapestry of color throughout the year. They also mitigate noise pollution, screen unattractive views, and provide shelter and food for wildlife in Belmont.

HONOR BELMONT'S UNIQUE LANDSCAPE

The City of Belmont offers a unique combination of developed parkland and an abundance of well-loved open spaces and trails. Numerous emails from the public were received emphasizing community support for the City to protect wildlife and natural habitat when appropriate, prioritize accessibility and sustainability maintenance of the trails as they are, and demonstrate a high degree of environmental stewardship. The importance of environmental stewardship and honoring the unique landscape was also echoed by the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as numerous community and Advisory Committee members.

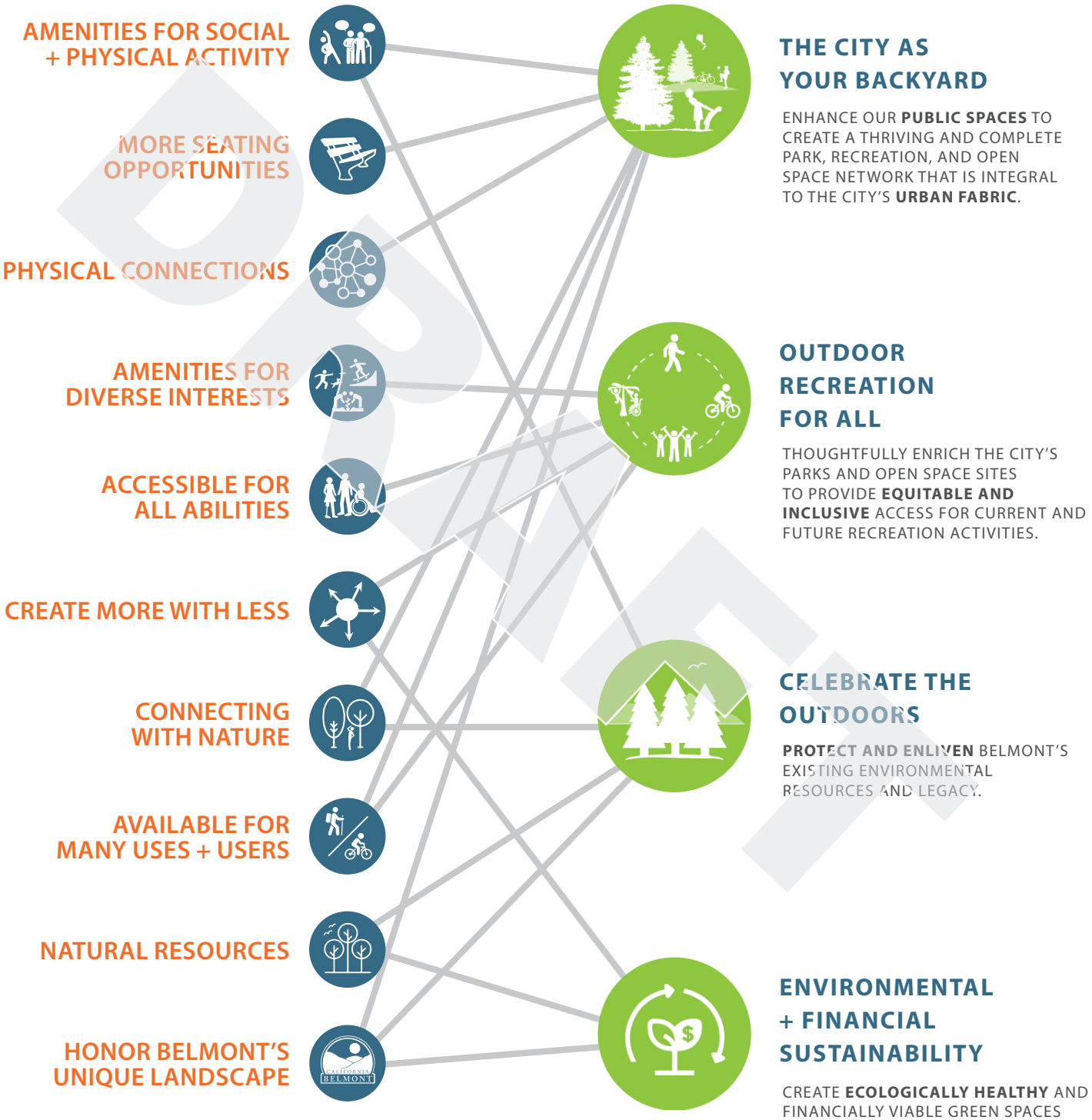
Early in the PROS planning process, open space was identified as a critical concern of the community. A dedicated effort to further study Waterdog Lake and San Juan Canyon Open Spaces is presented in the Appendix.



PROS Plan Banner at Barrett Community Center

INFORMING THE BIG IDEAS

The community themes were shaped into the PROS Plan's four **BIG IDEAS**. The Big Ideas are the organizational framework for the Goals, Strategies, and Recommendations presented later in this document.



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PART 2.
WHERE WE WANT TO BE

CHAPTER 5

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Building on existing conditions evaluation and feedback from the community, this chapter examines the level of service Belmont provides in their PROS system. The needs are derived from staff and community input. The gap analysis assessed benchmarked amenities provided by comparison cities and national values to identify and align with recreation trends.



Horseshoe Pits at Alexander Park



Playground at College View Park



Fitness Equipment Cluster at Barrett Community Center

AMENITY RATIO

Belmont provides a high-quality park system with many amenities. Amenity levels of service are determined to understand how the quantity of amenities serves the community system-wide. Amenity Ratios were developed using the Amenity Inventory and a projected quantity of people served by a single amenity. The Amenity Inventory and definitions of the amenity categories are found in Chapter 3.

Through discussions with the community and City staff, Amenity Ratios were assessed, evaluated, and adjusted to meet the Belmont's needs now and into the future. The Amenity Ratios include the amenities offered in the Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and School (JUA) sites. School-located amenities are only available for public use outside of school hours.

CURRENT AMENITY RATIOS

RESIDENTS SERVED BY A SINGLE AMENITY

Table 5-1 provides the number of residents served by a single instance of an amenity. For Belmont, understanding the service level amenities provide was the foundation for evaluating gaps and needs. The ratios can range drastically, from one instance serving just 1,300 residents (a playground), to one instance serving all 26,470 residents (a dog park). Amenity Ratios are calculated using the following formula:

Residents Served by an Amenity

$$\frac{\text{Population}}{\text{Amenity Quantity}} \qquad \frac{26{,}470 \text{ people}}{20 \text{ Playgrounds}} = 1{,}300 : 1$$

A lower quantity of people a single instance of an amenity serves, such as playgrounds (1,300:1), indicates Belmont has provided a high quantity of the amenity in relation to the total population. Playgrounds are especially prevalent across the city—for every 1,300 people, there is one playground. A higher quantity of people a single instance of an amenity serves, such a dog park (26,500:1), indicates there is a low quantity of the amenity in relation to the total population. With only one dog park, the single instance serves Belmont's entire population. Some benchmarked amenities do not currently exist in Belmont (pump track) and therefore do not have an Amenity Ratio.

CURRENT AMENITY RATIOS *RESIDENTS SERVED BY A SINGLE AMENITY*			
BENCHMARKED AMENITY	PARK + SCHOOL *RESIDENTS SERVED*	PARK *RESIDENTS SERVED*	SCHOOL *RESIDENTS SERVED*
All-Abilities Playground			
Basketball Court (Full)	:1	:1	:1
Basketball Court (Half)	:1	:1	:1
Multi-Use Athletic Field	:1	:1	:1
Play Element			
Playground	:1	:1	:1
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	:1	:1	
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	:1	:1	
Tennis Court	:1	:1	
PRIORITY AMENITY			
Community Garden	:1	:1	
Dog Park	:1	:1	
Dog Parklet			
Pump Track (Bike Park)			
Skate Park			
Water Play, Pool			
Water Play, Spray Park			
SECONDARY AMENITY			
Fitness Equipment Cluster	:1	:1	
Handball / Wallball Court	:1	:1	:1
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	:1	:1	
Outdoor Classroom			
Performance Space	:1	:1	
Teen Outdoor Space	:1	:1	

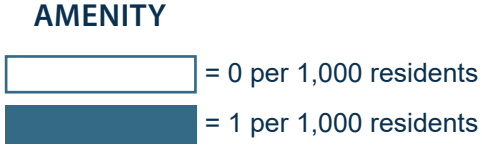
Table 5-1: Current Amenity Ratios, Residents Served by a Single Amenity

= 0 residents served by a single amenity (none existing)

= 1,000 residents served by a single amenity

CURRENT AMENITY RATIOS *AMENITY PER 1,000 RESIDENTS*			
	PARK + SCHOOL	PARK	SCHOOL
BENCHMARKED AMENITY	*% SINGLE AMENITY*	*% SINGLE AMENITY*	*% SINGLE AMENITY*
All-Abilities Playground	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Basketball Court (Full)	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000
Basketball Court (Half)	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000
Multi-Use Athletic Field	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000
Play Element	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Playground	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*
Tennis Court	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*
PRIORITY AMENITY			
Community Garden	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*
Dog Park	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*
Dog Parklet	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Pump Track (Bike Park)	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Skate Park	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Water Play, Pool	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Water Play, Spray Park	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
SECONDARY AMENITY			
Fitness Equipment Cluster	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*
Handball / Wallball Court	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*
Outdoor Classroom	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Performance Space	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*
Teen Outdoor Space	:1,000	:1,000	*N/A*

Table 5-2: Current Amenity Ratios for Belmont, Amenity per 1,000 Residents



AMENITY PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

The same data was used to evaluate the quantity of a single amenity type that is available for every 1,000 Belmont residents. This was calculated using the following formula, using playgrounds as an example:

Amenity per 1,000 Residents

$$\frac{\text{Amenity Quantity}}{(\text{Population} / 1{,}000)} \qquad \frac{20 \text{ Playgrounds}}{26.47} = 0.76$$

Fuller bars in Table 5-2 indicate that this type of amenity has a higher level of service, meaning there are more instances of this amenity available to the public (proportional to the overall population). For example, there are 0.76 playgrounds, or 76 percent of a single playground, for every 1,000 residents. This is a very high level of service. Inversely, there are 0.04 dog parks for every 1,000 residents. This is a low level of service.

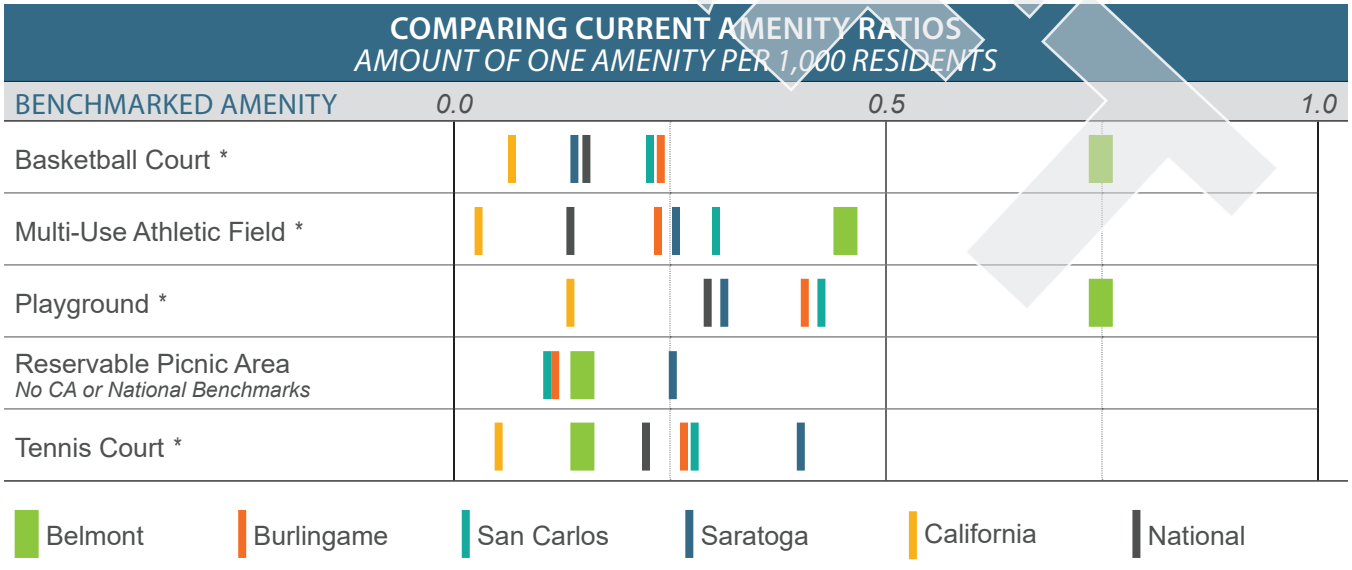
A summary of the Current Amenity Ratios is provided in Table 5-3 on the following page. A higher number of residents served by a single instance indicates that there are fewer of these amenities available per person. For example, if every resident of Belmont was using a community garden at the same time—distributed equally—there would be 13,200 people at each one. Alternatively, the higher number of an amenity available for every 1,000 residents, the better level of service.

BENCHMARKING

Benchmarks for three comparable cities, jurisdictions of a similar size across the nation, and all of California were used to compare Amenity Ratios as compiled by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). Not all amenities were compared in the benchmarks. The results are shown in Figure 5-1.

The benchmarking process illuminates how Belmont compares to its peer municipalities. The benchmarking data from peer communities is used to establish goals for improvement. For three of the five benchmarked amenities, Belmont well exceeds the comparison cities as well as State and national averages. For every 1,000 residents in Belmont, there are 0.72 basketball courts (inclusive of both half and full size courts), 0.76 playgrounds, and 0.45 multi-use athletic fields.

There are only two benchmarked amenities that Belmont does not have the highest level of service for the purposes of this analysis. Belmont provides just half the amount of a tennis court for every 1,000 residents compared to Saratoga, which provides the highest level of service for this amenity type. Tennis courts are the only benchmarked amenity that have an Amenity Ratio below the national average.



* *Includes amenities at School (JUA) sites.*

Figure 5-1: Comparing Current Amenity Ratios, Amenity per 1,000 Residents

CURRENT AMENITY RATIOS									
	PARKS + SCHOOLS			PARKS			SCHOOLS		
BENCHMARKED AMENITY	Quantity	Residents Served by Single Instance	__ of ONE Amenity per 1,000 Residents	Quantity	Residents Served by Single Instance	__ of ONE Amenity per 1,000 Residents	Quantity	Residents Served by Single Instance	__ of ONE Amenity per 1,000 Residents
All-Abilities Playground	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basketball Court (Full)	13	2,000	0.49	1	26,500	0.04	12	2,200	0.45
Basketball Court (Half)	6	4,400	0.23	4	6,600	0.15	2	13,200	0.08
Multi-Use Athletic Field	12	2,200	0.45	8	3,300	0.30	4	6,600	0.15
Play Element	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playground	20	1,300	0.76	15	1,800	0.57	5	5,300	0.19
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	2	13,200	0.08	2	13,200	0.08	-	-	-
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	2	13,200	0.08	2	13,200	0.08	-	-	-
Tennis Court	4	6,600	0.15	4	6,600	0.15	-	-	-
PRIORITY AMENITY									
Community Garden	2	13,200	0.08	2	13,200	0.08	-	-	-
Dog Park	1	26,500	0.04	1	26,500	0.04	-	-	-
Dog Parklet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pump Track (Bike Park)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skate Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Play, Pool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Water Play, Spray Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SECONDARY AMENITY									
Fitness Equipment Cluster	1	26,500	0.04	1	26,500	0.04	-	-	-
Handball / Wallball Court	5	5,300	0.19	1	26,500	0.04	4	6,600	0.15
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	5	5,300	0.19	5	5,300	0.19	-	-	-
Outdoor Classroom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Performance Space	2	13,200	0.08	2	13,200	0.08	-	-	-
Teen Outdoor Space	1	26,500	0.04	1	26,500	0.04	-	-	-

Table 5-3: Current Amenity Ratios

IDEAL AMENITY RATIOS

This process culminated in Ideal Amenity Ratios for Belmont shown in Table 5-4. The Ideal Amenity Ratios indicate the level of service that each amenity type should provide to maintain a high-quality PROS system, meeting current and future demands.

For some amenities, the Ideal Amenity Ratio and the Current Amenity Ratio are the same. For instance, the level of service of basketball courts (full and half) remains the same. This means the total quantity of courts is sufficiently meeting demand.

For other amenities, the Ideal Amenity Ratio is higher than the Current Amenity Ratio. This means the current quantity of an amenity is not enough to service the existing needs of the City. For example, reservable picnic areas, both large and small, are highly-used. Social gathering space was also highly ranked by the community. Therefore the Ideal Amenity Ratio requires a higher quantity of reservable picnic areas with a higher level of service ratio to adequately meet current need and to reflect the community interest.

High-interest amenities received a significant change in desired level of services based on survey results, feedback received via email, and comments from focus groups and pop-up events. Working closely with Parks and Recreation staff and the Belmont community, the desired service levels were adjusted iteratively to ensure that the desired level of service is plausible given the parkland available.

In rare instances, the Ideal Amenity Ratio is lower than the Current Amenity Ratio. For example, the Ideal Amenity Ratio for handball or wallball courts was reduced. The existing courts are not heavily used and there was little demand for additional courts.

Amenities such as pump tracks, skate parks, and All-Abilities playgrounds are not currently available in Belmont. Amenities without a Current Amenity Ratio have been assigned an Ideal Amenity Ratio based on benchmarks, recreation trends, or community input.



Reservable Picnic Area at Twin Pines Park



Dog Park at Cipriani Park



Community Garden at Barrett Community Center

IDEAL AMENITY RATIOS

BENCHMARKED AMENITY	RESIDENTS SERVED BY A SINGLE AMENITY INSTANCE			AMOUNT OF ONE AMENITY PER 1,000 PEOPLE		
	RESIDENTS SERVED		*ITEM*	*% SINGLE AMENITY*		*PEOPLE*
All-Abilities Playground	26,500		:1		4%	:1,000
Basketball Court (Full)	2,000		:1		49%	:1,000
Basketball Court (Half)	4,400		:1		23%	:1,000
Multi-Use Athletic Field	2,000		:1		49%	:1,000
Play Element	8,800		:1		11%	:1,000
Playground	1,500		:1		68%	:1,000
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	6,600		:1		15%	:1,000
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	8,800		:1		11%	:1,000
Tennis Court	4,400		:1		23%	:1,000
PRIORITY AMENITY						
Community Garden	8,800		:1		11%	:1,000
Dog Park	13,200		:1		8%	:1,000
Dog Parklet	13,200		:1		8%	:1,000
Pump Track (Bike Park)	26,500		:1		4%	:1,000
Skate Park	26,500		:1		4%	:1,000
Water Play, Pool	26,500		:1		4%	:1,000
Water Play, Spray Park	26,500		:1		4%	:1,000
SECONDARY AMENITY						
Fitness Equipment Cluster	13,200		:1		8%	:1,000
Handball / Wallball Court	6,600		:1		15%	:1,000
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	6,600		:1		15%	:1,000
Outdoor Classroom	26,500		:1		4%	:1,000
Performance Space	13,200		:1		8%	:1,000
Teen Outdoor Space	8,800		:1		11%	:1,000

Table 5-4: Ideal Amenity Ratios

= 0 people = 1,000 people

0% Amenity 100% Amenity

IDEAL AMENITY QUANTITY

The Ideal Amenity Ratio identifies the amenities that are already meeting the required quantities, amenities that need to be increased to meet the ideal level of service, and amenities that are provided in excess and therefore do not need to be increased. The Ideal Amenity Quantities were calculated by dividing the total population by the Ideal Amenity Ratio. For example, the Ideal Amenity Ratio for a community garden is one garden to serve 8,800 people (8,800:1). By dividing the City's population (26,470) by the residents served by a single garden, it can be determined that three community gardens are required to serve the 2022 population of Belmont.

To calculate the future need for an amenity, the same calculation is done using the forecasted 2035 population from the 2017 General Plan. The City's Housing Element is under revision to reflect additional housing units as required by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and projects a higher population increase as a result. The calculations in this chapter do not reflect the Housing Element projections. More information about the impact of the revised population forecast is included in the Appendix.

NEEDS: CURRENT (2022) AMENITIES

Table 5-5 presents the quantity of amenities necessary to serve the 2022 population. The "exists" column equates to currently available amenities that were documented in the PROS Amenity Inventory. The "ideal" column is the quantity of an amenity required to meet the identified level of service. The "+ add" column is the additional amenities required to meet the identified level of service (the difference between exists and ideal).

For most identified amenities, Belmont has set itself a higher level of service than it currently provides. These are denoted by a positive value in the "+ add" column. In some instances, a surplus of an amenity already exists than is required to meet the Ideal Amenity Ratio (a negative number in the "+ add" column). The PROS Plan does not recommend demolishing surplus amenities to meet the 2022 population calculations.

NEEDS: FUTURE (2035) AMENITIES

This PROS Plan looks 15 years into the future. As the population of Belmont increases, the quantity of amenities to sustain the Ideal Amenity Ratios must also increase. This analysis assumes the required amenities identified for the 2022 population were constructed.

Table 5-6 presents the amenities necessary to serve the forecasted 2035 population, as identified in the General Plan. Table 5-7 shows the differences in Ideal Amenity Quantities between 2022 and 2025 population scenarios.

IDEAL AMENITY QUANTITY *CURRENT 2022 POPULATION*			
BENCHMARKED AMENITY	EXISTS	2022 IDEAL	2022 + ADD
All-Abilities Playground	0	1	+ 1
Basketball Court (Full)	13	13	0
Basketball Court (Half)	6	6	0
Multi-Use Athletic Field	12	13	+ 1
Play Element	0	3	+ 3
Playground	20	18	0
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	2	4	+ 2
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	2	3	+ 1
Tennis Court	4	6	+ 2
PRIORITY AMENITY			
Community Garden	2	3	+ 1
Dog Park	1	2	+ 1
Dog Parklet	0	2	+ 2
Pump Track (Bike Park)	0	1	+ 1
Skate Park	0	1	+ 1
Water Play, Pool	0	1	+ 1
Water Play, Spray Element	0	1	+ 1
Water Play, Spray Park	0	1	+ 1
SECONDARY AMENITY			
Fitness Equipment Cluster	1	2	+ 1
Handball / Wallball Court	5	4	0
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	5	4	0
Outdoor Classroom	0	1	+ 1
Performance Space	2	2	0
Teen Outdoor Space	1	3	+ 2

Table 5-5: Ideal Amenity Quantities for 2022 Population

EXISTS: The **current** quantity of an amenity.

2022 IDEAL: The quantity of an amenity that would meet the ideal service level for the 2022 population.

2022 ADD: The quantity of an amenity **to be added** to meet the ideal service level for the 2022 population.

Note: The existing and 2022 quantities were determined in 2021.

IDEAL AMENITY QUANTITY *FUTURE 2035 POPULATION*			
BENCHMARKED AMENITY	2022	2035 IDEAL	2035 + ADD
All-Abilities Playground	1	1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	13	15	+ 2
Basketball Court (Half)	6	7	+ 1
Multi-Use Athletic Field	13	15	+ 2
Play Element	3	3	0
Playground	20	20	0
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	4	5	+ 1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	3	3	0
Tennis Court	6	7	+ 1
PRIORITY AMENITY			
Community Garden	3	3	0
Dog Park	2	2	0
Dog Parklet	2	2	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)	1	1	0
Skate Park	1	1	0
Water Play, Pool	1	1	0
Water Play, Spray Element	1	1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	1	1	0
SECONDARY AMENITY			
Fitness Equipment Cluster	2	2	0
Handball Court / Wall Ball	5	5	0
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	5	5	0
Outdoor Classroom	1	1	0
Performance Space	2	2	0
Teen Outdoor Space	3	3	0

Table 5-6: Ideal Amenity Quantities for 2035 Population

2022: The **assumed** quantity of an amenity given that the ideal service level for the 2022 population was met.

2035 IDEAL: The quantity of an amenity that would meet the ideal service level for the 2035 population.*

2035 ADD: The quantity of an amenity **to be added** to meet the ideal service level for the 2035 population.*

Note: The 2022 quantities were determined in 2021.
** Based on the General Plan population projections. More information about the impact of the 2023-2031 Housing Element update and its revised population forecast is included in the Appendix.*

IDEAL AMENITY QUANTITIES *FUTURE 2022 AND 2035 POPULATIONS*			
BENCHMARKED AMENITY	EXISTS	2022 + ADD	2035 + ADD
All-Abilities Playground	0	+ 1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	13	0	+ 2
Basketball Court (Half)	6	0	+ 1
Multi-Use Athletic Field	12	+ 1	+ 2
Play Element	0	+ 3	0
Playground	20	0	0
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	2	+ 2	+ 1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	2	+ 1	0
Tennis Court	4	+ 2	+ 1
PRIORITY AMENITY			
Community Garden	2	+ 1	0
Dog Park	1	+ 1	0
Dog Parklet	0	+ 2	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)	0	+ 1	0
Skate Park	0	+ 1	0
Water Play, Pool	0	+ 1	0
Water Play, Spray Element	0	+ 1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	0	+ 1	0
SECONDARY AMENITY			
Fitness Equipment Cluster	1	+ 1	0
Handball / Wallball Court	5	0	0
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	5	0	0
Outdoor Classroom	0	+ 1	0
Performance Space	2	0	0
Teen Outdoor Space	1	+ 2	0

Table 5-7: Overall Amenity Quantities to be Added

EXISTS: The **current** quantity of an amenity.

2022 ADD: The quantity of an amenity **to be added** to meet the ideal service level for the 2022 population.

2035 ADD: The quantity of an amenity **to be added** to meet the ideal service level for the 2035 population* (assuming that none were constructed to meet the ideal service level for 2022).

Note: The existing and 2022 quantities were determined in 2021.
** Based on the General Plan population projections. More information about the impact of the 2023-2031 Housing Element update and its revised population forecast is included in the Appendix.*



Multi-Use Athletic Field at Belmont Sports Complex



Playground at Alexander Park



Dog Park in Cipriani Park

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PART 2.
WHERE WE WANT TO BE

CHAPTER 6
GOALS

This chapter transitions the PROS Plan from the current status of the PROS system (Where We Are) to the ideal future (Where We Want To Be). The information presented in the previous chapters was synthesized to inform actions for the PROS system over the next 15 years. This chapter presents the Goals and summarizes the relationships between the Big Ideas, Guiding Principles, and Community Themes that came together serve as the guiding framework for the PROS Plan.



BIG IDEA: **THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD**

ENHANCE OUR **PUBLIC SPACES** TO CREATE A THRIVING AND COMPLETE PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE NETWORK THAT IS INTEGRAL TO THE CITY'S **URBAN FABRIC**.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Make all users feel *welcome and safe*
- Advance *community health and well-being*
- Foster a sense of community and encourage *social interaction*
- Utilize *transparent community process* to inform decisions

COMMUNITY THEMES

- Amenities for Social + Physical Activity
- More Seating Opportunities
- Physical Connections
- Connecting with Nature
- Available for Many Uses + Users
- Honor Belmont's Unique Landscape

PROS GOAL 1 — CONNECT BELMONT AND UNIFY PROS SITES BY ENCOURAGING A ROBUST PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, AND PUBLIC TRANSIT NETWORK.

PROS GOAL 2 — FOSTER A HEALTHY COMMUNITY THROUGH SPACES, AMENITIES, PROGRAMS, AND PUBLIC ART THAT PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, SOCIAL INTERACTION, AND BELMONT'S CULTURE.

PROS GOAL 3 — MEET EVOLVING COMMUNITY NEEDS BY ESTABLISHING NEW USES, IMPROVED SPACES, AND A VARIETY OF RECREATION AMENITIES.

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BIG IDEA: **OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL**

THOUGHTFULLY ENRICH THE CITY'S PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SITES TO PROVIDE **EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE** ACCESS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Provide *equitable access* to resources and activities across the entire city
- Promote *inclusion* to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
- Offer services and activities across a *range of interests, abilities, and ages*

COMMUNITY THEMES

- Amenities for Diverse Interests
- Accessible for All Abilities
- Create More with Less
- Available for Many Uses + Users

PROS **GOAL 4**

IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, AND INCLUSIVE SPACES AND AMENITIES WITH ACCESSIBLE ROUTES.

PROS **GOAL 5**

ENSURE FUTURE SUCCESS THROUGH ADAPTABILITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND SUPPORT FOR MANY USES AND USERS.

PROS **GOAL 6**

ACTUALIZE PROS PLAN BY DEVELOPING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS PRIVATE, PUBLIC, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

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BIG IDEA: **CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS**

PROTECT AND ENLIVEN BELMONT'S EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND LEGACY.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Respect the beauty and importance of our *natural resources*
- *Adapt* to changing conditions and needs

COMMUNITY THEMES

- Amenities for Social + Physical Activity
- Connecting with Nature
- Natural Resources
- Honor Belmont's Unique Landscape

PROS **GOAL 7** — **DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN (OSMP).**

PROS **GOAL 8** — **HIGHLIGHT LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.**

PROS **GOAL 9** — **ENRICH OUTDOOR RECREATION THROUGH TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS, VOLUNTEER COLLABORATIONS, AND WAYFINDING FEATURES.**

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BIG IDEA: **ENVIRONMENTAL + FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

CREATE **ECOLOGICALLY HEALTHY** AND FINANCIALLY VIABLE GREEN SPACES THAT WILL ENDURE INTO THE FUTURE..

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Reflect our commitment to *environmental resilience and sustainability*
- Provide *well maintained* and actively managed facilities

COMMUNITY THEMES

- Create More with Less
- Natural Resources
- Honor Belmont's Unique Landscape

PROS **GOAL 10** NURTURE AND STRENGTHEN NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH EFFICIENT AND INNOVATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN.

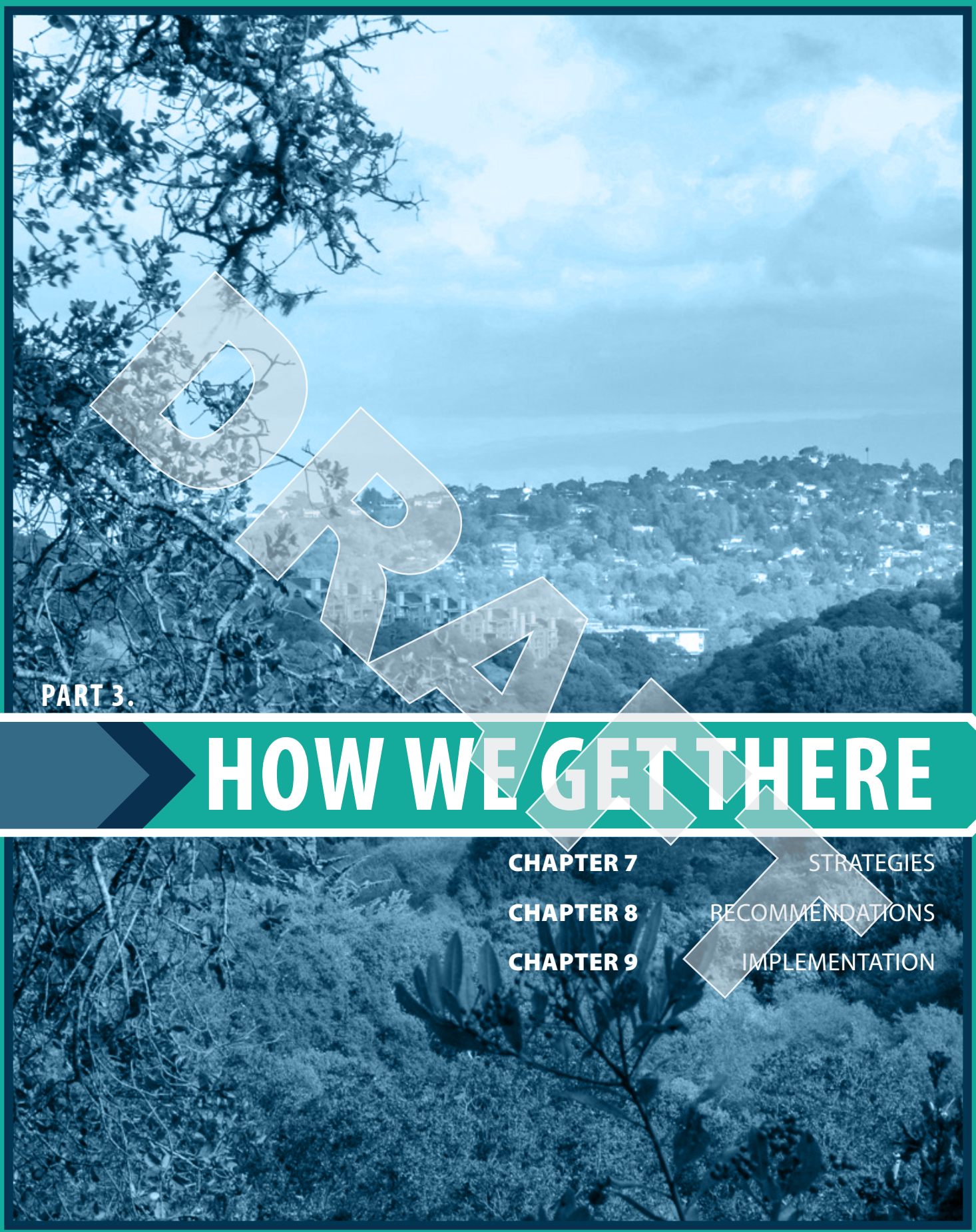
PROS **GOAL 11** DIVERSIFY FUNDING SOURCES TO ENSURE HIGH-QUALITY, ACTIVELY-MANAGED, AND WELL-MAINTAINED PROS ASSETS.

PROS **GOAL 12** PRIORITIZE SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, AND RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES.

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PART 3.

HOW WE GET THERE

CHAPTER 7 STRATEGIES

CHAPTER 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 9 IMPLEMENTATION

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PART 3.
HOW WE GET THERE

CHAPTER 7
STRATEGIES

This chapter presents the Strategies which were used to inform the Recommendations presented in the following chapter. The Strategies are organized by the PROS Goal that it responds to. This chapter also presents the Objectives and Policies unique to Belmont's open spaces.

STRATEGIES

The PROS Plan provides a comprehensive suite of Strategies, applicable to the PROS system as a whole, to provide guidance to the City for future improvements to Belmont's outdoor amenities.

The Strategies can be viewed as broad initiatives to address opportunities and constraints within the PROS system, while establishing the intention and inspiration for future improvements as available resources and conditions evolve over time.

The Strategies build upon the PROS Goals, which largely originate from the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Element and Conservation Element of the City's General Plan. They relate to site design, operation, and investment of resources in the PROS system.

Chapter 8 presents the Recommendations for the PROS system that were informed by the Strategies presented in this section.



Barrett Community Center



Davey Glen Park



Belmont Sports Complex Athletic Field

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THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD

PROS GOAL 1: CONNECT BELMONT AND UNIFY PROS SITES BY ENCOURAGING A ROBUST PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, AND PUBLIC TRANSIT NETWORK.

Strategy 1.A
Support the implementation of the Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan (2016) for creation of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that connects PROS sites as key destinations.

Strategy 1.B
Develop and implement an Interconnect Toolkit to facilitate active transportation to and between parks. The Toolkit should consider bike racks, water stations (with bottle-filling and dog bowls), bicycle repair stations, seating, and route information, at a minimum.

Strategy 1.C
Create pedestrian- and bike-centric activities and programs within parks, such as learn-to-bike amenities, and across Belmont, like organized races or runs, to foster community interest.

Strategy 1.D
Think of the streets as public realm when evaluating new opportunities to provide recreation and gathering space.

Strategy 1.E
Provide multi-use trail links to and through open space in and around Belmont. Consider the trail network a means to increase pedestrian connectivity across the city. Explore opportunities for easements to expand the multi-use trail network.

Strategy 1.F
Improve access, especially in underserved areas without opportunity for parkland increase, where topography or limited sidewalks limit pedestrian, bicycle, and mass transit access to existing PROS sites.

PROS GOAL 2: FOSTER A HEALTHY COMMUNITY THROUGH SPACES, AMENITIES, PROGRAMS, AND PUBLIC ART THAT PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, SOCIAL INTERACTION, AND BELMONT'S CULTURE.

Strategy 2.A
Develop amenities to facilitate physical exercise in parks and open spaces, such as looped walking paths and fitness equipment.

Strategy 2.B
Create gathering spaces to facilitate social interaction. When replacing or adding seating opportunities, use a clustered or paired seating arrangement to support group conversations in addition to single seats or benches.

Strategy 2.C
Prioritize new recreational programs that support community health and wellbeing for all ages, abilities, and interests.

Strategy 2.D
Support and encourage placemaking to strengthen community connections.

Strategy 2.E
Increase quiet and passive use opportunities for users to interact with natural spaces, especially in higher density areas.

Strategy 2.F
Implement the Public Art Master Plan (2020) in parks to reflect the City's dedication to art and culture.

Strategy 2.G
Create an Activation Plan to identify unique and innovative ways to energize the PROS system and further increase park activity and visitation.

THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD

PROS GOAL 3: MEET EVOLVING COMMUNITY NEEDS BY ESTABLISHING NEW USES, IMPROVED SPACES, AND A VARIETY OF RECREATION AMENITIES.

Strategy 3.A
Increase the experiential qualities of PROS sites to create memorable and distinctive visitor experiences.

Strategy 3.B
Pursue pop-up park installations, such as parklets and mobile recreation vehicles, to provide park and recreation opportunities in areas without permanent, physical amenities.

Strategy 3.C
Capitalize on remnant or underutilized areas of City-owned land to craft new public green spaces, with special attention towards addressing the parity of parkland distribution, by pursuing opportunities to increase acreage wherever possible.

Strategy 3.D
Conduct a Usage Study to understand high-use and low-use PROS sites and amenities.

Strategy 3.E
Actively engage with new development projects within the Belmont Village Specific Plan area to ensure quality parks and public spaces are provided.

Strategy 3.F
Consider the community's needs and preferences in the development of Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park.

Strategy 3.G
Consider increasing off-leash space for dog running, events, and exercise.

Strategy 3.H
Ensure that residential and non-residential development projects contribute to Belmont's PROS resources commensurate to their impacts if parkland dedication is not feasible.

Strategy 3.I
Explore methods to increase efficient and year-round use of athletic fields, with considerations towards the reduction of water use and capture of surface water runoff, in the evaluation of synthetic turf.

Strategy 3.J
Evaluate fields and courts across the city for the opportunity to provide lighted facilities for evening recreation and play.



Twin Pines Park Tree Canopy in Autumn

OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL

PROS GOAL 4: IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH DIVERSE, EQUITABLE, AND INCLUSIVE SPACES AND AMENITIES WITH ACCESSIBLE ROUTES.

Strategy 4.A
Prioritize park renovations, improvements, and development in neighborhoods that are less-served by existing PROS offerings to address parity in amenity distribution.

Strategy 4.B
Incorporate universal design principles in all new PROS construction by providing spaces that are intuitive to understand with identical or equivalent experiences for visitors with diverse abilities and cognitive levels.

Strategy 4.C
Provide adequate and conveniently-located comfort features, such as seating and shade, to support use at PROS sites.

Strategy 4.D
Consider the physical needs of different user groups when planning and designing parks and trails and when selecting amenities and furnishings.

Strategy 4.E
All amenities and spaces within a park should be accessible by a safe path of travel.

Strategy 4.F
As play equipment ages and becomes eligible for replacement, design the new play space for inclusivity and adaptability to support healthy childhood development in a welcoming and imaginative atmosphere.

PROS GOAL 5: ENSURE FUTURE SUCCESS THROUGH ADAPTABILITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND SUPPORT FOR MANY USES AND USERS.

Strategy 5.A
Design new and upgraded PROS amenities and facilities that are versatile and attractive to the diverse and evolving Belmont community.

Strategy 5.B
Incorporate looped walking paths within and through parks as safe, accessible, and pleasant experiences to walk, run, and roll.

Strategy 5.C
Rethink low- or single-use spaces and intentionally layer compatible features and programs to maximize the functional value of existing parkland. For example, new striping on existing courts increases the practical usefulness of a single amenity's footprint.

Strategy 5.D
Provide recreational programs and activities, such as workshops and classes, that are relevant, interesting, and impactful to multiple generations and backgrounds.

Strategy 5.E
Provide for non-traditional forms of recreation as new trends and community needs arise. Remain open-minded and amenable towards emerging unconventional uses of parks and facilities.

Strategy 5.F
Promote flexible multi-use and multi-purpose spaces in all new design and improvement projects to ensure the relevancy and utility of these sites as community needs evolve.

Strategy 5.G
Periodically conduct a programming needs assessment for an in-depth evaluation of the participation and engagement levels of program offerings, ensuring that Belmont's recreation needs are met.

OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL

PROS GOAL 6: ACTUALIZE PROS PLAN BY DEVELOPING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS PRIVATE, PUBLIC, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

Strategy 6.A
Provide public engagement opportunities in all PROS planning and design projects to capture community desires for their city's backyard.

Strategy 6.B
Collaborate with community advocates to provide culturally-relevant experiences that celebrate diversity and raise awareness about unique traditions and practices.

Strategy 6.C
Support partnerships with private businesses for operations at PROS sites to generate revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department that are compatible with recreational access and the restoration of sensitive natural resources.

Strategy 6.D
Encourage long-term, volunteer-based public stewardship of parks, open spaces, and trails bolster ongoing maintenance and improvement efforts.

Strategy 6.E
Complement and supplement City recreational offerings by strengthening partnerships with local public agencies and private or non-profit organizations that offer relevant outdoor programming opportunities.

Strategy 6.F
Continue to utilize JUAs to expand the available PROS sites in the constrained and developed jurisdictional boundary. Discuss improvements of JUA sites and amenities to benefit the public's use.

Strategy 6.G
Streamline internal bureaucratic processes and encourage partnerships with non-governmental entities to compliment existing public art and placemaking endeavors.

Strategy 6.H
Co-host creative events with civic organizations that serve as platforms to promote ongoing volunteer opportunities and spark collaboration between community groups to collectively care for the PROS system.



Twin Pines Park

CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS

PROS GOAL 7: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN (OSMP).

The OSMP establishes the Objectives for Belmont's Open Spaces, listed below.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Objective ES-1: Vegetation Protection Sustain and promote viable and diverse native plant communities that are characteristic of the region.

Objective ES-2: Wildlife Protection Maintain and promote healthy and diverse native wildlife populations.

Objective ES-3: Water Resources Protect and restore natural water courses, wetlands, and hydrologic processes.

Objective ES-4: Science-Based Management Use and document scientific knowledge of comparable open space resources and widely accepted and well documented resource management techniques as a basis for management decisions.

Objective ES-5: Expand Ability Expand ability to perform natural resource management.



BALANCED RECREATION USE

Objective BR-1: Balanced Recreation Uses Provide diverse, nature-dependent recreation activities in the city's open space areas.

Objective BR-2: Trail Management Improve and maintain trails to be environmentally sustainable.

Objective BR-3: User Compatibility Facilitate and encourage multi-use compatibility on trails.

Objective BR-4: Enhance Partnerships Enhance partnerships and programs aimed at improving recreation experiences.



NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION

Objective NH-1: Wildfire Hazards Reduce the risk and severity of wildland fire and minimize the impact of fire suppression activities within City open spaces and adjacent residential areas.

Objective NH-2: Protect Life + Property Protect life and property from natural hazards, including neighboring communities during mitigation or hazard events.

Objective NH-3: Improve Cooperative Planning Improve cooperative planning to respond to natural hazards.

CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS

PROS GOAL 8: HIGHLIGHT LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

Strategy 8.A
Highlight the natural features within Belmont's parks and open spaces through unique educational and recreational hands-on programs.

Strategy 8.B
Incorporate environmental education elements into park designs, such as interpretative signage and trailhead bulletins.

Strategy 7.C
Increase stewardship efforts with organizations whose mission supports natural education.

Strategy 8.D
Promote public awareness of sustainable practices being implemented in the PROS system. Consider methods to increase public knowledge about environmentally-friendly choices in their homes and local neighborhoods.

Strategy 8.E
Improve public access to the Belmont Creek waterway, especially in Twin Pines Park, when restoring or enhancing the riparian habitat. Use temporary signage to explain the specific restoration methods and how visitors can avoid disturbing these efforts.

PROS GOAL 9: ENRICH OUTDOOR RECREATION THROUGH TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS, VOLUNTEER COLLABORATIONS, AND WAYFINDING FEATURES.

Strategy 9.A
Facilitate volunteer opportunities and advance stewardship with fun and engaging opportunities to care for our valuable natural environment.

Strategy 9.B
Offer areas of respite, such as benches with shade and trail rest points, along paths and trails to support outdoor recreation for all.

Strategy 9.C
Create trails to vista points or activity spaces that are as accessible as possible given the terrain restrains.

Strategy 9.D
Identify locations where trails can be improved or established in open space to connect the city and other open space areas neighboring Belmont, such as Sugarloaf Mountain and San Juan Canyon.

Strategy 9.E
Create a wayfinding signage system to educate and increase community use of PROS spaces. Provide pedestrian and bicycle transportation information, such as directions, route distance, and travel duration, to the nearest PROS site.

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ENVIRONMENTAL + FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROS GOAL 10: NURTURE AND STRENGTHEN NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH EFFICIENT AND INNOVATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN.

Strategy 10.A
Use durable and low-maintenance material choices in all park development.

Strategy 10.B
Consider permeable paving options when adding paths or replacing non-permeable paths.

Strategy 10.C
Increase shade and tree canopy across the city with succession tree planting, volunteer planting events, and monitoring of existing trees for health and longevity.

Strategy 10.D
Use native, drought-tolerant, low-water plants in all park projects.

Strategy 10.E
Utilize the Open Space Management Plan to address trail erosion impacts.

Strategy 10.F
Protect native habitat without limiting public enjoyment of the natural environment unduly.

PROS GOAL 11: DIVERSIFY FUNDING SOURCES TO ENSURE HIGH-QUALITY, ACTIVELY-MANAGED, AND WELL-MAINTAINED PROS ASSETS.

Strategy 11.A
Prioritize funding towards projects that increase equity and inclusivity at PROS sites.

Strategy 11.B
Implement existing master plans for Twin Pines Park and Barrett Community Center.

Strategy 11.C
Actively pursue grants and partnerships to implement PROS improvements.

Strategy 11.D
Explore funding sources that support recreation programming or assist with operations and maintenance.

Strategy 11.E
Include maintenance considerations in all development, redevelopment, enhancement, and maintenance projects.

Strategy 11.F
Require high-quality planning, design, and construction administration for all future projects.

Strategy 11.G
As the PROS system evolves, evaluate and supplement City maintenance staffing and budgets to ensure high-quality conditions of amenities and assets.

Strategy 11.H
Periodically review the City's parkland dedication and in-lieu fee requirements, development costs, and building trends to address any changes that could necessitate a Park Impact Fee Nexus Study.

Strategy 11.I
Develop an approach to acquire open space lands to conserve scenic areas, natural drainage ways, and plant and wildlife habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL + FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROS GOAL 12: PRIORITIZE SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, AND RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES.

Strategy 12.A
Maximize water and energy efficiency in all PROS decisions. Support energy- and water-efficient "smart" upgrades, including installation of solar (photo-voltaic) panels, infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations, and rain-sensing irrigation systems, in all new or upgraded sites.

Strategy 12.B
Continue to support and implement the Climate Action Plan (2017).

Strategy 12.C
Integrate stormwater treatment, detention, and storage systems into all parks.

Strategy 12.D
Incorporate succession tree planting into regular park maintenance considerations.

Strategy 12.E
Transition to LED when replacing and upgrading lighting, with special consideration given to minimizing light pollution.

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Waterdog Lake Open Space

OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES + POLICIES

The Open Space Management Plan (OSMP), initiated by PROS Goal 7, provides a programmatic framework to protect and manage Waterdog Lake (WDL) and San Juan Canyon (SJC) Open Spaces. The Objectives of the OSMP, illustrated on a previous page, are organized into three Themes:



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

BALANCED RECREATION USE

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION

Objectives are general statements articulating a desired outcome, which are further broken down by Policies.

As discussed in Chapter 3, an Environmental Assessment and a Recreation Use Assessment were conducted for the OSMP. The findings of these assessments, a review of the City's existing goals and policies for protecting and managing open space areas, and extensive community feedback informed the Policies. Tables 7-1 through 7-5 present the Policies organized by Objective.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ES)		
OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
ES-1 Vegetation Protection	P1	Limit trail construction, and facility development in riparian and other wetland areas (and associated buffers) to protect them from disturbance. Recreational, educational, and other programmatic activities should be conducted in previously developed areas, when possible, to minimize impacts to riparian/wetland areas.
	P2	Monitor open space conditions with an emphasis on documenting the location, distribution, and abundance of special-status plants and plant communities, native grasses, wildflowers, and other native flora.
	P3	Align or relocate, modify trails to avoid impacting sensitive habitats such as wetlands and areas where endangered species are present. Avoid aligning trails along the boundaries of sensitive habitats.
	P4	Protect riparian ecosystems and habitat to maintain natural hydrologic process, water quality, and wildlife benefits. If necessary, enhance and restore riparian habitats to improve function.
	P5	Protect common native plant species from disturbance, such as trampling, and disease, such as Sudden Oak Death.
	P6	Monitor and control exotic or nuisance plant species.
	P7	Preserve and enhance riparian, stream, and other wetland communities locally and in coordination with other agencies to continue providing important habitat networks.

Table 7-1: Environmental Sustainability Policies

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ES)		
OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
ES-2 Wildlife Protection	P8	Monitor sensitive terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species in terms of their presence/ absence and potential to occur on City of Belmont open space lands.
	P9	Avoidance of sensitive wildlife species, critical breeding or nesting seasons, and critical breeding or nesting habitats during trail or facility construction.
	P10	Protect common native wildlife species from disturbance, and disease.
	P11	Preserve and enhance native wildlife habitat locally and in coordination with other agencies to continue protecting important habitat networks.
ES-3 Water Resources	P12	Protect surface and ground water from chemical contamination.
	P13	Minimize unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands
ES-4 Science-based Management	P14	Develop performance measures when designing City projects for the purpose of open space management and collect monitoring data to evaluate project success.
	P15	Designation and evaluation of trail improvement project proposals will be based on the environmental sustainability and on best available data, including inventories of wildlife, and vegetation resources. The City will undertake site specific and programmatic efforts to extend and improve upon the biological data and recreational benefits underlying its decision-making criteria.
ES-5 Expand Ability	P16	Develop written agreements with volunteer groups to perform natural resource management tasks.
	P17	The City will lead, coordinate, or partner with institutions, agencies, and organizations when conducting natural resource management activities.
	P18	Expand volunteer restoration programs subject to established protocols to ensure optimal environmental protection.

Table 7-2: Environmental Sustainability Policies (Continued)

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BALANCED RECREATION USE (BR)		
OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
BR-1 Balanced Recreation Uses	P19	Trail access should be provided for a range of user capabilities and needs (including persons with physical limitations) in a manner consistent with State and Federal regulations. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas will inform trail improvement and maintenance where conditions permit.
	P20	Design and improve trails to facilitate safe trail use by all visitors with a focus toward slowing travel speeds, adjusting sight lines, and establishing safe passing zones.
	P21	The City may prohibit certain trail uses or apply increased trail use restrictions within certain areas to enhance safety, minimize conflicts between trail users, and protect natural resources in sensitive resource areas.
	P22	Maintain high quality visitor experiences.
	P23	Diversify recreation opportunities in the open space areas, subject to policies that apply to all users of these areas.
BR-2 Trail Management	P24	Authorized trailheads include site and trail identifying signage, allowed uses, posted trail map, garbage can with securable lid, and a dog waste bag dispenser.
	P25	Monitor and evaluate open space trail conditions on City open space lands to identify significant erosion, informally created trails, trail redundancy or otherwise unnecessary trail segments.
	P26	Maintain trails by improving drainage, hardening, widening based on critical evaluations, and in accordance with trail building standards in Section 3.5.3, or equivalent sources.
	P27	Conduct any grading activities necessary for trail maintenance before soil conditions inhibit their excavation, movement, and compacting.
	P28	Modification to any open space resources on open space lands is prohibited unless authorized personnel have given express approval to perform such tasks, including trail construction, improvement, closing, or decommissioning trails.
	P29	Authorized trails must have wayfinding signage and associated naming conventions.
	P30	Evaluate opportunities to construct new trails that could connect with other regional trails, with existing City recognized trails, and by designating other trails not currently formally recognized as part of the City's open space trail system.
	P31	Evaluate opportunities to implement trail calming design features.

Table 7-3: Balanced Recreation Use Policies (Continued)

BALANCED RECREATION (BR)		
OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
BR-3 User Compatibility	P32	To provide visitor opportunities to experience natural sounds, no amplified sounds – i.e. portable speakers – are allowed on open space lands unless expressly approved as part of a group activity permit.
	P33	On multiuse trails, the following etiquette rules apply: cyclists yield to all other trail users, pedestrians yield to equestrians. Downhill travel yield to uphill travel. Maintain safe speeds and announce yourself when passing.
	P34	Use of Belmont open space lands is subject to the City's existing regulations, including hours of operation. Entry into Waterdog Lake is prohibited.
	P35	On multiuse trails, follow best practices and City Code re: : group size s. Groups of 25 or more require a permit under City code (Ch 16, Article II, Sec 16-28).
BR-4 Enhance Partnerships	P36	Develop written agreements with volunteer groups to perform trail maintenance or construction tasks.
	P37	Identify locations where trails can be improved or established in open space to connect the City and other open space areas neighboring Belmont, such as Sugarloaf Mountain. Coordinate with San Mateo County and the City of San Mateo.

Table 7-4: Balanced Recreation Use Policies (Continued)



Belmont Open Space Views

NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION (NH)		
OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
NH-1 Wildfire Hazards	P38	Evaluate the potential to reduce forest fuel loading through the removal of smaller trees to reduce forest floor fuel buildup and ladder fuels.
	P39	Prepare wildland fire response plans and include suppression activities, first responders, mutual aid agreements, as well as detailed maps of infrastructure and sensitive resources to be avoided.
	P40	Prohibit activities that have a high risk of sparking fires during periods of extreme fire hazard.
	P41	Close open space areas of particular concern during extreme fire weather, as determined by San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, and increase patrol levels where appropriate.
	P42	Consider use of a grazing program to reduce grassland fuels, brush encroachment, and encourage the vigor of native grass and forb species.
	P43	Manage scrub, shrub, and chaparral communities to maintain a mosaic of ages and species within strategic management corridors on roads, ridgetops, and near residential development or other critical infrastructure to compartmentalize preserves and reduce fuel loads.
	P44	Minimize and reduce ground disturbance, erosion, and rehabilitation efforts associated with heavy machinery fire suppression.
	P45	Develop guidelines for post-fire appropriate rehabilitation measures to address erosion, revegetation, invasive species, trail and road stability, security, public safety, and natural and cultural resources.
	P46	Limb fallen trees/branches to reduce aerial fuels along trails.
NH-2 Protect Life and Property	P47	Manage dead and dying trees to limit wind throw and falling trees and limbs.
	P48	Manage severe erosion areas on hill slopes and near/within streams.
	P49	Respond to trail and open space impacts resulting from severe weather, landslides, or other natural events.
NH-3 Improve Cooperative Planning	P50	Participate in county Fire Safe Councils and any relevant Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) efforts.
	P51	Partner with abutting property owners to manage adjacent vegetation and fuel levels.
	P52	Work with PG&E to identify areas where wildlife risks could be reduced through increased vegetation management and/or transmission line undergrounds.

Table 7-5: Natural Hazard Mitigation Policies

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PART 3.
HOW WE GET THERE

CHAPTER 8

RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter proposes future improvements derived from the existing conditions analysis, community feedback, and needs assessment presented earlier in this plan. They directly respond to the Strategies presented in the previous chapter.

Recommendations include upgrades, additions, and reconfigurations specific to individual PROS sites as well as proposed improvements for the entire PROS system. This chapter also recommends improvements specific to Belmont's open spaces.

OVERVIEW

The PROS Plan presents a comprehensive set of Recommendations that are derived from the analyses and considerations that guided this study. The Recommendations directly respond to the Strategies presented in the previous chapter, focusing on the equitable distribution of amenities throughout the community. Recommendations were bolstered by the community engagement process, which served as a key component of the PROS Plan.

SYSTEM-WIDE

System-wide Recommendations are potential pathways to carry out established Goals and Strategies across the entire PROS system. They are informed by a holistic review of Belmont's unique outdoor resources, established best management practices for the region, and new, creative approaches to increase visitation and usage.

PARK-SPECIFIC

This chapter provides a detailed map of each park and locates potential improvements, informed by the site assessments and inventories, to satisfy the park's Standard Baseline Amenities requirement as dictated by its individual Park Typology.

OPPORTUNITIES

This chapter presents ideal locations for new parks to increase access to public green space in a strategic manner. This section also outlines potential joint-use agreements (JUA) with local schools to offer additional recreational opportunities.

OPEN SPACE

This chapter also proposes improvements for Belmont's open spaces, focused on striking a balance between recreational use, environmental preservation, and the reduction of natural hazards.

SYSTEM-WIDE

The System-wide Recommendations are listed alphabetically below, associated with the Big Idea and Strategy that informed it.

ACTIVATION PLAN

THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD, Strategy 2.G

An Activation Plan is an initiative to energize existing and future PROS sites with recreation programming, community events, and unique activities. People make places, and an active PROS site increases interest and use in the space. An Activation Plan focuses on means and methods to increase activity with unique programming such as a book festival, self-defense class, dog training workshop, picnic day, and other reoccurring or one-off events specific to the community's interests. An Activation Plan can focus on a specific site or the entire system—Twin Pines Park and the Belmont Sports Complex represent opportunities for further activation to attract and engage residents, employees, and visitors of Belmont.

INCLUSIVE + ALL-ABILITIES PLAY

OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL, STRATEGY 4.F

The cultural and social values of diversity, equity, and inclusion are core to the City of Belmont. An inclusive PROS system is reflected in the Guiding Principles and Goals of this plan. Multiple Strategies reference recreation opportunities that are designed for a diverse population of visitors.

The System-wide Recommendation for Inclusive+All-Abilities Play proposes that all playground upgrades and replacements in the PROS system evaluate the inclusion of these elements and principles in their design. Further, all Community Parks in Belmont should only upgrade existing playgrounds with Inclusive+All-Abilities playgrounds going forward. Open space trail accessibility improvements could include efforts to ensure that several segments can accommodate mobility devices, each offering distinctive recreation experiences. In doing so, Belmont will enrich the quality of life for all residents.

INTERCONNECT TOOLKIT

THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD, Strategy 1.B

An Interconnect Toolkit is a means to facilitate active transportation to and between parks. Beyond routes to increase ease of access to PROS sites for walking, biking, and public transport, the Toolkit should consider bicycle racks and repair stations, water stations (with bottle-filling and dog bowls), seating, and route information along the interconnections.

The Interconnect Toolkit should be used in collaboration with Safe Route to Parks. A joint effort between the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and Safe Routes Partnership, Safe Routes to Parks is a program that promotes safer and easier access to PROS sites via walking, biking, and public transportation. Belmont has identified a need to increase access and connectivity to parks. Utilizing the Safe Routes to Parks framework will guide the City to create connections and increase access to the existing PROS sites.

POP-UP PARK INSTALLATIONS

THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD, Strategy 3.B

Belmont has limited opportunity to increase parkland acreage as an almost fully developed city. There are areas and neighborhoods of the City that have low access to and are underserved by the existing parkland. A possible method to increase recreational opportunities to address this gap is a pop-up park installation, which can take many forms:

- **Public parklets** can activate an underutilized pocket of the urban environment, such as on-street parallel parking spots or off-street parking lots, to increase community gathering space. Parklets can be temporary, or they can be implemented as a more permanent conversion to vibrant public space.
- A **mobile recreation vehicle** can bring temporary recreation and play elements to an underserved area or existing PROS site to invigorate or supplement existing amenities. Examples of play and programming possible with a mobile recreation vehicle are portable basketball hoops, skate ramps, health and wellness workshops, arts and crafts, board games, and movable lawn games.
- **Pop-up play experiences** are movable play elements and materials that can be located in a PROS site for a period of time to supplement a community, test a play amenity without committing to permanent installation, or increase the experience at a site for a period of time or event. Pop-up play experiences can rotate through PROS sites or be a one-off installation. They can be easy integrated with other programs and recreational offerings and should feature creative play opportunities aligned with new trends and evolving community interests.



Pop-up Park Installation Example: Park + Play



Pop-up Park Installation Example: Foam Blocks

SOCIAL GATHERING SPACE

THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD, Strategy 2.B

Social gathering spaces are an intrinsic element of our public parks and open spaces. This could be a bench to chat with a neighbor, a picnic table to eat with friends, or a reservable picnic area to host an outdoor celebration event. All developed parks in Belmont have a bench, and almost all have at least one picnic table.

The Vision Statement for the City defines the community character with "We connect with each other in all kinds of gathering places." As social gathering places for people of all ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds, and lived experiences, PROS sites are important public spaces that foster social connections and serve as community hubs. Successful spaces for interaction are places where people—often from many parts of the community and/or diverse backgrounds—meet naturally and interact comfortably because of the nature or attraction of the space and its associated activities. In addition to providing a natural green area, parks offer playgrounds, picnic tables and grills, sports fields, and other facilities bringing together adults and children alike.

Gathering spaces can build community connections to increase social cohesion, or the strength of relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a community. Community cohesion is a social determinant of health, also known as the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Seating locations to promote social interaction and lingering—an intentional lengthening of a park or public space visit due to it being enjoyable to remain—should generally follow these guidelines:

- Place seating with a view of the action while removed from the main flow of pedestrian traffic.
- Consider innovative and untraditional seating options to offer unique and memorable visitor experiences.
- Orient several benches at 90° to 120° angles rather than linear rows, allowing groups to face each other.
- Provide both clustered and isolated seating opportunities for various levels of privacy.
- Offer seating in both the sun and the shade, ideally with protection from wind and rain.
- Space seating opportunities with enough room for a wheelchair to fit between to engage in the group conversation in a comfortable manner.
- Supply both fixed and movable seating elements (where feasible).



Social Gathering Space Example: Unique Seating Elements



Buckeye Reservable Picnic Area in Twin Pines Park

USAGE STUDY

THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD, Strategy 3.D

Usage Studies gather measurable data about usage patterns to understand how to best optimize the limited resources that are available to the Parks and Recreation Department. The gathered measurements provide data to evaluate many aspects of a park or open space site, such as quantity of visitors, amenity utilization, high- or low-traffic areas, access points and methods, group sizes, and more. Usage measurements quantify the use of PROS sites and amenities, including characteristics of their users, and can inform PROS management about other issues related to sites usage.

Without measurements, it is impossible to know whether a PROS system is meeting the needs of its community members. The PROS Plan Community Survey asked respondents for data similar to what can be gathered in a Usage Study, but a Usage Study can generate more precise and accurate information than a general survey.

Assessments can be as simplistic or detailed as staffing, budget, and schedule allow. Studies can be for a point in time (meaning conducted once to create a snapshot of usage during a specified duration) or over time (meaning a study conducted annually, or seasonally) to compare changes. There are benefits and costs associated with both, and based on the usage measurements requested, either can achieve the desired results.

Methods to measure park usage are numerous. Systematic observation is the most commonly used. With representative times of day and days of the week, a general estimate of a PROS site utilization can be determined either through on-site observations or various technological approaches such as park behavior mapping. Typically, observation is done at both peak and low-use times for a broader understanding of site and amenity usage and users. Site or amenity usage measurements can be extensive, including duration of use per user, quantity of users in a certain time frame, circulation patterns around or into a site, and more. User characteristics can range from simple (counting quantity of users) to more detailed, including estimated age group, race/ethnicity, and level of physical activity (such as sedentary, moderate, or vigorous).

A Usage Study at Hidden Canyon Park, for example, would allow staff to understand this undeveloped park's current conditions and visitor activities. Subsequent and periodic Usage Studies at this location, as the recommended park improvements are implemented in phases, would provide useful feedback and highlight any impacts or changes to the site and surrounding community. Follow-up Usage Studies are most valuable when conducted following the same methodology and timing as the initial Usage Study.



Usage Study Example: Park Behavior Mapping



Usage Study Example: Observation

PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

INCREASING MAGNITUDE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Magnitude	EXISTING MASTER PLAN	MINOR IMPROVEMENT	UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY	PARK REDESIGN	UNDEVELOPED PARKS	NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY
Existing Condition	Master plans recently adopted Created with extensive community input	Parks recently developed or in very good condition	Current park functioning well	Rethink accessibility and park layout No change in use	Existing park is undeveloped	Add parkland To fill gaps in park access City-owned property
Recommendation	Implement existing master plan	Minor improvements identified to maintain high quality	Upgrade existing amenity or new amenity to meet identified needs or gaps	Undertake park design plan	Develop and amenitize site	Create, develop, and amenitize site

Figure 8-1: Recommendations Spectrum

RECOMMENDATION MAGNITUDES

Each park in the City was evaluated for access, proximity, and available space to host new or enhanced amenities. The Recommendation Spectrum was used to outline and contextualize the Park-specific Recommendations presented in the PROS Plan. This tool organizes improvements by the magnitude of change, spanning from the creation of a new park to the implementation of a minor improvement or existing master plan. The Recommendation Spectrum is used to frame Park-specific Recommendations for the Community Park, Neighborhood Park, and Undeveloped Park Typologies. It is not applied to schools with joint-use agreements (JUA) because the sites are owned by Belmont Redwood Shores School District (BRSSD). It is also not applied to the Open Space Park Typology, because management of these sites is covered in a separate section given the unique considerations for these valuable resources.

The following section defines the magnitudes as shown in Figure 8-1 and presented in Table 8-1.

EXISTING MASTER PLAN

Two parks in Belmont have recently adopted master plans: Twin Pines Park Master Plan (2019) and Barrett Community Center Conceptual Design Plan (2020). Creation of these master plans utilized extensive public engagement efforts to inform the preferred amenities. The PROS Plan recommends implementing the master plans for these two parks.

MINOR IMPROVEMENT

Several parks require only minor adjustments to meet the Standard Baseline Amenity requirements as outlined by their Park Typology. These parks feature amenities identified as being in good condition.

UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

These parks are functioning well but have the ability to meet community needs to a higher degree with upgraded or new amenities. In some instances, the amenities are nearing the end of their usable life and have been identified for replacement.

RECOMMENDATION MAGNITUDE PER PARK SITE		
SITE	PROPOSED TYPOLOGY	RECOMMENDATION MAGNITUDE
Alexander Park	Neighborhood Tier 2	Upgraded or New Amenity
Barrett Community Center	Community	Existing Master Plan
Belameda Park	Community	Upgraded or New Amenity
Belmont Sports Complex	Community	Upgraded or New Amenity
Cipriani Park	Neighborhood Tier 2	Park Redesign
College View Park	Neighborhood Tier 1	Minor Improvements
Davey Glen Park	Neighborhood Tier 2	Minor Improvements
Hallmark Park	Neighborhood Tier 2	Park Redesign
Hasting Tot Lot Park	Neighborhood Tier 1	Park Redesign
Hidden Canyon Park	Neighborhood Tier 2	Undeveloped Park
McDougal Park	Community	Upgraded or New Amenity
O'Donnell Park	Neighborhood Tier 2	Upgraded or New Amenity
Patricia Wharton Park	Neighborhood Tier 1	Minor Improvements
Ralston Ranch Park	Neighborhood Tier 2	Undeveloped Park
Semeria Park	Neighborhood Tier 2	Minor Improvements
Twin Pines Park	Community	Existing Master Plan
Wakefield Park	Neighborhood Tier 1	Minor Improvements

Table 8-1: Park Recommendation Magnitudes

PARK REDESIGN

Three parks are considered poorly accessible or under-utilizing their acreage. These sites have been identified for a park redesign including creation of design master plans for accessibility-related improvements.

UNDEVELOPED PARK

There are two sites considered Undeveloped Parks by the Parks and Recreation Department, both recommended for development into Neighborhood Parks Tier 2.

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY

As an almost completely built-out city, there are limited opportunities to increase parkland acreage or improve access coverage in low-access areas. Recommendations for opportunity sites work towards improving both. As potential new PROS sites, these areas would need extensive improvement.

SCHOOL (JUA)

The City has a JUA with BRSSD for four school athletic fields, which allows limited public access to the field outside of school hours. The City provides landscape maintenance for the athletic field and shares the cost of water. Since the City does not own this land, recommendations for these sites will require a consensus agreement and cost-sharing with BRSSD to implement. Recommendations for School (JUA) sites are not evaluated by the Recommendations Spectrum.

OPEN SPACE

Open Space recommendations are not included in the Recommendations Spectrum. These sites are discussed in more detail in the Open Space Management Plan (OSMP).

RECOMMENDATIONS MAP

The following pages illustrate the Park-specific Recommendations and identify opportunity sites for future park and recreation amenities. Each PROS site has a Recommendations Map with a legend illustrating how to read the recommendation symbols. If a recommendation symbol does not have a number, it indicates that the recommendation is park-wide or otherwise does not have a specific location.

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

All sites are measured against the Standard Baseline Amenities requirement for their assigned Park Typology. For most sites, the Standard Baseline Amenities are already existing; for some sites, the park is lacking one or more. Some parks have been assigned a new Park Typology, and some parks are undeveloped and therefore lack the Standard Baseline Amenities for any Park Typology. The Standard Baseline Amenities are identified on each Recommendations Map and can be referenced in Table 8-2 below.

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Identifiable Amenity

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2) *

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity

COMMUNITY PARK

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity
- (g) Off-Street Parking
- (h) Permanent Restroom
- (i) Athletic Field or Community Facility

Table 8-2: Standard Baseline Amenities

** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2.*

Note: School (JUA) and Open Space Park Typologies do not have Standard Baseline Amenities.

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RECOMMENDATION TYPES

Recommendations that go beyond Standard Baseline Amenities are grouped by category, defined below.

ACCESSIBILITY

This classification includes enhancements which increase safety and enhance circulation to and within the park. Accessibility improvements are intended to ensure that community members of all abilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy parks and outdoor facilities. Examples of accessibility improvements include:

- **Path additions** – adding new paths to connect all amenities and offer continuous walking loops.
- **Path improvements** – implementing minor repairs or improvements to existing paths or rebuilding path components (e.g., entrance stairs, ramps, and pathways) to comply ADA standards.
- **Technology** – offering free Wi-Fi internet for safety and convenience.
- **Neighborhood connectivity** – adding crosswalks to connect to adjacent parks, trails, schools, and community gathering locations.
- **Parking** – increasing standard and/or ADA parking spots, increasing off-street parking spots, and adding bicycle repair stations.
- **Placemaking** – increasing visibility and adding art features, murals, or entrance and gateway improvements.

AMENITY

Park amenities are the physical features that visitors directly interact with. Facilities are defined as features with larger footprints like sport courts, gathering spaces, bike tracks, play structures, and shade structures. Equipment differs from facilities in that these have a smaller footprints and consist of individual items like outdoor fitness elements, benches, picnic tables, bicycle repair stations, BBQs, storage sheds, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains. Examples of amenity improvements include:

- **Enhance facilities** – resurfacing and restriping courts, modernizing play structures, rejuvenating outdoor classroom space, creating safety barriers between play structures and busy streets.
- **Enhance equipment** – repairing and relocating features to optimize use, reorienting seating elements to improve view, and replacing furnishings at or near their end of usable life.
- **Amenity additions** – installing new and attractive facilities and equipment.
- **Programming** – collaborating with schools, creating reservation systems for equipment and facilities, and promoting accessible social gathering spaces.

LANDSCAPE

Landscaping features are natural elements that visitors passively interact with, serving as a critical piece of the user experience. The proposed landscaping actions offer benefits such as increasing habitat and food sources for local wildlife populations or extending the use of recreational amenities. Examples of landscape improvements include:

- **Native plants** – expand native planting areas.
- **Maintenance** – maintain existing landscaping (monitor and replace as needed).
- **Signage** – Add interpretation elements such as educational and wayfinding signage.
- **Increase usage** – Transition some existing fields to synthetic turf where feasible to increase annual usable time.

ALEXANDER PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD-SERVING RECREATION OASIS



ICON LEGEND

- Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

ALEXANDER PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park redesign plan for proposed park amenities
- 1 Continue looped walking path around lawn
- 2 Provide ADA-accessible path to existing and new amenities
- 3 Increase visibility and celebrate the park by enhancing the street entrance experience (incorporating art, such as murals, along the entrance access)

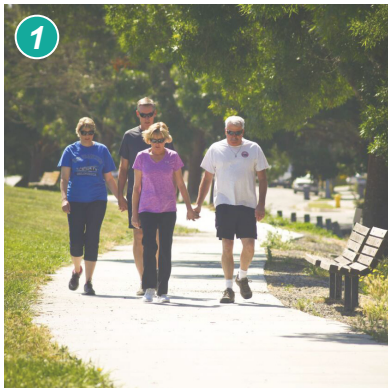
AMENITY

- 4 Resurface and re-stripe tennis courts to include pickleball *(completed Summer 2022)*
- 5 Repair/replace BBQs
- 6 Add bocce ball court
- 7 Replace an existing playground with Inclusive+All-Abilities Play*
- Increase seating opportunities

LANDSCAPE

- 8 Monitor Oak tree
- Enhance existing plantings with native and drought-tolerant species
- Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site
- Expand tree canopy and shade with tree plantings (maintain central lawn without obstruction)

CHARACTER IMAGES



Looped Walking Path(s)



ADA Accessibility to All Amenities



Celebrating the Park Entrance



Tennis and Pickleball Courts



Bocce Ball and Horseshoes



Inclusive+All-Abilities Play

** No accessible parking available at park site. Site served only by on-street parking in residential neighborhood.*

BARRETT COMMUNITY CENTER

COMMUNITY-SUPPORTING GATHERING PLACE



ICON LEGEND

- Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

BARRETT COMMUNITY CENTER

INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS EXISTING MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY PARK STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity
- (g) Off-Street Parking
- (h) Permanent Restroom
- (i) Athletic Field or Community Facility

ACCESSIBILITY

No recommendations

AMENITY

1. Add seating opportunities
2. Remove fitness equipment and re-use at alternative park location
3. Implement the Barrett Community Center Conceptual Design Report *(see next page)*

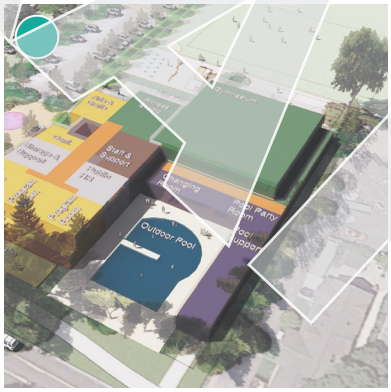
LANDSCAPE

3. Construct multi-use athletic field in Conceptual Design Report as synthetic turf
- Improve native planting near entrance

CHARACTER IMAGES



Seating



Implement Existing Master Plan



Synthetic Multi-Use Athletic Field



Native Planting Areas

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BARRETT COMMUNITY CENTER

COMMUNITY-SUPPORTING GATHERING PLACE

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REPORT (2020)

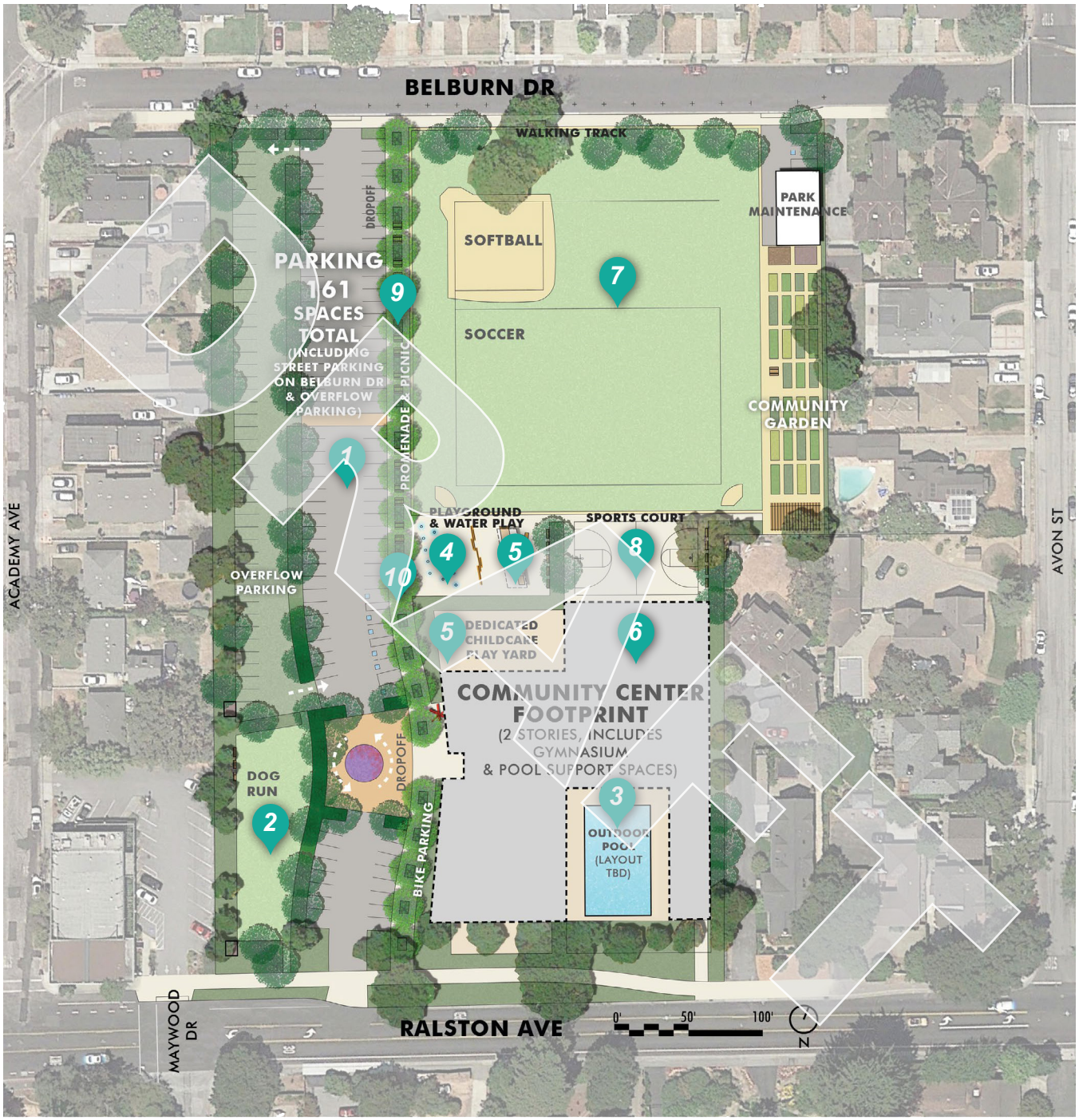


Figure 8-2: Barrett Community Center Site Concept Plan
Source: Belmont Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)

BARRETT COMMUNITY CENTER

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT EXISTING MASTER PLAN

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Restructure parking size and configuration

AMENITY

2. Add dog parklet
3. Add pool (water play)
4. Add spray park (water play)
5. Relocate and upgrade playground with Inclusive+All-Abilities Play
6. Construct new community center
7. Consider synthetic turf for multi-use athletic field
8. Relocate multi-use sports court
9. Add picnic area

LANDSCAPE

10. Plant trees to increase shade

CHARACTER IMAGES



Dog Parklet



Pool



Spray Park



Inclusive+All-Abilities Play



Community Center

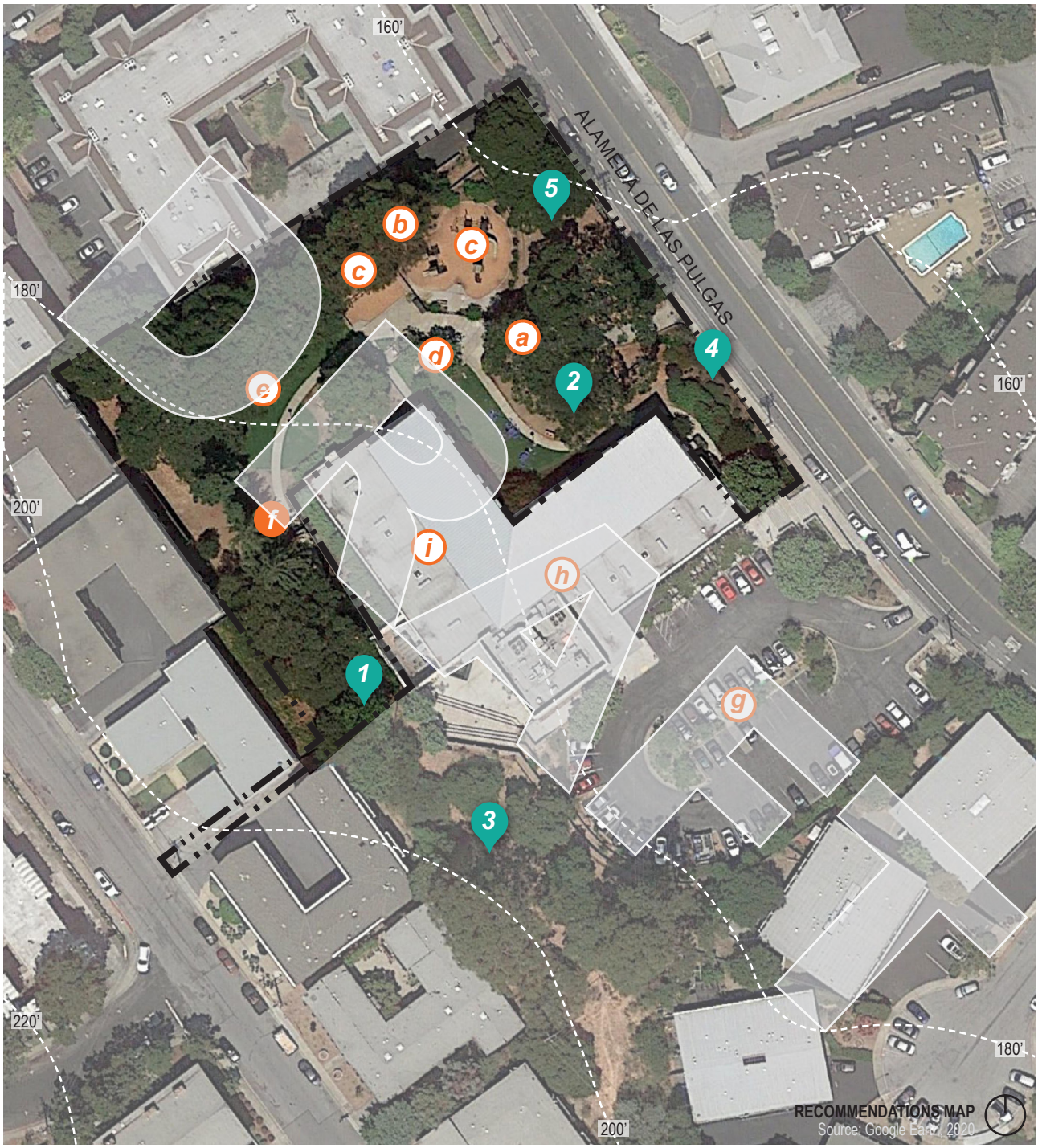


Synthetic Multi-Use Athletic Field

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BELAMEDA PARK

ALL-AGES LEARNING AND EXPLORING SPACE



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

BELAMEDA PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

COMMUNITY PARK STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity *(Add fitness equipment course)*
- (g) Off-Street Parking
- (h) Permanent Restroom
- (i) Athletic Field or Community Facility

ACCESSIBILITY

- (1) Create walking loop extension
- Increase entrance and connection opportunities to create better park access
- Add Wi-Fi access to site

AMENITY

- (2) Create a teen outdoor space to complement offerings at the Belmont Library
- (3) Continue path to create walking and learn-to-bike loop west of parking lot
- Increase seating opportunities
- Consider Inclusive+All-Abilities Play in playground

LANDSCAPE

- (4) Add native planting near entrance
- (5) Refresh planting around playground
- Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site

CHARACTER IMAGES



Recreation Amenity



Multi-Use Path



Teen Outdoor Space



Learn-to-Ride Loop



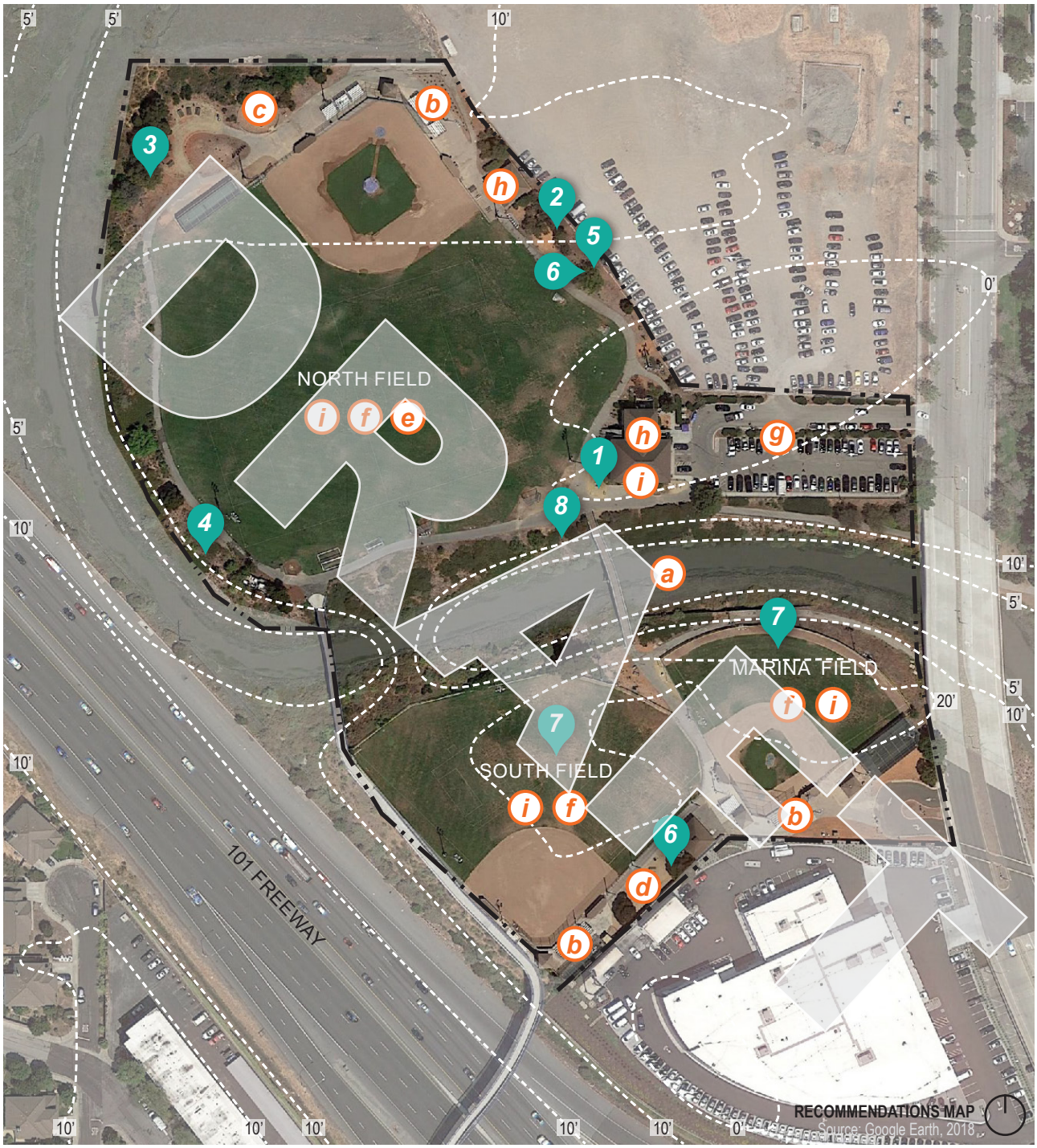
Inclusive+All-Abilities Play



Native Planting Areas

BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX

ATHLETIC HUB FOR THE ENTIRE CITY



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX

RECOMMENDATIONS UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

COMMUNITY PARK STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity
- (g) Off-Street Parking
- (h) Permanent Restroom
- (i) Athletic Field or Community Facility

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Add bicycle repair station

AMENITY

2. Create an accessible social gathering space to promote social interactions
3. Redevelop underutilized space with a pump track
4. Add a fitness equipment course around North Field path
5. Relocate picnic tables
- Increase seating opportunities

LANDSCAPE

6. Add native planting areas
7. Consider transitioning South Field and Marina Field to synthetic turf
8. Add interpretive signage about marsh and bay ecology

CHARACTER IMAGES



Bicycle Repair Station



Social Gathering Space



Pump Track



Fitness Equipment



Native Planting Areas

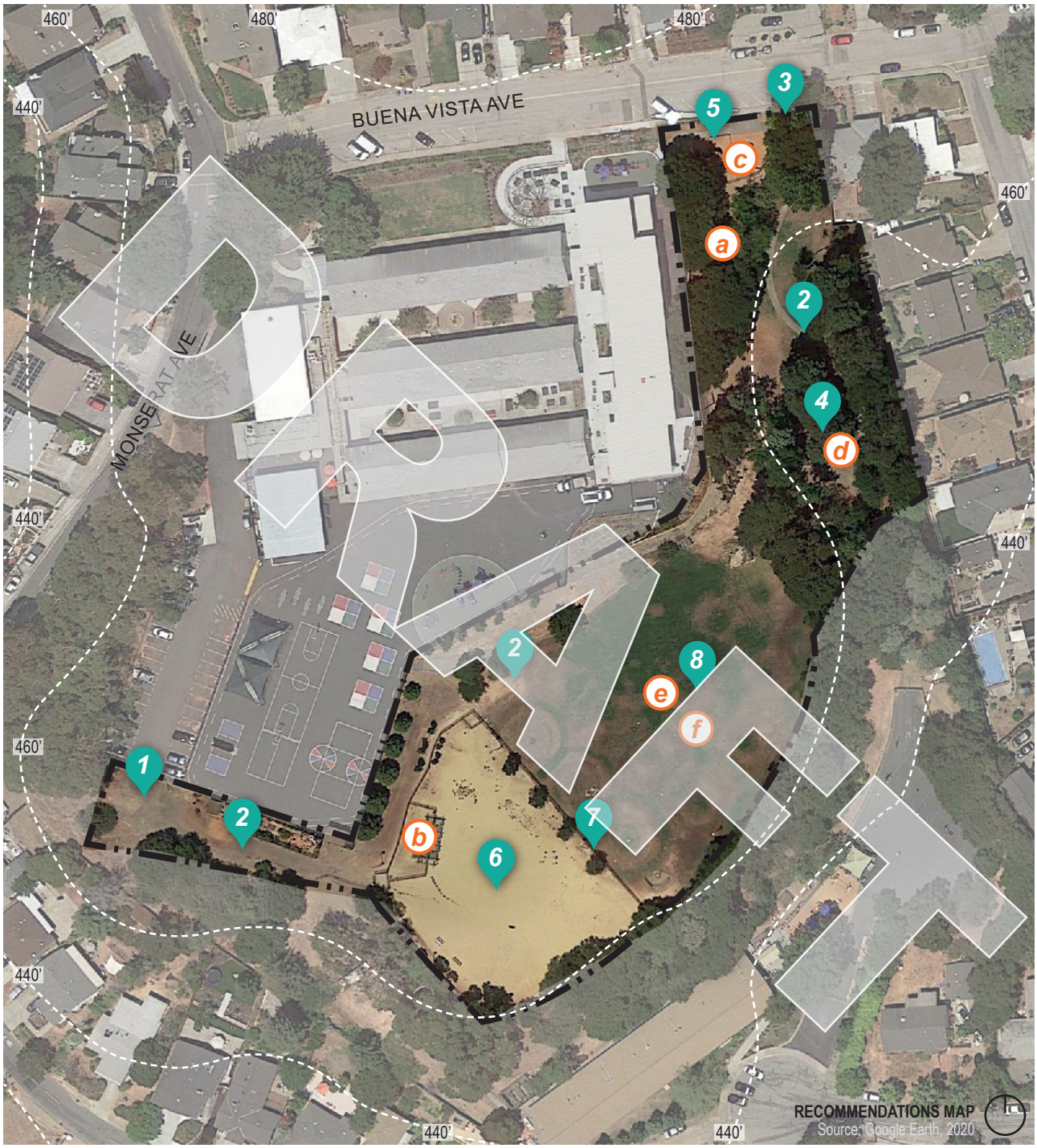


Synthetic Multi-Use Athletic Field

DRAFT

CIPRIANI PARK

THE SOCIALIZE SPOT WITH DOGS



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

CIPRIANI PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS PARK REDESIGN

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park redesign plan to improve accessibility and space utilization
- 1 Formalize dog park entrance from school's parking lot
- 2 Create ADA-accessible path to all existing and new amenities
- 3 Rebuild entrance stairs, ramp, and pathway from Buena Vista Ave

AMENITY

- 4 Establish a reservable picnic area (small)
- 5 Upgrade playground structure
- 6 Redesign dog park area and surfacing to better address community needs
- Increase seating opportunities
- Consider additional amenities in partnership with adjacent school

LANDSCAPE

- 7 Add trees around perimeter of fenced dog park area for shade
- 8 Evaluate multi-use flexible lawn for turf improvements

CHARACTER IMAGES



ADA Accessibility to All Amenities



Reservable Picnic Area (Small)



Playground



Redesign Dog Park



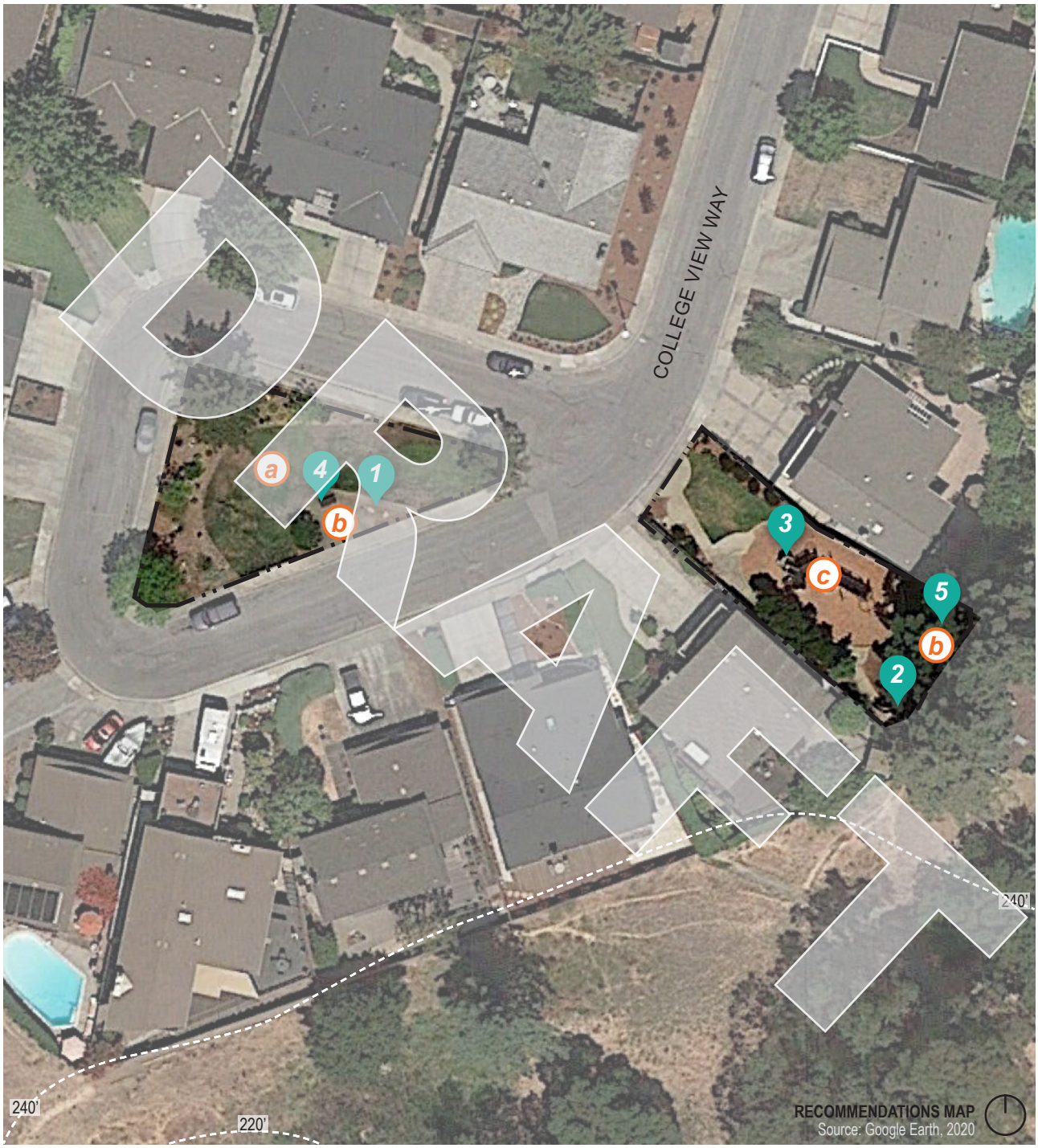
Seating



Add Trees for Shade

COLLEGE VIEW PARK

SOCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD SPOT



RECOMMENDATIONS MAP
Source: Google Earth, 2020

ICON LEGEND

- Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

COLLEGE VIEW PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Identifiable Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

- 1 Assess paved surface for access and repair/ replace as needed
- ● Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between College View Park, Semeria Park, and Patricia Wharton Park
- 2 Explore opportunities to connect to NDNU/Stanford University Campus

AMENITY

- 3 Continue to refill wood chips in playground area periodically
- 4 Replace benches

LANDSCAPE

- 5 Add planting area near picnic area
- ● Plant trees to increase shade

CHARACTER IMAGES



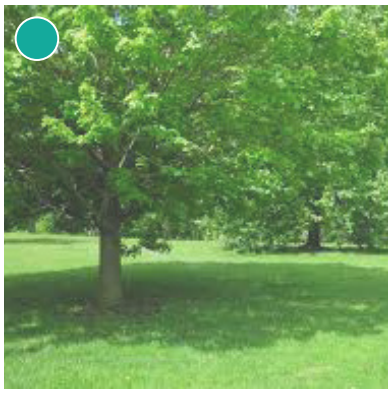
ADA Accessibility to All Amenities



Seating



Native Planting Areas



Trees for Shade

DAVEY GLEN PARK

TUCKED-AWAY ENVIRONMENTAL GEM



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

DAVEY GLEN PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity *(Add signage for walking loop)*

ACCESSIBILITY

No recommendations

AMENITY

No recommendations beyond Standard Baseline Amenities

LANDSCAPE

- Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site

CHARACTER IMAGES

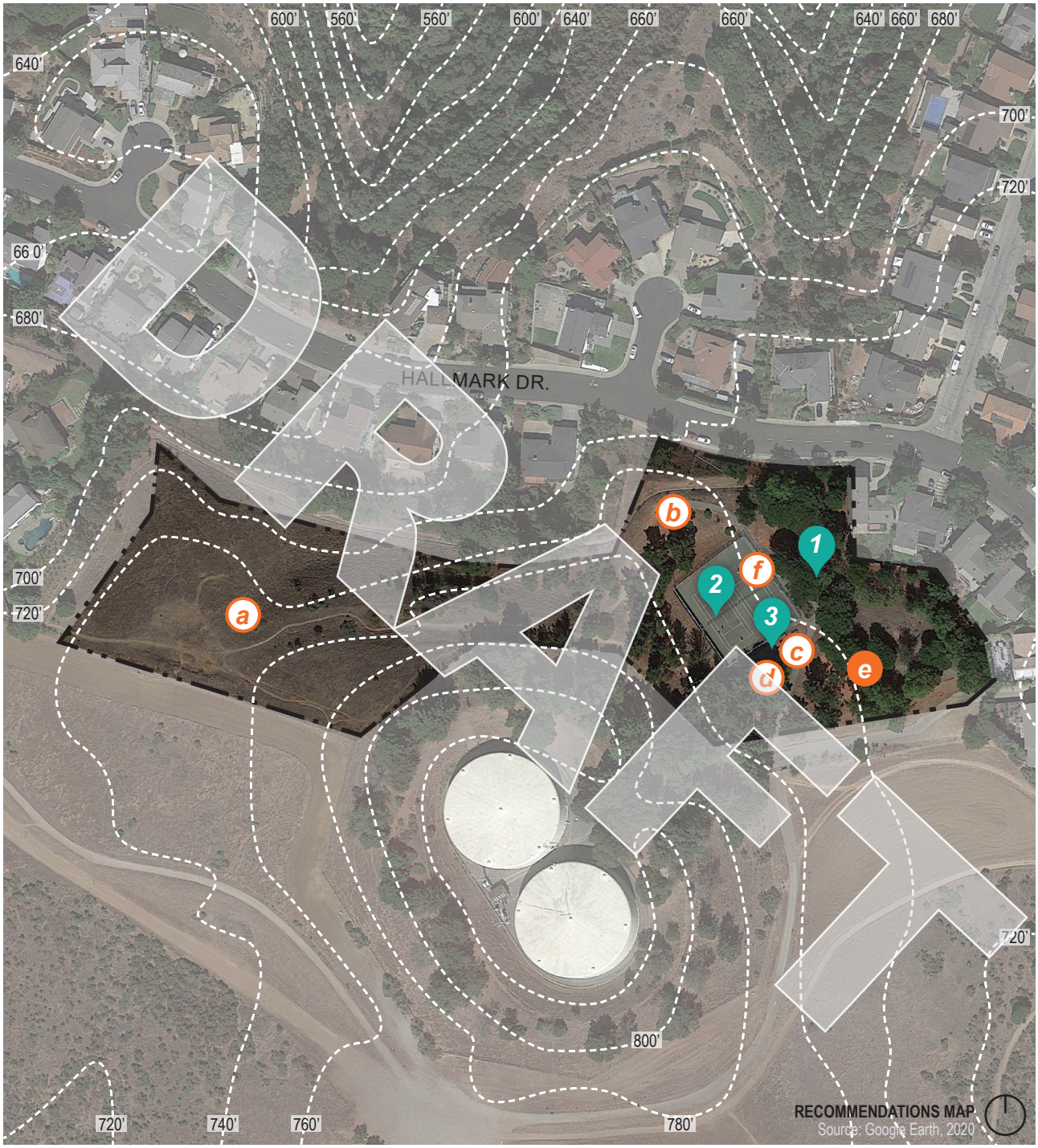


Recreation Amenity

DRAFT

HALLMARK PARK

ACTIVE NATURAL TERRAIN



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

HALLMARK PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS PARK REDESIGN

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space *(Create seating in shaded area)*
- (f) Recreation Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park redesign plan to improve accessibility and space utilization
- 1 Evaluate path accessibility and reconstruct as needed

AMENITY

- 2 Resurface and re-stripe tennis courts to include pickleball *(completed Spring 2022)*
- 3 Update, expand, and consider relocating playground structure
- Increase seating opportunities

LANDSCAPE

- Plant trees to replace declining existing trees across the site (succession planting)
- Plant trees to increase shade
- Consider adding native planting areas

CHARACTER IMAGES



Multi-Purpose Flexible Space



ADA Accessibility to All Amenities



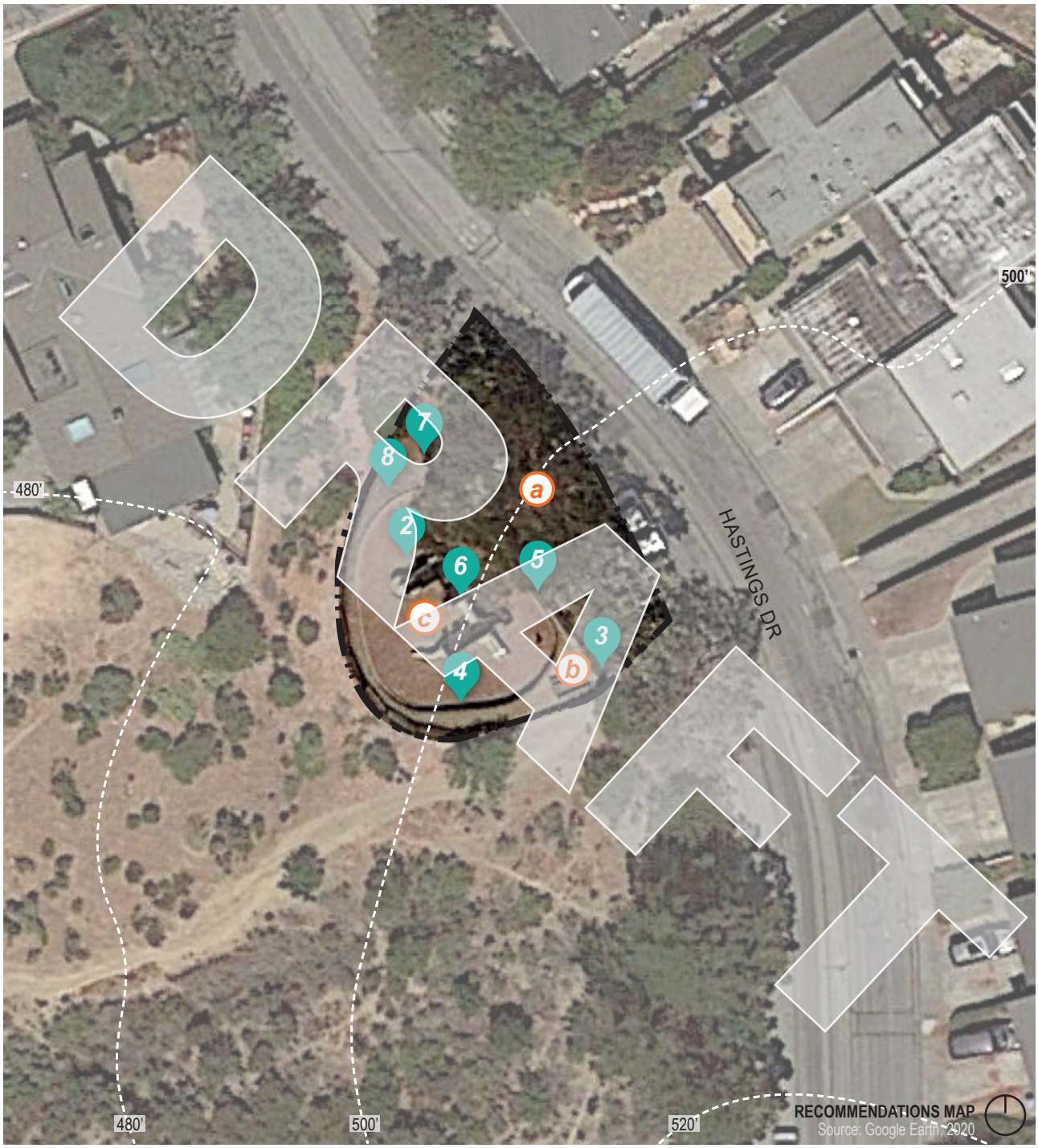
Tennis and Pickleball Courts



Playground

HASTINGS TOT LOT PARK

CHILD-ORIENTED PLAY ZONE



ICON LEGEND

- Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

HASTINGS TOT LOT PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS PARK REDESIGN

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Identifiable Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park redesign plan for proposed park amenities
- 1 Add crosswalk for connectivity to park and adjacent trailhead

AMENITY

- 2 Replenish playground fibar
- 3 Replace and consider reorienting benches for eyes on the playground and sunset view
- 4 Replace wood stake fence
- 5 Create safety barrier between playground and adjacent Hasting Drive
- 6 Update play structure

LANDSCAPE

- 7 Create native planting area around playground
- 8 Add interpretive signage to educate about native plants and open space

CHARACTER IMAGES



Seating



Replace Retaining Wall



Safety Barrier



Playground



Native Planting Areas

HIDDEN CANYON PARK

THE GATEWAY TO OPEN SPACE



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

For illustration purposes only. This graphic is conceptual in nature, and any park design decisions will require additional public review.

HIDDEN CANYON PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS UNDEVELOPED PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating *(Add seating opportunities)*
- (c) Play Amenity *(Add nature play element)*
- (d) Picnic Opportunity *(Add small picnic areas)*
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space *(Add an outdoor classroom)*
- (f) Recreation Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park design plan for proposed amenities and accessibility
- (1) Add ADA-accessible parking stall
- (2) Increase quantity of parking stalls to better accommodate current parking demand

AMENITY

- (3) Add restroom with drinking fountain
- (4) Add a gateway element
- Add seating opportunities

LANDSCAPE

- Maintain native plantings
- Remove non-native plants
- Add shade (trees or shade structure) to seating areas

CHARACTER IMAGES



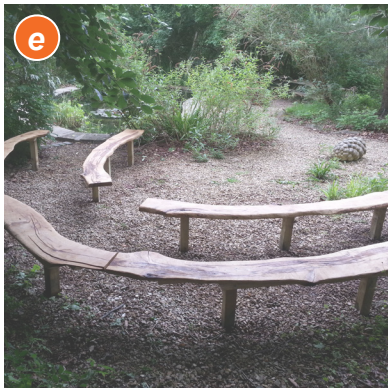
Seating Opportunities



Nature Play Element



Picnic Area



Outdoor Classroom



Permanent Restroom

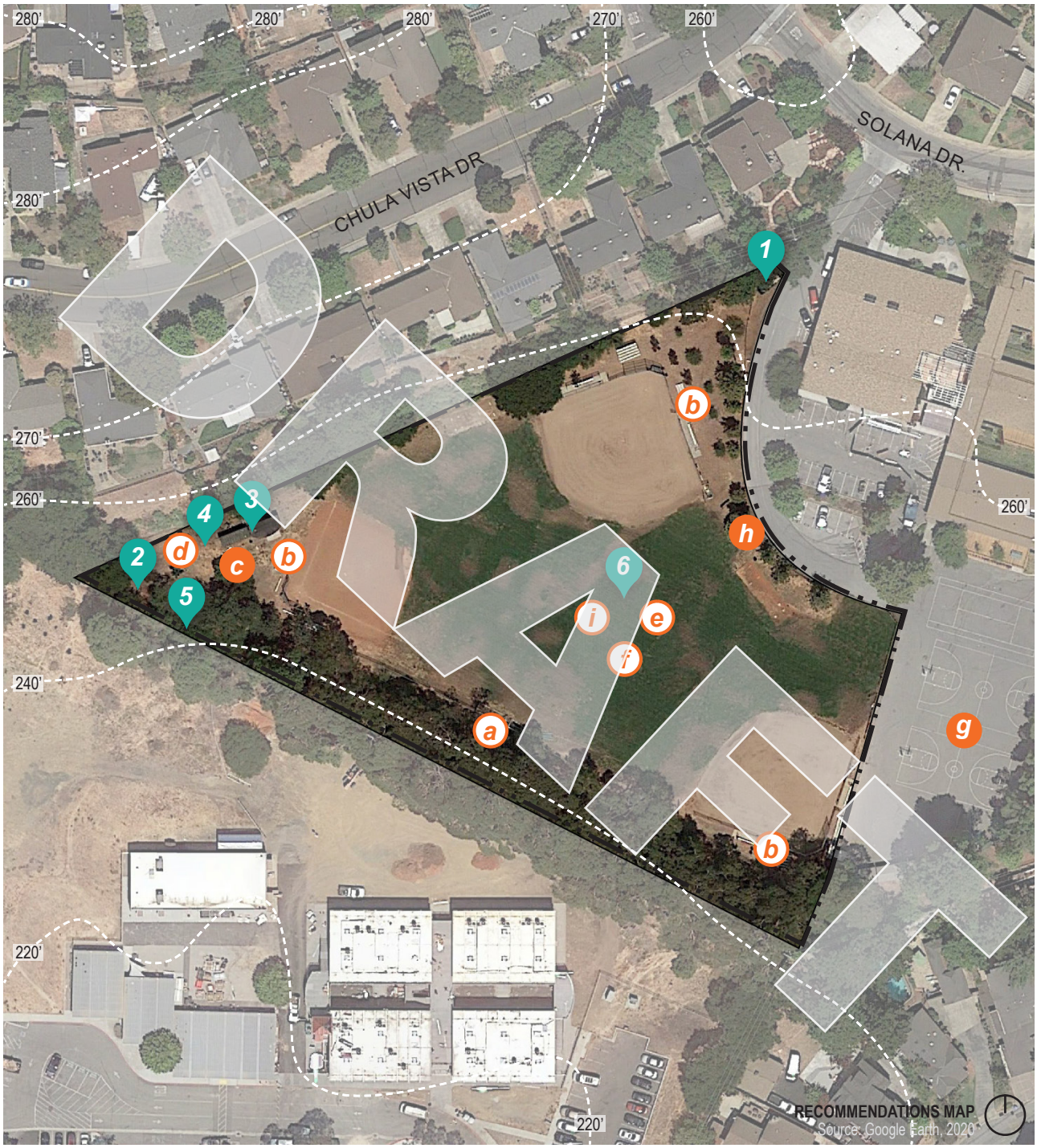


Open Space Gateway

DRAFT

MCDOUGAL PARK

TEAM SPORTS ATHLETIC VENUE



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

MCDOUGAL PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

COMMUNITY PARK STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity *(Add All-Abilities Play)*
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity
- (g) Off-Street Parking *(Adjacent school, limited hours)*
- (h) Permanent Restroom *(Add permanent restroom)*
- (i) Athletic Field or Community Facility

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park redesign plan proposed amenities and accessibility
- Create ADA-accessible path to all existing and new amenities
- 1 Explore adding stairs (ramp preferred) for access closer to Solana Drive

AMENITY

- 2 Add an accessible gathering space to promote social interaction
- 3 Replace storage containers
- 4 Replace picnic tables
- 5 Replace benches
- Increase seating opportunities

LANDSCAPE

- Evaluate condition of trees on hillside and remove or treat as needed
- 6 Consider transitioning multi-use athletic fields to synthetic turf
- Plant trees to increase shade

CHARACTER IMAGES



Play Amenity



Permanent Restroom



ADA Accessibility to All Amenities



Picnic Tables



Seating



Synthetic Multi-Use Athletic Field

Note: Improvements at this site will be further reviewed in collaboration with Charles Armstrong School.

O'DONNELL PARK

MULTI-USE NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

O'DONNELL PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

No recommendations

AMENITY

1. Establish as a reservable picnic area (small)
2. Replace BBQs
3. Refurbish the existing half basketball courts
4. Add shade, tables, and outdoor games

LANDSCAPE

- Refresh planting areas with native plants
- Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site

CHARACTER IMAGES



Reservable Picnic Area (Small)



Shade, Tables, and Outdoor Games

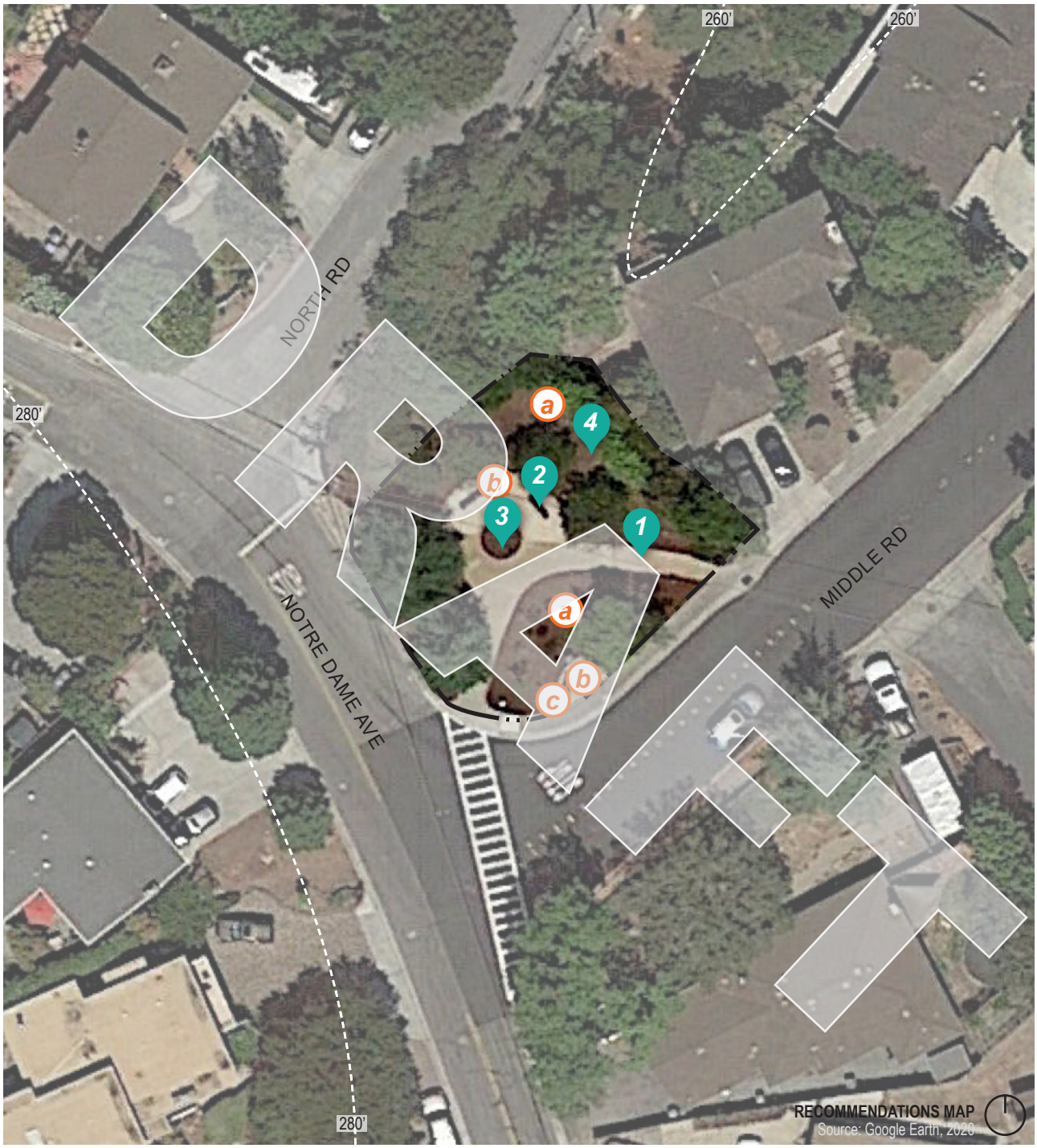


Native Planting Areas

DRAFT

PATRICIA WHARTON PARK

THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S SOCIAL SPACE



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

PATRICIA WHARTON PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Identifiable Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

- 1 Evaluate path accessibility and reconstruct as needed
- Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Patricia Wharton Park, Semeria Park, and College View Park

AMENITY

- 2 Replace seating
- 3 Add boulders or stumps as seating or play elements in center planter area

LANDSCAPE

- 4 Add native planting to hillside
- Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site

CHARACTER IMAGES



ADA Accessibility to All Amenities



Seating



Boulder as Informal Seating



Native Planting Areas

RALSTON RANCH PARK

A NATURAL SPACE TO RELAX



ICON LEGEND

For illustration purposes only. This graphic is conceptual in nature, and any park design decisions will require additional public review.

- Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

RALSTON RANCH PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS UNDEVELOPED PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating *(Add benches)*
- (c) Play Amenity *(Add natural play element)*
- (d) Picnic Opportunity *(Add individual picnic tables)*
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space *(Add small seating space)*
- (f) Recreation Amenity *(Add walking path)*

ACCESSIBILITY

- Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a park design plan

AMENITY

No recommendations beyond Standard Baseline Amenities

LANDSCAPE

- Monitor trees and replace as necessary
- Add native planting areas
- Utilize trees from Ralston Avenue and as visual screening and wind protection

CHARACTER IMAGES



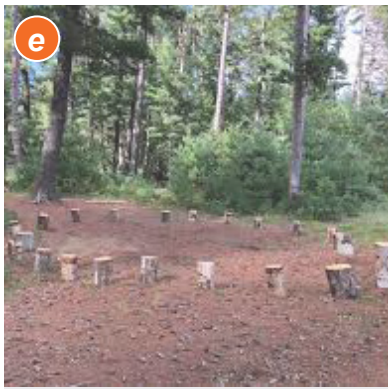
Seating



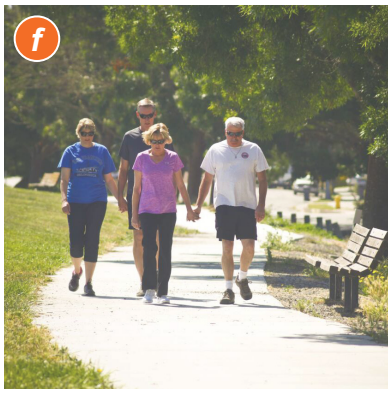
Natural Play Element



Picnic Opportunity



Small Seating Space



Walking Path



Native Planting Areas

DRAFT

SEMERIA PARK

THE LOCALS' PLAYGROUND



DRAFT

ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

SEMERIA PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity *(Add fitness signage)*

ACCESSIBILITY

- Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Semeria Park, Patricia Wharton Park, and College View Park

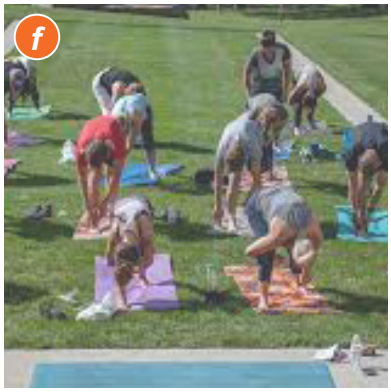
AMENITY

- (1) Trash receptacle access from sidewalk

LANDSCAPE

- Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site

CHARACTER IMAGES

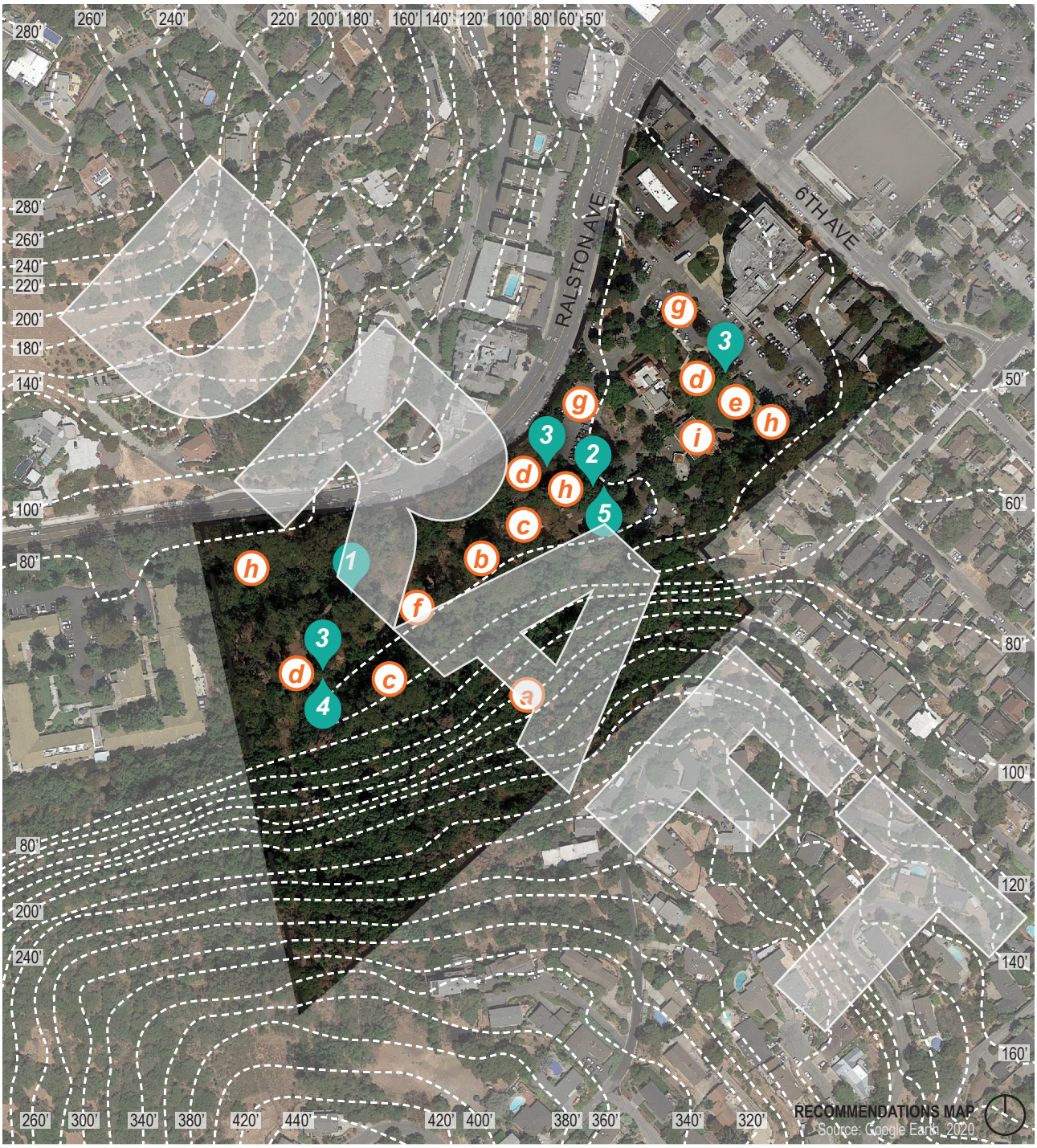


Recreation Amenity

DRAFT

TWIN PINES PARK

THE HEART OF BELMONT



ICON LEGEND

- Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

TWIN PINES PARK

INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS EXISTING MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY PARK STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity
- (g) Off-Street Parking
- (h) Permanent Restroom
- (i) Athletic Field or Community Facility

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Evaluate path accessibility and reconstruct as needed
2. Pave path to restroom

AMENITY

- Implement Twin Pines Park Master Plan
3. Evaluate and repair picnic tables in poor condition
4. Replace BBQs
5. Replace drinking fountain

LANDSCAPE

- Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site

CHARACTER IMAGES



ADA Accessibility to All Amenities



Implement Existing Master Plan



Picnic Tables



BBQs

DRAFT

TWIN PINES PARK

THE HEART OF BELMONT

MASTER PLAN (2019)



Figure 8-3: Twin Pines Park Concept Plan
Source: Twin Pines Park Master Plan (2019)

ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

RAFT

TWIN PINES PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT EXISTING MASTER PLAN

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Restructure arrival zone to strength visual and physical connections
2. Prioritize pedestrian experience in Town Square area
3. Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries
4. Add looped walking path

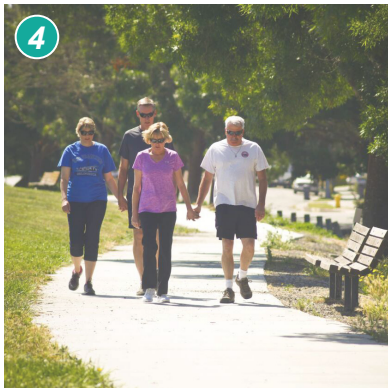
AMENITY

5. Renovate playground structure and expand with Inclusive+All-Abilities Play
6. Add water play element
7. Renovate picnic area
8. Add bocce ball court
9. Add teen outdoor space
10. Add multi-use lawn

LANDSCAPE

11. Establish and improve visual and physical access connections to Belmont Creek

CHARACTER IMAGES



Looped Walking Path



Water Play Element



Bocce Ball Court



Teen Outdoor Space

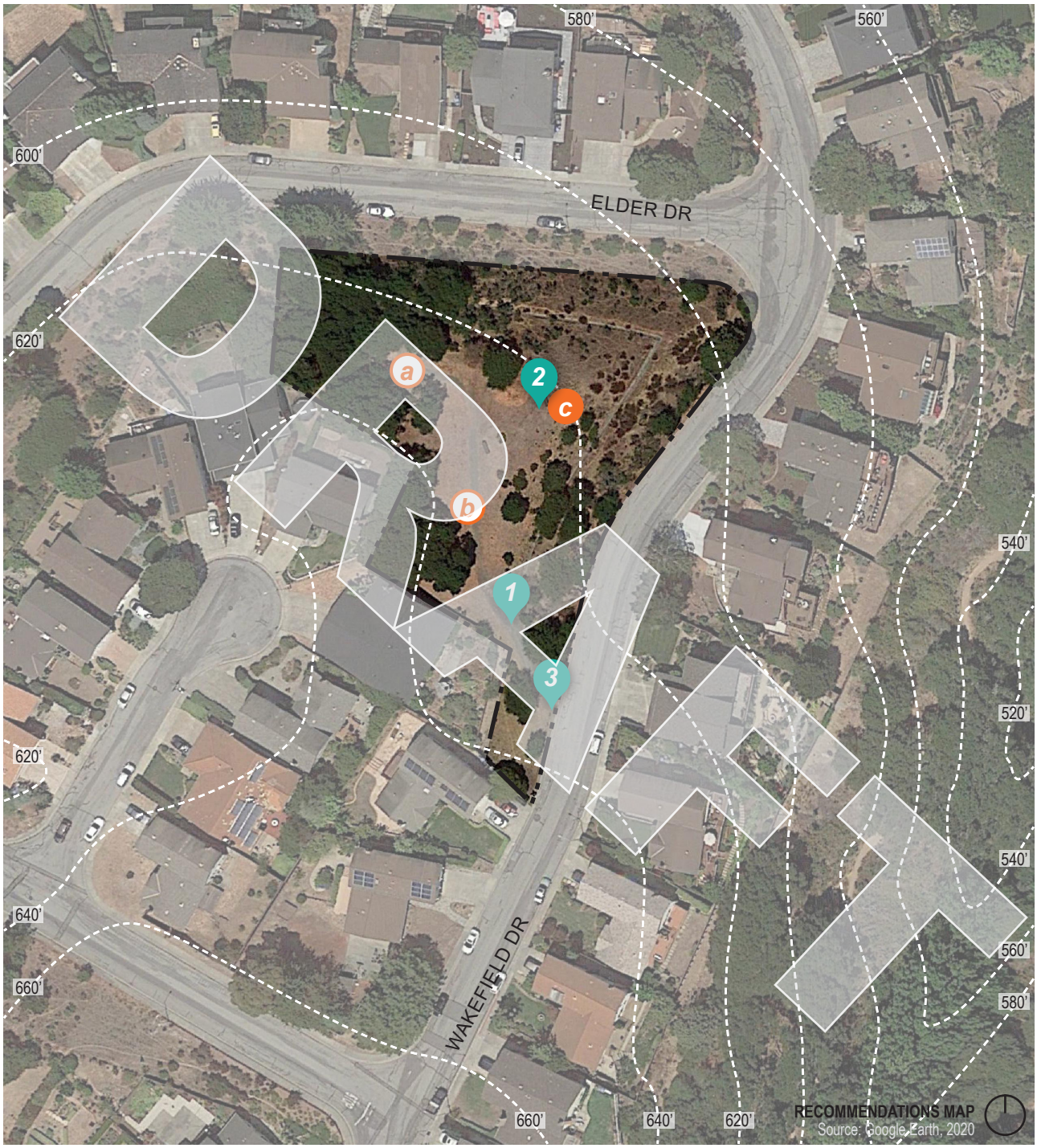


Creek Access

DRAFT

WAKEFIELD PARK

THE PARK WITH THE VIEW



ICON LEGEND

- a — Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- a — Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- # — Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

WAKEFIELD PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Identifiable Amenity
  (Create overlook opportunity)

ACCESSIBILITY

- 1 Improve existing walking path

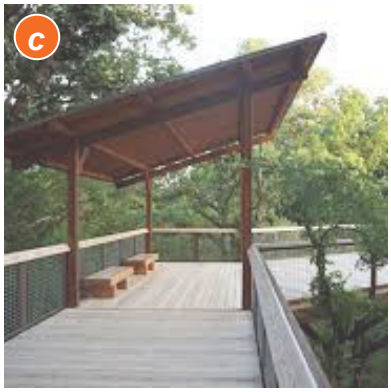
AMENITY

- 2 Add benches
- 3 Add entrance signage to increase park visibility

LANDSCAPE

- Plant trees to increase shade
- Add native planting areas
- Public art opportunity

CHARACTER IMAGES



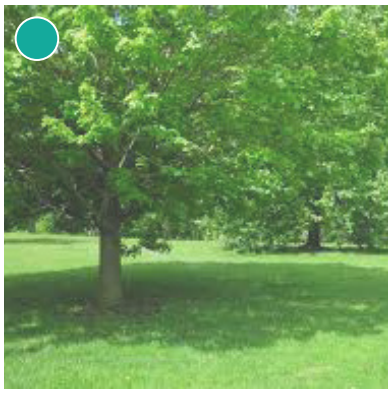
Identifiable Amenity



Walking Path



Seating


Trees for Shade


Native Planting Areas

DRAFT

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JOINT USE AGREEMENT (JUA)



ICON LEGEND

Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape

(Specific location recommended within the park)

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Central Elementary School is part of BRSSD. The City of Belmont has entered into a JUA which allows limited public access to the field and lawn area outside of school hours while providing landscape maintenance. Since the City does not own this land, all recommendations for this site would require consensus agreement and a cost-sharing with BRSSD to implement.

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Create looped walking path around lawn

AMENITY

2. Rejuvenate outdoor classroom space

LANDSCAPE

3. Consider converting the multi-use athletic field to synthetic turf to increase annual usable time

CHARACTER IMAGES



Walking Path



Outdoor Classroom



Synthetic Multi-Use Athletic Field

DRAFT

FOX SCHOOL

JOINT USE AGREEMENT (JUA)



ICON LEGEND

Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape

(Specific location recommended within the park)

FOX SCHOOL

Fox Elementary School is part of BRSSD. The City of Belmont has entered into a JUA which allows limited public access to the field and lawn area outside of school hours while providing landscape maintenance. Since the City does not own this land, all recommendations for this site would require consensus agreement and a cost-sharing with BRSSD to implement.

ACCESSIBILITY

No recommendations

AMENITY

No recommendations

LANDSCAPE

1. Consider converting the multi-use athletic field to synthetic turf to increase annual usable time

CHARACTER IMAGES



Synthetic Multi-Use Athletic Field

DRAFT

NESBIT SCHOOL

JOINT USE AGREEMENT (JUA)



ICON LEGEND

Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape

(Specific location recommended within the park)

NESBIT SCHOOL

Nesbit School is part of BRSSD. The City of Belmont has entered into a JUA which allows limited public access to the field and lawn area outside of school hours while providing landscape maintenance. Since the City does not own this land, all recommendations for this site would require consensus agreement and a cost-sharing with BRSSD to implement.

ACCESSIBILITY

No recommendations

AMENITY

No recommendations

LANDSCAPE

1. Consider converting the multi-use athletic field to synthetic turf to increase annual usable time

CHARACTER IMAGES



Synthetic Multi-Use Athletic Field

DRAFT

RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

JOINT USE AGREEMENT (JUA)



ICON LEGEND

Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape

(Specific location recommended within the park)

RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ralston Middle School is part of BRSSD. The City of Belmont has entered into a JUA which allows limited public access to the field and lawn area outside of school hours while providing landscape maintenance. Since the City does not own this land, all recommendations for this site would require consensus agreement and a cost-sharing with BRSSD to implement.

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Update exterior path at property line to better connect to ropes course south of the school if former ropes course is activated for other use

AMENITY

No recommendations

LANDSCAPE

2. Consider converting the multi-use athletic field to synthetic turf to increase annual usable time

CHARACTER IMAGES



Walking Path



Synthetic Multi-Use Athletic Field

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OPPORTUNITIES

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES

The PROS Plan identifies three potential sites for new parks in Belmont. As an almost completely built-out City, there are limited opportunities for new park sites. All sites are on land currently owned by a public entity. These sites should be considered as opportunities to provide additional park acreage to Belmont residents.

RALSTON AVENUE + OLD COUNTY ROAD

There is an opportunity for a new park at the intersection of Ralston Avenue and Old County Road in the Sterling Downs and Homeview neighborhoods. The site straddles Ralston Ave and is between the Caltrain tracks and Old County Road.

This area was proposed for a Park/Plaza land use classification in the Belmont Village Specific Plan (2017). This designation highlights places that may be suitable to serve the outdoor recreational needs of the community on publicly-owned land. Areas with this designation may consider amenities such as play structures, seating, fountains, public art, and special landscape features, as well as walkways and trails that are part of larger circulation networks.

During the PROS Plan process, this site was recognized during the Housing Element 2023-2031 update process as a potential housing opportunity. Recommendations for improvements to this site may be temporary, pending the development of the downtown area. The City is evaluating all development options at this location.

OAK KNOLL DRIVE

Oak Knoll Drive is a residential street that terminates in a cul-de-sac with trees and planting in a dirt area at the center, located in the Central neighborhood. This site was identified by feedback from adjacent residents.

ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS

Alameda de las Pulgas is an arterial street that traverses Belmont from north to south. At the northern edge of the city, at the intersection with Forest Avenue the Cipriani and County Club neighborhoods, there are opportunities for new park space on either edge of the right-of-way.

POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS

The City has an existing JUA with BRSSD for four school sites: Central Elementary School, Fox Elementary School, Nesbit School, and Ralston Middle School. Public access to amenities through JUAs fluctuate over time. The City will continue to pursue opportunities as they arise. The City may consider establishing or expanding JUAs with the following schools, or other organizations, to facilitate and enhance public access to outdoor green space:

CRYSTAL SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Crystal Springs Middle School is a private school located adjacent to Ralston Middle School. The City has an existing JUA in place. The site has a synthetic turf soccer field and a dual-use basketball and volleyball court that are ideal opportunities to expand recreation opportunities available for Belmont residents.

CARLMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Carlmont High School is an ideal opportunity to pursue a JUA with the Sequoia Union High School District. The school has seven tennis courts, two diamond fields, a track, a football field, and a basketball court that could supplement recreation amenities provided by the City.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Notre Dame High School is located adjacent to the Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU)/ Stanford University campus. The high school has multiple recreation amenities that could supplement opportunities available to Belmont residents, including a diamond field and volleyball courts.

NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR UNIVERSITY/ STANFORD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Currently, the City does not have a JUA with the NDNU/ Stanford University campus. There are two tennis courts, a soccer field, and undeveloped area on the north and east campus edges due to the topography. Entering into a JUA with the campus for public access to the tennis courts is a potential option to help maintain the Ideal Amenity Ratio. The undeveloped areas have unofficial trails connecting College View Park to campus and Ralston Avenue. Formalizing pedestrian access from the Central neighborhood to the campus is a potential opportunity to improve public access.

RETHINKING THE STREETSCAPE

Over 18 percent of Belmont land is public right-of-way. This public space is mostly dedicated to automobiles as travel lanes and parking. Aligning with other City planning documents, innovative approaches to allocate public right-of-way land will be imperative for establishing active transportation methods as attractive and efficient ways to move about the City. Transitioning our streets to prioritize the health and safety of pedestrians and bicyclists over vehicular movements will improve the quality of the streetscape and the connectivity of the PROS system as a whole.

Participants in the community engagement process were supportive of increasing the ease of access for walking and biking to PROS sites. Given the limited opportunities to develop new parks, enhancing the active transportation network will enable residents to further connect with existing recreational amenities. Parks with adjacent bus stops offer opportunities to ensure that children have a safe place to wait for the bus and navigate to school. By acknowledging the important role transportation systems have in our communities and their intersection with parks, the City can implement solutions that have two-fold benefits to the safety of residents, students, visitors, and employees alike. While specific streetscape improvement opportunities were not identified in this analysis, the PROS Plan supports further consideration towards underutilized right-of-way land and its potential to offer key connections to parks in Belmont.



Rethinking the Streetscape

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In addition to the opportunity site at Ralston Avenue and Old County Road, the Specific Plan notes that additional parks, open spaces, and public spaces are required to be provided in development projects on lots over 12,000 square feet within the Village Core, Station Core, and Village Corridor Mixed Use area. As parcels within these districts are redeveloped in the future, the PROS Plan encourages projects on these sites to feature public green space components, such as a pocket park or plaza, specifically near new housing developments. The City will continue to seek opportunities with property owners and housing/commercial developers to offer additional amenities, such as tennis courts and synthetic turf fields, to the growing Belmont community.

INCREASE IN PUBLIC PARKLAND

As noted in earlier chapters, Belmont provides 3.5 acres of parkland and 15.5 acres of open space acreage per 1,000 residents. The General Plan has a goal of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents with no acreage goal for open space. While the identified opportunities do not reach the desired parkland ratio from the General Plan, any increase in publicly-available green space is beneficial and should be pursued given the increase in housing projects as a result of the 2023-2031 Housing Element update process. Opportunity sites may increase park access in neighborhoods with lower parkland acreage per resident. Parkland acreage with opportunity sites is shown in Table 8-3.

PARKLAND ACREAGE WITH OPPORTUNITY SITES

PARK TYPE	TOTAL ACRES	ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
Neighborhood Parks	23.4	0.9
Community Parks	44.7	1.7
Schools (JUA)	23.4	0.9
New Park Opportunity Sites	0.9	0.03
Potential Agreements	7.1	0.3
Total	99.5	3.8

Table 8-3: Parkland Acreage with Opportunity Sites



Opportunity: Terminus of Oak Knoll Drive



Opportunity: NDNU/Stanford University Campus

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES + POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS

	SITE	PARK TYPOLOGY	SIZE (AC.)	ADDRESS
1	Ralston Ave + Old County Rd *	Neighborhood Tier 1	0.6	Ralston Ave / Old County Road
2	Oak Knoll Drive	Neighborhood Tier 1	0.1	End of Oak Knoll Drive
3	Alameda de las Pulgas	Neighborhood Tier 1	0.2	Alameda de las Pulgas / Forest Avenue
4	Crystal Springs Middle School	School (JUA)	1.4	10 Davis Drive
5	Carlmont High School	School (JUA)	3.8	1400 Alameda de las Pulgas
6	Notre Dame High School	School (JUA)	1.9	1540 Ralston Avenue
7	Notre Dame de Namur University/Stanford University Tennis Courts and Soccer Field	School (JUA)	0.3	1500 Ralston Avenue
8	Notre Dame de Namur University/Stanford University Open Space **	School (JUA)	14.0	1500 Ralston Avenue

* *Recommendations for this site may be temporary. The City is evaluating all development options.*

** *Temporary site only.*

Table 8-4: New Park Opportunity Sites and Potential Agreements

RECOMMENDATION MAGNITUDE PER PARK OPPORTUNITY SITE

SITE	PARK TYPOLOGY	RECOMMENDATION MAGNITUDE
Ralston Avenue + Old County Road *	Neighborhood Tier 1	New Park Opportunity
Oak Knoll Drive	Neighborhood Tier 1	New Park Opportunity
Alameda de las Pulgas	Neighborhood Tier 1	New Park Opportunity

* *Recommendations for this site may be temporary. The City is evaluating all development options.*

Table 8-5: Recommendation Magnitude per Park Opportunity Site

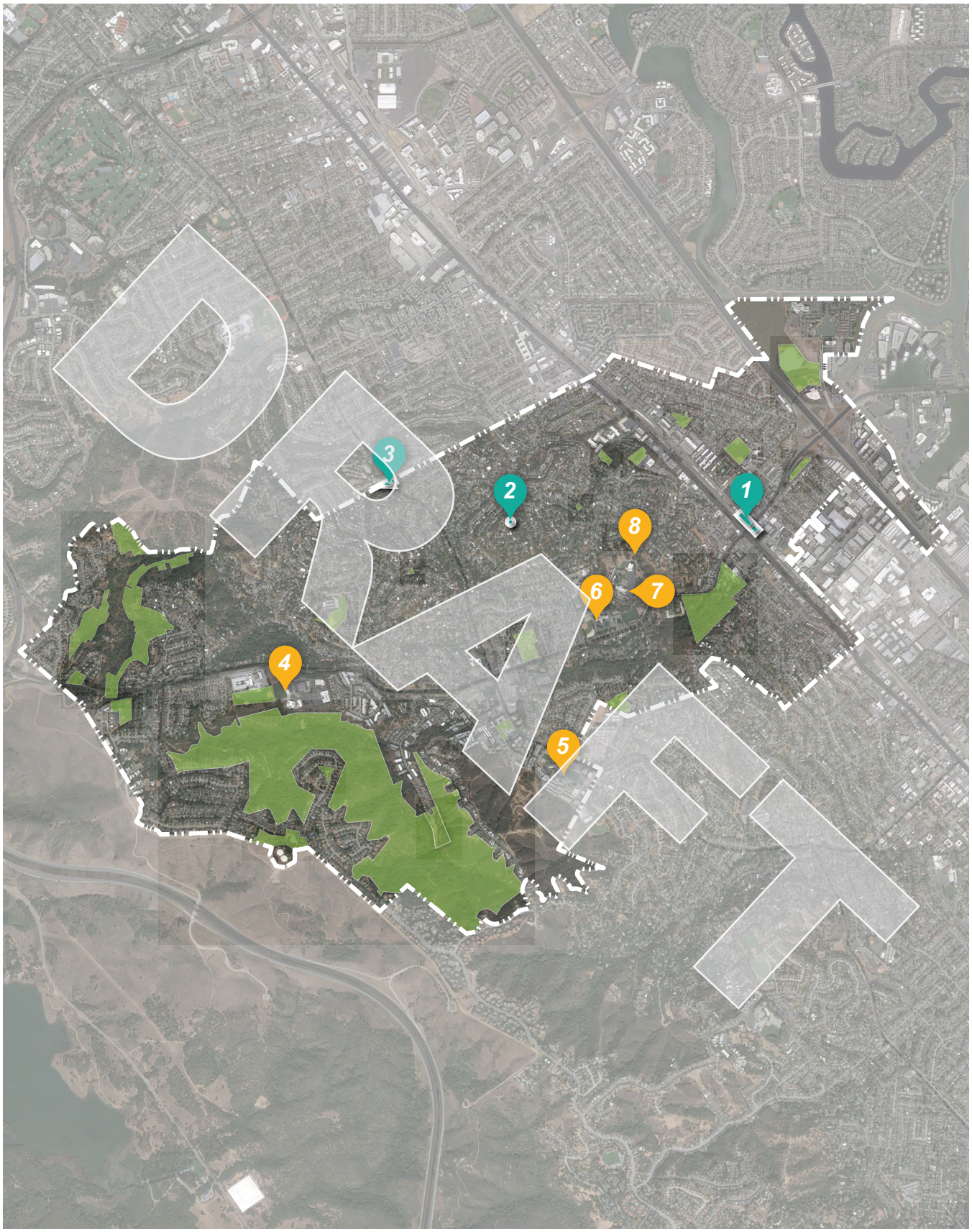


Figure 8-4: Opportunity Sites Map

RALSTON AVE + OLD COUNTY ROAD

LOCUS OF URBAN LIFE

OPPORTUNITY SITE

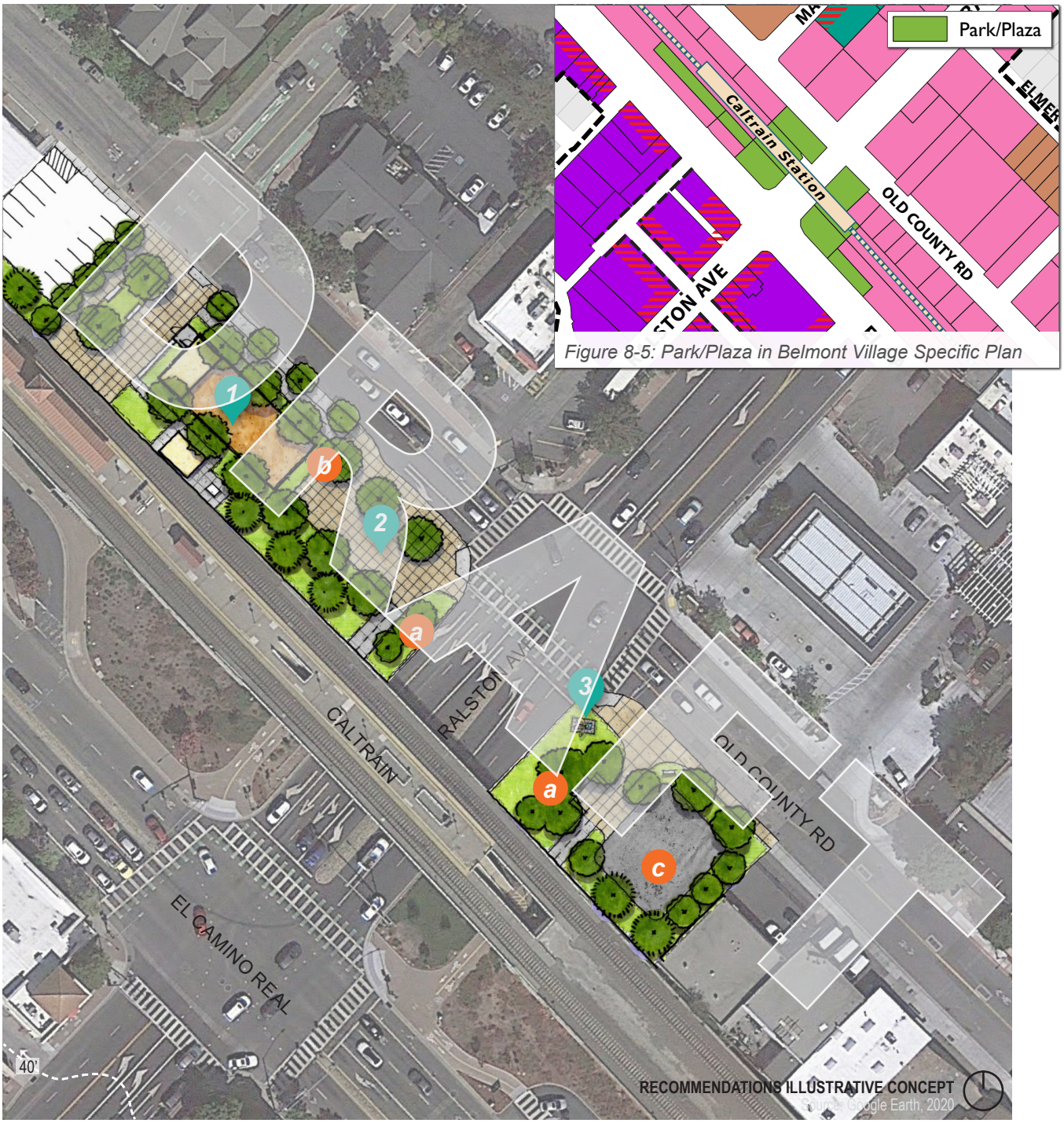


Figure 8-5: Park/Plaza in Belmont Village Specific Plan

ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

Note: Recommendations for this site may be temporary. The City is evaluating all development options.

RALSTON AVE + OLD COUNTY ROAD

RECOMMENDATIONS *TEMPORARY* NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- **a** Natural Environment *(Add gateway planting)*
- **b** Seating *(Add benches)*
- **c** Identifiable Amenity *(Add skate park)*

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park design plan for amenities and accessibility
- Create ADA-accessible path to all existing and new amenities

AMENITY

1. Add dog parklet
2. Add placemaking space to host community gathering, event space, pop-up business space, etc.
3. Install public art piece

LANDSCAPE

No recommendations

CHARACTER IMAGES



Natural Environment



Seating



Identifiable Amenity



Dog Parklet



Placemaking



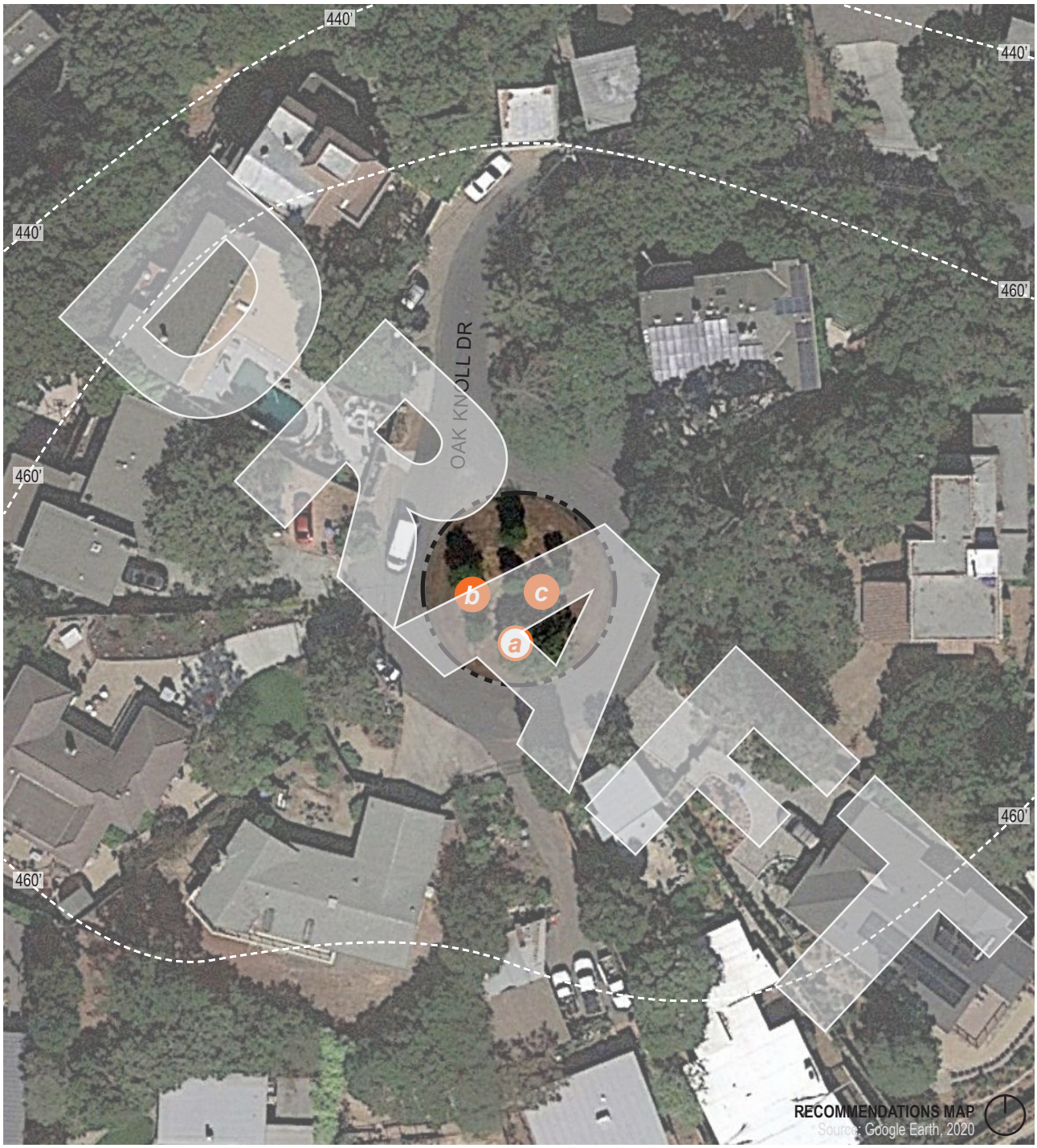
Public Art

Note: Recommendations for this site may be temporary. The City is evaluating all development options.

OAK KNOLL DRIVE

FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PLAY

OPPORTUNITY SITE



ICON LEGEND

- a — Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- a — Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- # — Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

OAK KNOLL DRIVE

RECOMMENDATIONS NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
  (Add benches)
- (c) Identifiable Amenity
  (Add play element)

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park design plan for amenities and accessibility
- Encourage creation of a "safety circle" at the terminus of Oak Knoll Drive to highlight park use in center

AMENITY

No recommendations beyond Standard Baseline Amenities

LANDSCAPE

- Add native planting areas

CHARACTER IMAGES



Seating



Identifiable Element


Native Planting Areas

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ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS

REPURPOSING RIGHT-OF-WAY

OPPORTUNITY SITE



ICON LEGEND

- Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS

RECOMMENDATIONS NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
  (Add benches)
- (c) Identifiable Amenity
  (Add nature play element)

ACCESSIBILITY

- Park design plan for amenities and accessibility
- 1 Add looped walking path
- 2 Encourage creation of sidewalks along and connecting to park

AMENITY

- 3 Add bicycle repair station
- 4 Add fence or protective barrier between play element and roadway

LANDSCAPE

- Add native planting areas

CHARACTER IMAGES



Seating



Nature Play Element



Looped Walking Path



Native Planting Areas

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OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Open Space Recommendations were generated from existing City goals and policies for protecting and managing open space areas, feedback from the community, the Environmental Assessment, and the Recreation Use Assessment. The findings of the Environmental Assessment and Recreation Use Assessment are found in Chapter 3 and the Open Space Objectives and Policies are found in Chapter 7. The full OSMP is found in the Appendix.

Each Open Space Recommendation is assigned a rating as easy, medium, or hard to implement. The feasibility designation scale incorporates two aspects by which an action can be evaluated: the operational capacity of the City's existing programs, funding, and staff to implement the action, and the scope of the action. Definitions of the ratings are found in Table 8-6.

Tables 8-7, 8-8, and 8-9 present the Open Space Recommendations by Theme (listed below) and ties them to the Policy it is responding to.

OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATION RATINGS	
CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
EASY	These actions can be performed immediately under existing City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.
MEDIUM	These actions require additional planning, equipment, staffing, funding—either internal or external, or other operational changes.
HARD	These actions may require substantial planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.

Table 8-6: Open Space Recommendation Ratings

OPEN SPACE THEMES

- ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- BALANCED RECREATION USE
- NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION



Views from Belmont

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY		
EASY	MEDIUM	HARD
1. Provide educational materials on Sudden Oak Death (SOD) and information about how to minimize the spread of SOD at high use trailheads. (P5)	1. Realign, add drainage, or otherwise improve trail sections identified in the Recreation Use Assessment as having "high" erosion levels. The Rambler Trail was identified as a top priority given its severity. Prioritize other trail segments for improvement and incorporate into a multi-year workplan. (P13/P26)	1. Periodically inventory trails and facilities to assess any impacts to watercourses, riparian areas, and wetlands, and prepare plans for protection or restoration, as appropriate. (P3)
2. To the extent possible, avoid vegetation management activities during nesting bird season, February 1 to August 31. If nesting bird season cannot be avoided, conduct nesting bird surveys per California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidance. (P9)	2. Implement an "early detection and response" protocol as defined in the Environmental Assessment, to monitor and control new or spreading exotic or undesirable species. Create an agreement and work plan with existing volunteer groups to perform the work in accordance with the protocol. (P6/P16)	2. Conduct protocol surveys for sensitive wildlife or plant species, as defined by the USFWS or CDFW, in areas where these species have at least moderate potential to occur, whenever conducting ground disturbing activities. (P2)
3. Temporarily close trails during extremely wet conditions. Temporary closure periods will be determined by City staff based on evaluation of conditions and forecasted weather patterns. (P13)	3. Actively seek additional funding sources to support natural resource management. (P17)	3. Improve trail stream crossings by either realigning the trail to prevent crossing the stream altogether or elevating the trail over the stream. (P3/P4/P9/P13)
4. Prohibition of dogs in water bodies. Dogs are not allowed to enter any water bodies, including streams and marshes, on open space lands. Messaging and signage and education should be developed. (P13)	4. Restore and expand native bunchgrass areas. (P2/P6/P18)	
5. Avoid ground disturbing activities like trail maintenance and construction activities prior to rain events. (P13)	5. Install wildlife cameras at high activity locations or in riparian habitats to monitor wildlife presence. Coordinate with local agencies and non-profits (e.g. Felidae) to share wildlife camera data to support wildlife distribution study regionally. (P7/P17)	
6. Engage volunteer groups to monitor plant and wildlife species using citizen science efforts like Audubon Christmas Bird Count or "bio-blitzes." (P5/P10)	6. Install decontamination stations at high use trailheads to prevent the spread of SOD. (P5)	

Table 8-7: Environmental Sustainability Open Space Recommendations

BALANCED RECREATION USE		
EASY	MEDIUM	HARD
1. Increase education and enforcement of open space regulations including dogs on leash, speed limits, amplified sound, etc. (P23/P32)	1. Designate existing connection routes or build new trails between open space areas and to other adjacent protected lands. (P30/P35)	1. Implement an e-bike pilot program similar to existing regulations on nearby Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The City will observe the effects of the pilot to determine if additional studies, outreach, and policies are needed. (P21/P23)
2. Periodically conduct visitor surveys to gauge experiences for all trail users. (P22)	2. Implement single-use and one-way trail segments in areas identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following sufficient public outreach. (P21)	2. Add calming features on trails to reduce speed, and add landings for respite, passing, and vistas. (P20/P31)
3. Clearly identify property boundaries of open space lands and develop an education and enforcement program for adjacent landowners conducting illegal modifications to open space lands (e.g. building trails to access open space lands from their house or neighborhood). (P28)	3. Evaluate potential new nature-based recreation programming for open space lands. Specifically, collaborate with environmental educators or other groups to develop a series of docent led nature walks for a variety of audiences. (P22/P23)	
4. Develop a standard trail naming policy for designated trails. The naming policy will be adopted on all open space signage and messaging. (P29)	4. Incorporate or decommission trails identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following further public outreach. (P20)	
5. Update regulatory signage at trailheads to use a consistent design across City open space lands. (P24)	5. Decommission redundant trail segments. Conduct de-compaction and revegetation where needed. (P1/P20)	
	6. Develop a policy for managing organized group use of open space lands, such as camps, school field trips, and exercise classes. (P23)	
	7. Identify three trail segments that can be made ADA compliant which offer the following visitor experiences: travel along a ridgeline, travel along a canyon floor, and panoramic views. (P19)	

Table 8-8: Balanced Recreation Open Space Recommendations

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NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION		
EASY	MEDIUM	HARD
1. Widen existing fuel breaks and treated wildland-urban-interface areas. (P47)	1. Remove invasive Acacia trees which pose a significant threat of casting embers during fire. (P38)	1. Inventory City open space lands to assess fuel loads and forest structure related to fire. Identify access issues and City and community or regional fire concerns. (P38)
2. Trim trees and mow or remove invasive species ladder fuels along trails to maintain tree health and minimize crown fire. (P38)	2. Create "islands" of vegetation by thinning in steepest areas and fuel breaks to break up crown fires and reduce potential erosion and preserve habitat. (P43)	2. Conduct a field-based evaluation of fuel conditions in SJC and WDL for possible further fuel reduction treatments. (P38)
3. Continue fuel reduction treatments in previously treated areas in WDL. (P38)	3. Remove invasive species from areas recently cleared for fuel reduction. (P38)	3. Coordinate with fire agencies and neighboring communities to identify locations where additional fire suppression infrastructure is desirable and practical (e.g. hydrants, water tanks, helicopter zones, safety zones, fuel breaks, consistent with the incident command system. Work cooperatively with these groups to install needed infrastructure. (P39/P51)
	4. Develop annual fuel reduction treatment plan. (P39)	
	5. Encourage neighboring property owners to maintain adequate fire clearance around existing development. Consult with regulatory agencies to encourage that construction of new development maintains fire agency recommended setbacks for fire clearance between new development and City forest and woodland. (P51)	
	6. Actively seek additional funding sources to support wildfire hazard mitigation. (P38/P39)	
	7. Develop emergency response plan for extreme weather, landslides, and resulting trail impacts. (P49)	

Table 8-9: Natural Hazard Reduction Open Space Recommendations

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PART 3.
HOW WE GET THERE

CHAPTER 9

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing the PROS Plan will require multiple funding sources over many years. As such, prioritizing actions to meet the most pressing needs will be necessary to successfully improve the PROS system in an equitable and efficient manner. Recommendations presented in the previous chapter have been prioritized to guide future decisions for the sequencing of improvement projects. This chapter also discusses the methods used for prioritization, funding mechanisms, and partnership opportunities.

OVERVIEW

The PROS Plan is intended to be a living document to guide implementation over the next 15 years. As circumstances, opportunities, resources, trends, and demands evolve over the plan's horizon, criteria to prioritize implementation should be re-evaluated periodically, ideally every five years.

As opportunities arise, improvements will likely shift in relative importance and time frames for implementation will need to be adjusted accordingly. The criteria in this chapter will guide the decision-making process and determine which projects make the best use of available resources. The Action Plan compiles the next steps for implementation, broken down into short term, long term, or ongoing time frames.

The cost to implement the PROS Plan exceeds the City's financial resources. A variety of funding sources, such as the City's General Fund, department revenue, Development Impact Fees, assessments and bonds, grants, and partnerships are required to implement the improvements. Probable cost estimates for the Park-specific Recommendations were generated based on 2022 construction and implementation costs and are found in the Appendix. As the projects move closer to implementation, probable costs included in this PROS Plan will require adjustment for inflation.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Several City projects were underway during the planning process that further PROS Goals and Strategies.

- Twin Pines Park Belmont Creek Restoration
- Twin Pines Park Water Detention Basin
- Sports Complex Conference Center Roof Replacement *(completed December 2021)*
- Hallmark Park Tennis Court Resurfacing *(completed Spring 2022)*
- Belmont Village Streetscape Design Guidelines *(completed November 2022)*
- Alexander Park Tennis and Basketball Court Resurfacing *(completed Summer 2022)*
- Ralston Avenue Corridor Improvement Project Segment 3 *(completed September 2023)*

PRIORITIZATION

As funding to further develop PROS sites is limited and competitive, a prioritization approach is provided to guide the City in the gradual implementation of the PROS Plan. The prioritization of PROS Recommendations (referred to as "projects" in this section) is critical to ensuring that the City provides recreational opportunities that are accessible to all.

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

The following general criteria factored into the prioritization analysis:

- **Advances diversity, equity, and inclusion:** Projects that address inequities in services, improve PROS sites in underserved neighborhoods, increase access, or advance diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are a priority.
- **Aligns with other projects:** Some proposals align with or can be leveraged with other projects, either being undertaken by the City or other public agency. Projects or initiatives with multiple benefits, or those that advance the goals, projects, and directions of other City or County plans, often have more funding opportunities.
- **Funding availability:** Projects or initiatives for which the City has identified funding sources should be moved to active status as capacity allows, considering if the costs are one-time or recurring.
- **Reduces operating costs or generates revenue:** Projects or initiatives that can create additional revenue, improve maintenance or operations efficiencies, and conserve water or reduce water usage costs should be given high priority to move forward.
- **Quick win:** Some projects can be quickly implemented, demonstrating results to the community and meeting immediate needs. Quick wins maintain public engagement while longer term and more complicated projects are underway.
- **Time-limited opportunity:** Opportunities that arise may come with a time constraint. Time-limited opportunities that advance the City's goals should be leveraged with urgency.

PARK-SPECIFIC PRIORITIZATION

Park-specific Recommendations were prioritized by holistically evaluating all improvements proposed across the PROS system. The Prioritization Matrix allocates points to each proposed project based on the degree to which it meets the criteria. The Prioritization Matrix is a guide to implementation, not an absolute directive for the sequencing of site development. When funding sources become available, the City should pursue all opportunities for implementation of the most impactful and competitive projects.

PARK-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

The Recommendations were assigned point values for each of the four criteria, which represent the proposed project's ability to:

- Further PROS Plan goals
- Respond to community priorities
- Resolve an existing deficiency
- Address an existing condition

The sum of all values across each criteria informs the ranking, with higher values equating to higher priority. Table 9-1 summarizes the criteria and their associated possible point values.

GOALS

A point is assigned for each PROS Goal that a project furthers. All projects further at least one, with the average project furthering four.

COMMUNITY PRIORITY

A project was also assigned points based on community input received throughout the PROS planning process. Projects were categorized as high, medium, and not applicable—the high category, worth 5 points, was awarded if all or mostly all input was in support of the project type. For example, walking paths were heavily favored in the online survey; therefore, proposals for walking paths at any PROS site were awarded 5 points. The medium category, worth 3 points, contains projects that received a majority of supportive feedback, but opposition was noted. The "not applicable" category awards 0 points and includes projects with limited mention during the engagement process, approximately equal amounts of support and opposition, or it is related to operations and maintenance.

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA		
CRITERIA	MEASURE	POINTS
Goals	Project furthers one or more PROS Goal. • Each Goal *(1 pt)*	0 - 12
Community Priority	Project supported by community input. Point assigned based on quantity of positive support. • Not applicable *(0 pts)* • Medium *(3 pts)* • High *(5 pts)*	0 - 5
Resolve Deficiency	Project address an existing deficiency identified in PROS Plan. • Demographic group *(3 pts)* • Underserved area of Belmont *(7 pts)* • Anticipated Areas of Increased Residential Density *(3 pts)* • New use *(3 pts)* • Availability of amenity/ use *(3 pts)* • Resolve access issues *(3 pts)*	3 - 22
Existing Condition	Project replaces or upgrades an existing amenity/site. • New or not applicable *(0 pts)* • Good *(0 pts)* • Fair *(1 pt)* • Poor *(2 pts)* • Critical or unsafe *(5 pts)*	0 - 5
Maximum points possible		*44*

Table 9-1: Prioritization Criteria

RESOLVE DEFICIENCY

Points were assigned depending on if a project addresses an existing deficiency. A project geared toward a specific, underserved demographic group (i.e. teens) was assigned 3 points. A project proposed in an area with low park access is assigned 7 points. A project in an area expected to densify (increase in residential units) was assigned 3 points. A project that proposes a new use for site, or a use not currently offered in the PROS system, is assigned 3 points. A recommendation to increase the quantity of an amenity beyond the identified Ideal Amenity Quantity to meet the Ideal Amenity Ratio, based on benchmarking and population projections, is assigned 3 points. A recommendation to increase or solve access issues to a PROS site or amenities within the site, such as paths, bicycle repair, and sidewalks, is assigned 3 points.

EXISTING CONDITION

Replacement or upgrade projects are assigned points based on the existing condition of the amenity. Items identified as critical or unsafe are assigned 5 points. Items identified in poor condition are assigned 2 points. Items identified in fair condition are assigned 1 point. Items in good condition or recommendations for an entirely new amenity received 0 points.

Points for all criteria were summed, revealing four top ranking projects as the highest priority for implementation.

- Replacing an existing playground at Alexander Park with an All-Abilities playground
- Upgrading the Barrett Community Center with Inclusive+All-Abilities Play
- Adding a skate park to the Ralston Avenue and Old County Road opportunity site
- Implementing the Belmont Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)

Prioritization allows the City to focus efforts rather than dictate an exact sequencing of projects. Not all projects have the same level of complexity or community engagement, nor do they have the same requirements related to coordination and funding. The full Prioritization Matrix is included in the Appendix.

SITE PRIORITIZATION

As a means to focus the City's efforts, the value of points assigned to projects at an individual site were averaged to highlight locations with the highest potential to positively impact the community. The average points were calculated by dividing the total points by the number of projects at each location.

The prioritization rankings are shown in Tables 9-2 through 9-5, which include existing parks (Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks), Undeveloped Parks, Schools (JUA), and New Park Opportunity Sites, respectively. Table 9-6 provides the combined prioritization rankings for all sites. Open Spaces were not included in this analysis.

PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS
*EXISTING PARKS **

SITE	AVG POINTS	SITE RANK
Alexander Park	14.5	1
O'Donnell Park	12.2	2
Belameda Park	11.5	3
Twin Pines Park	11.4	4
Barrett Community Center	10.9	5
McDougal Park	10.9	
Cipriani Park	10.4	6
Hallmark Park	10.4	
Wakefield Park	10.4	
Hastings Tot Lot Park	10.2	7
Patricia Wharton Park	10.0	8
College View Park	9.9	9
Belmont Sports Complex	9.4	10
Davey Glen Park	8.0	11
Semeria Park	7.8	12

** Includes both Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks.*
Note: Several parks are tied for the same rank. The tied parks are listed in alphabetical order.

Table 9-2: Existing Park Prioritization Rankings

PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS
UNDEVELOPED PARKS

SITE	AVG POINTS	SITE RANK
Ralston Ranch Park	18.0	1
Hidden Canyon Park	12.0	2

Note: Implementation of the recommendations for these sites would require further study and community outreach.

Table 9-3: Undeveloped Park Prioritization Rankings

PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS
*SCHOOLS (JUA) **

SITE	AVG POINTS	SITE RANK
Central Elementary School	10.0	1
Fox Elementary School	9.0	2
Nesbit School	9.0	
Ralston Middle School	9.0	

** Includes only existing JUAs.*
Note: Several parks are tied for the same rank. The tied parks are listed in alphabetical order.
Note: These sites are owned by BRSSD. Implementation of the recommendations would require consensus agreement and cost-sharing with the district.

Table 9-4: School (JUA) Prioritization Rankings

PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS
NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES

SITE (UNDEVELOPED PARK)	AVG POINTS	SITE RANK
Ralston Ave + Old County Road *	21.9	1
Oak Knoll Drive	18.8	2
Alameda de las Pulgas	17.4	3

** Recommendations for this site may be temporary. The City is evaluating all development options.*

Table 9-5: New Park Opportunity Site Prioritization Rankings

OVERALL PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS

SITE *	AVG POINTS	SITE RANK
Ralston Ave + Old County Road *	21.9	1
Oak Knoll Drive	18.8	2
Ralston Ranch Park	18.0	3
Alameda de las Pulgas	17.4	4
Alexander Park	14.5	5
O'Donnell Park	12.2	6
Hidden Canyon Park	12.0	7
Belameda Park	11.5	8
Twin Pines Park	11.4	9
Barrett Community Center	10.9	10
McDougal Park	10.9	
Cipriani Park	10.4	11
Hallmark Park	10.4	
Wakefield Park	10.4	
Hastings Tot Lot Park	10.2	12
Central Elementary School	10.0	13
Patricia Wharton Park	10.0	
College View Park	9.9	14
Belmont Sports Complex	9.4	15
Fox Elementary School	9.0	16
Nesbit School	9.0	
Ralston Middle School	9.0	
Davey Glen Park	8.0	17
Semeria Park	7.8	18

** Recommendations for this site may be temporary. The City is evaluating all development options.*
Note: Open Spaces are not included in rankings.
Note: Several parks are tied for the same rank. The tied parks are listed in alphabetical order.

Table 9-6: Overall Prioritization Rankings

While the Ralston Avenue and Old County Road opportunity site received the highest overall prioritization value, proposed projects at this location may be temporary due to potential residential development requirements to meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation. The City is evaluating all development options for this site.

The increase in parkland acreage and the addition of an amenity otherwise not available in the PROS system (skate park) resolves existing deficiencies and therefore led to the highest ranking. Semeria Park was the lowest prioritized park site due to the fact that it was recently revitalized and the two proposed projects are considered minor adjustments.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

In order to fulfill the PROS Goals, the City will require a portfolio of funding strategies for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations. A variety of funding strategies are outlined below; this list is not exhaustive, and at every opportunity, the City should explore funding alternatives to continue to provide a first-rate PROS system.

GENERAL FUND

Sources of revenue include the City's General Fund budget comprised of tax revenues, service charges, franchises, and other sources. The fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget includes dedicated funding for the Goals, Strategies, and Recommendations encompassed in this PROS Plan, including funding for public art, a city-wide tree assessment, and street improvements. The FY2022 General Fund budget of $22.7 million allocated $2 million towards culture and recreation (8 percent). The FY2023 budget, illustrated in Figure 9-1, also allocates approximately 8 percent towards culture and recreation ($2.2 million).

The Capital Improvement Projects program (CIP) is funded largely by the General Fund. The FY2022 CIP budget is $22.9 million; it allocated 2 percent towards recreational facilities and 1 percent towards parks and open spaces. The FY2023 CIP budget is $19.3 million; it allocates 4 percent towards recreational facilities and 2 percent towards parks and open spaces.

PARKS + RECREATION DEPT REVENUE

Additional funding comes from rental fees for Parks and Recreation amenities, such as the reservable picnic areas, as well as program fees for recreation services, user fees, donations, and aid from other government agencies. These fees typically offset the cost of operation and maintenance of the services provided.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES

The City's requirements for parkland dedication and in-lieu fees were adopted by City Council ordinance and resolution in September 2020. The Quimby Act permits the City to require the dedication of land or impose a requirement of the payment of fees in lieu, or a combination of both, for park or recreation purposes as a condition of the approval of a tentative parcel map.

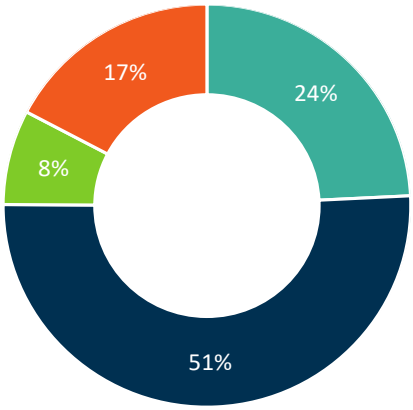


Figure 9-1: FY2023 General Fund Budget

Belmont Municipal Code Chapter 17 Article IV includes information on the parkland dedication requirements and in-lieu fees. At the time of the PROS Plan adoption, the City required 3.44 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (Section 17-104(a)).

Development Impact Fees are also assessed by the City under the Mitigation Fee Act to provide one-time impact fees imposed upon development projects, for the purpose of mitigating the impacts they have on the need for certain capital improvements (such as transportation infrastructure, park land and facilities, police and fire facilities, and affordable housing). The City's Municipal Code Chapter 17 Article III outlines the Development Impact Fees. The City's Nexus Study to assess and set the Park Development Impact Fee was adopted by City Council resolution in September 2020.

ASSESSMENTS AND BONDS

An assessment or bond measure could address demonstrated funding needs for capital improvements, upgrades, and new park elements. Supplemental property assessments can be special assessment districts, such as Community Facilities Districts or Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts. The creation of an assessment district permits a public agency to assess housing units or land parcels. The assessment revenues can be used for parkland acquisition, development, and/or maintenance. The

agency can choose to use the revenue generated on a pay-as-you-go basis or can sell bonds in order to receive a lump sum amount. The bonds are then paid back from the annual revenue generated from the assessment. Establishment of an assessment district requires a vote of property owners—the majority of returned votes must be in favor of establishing or revising the district.

A General Obligation Bond is a voter-approved bond with the assessment placed on real property for a specified period of time (typically 15 to 20 years). A General Obligation Bond requires a two-thirds voter majority to pass. The funds generated can only be used for capital improvements, not maintenance.

A Revenue Bond is used to fund revenue-generating facilities, such as the Barrett Community Center. Revenue produced by the facility is used to pay back the bond. If revenue alone is not sufficient to pay back the bond, the City will have to support repayment of the bond by other means.

GRANTS

The California Department of Parks and Recreation offers grant funding on both a competitive and non-competitive basis. There are multiple competitive grant programs for which projects in this PROS Plan would be considered eligible, for example, the Recreation Trails Program and the Habitat Conservation Fund. The Recreation Trails Program provides funds annually for recreational trails and trail-related projects. The Habitat Conservation Fund supports nature interpretation programs to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas, protection of various plant and animal species, and the acquisition and preservation of wildlife corridors and trails.

California voters passed Proposition 68 in 2018. Also known as the Parks, Environment, and Water Bond Act, it authorized $4 billion in general obligation bonds for State and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects, and flood protection projects. Funding is available through two non-competitive programs—the Per Capita Program and the Recreational Infrastructure Revenue Enhancement Program (RIRE). The Per Capita Program grants funds to local governments for park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement on a per capita basis. Grant recipients are encouraged to utilize awards to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and to address deficiencies in neighborhoods lacking access to the outdoors. The RIRE Program funds projects aimed at improving or enhancing local or regional park infrastructure for the purposes of revenue enhancement.

OTHER FUNDING

In recent years, corporate philanthropy, individual giving, and foundation funding has increased significantly. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), this type of funding for City -owned parks increased from $499 million in 2018 to $596 million in 2019. This funding opportunity is difficult to forecast and best suited for local organizations.

Additional funding sources are available from the federal and State government, non-profit and private organizations, professional associations, and citizen donations. Federal and State funding is available for parks, open space, transportation, and wildfire fuel mitigation projects. Non-profit and private organizations, such as charities, local employers, and universities, are potential sources of funding for PROS improvements. Professional associations, such as the NRPA and the California Park and Recreation Society, offer unique resources and opportunities the City should pursue as projects align. Citizen donations, already a source of funding utilized by the City for the PROS system, remains a viable avenue for funding.

The PROS Plan provides a general foundation for seeking partnerships, sponsorships, donations, and grants to help fund park improvements and expand recreational opportunities for the Belmont community. As unique and alternative opportunities arise outside of those identified in this plan, the City should pursue new funding avenues where applicable and feasible.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships between City departments, school districts, parks and recreation foundations, local volunteer groups, and service organizations will be instrumental in the realization of the PROS Plan.

CITY DEPARTMENTS

The successful implementation of the PROS Plan will require the efforts of multiple City departments. As the Community Development Department oversees the implementation of the Belmont Village Specific Plan and other planning applications, they are instrumental in the implementation effort. As both the Community Development and Public Works Departments undertake improvements to the City's roadways and streetscapes, they have the opportunity to address connectivity gaps between PROS sites. Proposed public art and placemaking projects will interface with the Parks and Recreation Department. Public safety input from the Fire Department will be essential. Other public agencies in Belmont will continue to be important partners in the PROS implementation effort.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The City has an ongoing partnership with the Belmont -Redwood Shores School District (BRSSD) to increase public access to recreation spaces. The joint-use agreements (JUA) for four school sites (Central, Fox, Nesbit, and Ralston Middle) were renewed for 10 years in 2019. The City should continue to partner with BRSSD for public access to the fields at these sites, as well as continue to pursue new JUAs where possible. Partnerships with additional schools in Belmont should be continually evaluated.

PARKS FOUNDATIONS

Non-profit park and recreation foundations are a viable partnership avenue. Foundations are independent organizations that provide volunteer and financial support for recreation, educational programs, and environmental projects. For example, the Belmont Park Boosters have provided funds for park, recreation, and community improvements since 1973. Throughout the PROS planning process, Belmont residents have been active participants. Existing volunteer interest and community engagement may generate additional partnerships to strengthen support for the PROS Plan.

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Volunteer groups engage, empower, and organize interested residents that are able to donate their time to improve the City's PROS system. Most typically integrated with the Parks and Recreation Department as stewards, volunteer organizations enable the greater community to contribute to the upkeep and improvements of the PROS system. Community service opportunities, such as park clean-up days, allow residents of all ages to become active participants in creating outdoor community space. Partnering with local volunteers for PROS projects can strengthen ties within the community as we Build our Backyard.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Local chapters of service organizations, such as Kiwanis and Rotary, are dedicated to giving back to their communities and often fundraise for local improvement projects. For example, the City of Vacaville's Rotary Club was instrumental in the creation of the new all-inclusive Play 4 All Park. Partnerships with local chapters of service organizations represent meaningful and collaborative opportunities to achieve a shared vision for the future of Belmont's PROS system.



Play 4 All Park (Opened 2022 in Vacaville, CA)

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan provides an outline of important targets to guide decision-makers in the implementation of the PROS Plan. It incorporates the System-wide Recommendations and synthesizes the Park-specific Recommendations into manageable, high-level groupings. The Action Plan further organizes these into three time frames:

- Short Term
- Long Term
- Ongoing

It is informed by the partnership opportunities and priorities presented earlier in this chapter. This is a tool intended to highlight projects that resolve deficiencies or repair unsafe conditions, so that they are implemented sooner than other less impactful improvements.

Tables 9-7 and 9-8 present the Action Plan. This version is a snapshot of priorities as of the time of the PROS Plan adoption. The Action Plan is a tool that is intended to be updated as circumstances, resources, opportunities, and community needs change. It is recommended to revisit this exercise approximately every five years. Priorities specific to Belmont's open spaces are discussed in the following section.



Views from Belmont

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Rainbow Over the Belmont Sports Complex

ACTION PLAN				
ACTION	*POTENTIAL PARTNERS*	SHORT TERM	LONG TERM	ON-GOING
Continue to engage with the community on current and future PROS site planning efforts				X
Continue to identify opportunities for off-leash dog activity				X
Continue to maintain the high-quality landscape at PROS sites				X
Continue to promote and create awareness of the PROS sites, programs, and activities through the City website, social media, participation with City events, and other advertising and communication methods				X
Continue to support implementation of the City's ADA Transition Plan	*Public Works*			X
Create and maintain a list of open space maintenance and improvement projects for volunteer organizations to steward	*Community organizations*			X
Implement Pop-up Park Installations	*Community Development, community organizations*			X
Look for ways to establish alternative forms of revenue for programs that may include sponsorships, partnerships, and/or an expanded volunteer program				X
Monitor development activities in the Belmont Village Specific Plan area for opportunities to increase PROS offerings as the area densifies	*Public Works, Community Development*			X
Monitor opportunities for new PROS sites				X
Pilot new recreation programs, formats, and events. Continue to balance active and passive recreation opportunities	*Community organizations*			X
Provide recreation events that encourage use of the pedestrian and bike networks	*Community organizations*			X
Publish bike and walking route information online and in the District's public materials such as the recreation program guide				X
Pursue a partnership with the university campus (Notre Dame de Namur University/Stanford University) as an opportunity to increase public access to natural space and recreation amenities	*University*			X
Pursue partnerships with school sites that do not currently have a JUA with the City	*School Districts*			X
Reduce energy and water use with efficient landscape, fixtures, systems, and materials				X
Re-evaluate recommendations to update the prioritization matrix as situations and conditions change				X

Table 9-7: PROS Action Plan

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ACTION PLAN				
ACTION	*POTENTIAL PARTNERS*	SHORT TERM	LONG TERM	ON-GOING
Explore project funding options for implementation of existing park master plans for Barrett Community Center and Twin Pines Park				X
Secure project funding for high-priority Park-specific Recommendations and Open Space Recommendations	*Public Works, School Districts, Community Organizations*			X
Seek out partners to offer new and diverse recreation programs and opportunities at PROS sites	*Community Organizations*			X
Work with existing JUA partners for proposed improvements that increase times available for public use of facilities	*School Districts*			X
Work with Public Works to improve bike and pedestrian network connections in street right-of-way to PROS sites	*Public Works*			X
Develop park design plans for the identified Opportunity Sites: Ralston Avenue + Old County Road, Oak Knoll Drive, and Alameda de las Pulgas		X		
Develop an Interconnect Toolkit	*Public Works, Community Organizations*	X		
Evaluate community interest and potential for expanding the parks and recreation Booster foundation to further partner and support PROS	*Community Organizations*	X		
Prioritize Inclusive+All-Abilities Play in the PROS system (Alexander Park, Barrett Community Center, and Community Parks)		X		
Provide secure bike parking at parks, with racks located near entrances and social gathering spaces. Add self-service bike repair stations at PROS sites along bike facilities		X		
Research, evaluate, and implement programs to activate PROS sites		X		
Undertake a Usage Study of PROS sites		X		
Continue to evaluate Ideal Amenity Quantities as Belmont's population changes over the 15-year horizon of the PROS Plan			X	
Develop a PROS Activation Plan			X	
Develop park redesign plans for Alexander Park, Cipriani Park, Hallmark Park, Hasting Tot Lot Park, and McDougal Park			X	
Develop park design plans for undeveloped parks Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park			X	
Implement existing park master plans for Twin Pines Park and Barrett Community Center			X	

Table 9-8: PROS Action Plan (Continued)

OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES

OVERVIEW

Recommendations presented in the previous chapter provide guidance to the City for decisions related to the preservation, management, and operation of Belmont's open spaces. They were informed by the findings from the Environmental Assessment, Recreation Use Assessment, community input, best management practices used throughout the Bay Area, and professional judgment. Given the unique considerations of open spaces compared to urban parkland, these PROS sites were analyzed using a framework that adjusts for the presence of sensitive biological resources and unique recreational uses. The Open Space Management Plan (OSMP), found in the Appendix, includes a full discussion on the analysis techniques, scientific findings, and proposed improvements related Belmont's open spaces.

The easy, medium, and hard ratings for each Recommendation presented in the previous chapter provide information about the level of effort and investment needed to enact the change. Recommendations could be deemed as be priorities regardless of their rating as easy, medium, or hard, as some projects indicated as "hard" may be more urgent than others.



Volunteers Working to Improve PROS Sites

PRIORITY TIERS

Recommendations were prioritized to highlight those that are most urgent. Recommendations were separated into two tiers where Tier 1 contains actions that are the highest priority due to laws protecting species and habitats, regional wildfire safety, or important visitor experiences—these projects should be addressed urgently. Tier 2 contains projects aimed at diversity and equity goals as well as visitor experience. Actions in this category are important to address but less urgent than those in Tier 1.

Table 9-9 summarizes priorities for the conservation and restoration of Belmont's open spaces.



Open Space Trail Visitor

TIER 1 HABITAT PROTECTION, WILDFIRE SAFETY, + VISITOR EXPERIENCE	
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	
Stream Crossing Improvements	WRA identified multiple stream crossings requiring improvements and prioritized the top seven crossings most in need of improvements.
Seasonal / Weather Dependent Restrictions on Maintenance Activities	Ensure that the City's routine trail maintenance actions avoid nesting bird season to the extent possible, and avoid working in wet weather conditions (emergencies excepted) to the extent feasible.
BALANCED RECREATION USE	
Monitor Use and Survey Visitors During E-Bike Pilot	Take an approach similar to what Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to develop a policy for e-bike use. The district studied use levels and visitor responses for a year before making policy recommendations to their Planning and Natural Resource Committee.
ADA-Compliant Trails	Identify three trail segments that offer distinctive recreation experiences and ensure those segments comply with the California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines. One segment will offer the experience to travel along a ridgeline, another segment will offer an experience to travel along a canyon floor, and a third segment will offer opportunities for panoramic views.
NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION	
Fuels Reduction Plan	The fuels reduction plan would prioritize fuel break areas to be treated as shown in the OSMP, and would highlight additional areas that would benefit from fuels reduction.

TIER 2 EQUITY-BASED PROGRAMS + VISITOR EXPERIENCE	
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	
Volunteer Restoration Programs	These programs which have been informally carried out would be codified and respond to the interests and actions of environmentally focused community members.
BALANCED RECREATION USE	
Nature-Based Recreation Programs	Respond to the community's interest in environmental education with focused programs that, among other things, may reinforce support for protecting the two open space areas and create "citizen scientists."
Trail Calming Features	Implement trail calming features in targeted locations to respond to community comments about feeling some sections of trails are unsafe due to blind turns, steep slopes, narrow trails, or a combination of all three.
NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION	
N/A	N/A

Table 9-9: Open Space Priorities

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CITY OF BELMONT



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

LET'S BUILD OUR BACKYARD

PURPOSE

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) is a strategic, forward-looking document. It studies the existing park system, outdoor recreation facilities and programming, and open spaces to identify a decision-making framework and recommendations to plan, maintain, develop, rehabilitate, and connect the City's network of parks, recreation, and open space for the next 15 years.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
2. Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
3. Make all users feel **welcome and safe**
4. Offer services and activities across a **range of interests, abilities, and ages**
5. Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience and sustainability**
6. Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
7. Advance community **health and well-being**
8. Foster a sense of community and encourage **social interaction**
9. Provide **well-maintained** and actively managed facilities
10. **Adapt** to changing conditions and needs
11. Utilize a **transparent community process** to inform decisions

VISION

RE-IMAGINE THE BELMONT PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) SYSTEM TO **CREATE THE CITY'S BACKYARD** THAT FOSTERS **INCLUSIVE, EXPERIENTIAL, AND NURTURING PUBLIC SPACES** BY SETTING THE **FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION MAKERS** IN THE PLANNING, MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT, AND/OR REHABILITATION, IMPLEMENTABLE OVER A **15 YEAR HORIZON**.

VISION

The Belmont community recognizes the essential role that a well-designed PROS system plays in both individual and community health. The community engagement process revealed that Belmont residents are proud of their parks and open spaces and the recreation opportunities they provide. Be it a baseball game at Belmont Sports Complex, a basketball game at O'Donnell Park, climbing the playground at Semeria Park, attending an outdoor movie at Twin Pines Park, or exploring Waterdog Lake, Belmont's PROS system is intrinsically linked to the community's identity and social cohesion.

The National Recreation and Park Association found that in 2019, parks and recreation agencies generated $218 billion in economic activity nationwide, with California benefiting from $23 billion of the total. Statewide, parks and recreation agencies are significant employers. Park operations and capital spending positively influence the local economy, and Belmont is no exception.

The PROS Plan complements the goals and strategies of key planning documents such as the 2035 General Plan. Thoughtful management of the PROS system carries the responsibility of addressing climate resiliency and furthering active transportation strategies, as outlined in the City's Climate Action Plan and Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. Together, the City's planning documents identify innovative solutions and look proudly towards the future of Belmont.

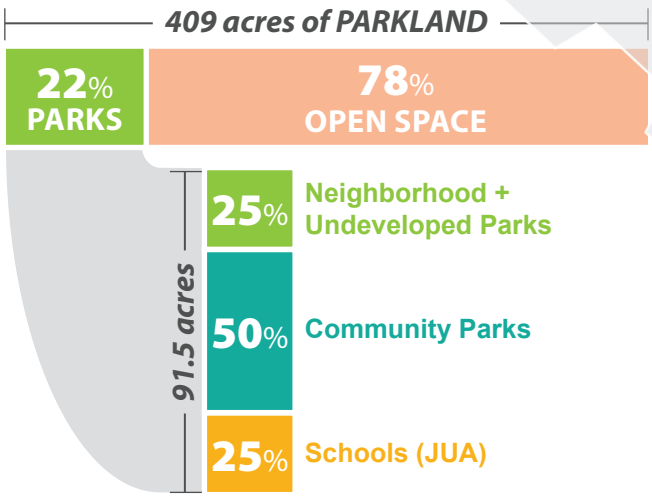
Learn more about the Purpose, Vision, and Guiding Principles in Chapter 1.

BELMONT'S PROS SYSTEM

The City of Belmont offers 409 acres of parks and open space—almost 14 percent of the city's land area. Belmont's parks, recreation, and open space system (PROS system) consists of 17 parks (of which 15 are developed), two open space areas, and four schools under a joint-use agreement with the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. The parks and school sites are distributed across the city, while the open spaces are located only in the western hills.

The parks range in size, from less than 1 acre to over 20 acres, and vary in intensity of use. While not directly correlated, smaller parks tend to provide fewer amenities and therefore generate less use intensity. The PROS Plan uses a set of criteria known as Park Typologies to organize the sites and establish a baseline service level that Belmont parks must meet.

Learn more about the Context and Existing Conditions that served as the foundation for this PROS Plan in Chapters 2 and 3.



Source: Parks and Recreation Department

Figure ES-1: Parkland Distribution



Semeria Park



Alexander Park



Twin Pines Park

PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE SITES

1. Alexander Park
2. Barrett Community Center
3. Belameda Park
4. Belmont Sports Complex
5. Central Elementary School
6. Cipriani Park
7. College View Park
8. Davey Glen Park
9. Fox Elementary School
10. Hallmark Park
11. Hasting Tot Lot Park
12. Hidden Canyon Park
13. McDougal Park
14. Nesbit School
15. O'Donnell Park
16. Patricia Wharton Park
17. Ralston Middle School
18. Ralston Ranch Park
19. San Juan Canyon
20. Semeria Park
21. Twin Pines Park
22. Wakefield Park
23. Waterdog Lake

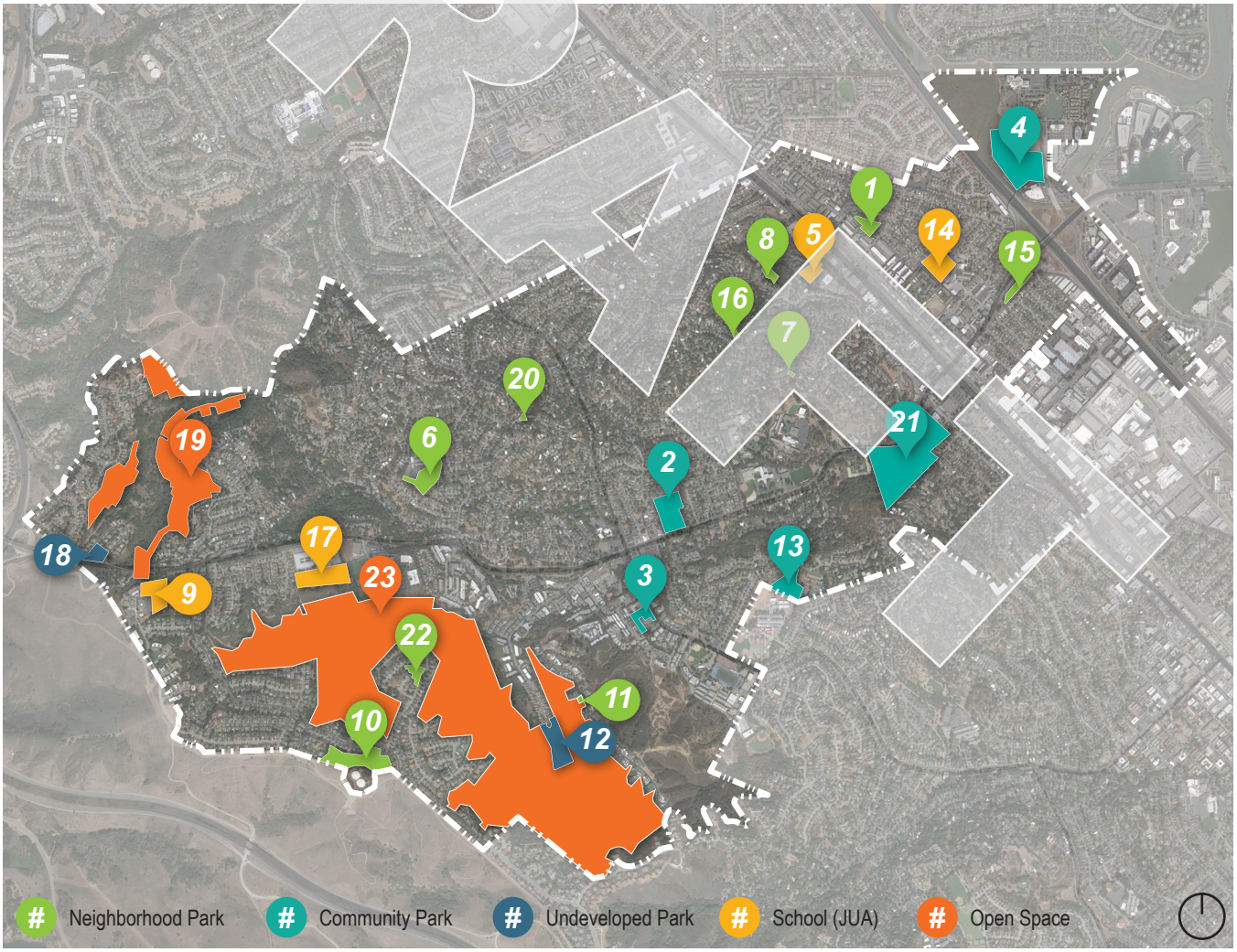


Figure ES-2: Belmont Parkland Distribution

COMMUNITY INPUT

Community outreach was an integral component of the development of the PROS Plan. Beginning in Spring 2021, community engagement opportunities were held in a hybrid manner, utilizing virtual platforms and in-person events to hear from the Belmont community.

OUTREACH METHODS

Approximately 5,000 comments and responses were collected across all outreach methods. Participants were asked to share their preferences, priorities, and desired improvements for the PROS system. This process offered a wide range of outreach materials and input opportunities to maximize project awareness and community participation, including the development of an Advisory Committee, an online survey, in-person and virtual focus groups, pop-up and open house events, neighborhood meetings, a comprehensive social media campaign, and presentations at City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission public meetings.

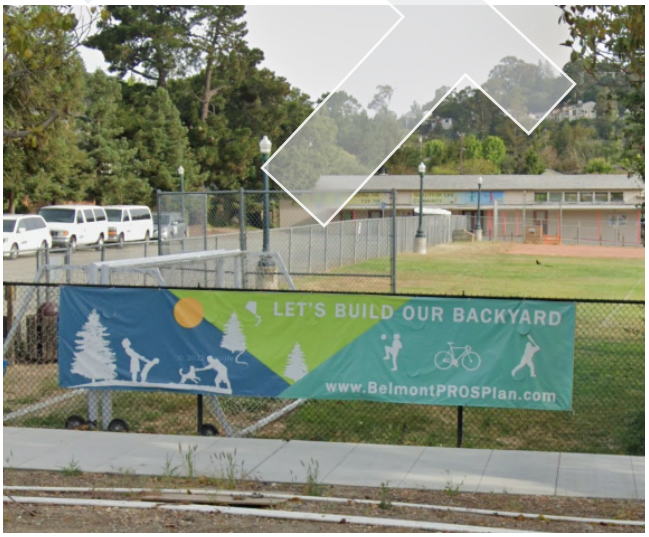
COMMUNITY THEMES

The following community themes emerged as a result of the engagement process:

- Amenities For Social + Physical Activity
- More Seating Opportunities
- Physical Connections
- Amenities For Diverse Interests
- Accessible For All Abilities
- Create More With Less
- Connecting With Nature
- Available For Many Uses + Users
- Natural Resources
- Honor Belmont's Unique Landscapes

Learn more about the Community Input that directed the creation of this PROS Plan in Chapter 4.

EMAILS + COMMENTS	**1,600+** (JANUARY 2021 TO FEBRUARY 2024)
FOCUS GROUPS	**11** MEETINGS **75+** PEOPLE
ONLINE SURVEY	**2,800+** RESPONSES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	**5** MEETINGS
PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION	**20+** MEETINGS
CITY COUNCIL	**5** PRESENTATIONS
POP-UP + OPEN HOUSE EVENTS	**5** EVENTS



PROS Plan Banner at Barrett Community Center

BIG IDEAS + GOALS

Through community outreach, four **BIG IDEAS** emerged to define Belmont's vision for the future of the PROS system.

These four Big Ideas were used as the framework to present the Goals of the PROS Plan. They are also influenced by the General Plan's Park, Recreation, and Open Space Element and Conservation Element.

Learn more about the Goals for the PROS Plan in Chapter 6.



THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD



OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL



CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS



ENVIRONMENTAL + FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

THE CITY AS YOUR BACKYARD

PROS Goal 1 Connect Belmont and unify PROS sites by encouraging a robust pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit network.

PROS Goal 2 Foster a healthy community through spaces, amenities, programs, and public art that promote and encourage physical activity, social interaction, and Belmont's culture.

PROS Goal 3 Meet evolving community needs by establishing new uses, improved spaces, and a variety of recreation amenities.

OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL

PROS Goal 4 Improve community health through diverse, equitable, and inclusive spaces and amenities with accessible routes.

PROS Goal 5 Ensure future success through adaptability, flexibility, and support for many uses and users.

PROS Goal 6 Actualize PROS Plan by developing strong partnerships across private, public, and community groups.

CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS

PROS Goal 7 Develop and implement an Open Space Management Plan (OSMP).

PROS Goal 8 Highlight local ecosystems through educational opportunities across parks and open spaces.

PROS Goal 9 Enrich outdoor recreation through trail improvements, volunteer collaborations, and wayfinding features.

ENVIRONMENTAL+FINANCIALSUSTAINABILITY

PROS Goal 10 Nurture and strengthen natural resources through efficient and innovative landscape design.

PROS Goal 11 Diversify funding sources to ensure high-quality, actively-managed, and well-maintained PROS assets.

PROS Goal 12 Prioritize sustainable, resilient, and responsible management and maintenance practices.

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FRAMEWORK

PROS PLAN

The organizational flowchart shown in Figure ES-3 summarizes the structure of the plan's framework. The Purpose and Vision established the Guiding Principles, which were used to plan the Community Input process. Community Themes emerged from the collected feedback and were further synthesized into Big Ideas and Goals. The PROS Plan used this framework to craft the Strategies and Recommendations that aim to provide guidance over a 15-year horizon.

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Goal 7 calls for the development of an Open Space Management Plan (OSMP). Developed in tandem with the PROS Plan, this study reviews Belmont's two open spaces utilizing an approach that adjusts for the unique components, considerations, and uses of these valuable outdoor community spaces.

As an attachment to the PROS Plan, the OSMP presents its Objectives, Policies, and Recommendations specific to the open spaces. The findings of the OSMP are presented throughout this document where appropriate as they complement the PROS Plan.

Learn more about the Planning Process for the PROS Plan in Chapter 1.



Figure ES-3: PROS Framework



PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



Davey Glen Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARK TYPOLOGIES

Parks were assigned a category, or Park Typology, that defines general expectations and character, establishes minimum amenities, and anticipates common methods of travel to the site. This also defines the Access Radius, or the distance used to delineate areas around a site that are easily reachable by the surrounding community. This approach identifies neighborhoods with low access to PROS sites and can demonstrate high-impact opportunities to expand the PROS system.

	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK **TIER 1**	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK **TIER 2 ***	COMMUNITY PARK
Character	Nature and Neighborhood Social Space	Nature, Group Gathering, and Play	Nature, Community Gathering, Recreation, and Play
Uses + Users	Passive Individuals to Small Groups	Passive + Active Individuals to Medium Groups	Passive + Active Individual to Large Groups
Standard Baseline Amenities	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Identifiable Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity 7. Off-Street Parking 8. Permanent Restroom 9. Multi-Use Athletic Field or Community Facility
Size	No Size Requirements Typically less than 1 acre	No Size Requirements Over 2 acres should provide off-street parking	No Size Requirements
Transport Modes	Walking Biking	Walking Biking Some Driving	Walking Biking Driving
Access Radius	¼ mile	½ mile	Entire City
Previous Planning	Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park Special Facility

Table ES-1: Park Typologies

** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2.*

Note: School (JUA) and Open Space Park Typologies do not have attributes such as Standard Baseline Amenities.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)

A Neighborhood Park Tier 1 is a small pocket of natural green space that supports local gatherings, promotes unplanned social interactions, and provides a peaceful place to talk or play. A Neighborhood Park Tier 1 has the lowest use intensity, meaning the few amenities at the site are expected to be used by only a handful of people at a single time. This Park Typology has an Access Radius of one quarter (¼) mile.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2)

A Neighborhood Park Tier 2 provides a local connection to nature, supports social gatherings of small groups, and offers recreation and play activities. A Tier 2 Park is more intense in amenities and uses than a Tier 1 Park, but it still oriented toward a single visitor or smaller groups of less than 20 people. As such, there are at least two play and recreation amenities designed for use by multiple diverse visitors at a single time, as well as picnic amenities that support small group gatherings. These sites have an Access Radius of one half (½) mile.

COMMUNITY PARK

Community Parks are notable parks that act as community event venues, offering spaces and amenities for large group gatherings that can support dozens of users and multiple recreation programs simultaneously. Community Parks have high use intensities and generate the most visitors. For the purposes of this PROS Plan, this Park Typology has an Access Radius that spans the entire city.

UNDEVELOPED PARK

Undeveloped Parks are sites owned by the City that have limited or no amenities. Sites with this designation are slated for development into amenitized outdoor public spaces. For the purposes of the PROS Plan, the two Undeveloped Parks are planned as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2. This designation is used to evaluate park access within the Park Typologies framework by utilizing the same characteristics.

SCHOOL (JOINT USE AGREEMENT)

The City entered into a joint-use agreement with the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District for the public right to use recreational spaces in exchange for a maintenance commitment by the City. These sites have an Access Radius of one half (½) mile.

OPEN SPACE

Open Spaces are minimally improved or undeveloped natural areas open to the public for recreational activities. The OSMP, included in the Appendix, reviewed the two Open Space sites. Trailheads are depicted on Figure ES-4. For the purposes of this PROS Plan, this Park Typology has an Access Radius that spans the entire city.



Open Space

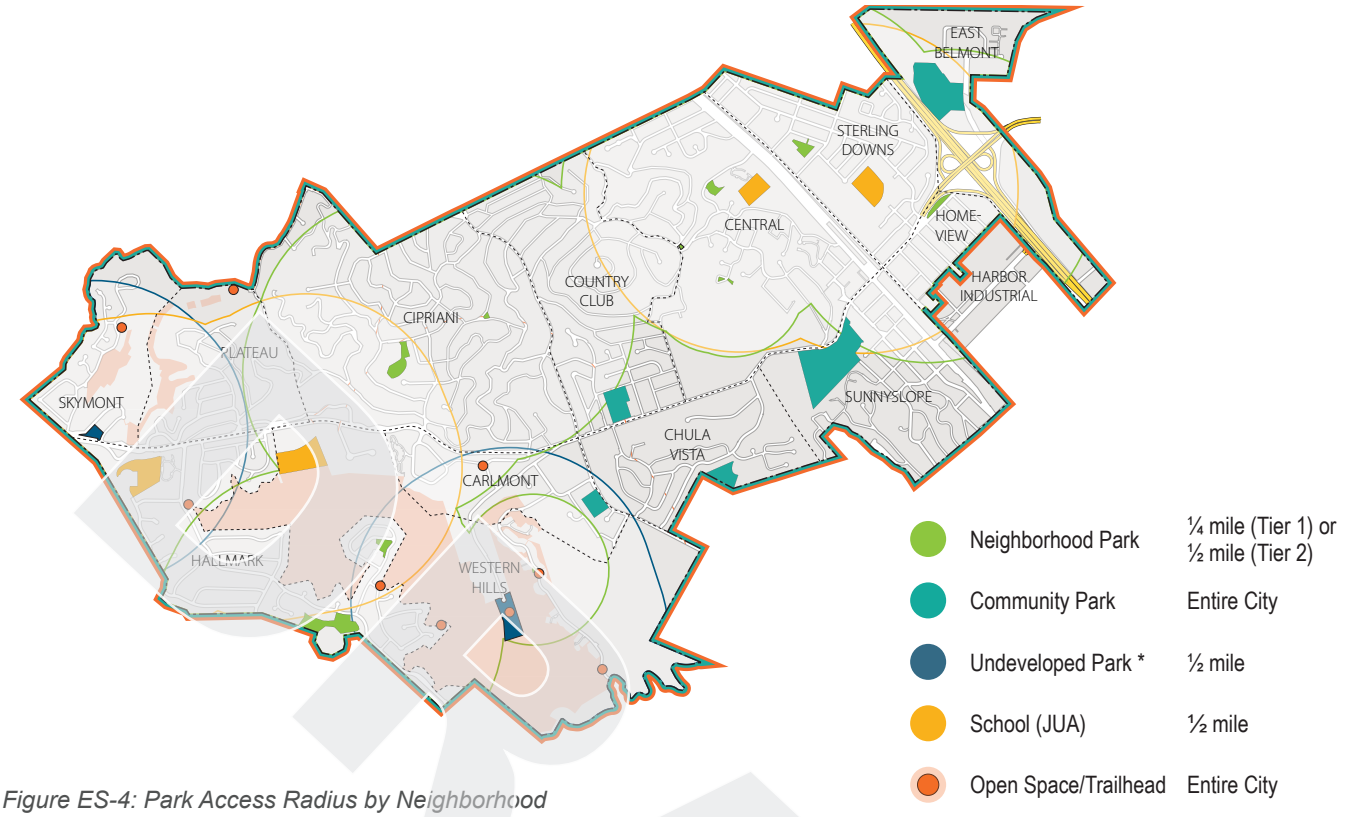


Figure ES-4: Park Access Radius by Neighborhood
** Both Undeveloped Park sites are attributed as Neighborhood Parks Tier 2.*

ACCESS + CONNECTIONS

Figure ES-4 highlights portions of the city where PROS sites are less accessible, as determined by the site's Park Typology and Access Radius. Overall, Belmont provides a high level of access to parks. Almost 90 percent of the population lives within a 10-minute (or ½-mile) walk of a PROS site. The national average for the percent of population that lives within a 10-minute walk of a park is 55 percent, based on data compiled by the Trust for Public Land. Belmont well surpasses this average.

Given the limited availability of land to establish new parks, enhancing connections to and between existing PROS sites is paramount. The 2016 Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan gives parks high priority for pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements. Safe and enjoyable multi-modal connections between parks are critical because they reduce transit-related injuries, improve circulation, and increase accessibility.

The City's improvements to Ralston Avenue as part of the Safe Routes to School program illustrate the ongoing effort to reduce conflict and increase connections between parks and recreation amenities for non-motorized transport.

AMENITY INVENTORY

An Amenity Inventory was conducted to document the quantity and quality of existing amenities within the PROS system. This study enables a comparison between a park's amenity offerings in relation to the minimum amenities it should be providing as defined by its Park Typology.

Learn more about the Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment that served as the foundation of this PROS Plan in Chapters 3 and 5.

STRATEGIES

This plan presents a suite of Strategies, applicable to the PROS system as a whole, to provide guidance to the City for future improvements to Belmont's outdoor amenities.

The Strategies build upon the PROS Goals, represent the opportunities and constraints within the PROS system, and serve as the guiding inspiration for future improvements as available resources and conditions evolve over time. The Strategies also include Objectives and Policies that are specific to Belmont's open spaces.

Learn more about the Strategies in Chapter 7.



Volunteers Working to Improve PROS Sites



Belmont Sports Complex

RECOMMENDATIONS

The PROS Plan presents a comprehensive set of Recommendations that are derived from the analyses and considerations that guided this study. The Recommendations directly respond to the Strategies presented in the plan, focusing on the equitable distribution of amenities throughout the community.

Recommendations are broken down into two primary categories: System-wide and Park-specific. System-wide Recommendations are informed by a holistic review of Belmont's unique PROS system and best management practices applicable to the City. Park-specific Recommendations are informed by individual site assessments and inventories. The Recommendations also include potential sites for new parks or joint-use agreements, as well as proposed improvements for Belmont's open spaces. Recommendations were driven by the community engagement process, which served as a key component of the PROS Plan.

SYSTEM-WIDE

System-wide Recommendations are pathways to carry out the established Goals and Strategies across the entire PROS system. These include:

- Activation Plan
- Inclusive+All-Abilities Play
- Interconnect Toolkit
- Pop-up Park Installations
- Social Gathering Space
- Usage Study

PARK-SPECIFIC

Each park in the City was evaluated for access, proximity, and available space to host new or enhanced amenities. A Recommendation Spectrum was used to contextualize the Park-specific Recommendations presented in the PROS Plan in terms of the magnitude of change. This tool organizes potential improvements into six categories based on the degree of intensity, spanning from the creation of a new park to the implementation of a minor improvement or existing master plan.

OPPORTUNITIES

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES

The PROS Plan identifies three potential sites for new parks in Belmont. As an almost completely built-out city, there are limited opportunities for new park sites. These sites are on land currently owned by a public entity and should be considered as opportunities to provide additional park acreage to Belmont residents. The new park opportunity sites are listed below by their priority ranking:

- Ralston Avenue + Old County Road
- Oak Knoll Drive
- Alameda de las Pulgas

POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS

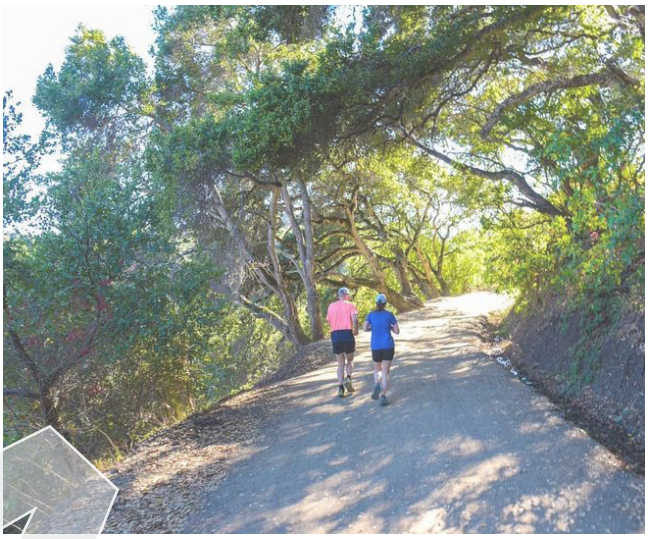
The City may consider a joint-use agreement with the local schools and other organizations to facilitate or enhance public access. These are listed below, in order of their level of education:

- Carlmont High School
- Crystal Springs Middle School
- Notre Dame High School
- Notre Dame de Namur University/Stanford University

OPEN SPACE

Recommendations for Belmont's open spaces aim to improve the condition of existing trails, manage existing and future recreational uses, and protect environmental resources found in San Juan Canyon and Waterdog Lake Open Spaces.

Explore the Recommendations for improvements to the PROS system in Chapter 8.



Recreational Use on Open Space Trails

INCREASING MAGNITUDE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Magnitude	EXISTING MASTER PLAN	MINOR IMPROVEMENT	UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY	PARK REDESIGN	UNDEVELOPED PARKS	NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY
Existing Condition	Master plans recently adopted Created with extensive community input	Parks recently developed or in very good condition	Current park functioning well	Rethink accessibility and park layout No change in use	Existing park is undeveloped	Add parkland To fill gaps in park access City-owned property
Recommendation	Implement existing Master Plan	Minor improvements identified to maintain high quality	Upgrade existing amenity or new amenity to meet identified needs or gaps	Undertake park design plan	Develop and amenitize site	Create, develop, and amenitize site

Figure ES-5: Recommendations Spectrum

Note: The Recommendation Spectrum is used to frame Park-specific Recommendations for the Community Park, Neighborhood Park, and Undeveloped Park Typologies. It is not applied to School (JUA) or Open Space Typologies.

IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIZATION

Implementation of the PROS Plan will require multiple funding sources over many years. As such, a prioritization approach is crucial to meet the most pressing needs in the Belmont community in an effective and equitable manner. System-wide, Park-specific, and Open Space Recommendations are uniquely prioritized based on the feasibility of implementation and their ability to satisfy the PROS Goals. As circumstances, opportunities, resources, and demands evolve, criteria to prioritize implementation should be re-evaluated periodically, ideally every five years. The following factors were considered while developing the prioritization approach, listed alphabetically:

- Advances diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Aligns with other projects
- Funding availability
- Reduces operating costs or generates revenue
- "Quick win"
- Time-limited opportunity

PARK-SPECIFIC PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS

As funding to further develop PROS sites is limited and competitive, a Prioritization Matrix was developed to guide the implementation of Park-specific Recommendations as funds become available. Park-specific Recommendations were assigned point values for each of the four criteria, informed by the factors listed above. The point criteria categories, listed below, reflect the ability of the proposed project to:

- Further PROS Plan goals
- Respond to community priorities
- Resolve an existing deficiency
- Address an existing condition

For each PROS site, the total points were summed, averaged, and ranked to highlight which PROS sites have the highest potential to positively impact the community as a result of the proposed site-specific improvements. This prioritization approach intends to focus the City's efforts when determining which PROS sites to improve first but is not an absolute directive for the sequencing of development.

OVERALL PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS

SITE *	AVG POINTS	SITE RANK
Ralston Ave + Old County Road *	21.9	1
Oak Knoll Drive	18.8	2
Ralston Ranch Park	18.0	3
Alameda de las Pulgas	17.4	4
Alexander Park	14.5	5
O'Donnell Park	12.2	6
Hidden Canyon Park	12.0	7
Belameda Park	11.5	8
Twin Pines Park	11.4	9
Barrett Community Center	10.9	10
McDougal Park	10.9	
Cipriani Park	10.4	11
Hallmark Park	10.4	
Wakefield Park	10.4	
Hastings Tot Lot Park	10.2	12
Central Elementary School	10.0	13
Patricia Wharton Park	10.0	
College View Park	9.9	14
Belmont Sports Complex	9.4	15
Fox Elementary School	9.0	16
Nesbit School	9.0	
Ralston Middle School	9.0	
Davey Glen Park	8.0	17
Semeria Park	7.8	18

** Recommendations for this site may be temporary. The City is evaluating all development options.*
Note: Open Spaces are not included in rankings.
Note: Several parks are tied for the same rank. The tied parks are listed in alphabetical order.

Table ES-2: Overall Prioritization Rankings

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan provides an implementation pathway for the realization of the PROS Plan by organizing next steps into three time frames: short term, long term, and ongoing. This tool is informed by partnership opportunities and overall priorities, and is intended to highlight projects that resolve deficiencies or repair unsafe conditions so that they are implemented sooner than other less impactful improvements.

OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES

There are seven priorities for open space improvements. These actions were selected in consideration of their implementation feasibility as well as their urgency in relation to conservation laws, wildfire safety, and visitor experience. The open space priorities are listed below:

- Stream crossing improvements
- Seasonal and weather dependent restrictions on maintenance activities
- Monitor use and survey visitors during e-bike pilot
- ADA-compliant trails
- Fuels reduction plan
- Volunteer restoration programs
- Nature-based recreation programs
- Trail calming features



Volunteers Working to Improve PROS Sites

FUNDING STRATEGIES

The PROS Plan identifies several sources of funding to implement the proposed improvements. These sources include the City's General Fund, revenue from the Parks and Recreation Department, Park Development Impact Fees, assessments, and bonds. This document also discusses alternative funding sources such as competitive grant programs, corporate and non-profit philanthropy, and universities that support Belmont's PROS system. The City will utilize a portfolio of funding strategies for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships between City departments, school districts, parks and recreation foundations, local volunteer groups, and service organizations will be instrumental in the realization of the PROS Plan.

Learn more about Implementation of the PROS Plan in Chapter 9.



Twin Pines Park

DRAFT

DRAFT | FINAL FEBRUARY 2024

DRAFT

PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE

MASTER PLAN

APPENDICES

LET'S BUILD OUR BACKYARD

CITY OF BELMONT

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Focus Group Presentations
Advisory Committee Presentations
Commission + Council Presentations
Park-specific Recommendation Comments
Emails to info@BelmontPROSplan.com
Emails to Parks and Recreation Commission
Website Comment Form Submissions

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APPENDIX A
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RUI BAO

BRSSD Chief Business Officer

LYNN BELL

My husband and I moved to the Belmont Heights neighborhood in 2003 when our sons were ages one and three. We were thrilled to be adjacent to the Waterdog open space where we had mountain biked since the mid-1990s. Over the years Waterdog has offered us a safe and convenient space to bike, hike, jog, walk the dog, push the stroller, and look for critters. Our youngest son's opportunity to hone his bike skills so close to home has lead him to pursue professional cycling, albeit on the road versus the trails. While we have played in Belmont's parks, participated in various recreation programs and competed on the athletic fields, it is Waterdog we love the most due to its myriad options for exercise, recreation and enjoyment of the outdoors.

DAVID BRAUNSTEIN

David has lived in Belmont for 26 years. He first volunteered to serve on the Library Task Force that ultimately brought the city a state of the art library and library services. He later served on the Belmont City Council from 2007-2015, twice serving as mayor.

While on city council, he visited and learned about all of the parks in the city. He served on two city committees that are relevant to his service to the PROS Committee - 1) the 2x2x2 Educational Committee (made up of the Belmont Redwood Shores School District, the City of Redwood City, and the City of Belmont, as well as 2) a joint committee with Notre Dame de Namur University. Both committees addressed a variety of institutional/ district issues as well as field use. During this time, David supported new traffic configurations to support bikers, walkers, and joggers; the turfing project at the Belmont Sports Complex; and purchasing land to convert to open space. Prior to joining the PROS Committee, David served on the Barrett Community Task Force to help recommend a new Community Center.

Professionally, David has taught social studies at Carlmont High School for the last 19 years. During that time he coached and assisted the freshman football team for two years.

David and his wife Patricia have three children and he and his family have used many of the Park and Recreation Services and the open space that Belmont has to offer. Between them, David and Patricia have coached multiple seasons of soccer, baseball, and softball at most sporting venues in Belmont, including the Barrett Community Center, Ralston Middle School, Fox, Sandpiper, McDougal, and the Belmont Sports Complex. His daughter currently plays baseball at multiple fields in Belmont and dances at the Barrett Community Center. David supported his sons while they competed in track and field at Carlmont. His entire family enjoy the Waterdog trails and actively enjoy a wealth of Belmont's Park and Recreation programs.

NELSON CORTEWAY

- Age 46
- Lived in Belmont Heights for 18 years
- Former Youth Sports Coach
- Married to Kelly (Local Principal)
- 20YO Daughter and 16YO son
- Avid Water Dog Trail User
- Police Captain

DAN DEGUARA

BRSSD Superintendent

ULLA FOEHR

I've lived in the Central neighborhood of Belmont for 18 years with my husband and 3 daughters who are now ages 18, 16 and 14, the younger two are in Belmont public schools. I'm a Parks and Recreation commissioner, former soccer and volleyball coach, public school art educator, walker, hiker, swimmer and dog-owner.

KAREN HAAS-FOLETTA

30 year resident of Belmont in the Cipriani Neighborhood. I am the Executive Director of Footsteps Child Care with 4 locations in Belmont serving infants through middle school.

SANAA KAPUR

Youth Commissioner on the Parks & Recreation Commission for 2 years

Youth Advisory Committee liaison

ELI LATIMERLO

My work centers on cultivating relationships between the Social Sector and Industry that solve today's challenges and shape tomorrow's outcomes. My professional experience is diverse - reflecting acumen gained while holding leadership positions in the nonprofit, corporate, academic, and global business development sectors. As a Development professional I have identified and negotiated relationships between corporations, foundations, and the social sector that strengthen their value propositions, while effectively measuring and evaluating impact.

I have lead initiatives in many social enterprises, including Rape Trauma Services, North Peninsula Family Alternatives, LifeMoves (a homeless services agency), LMS Productions (a theatrical nonprofit and production company), the Dorothy Stang Center for Social Justice and Community Engagement, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and (at present) Santa Clara University where I serve as Sr. Director of Development at Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship.

I am an NLP Practitioner, a Certified Career Coach, and I hold a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor's in Communications (Photojournalism and Advertising Design).

My passions include photography, cycling, tennis, and traveling with my family.

AUSTIN LEE

42 years old and a Belmont resident for 9 years. We have two children ages 9 and 7 who both attend Fox Elementary right near our Plateau Skymont neighborhood. Most of our activities center around visits to parks and open spaces with our friends and neighbors. I've been a Park and Rec Commissioner for one year and have also volunteered as an AYSO and Little League coach.

CRAIG MICHAELS

Has served on the Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission since 2013, including the Twin Pines Master Plan and Off-Leash at Barrett Pilot Committees. He is also on the board of the Belmont Boosters, Emerald Lake Country Club, and Playworks. He's a graduate of the University of Virginia and Northwestern University and works in technology marketing. Craig has lived in Belmont since 2011 with his wife, two kids, a "water dog" named Molly, and Bella the cat.

CAROLINE PYRZ

I have lived in the Homeview neighborhood for approximately six years. I have two young children who enjoy playing sports and visiting local playgrounds. I currently serve as the chair of the City of Belmont's Planning Commission.

SERGIO RADDAVERO

- Lived in Belmont since 1998 near Cipriani school
- 11 Year old daughter in the 5th grade at Cipriani school
- 16 year old daughter in the 10th grade at Carlmont High School
- 19 year old son at Chico State, graduated Carlmont High School 2020
- Wife is a school teacher in Millbrae CA
- A member of the AYSO Belmont Region 108 board
- USSF Soccer referee, College Soccer Referee and High Soccer Referee for D2 schools and high school like Notre Dame de Namur University and Carlmont

ABBY SANDERS

2021 Carlmont graduate, will be attending UC Davis in the Fall Youth Commissioner on the Parks & Recreation Commission for 2 years Youth Advisory Committee member for 5 years

SCOTT SISEMORE

I'm Scott Sisemore. My wife and I have lived in the Sterling Downs neighborhood since 2006. One of our biggest influences in moving to Belmont was the open space at Waterdog and Hidden Canyon. We like to walk our dog, hike, trail run, bird watch and mountain bike along the trails. We have two sons. One at Carlmont and the other in middle school. The older boy now rides mountain bikes at Waterdog with the local high school team, the Beasts. I spent 7 years managing little league baseball teams for BRSLL.

I own and operate one of Belmont's only wineries, Waxwing Wine Cellars, in the Harbor Business Center at the corner of Harbor and Industrial in Belmont.

BOB STAHL

Resident of Belmont Heights since 1985, avid hiker of Brooks, Rambler & Chaparral trails 5-7 days weekly, loves long bike rides to Portola Valley, Bay Trail, etc., semi retired but still consulting in the beverage industry.

DEAN WILSON

- 39 year resident in McDougal neighborhood
- Active adult/ grandparent
- Previously involved in youth sports
- Active user of Belmont parks and open spaces

SUSAN WRIGHT

I'm a former Parks & Recreation Commissioner who has lived in the Central neighborhood for 18 years. I have a son who goes to Ralston Middle School. I work in the sustainability field.

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APPENDIX B
DEFINITIONS

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

COMMUNITY FACILITY
FURNISHING

A community facility is a community center, recreation center, aquatics center, senior center, conference center, or any other similar space, programmed with recreation classes or offerings, or maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.

GATHERING SPACE
FURNISHING

A gathering space is an area designed to facilitate social interaction. It should provide user comforts (seats and shade) to encourage users to linger. A unique focal element or ability to watch other park activities (children playing in playground, a pickleball match, dog park, etc.) should be incorporated into the design of gathering space.

IDENTIFIABLE AMENITY
FURNISHING

An identifiable amenity is any amenity either defined in this chapter, or an amenity that is easily definable as a single play or recreation amenity.

MULTI-PURPOSE FLEXIBLE SPACE
LANDSCAPE

A multi-purpose flexible is a flat turf area for free play. It is not sized to accommodate formal sports games and is not considered a multi-use athletic field.

MULTI-USE ATHLETIC FIELD
FURNISHING

See Benchmarked Amenities for definition.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
LANDSCAPE

A natural environment is any area with a natural landscape not designed or developed or any area that has been designed and developed to provide public access to planted spaces with trees, shrubs, and/or ground cover.

PARKING, OFF-STREET
ACCESSIBILITY

Off-street parking is a paved or compacted earth flat area located near the entrance of a park. The parking lot must include ADA-accessible stall(s) and an accessible path to the park and from the street right-of-way. The number of stalls provided depends on the size, use intensity, and available space of each park.

PICNIC OPPORTUNITY
FURNISHING

A picnic opportunity area contains picnic table(s) for public use without the need for reservation. When feasible, locate the picnic table(s) near other park elements, such as a playground or game court, and in the shade. Picnic areas should contain at least one ADA-accessible table.

PLAY AMENITY
FURNISHING

A play amenity is any park amenity or furnishing deliberately intended to facilitate play. Examples include a playground, tennis court, basketball court, or water play element. An amenity can be both a Play and Recreation Amenity.

RECREATION AMENITY
FURNISHING

A recreation amenity is any amenity or feature that promotes activity and/or exercise. Examples include a walking path, pump track, basketball or tennis court. An amenity can be both a Play and Recreation.

RESTROOM, PERMANENT
FURNISHING

A permanent restroom is, at minimum, a single ADA-accessible restroom structure with toilet and sink connected to utilities. The restroom should include a light and locking door for patrons. Permanent restrooms must be accessible by a paved path, and are typically located near the parking lot. In most instances, a water fountain should be installed on an external wall of the restroom structure. The facility can be locked outside park hours, and must have a scheduled cleaning to maintain sanitary conditions and for restocking.

RESTROOM, PORTABLE
FURNISHING

A portable restroom is a single, self-contained toilet placed at a strategic location within a park when there is need for a toilet but a permanent restroom is not feasible at the site. A cleaning and maintenance schedule is required to empty and maintain a sanitary toilet. Should be ADA-accessible where possible.

SEATING
FURNISHING

Seating typically means benches, or any other park furnishing deliberately intended as a seating space.

BENCHMARKED AMENITIES

BASKETBALL COURT
FURNISHING

A basketball court should be located where surveillance is convenient and where noise does not impact adjacent users.

MULTI-USE ATHLETIC FIELD
FURNISHING

A multi-use athletic field is a well-maintained turf field with dimensions large enough to accommodate many types of activities, such as soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, baseball, and softball. Field markings are overlaid to maximize the sports use opportunities to be play on the same turf area. Field surface can either be natural or synthetic turf. Synthetic fields increase field use by 50% due to reduced down time required to account for weather and wear.

PLAY ELEMENT
FURNISHING

A play element is a single play item, such as swings, a teeter-totter, a slide, or monkey bars, with wood fibar chips or safety surfacing on the ground surrounding.

PLAYGROUND
FURNISHING

A playground is a grouping of play elements designed for children with safety surfacing. All playgrounds should provide inclusive access. Each playground should have a unique theme that reflects the park character. Seating opportunities should be placed nearby and oriented for visual supervision by parents/ guardians.

PLAYGROUND, ALL-ABILITIES
ACCESSIBILITY

An all-abilities playground is an inclusive playground structure(s) and surrounding area universally designed as a sensory-rich environment for users of all-abilities. All-abilities play elements engage physical, cognitive, communicative, social/emotional, and sensory needs to promote development and interaction. Seating opportunities should be placed nearby and aligned for visual supervision by parents.

RESERVABLE PICNIC AREA, SMALL
FURNISHING

A small reservable picnic area is a grouping of picnic tables able to accommodate groups less than 75 people, with shade and a BBQ. Parks with a reservable picnic areas should have a permanent restroom and access to adequate parking.

RESERVABLE PICNIC AREA, LARGE
FURNISHING

A large reservable picnic area is a grouping of picnic tables able to accommodate groups over 75 people with a shade structure and a BBQ. Parks with a reservable picnic areas should have a permanent restroom and access to adequate parking.

TENNIS COURT
FURNISHING

A tennis court should be fenced and striped to accommodate tennis play, or both pickleball and tennis. Adjacent seating should be provided for spectators and those waiting to play.

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PRIORITY AMENITIES

COMMUNITY GARDEN
FURNISHING

A community garden is a fenced area with rentable garden plots for Belmont residents. There must be a minimum of 2 plots available for residents to rent. Access to water must be provided for gardening. Storage shed(s) for garden tools are preferred. The guidelines for the Belmont Community Garden apply.

DOG PARK
FURNISHING

A dog parklet is an informal fenced space for all-sized dogs to be off leash. The area should include shaded seating area for dog-owners to survey their pet(s), a dog waste station, and a trash receptacle. The fenced area can be dirt. Dog parklets are intended for local, neighborhood use.

DOG PARKLET
FURNISHING

A dog park includes two separate fenced spaces for small and large dogs to be off leash. The area should include shaded seating for dog-owners to survey their pet(s), a dog waste station, a trash receptacle, and a water fountain equipped for people and dog use with a double-gated entrance to the area. The fenced area can either be decomposed granite, natural or synthetic turf, and should be designed to create a minimum dimension to facilitate running and throwing. May include agility elements for dog play.

LOOP PATH
FURNISHING

A loop path is a wide, multi-use path that loops through a park. The path can be paved (concrete) or compacted gravel (decomposed granite), and minimum width of five feet for two people to pass side by side. The looped path should provide connection between the park entrance(s) or parking lot, playground, picnic area, or other points of interest. Planting should occur in areas of interest/entry/exit to designate and formalize the path. Seating should be provided at intervals along the path.

PUMP TRACK (BIKE PARK)
FURNISHING

A pump track is designed for riders to use their momentum to gather speed and reduce the need for pedaling through the course. Pump tracks should be a series of rollers and berms, typically made of packed soil, wood, or concrete designed for beginner to intermediate riders without high jumps. Prefabricated and modular pump track systems are available. Pump tracks can be designed as a loop track or allow for free form riding, much like a skate park.

SKATE PARK
FURNISHING

A skate park is a concrete area which contains a mix of terrain styles and trick elements, can also be of modular design, and prefabricated of other materials for installation. A skate park should be designed for beginner and intermediate abilities. A skate park should be fenced within a park. Restroom access preferred.

WATER PLAY, POOL
FURNISHING

A pool is proposed as a key component of the Barrett Community Center Master Plan. Belmont currently rents pool space at Carlmont High School during the summer.

WATER PLAY, SPRAY ELEMENT
FURNISHING

A spray element is a single water play feature that is activated to begin spraying water and automatically turns off after a set amount of time. Examples include a misting stick or ground spray water jet.

WATER PLAY, SPRAY PARK
FURNISHING

A spray park is a destination grouping of water play spray elements and/or water playground. Shade is recommended and there should be a permanent restroom in the park. Seating with shade should be available with sightlines for parents to watch children.

SECONDARY AMENITIES

FITNESS EQUIPMENT COURSE OR CLUSTER
FURNISHING

A course of cluster of fitness equipment is more than one permanent work-out apparatus focused on a single exercise movement. The equipment can be places along a path to create a course, or grouped together to create a cluster. Examples include pull up or push up bars, sit up bench, chest press, leg press, or cardio walker. Equipment must not require an electrical connection, should be low maintenance, and only include mechanical moving elements if desired by the community.

HANDBALL / WALLBALL COURT
FURNISHING

A handball or wallball court is a vertical wall, with a paved playing area the same width as the wall. When multiple courts run along a single wall, a shorter perpendicular wall separates each court. Ball walls are typically co-located in parks that have tennis courts.

HORSESHOE PIT / BOCCE BALL COURT
FURNISHING

A horseshoe pit and/or bocce ball court is a dual-purpose court sized to allow either a game of horseshoes or bocce ball.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
FURNISHING

An outdoor classroom is a space designed for educational programs, with seating (permanent or movable) oriented towards a single space for a teacher/leader. An outdoor classroom should be co-located on a site already allied with organized education or recreation programs. An outdoor classroom requires shade, access to restrooms, and must provide water nearby.

PERFORMANCE SPACE
FURNISHING

A performance area is a space dedicated to performance. The stage area should be paved, provide power, be enclosed with a shade canopy, and may or may not be raised. The seating space is an informal area facing the stage that can have permanent seating or provide free-form use for picnic blankets and camping chairs.

TEEN OUTDOOR SPACE
FURNISHING

A teen outdoor space is an activity or gathering space designed for teens.

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OPEN SPACE

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Adaptive management is a decision process that promotes flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood.

BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

The preferred manner in which an activity is to be performed in order to be protective of both human health and the environment.

DISTURBANCE (ECOLOGICAL)

The disruption of an ecosystem's structure and function, generally with effects that last for time periods longer than a single seasonal growing cycle for vegetation.

FUEL REDUCTION

The removal of combustible vegetation to reduce the amount of flammable material to prevent or reduce the spread of wildfire.

HABITAT

The combination of living and non-living factors which contains suitable living conditions for a species within the range of that species.

HABITAT NETWORK

The configuration of patches of habitat allowing species dispersal through a landscape.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Animal or plant species that take over sufficiently large areas to reduce biodiversity.

MONITORING

Periodically collect data/information to track changes over time.

NATIVE

Those elements of the natural world occurring within an ecosystem prior to disturbance from an outside event.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Natural resource management generally consists of protecting, restoring, enhancing, and monitoring native vegetation and wildlife, and monitoring and protecting the quality of geological and hydrological conditions.

NON-NATIVE

Species which moved into, or were introduced into, pre-serve environments as a direct or indirect result of human activities.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Natural resource management generally consists of protecting, restoring, enhancing, and monitoring native vegetation and wildlife, and monitoring and protecting the quality of geological and hydrological conditions.

REDUNDANT TRAILS

Redundant trails are those trails that connect the same locations as an existing recognized trail. In some cases, these redundant trails are located within the same trail alignment as the city recognized trail, appearing as social or braided trails.

RESTORATION

The process of returning land that has been degraded and disturbed into functional habitat.

RIPARIAN

Riparian areas are defined as the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams and other freshwater bodies, such as lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

SENSITIVE RESOURCE AREAS

Sensitive resource areas include habitats or natural communities that are either unique, of relatively limited distribution in the region, or of particularly high value for wildlife; however, these habitats may or may not necessarily contain special-status species. Sensitive natural communities are usually identified in regional or local plans, policies, or regulations, or by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

WILDFIRE HAZARD MITIGATION

Action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards such as proximity of flammable vegetation, dead or dying tree limbs, or pollution or contamination in close proximity to homes or public facilities.

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

The structural and functional link between patches of habitat used by migrating animals in fulfillment of their life cycle.

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APPENDIX C

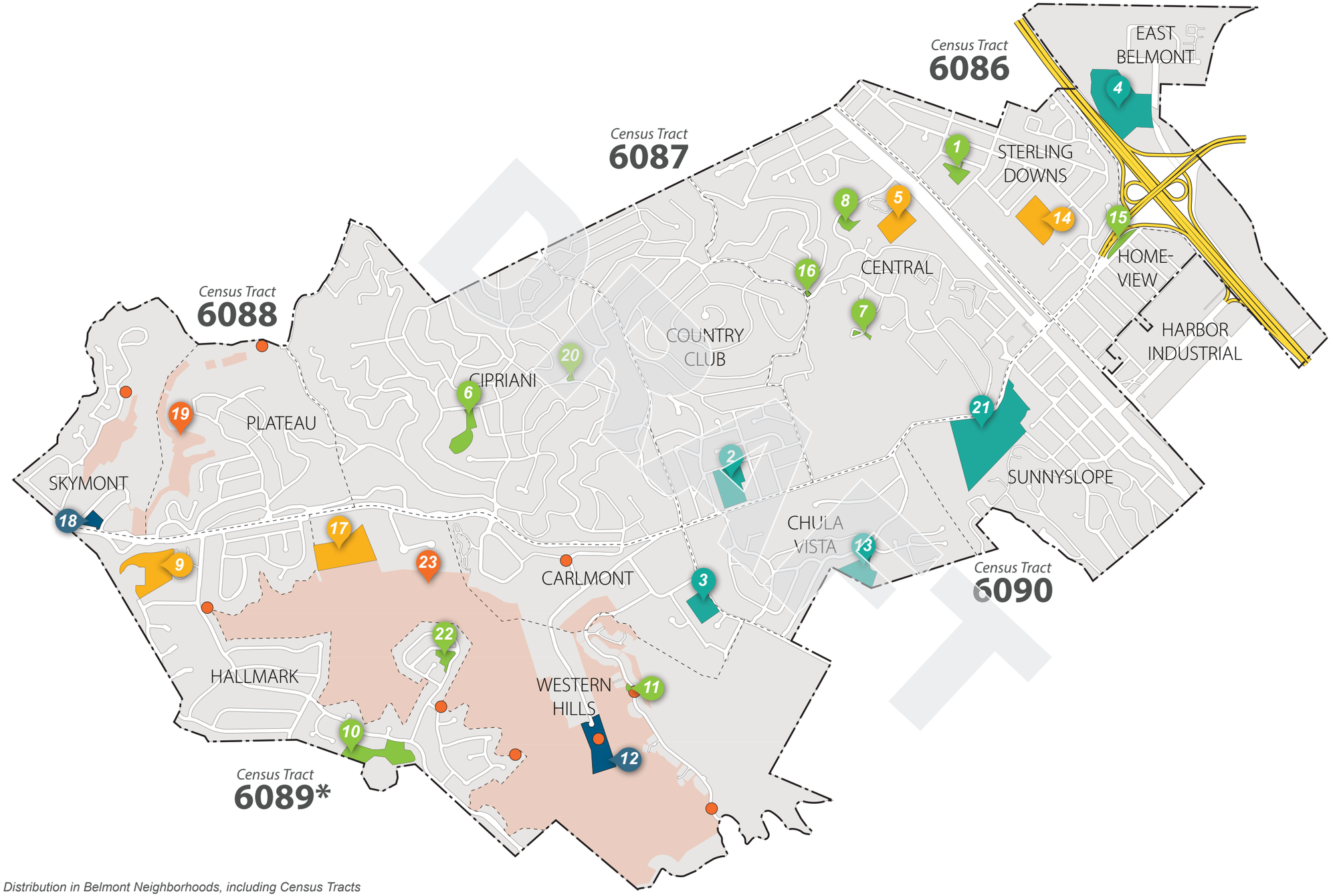
PARK INVENTORY

PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
COMPARING PROS PLAN AND GENERAL PLAN

		NEIGHBORHOOD	COMMUNITY	UNDEVELOPED	PARKS	SCHOOLS	OPEN SPACE	PARKS, SCHOOLS, & OPEN SPACE
PROS PLAN	*Size (Acres)*	*17.3*	*44.7*	*6.1*	*68.1*	*23.4*	*317.5*	*409*
	Parkland per 1,000 residents *(2021 population)*	0.7	1.7	0.2	2.6	0.9	12.0	15.5

Population Assumptions: PROS Plan population: 26,470 (2021 from CA DOF)

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Neighborhood Park

1 Alexander Park
6 Cipriani Park
7 College View Park
8 Davey Glen Park
10 Hallmark Park
11 Hasting Tot Lot Park
15 O'Donnell Park
16 Patricia Wharton Park
20 Semeria Park
22 Wakefield Park

Community Park

2 Barrett Community Center
3 Belameda Park
4 Belmont Sports Complex
13 McDougal Park
21 Twin Pines Park

Undeveloped Park

12 Hidden Canyon Park
18 Ralston Ranch Park

School (JUA)

5 Central Elementary School
9 Fox Elementary School
14 Nesbit School
17 Ralston Middle School

Open Space Trailhead

19 San Juan Canyon
23 Waterdog Lake

Neighborhood Boundary
Census Tract Boundary

Parkland Distribution in Belmont Neighborhoods, including Census Tracts

** Census Tract 6089 extends beyond Belmont's city boundaries and includes non-inhabited land in unincorporated San Mateo County.*

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PARKLAND PER BELMONT NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD	PARK SITE	NEIGHBORHOOD	COMMUNITY	UNDEVELOPED	ALL PARKS	SCHOOLS	OPEN SPACE	PARKS, SCHOOLS, & OPEN SPACE
CARLMONT	Belameda		3.0		3.0			3.0
CENTRAL	College View	0.1			1.3			4.7
	Davey Glen	1.1						
	Patricia Wharton	0.1						
	Central School					3.4		
CHULA VISTA	McDougal		4.5		4.5			4.5
CIPRIANI	Cipriani	6.0			7.3			7.3
	Semeria	1.3						
COUNTRY CLUB	Barrett Community Center		5.1		5.1			5.1
EAST BELMONT	Belmont Sports Complex		11.0		11.0			11.0
HALLMARK	Hallmark	5.2			6.2			12.3
	Wakefield	1.0						
	Fox School					6.1		
HOMEVIEW	O'Donnell	0.9			0.9			0.9
PLATEAU	San Juan Canyon				0.0		35.0	35.0
SKYMONT	Ralston Ranch			1.3	1.3			1.3
STERLING DOWNS	Alexander	1.3			1.3			7.8
	Nesbit School					6.5		
SUNNYSLOPE	Twin Pines		21.1		21.1			21.1
WESTERN HILLS	Hastings Tot Lot	0.3			5.1			295.0
	Ralston Middle School					7.4		
	Hidden Canyon			4.8				
	Waterdog Lake						282.5	

Source: City of Belmont Parks and Recreation Department and 2035 General Plan

PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS IN BELMONT NEIGHBORHOODS

CENSUS TRACT	NEIGHBORHOOD	NEIGHBORHOOD	COMMUNITY	UNDEVELOPED	ALL PARKS	SCHOOLS	OPEN SPACE	PARKS, SCHOOLS, & OPEN SPACE
6086 (4,614 RESIDENTS)	East Belmont		11.0		11.0			11.0
	Homeview	0.9			0.9			0.9
	Sterling Downs	1.3			1.3	6.5		7.8
	Parkland (Acres)	*2.2*	*11.0*	*0*	*13.2*	*6.5*	*0*	*19.4*
	Parkland per 1,000 residents	**0.5**	**2.4**	**0**	**2.9**	**1.4**	**0**	**4.3**
6087 (6,999 RESIDENTS)	Central	1.3			1.3	3.4		4.7
	Country Club		5.1		5.1			5.1
	Parkland (Acres)	*1.3*	*5.1*	*0*	*6.4*	*3.4*	*0*	*9.8*
	Parkland per 1,000 residents	**0.2**	**0.7**	**0**	**0.9**	**0.5**	**0**	**1.4**
6088 (6,328 RESIDENTS)	Cipriani	7.3			7.3			7.3
	Plateau				0		35.0	35.0
	Skymont			1.3	1.3			1.3
	Parkland (Acres)	*7.3*	*0*	*1.3*	*8.6*	*0*	*35.0*	*43.6*
	Parkland per 1,000 residents	**1.2**	**0**	**0.2**	**1.4**	**0**	**5.5**	**6.9**
6089* (6,948 RESIDENTS)	Carlmont		*3.0*		3.0			*3.0*
	Hallmark	6.2			6.2	6.1		12.3
	Western Hills	0.3		4.8	5.1	7.4	282.5	295.0
	Parkland (Acres)	*6.5*	*3.0*	*4.8*	*14.3*	*13.5*	*282.5*	*310.3*
	Parkland per 1,000 residents	**0.9**	**0.4**	**0.7**	**2.1**	**2.0**	**41.0**	**45.0**
6090 (2,470 RESIDENTS)	Chula Vista		4.5		4.5			4.5
	Sunnyslope		21.1		21.1			21.1
	Parkland (Acres)	*0*	*25.6*	*0*	*25.6*	*0*	*0*	*25.6*
	Parkland per 1,000 residents	**0**	**10.4**	**0**	**10.4**	**0**	**0**	**10.4**

** Census Tract 6089 extends beyond Belmont's city boundaries and includes non-inhabited land in unincorporated San Mateo County.*

Source: Census Tract population counts from 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

	Neighborhood												Community					Schools				TOTAL			
Park Names:	Alexander	Cipriani	College View	Davey Glen	Hallmark	Hastings Tot	Hidden Canyon ***	O'Donnell	Patricia Wharton	Ralston Ranch ***	Semeria	Wakefield	Barrett CC	Belameda	Belmont Sports Complex	McDougal	Twin Pines	Central	Fox	Nesbit	Ralston	Neighborhood	Community	Schools	Total
Size (Acres)	1.3	6	0.1	1.1	5.2	0.3	4.8	0.9	0.1	1.3	0.1	1	5.1	3	11	4.5	21.1	3.4	6.1	6.5	7.4	22.2	44.7	23.4	90.3
AMENITY, Standard Baseline																						**Standard Baseline**			
Park Type	N2	N2	N1	N2	N2	N1		N2	N1		N2	N1	C	C	C	C	C								
Community Facility													1	1	1		1					0	4	0	4
Gathering Space	1	1		1							1		1				1					4	2	0	6
Multi-purpose Lawn	1	1	1	1				1			1		1			1	1	1	1	1	1	6	3	4	13
Parking Lot		1					1						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5	4	11
Picnic Area	1	1	1	1	1			1			1		1	1	1	1	1					7	5	0	12
Restroom, Permanent	1												2	1	2		2					1	7	0	8
Restroom, Portable							1	1					1			1	2	1				2	4	1	7
AMENITY, Benchmarked																						**Benchmarked**			
Multi-use Athletic Field, ALL		1											1		3	3		1	1	1	1	1	7	4	12
Basketball (Full)													1					2	3	1	6	0	1	12	13
Basketball (Half)	1							2					1						1	1		3	1	2	6
Tennis Court	2				2																	4	0	0	4
Play Element																						0	0	0	0
Playground	2	1	1	1	1	1		2		1			1	1	1		2	1	2	2		10	5	5	20
All-abilities Playground																						0	0	0	0
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	1																1					1	1	0	2
Reservable Picnic Area, Large																	2					0	2	0	2
AMENITY, Priority																						**Priority**			
Community Garden								1					1									1	1	0	2
Dog Parklet																						0	0	0	0
Dog Park		1																				1	0	0	1
Pickleball Court																						0	0	0	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)																						0	0	0	0
Skate Park																						0	0	0	0
Water Play, Pool																						0	0	0	0
Water Play, Spray Park																						0	0	0	0
AMENITY																						**AMENITY**			
Disc Golf																						0	0	0	0
Fitness Equipment Cluster													1									0	1	0	1

	Neighborhood												Community					Schools				TOTAL			
Park Names:	**Alexander**	**Cipriani**	**College View**	**Davey Glen**	**Hallmark**	**Hastings Tot**	**Hidden Canyon *****	**O'Donnell**	**Patricia Wharton**	**Ralston Ranch *****	**Semeria**	**Wakefield**	**Barrett CC**	**Belameda**	**Belmont Sports Complex**	**McDougal**	**Twin Pines**	**Central**	**Fox**	**Nesbit**	**Ralston**	**Neighborhood**	**Community**	**Schools**	**Total**
Handball Court / Ball Wall	1																	2	1	1		1	0	4	5
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball	2																3					2	3	0	5
Jogging Track															1						1	0	1	1	2
Outdoor Classroom																						0	0	0	0
Performance Stage Area														1			1					0	2	0	2
Teen Outdoor Space													1									0	1	0	1
Volleyball Court																						0	0	0	0

* School Amenities not available for public use during school hours

** Synthetic Fields count as 1.5 a natural turf field due to more time available annually

*** Undeveloped

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APPENDIX D

NRPA BENCHMARKS

NRPA AMENITY RATIOS

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) compiles park metrics from park and recreation agencies across the nation annually. The intent of publishing this data is to allow park and recreation agencies to benchmark peer agencies in their mission to serve their residents.

The following tables are the amenity ratios gathered from over 1,000 park and recreation agencies for the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review.

AMENITY RATIOS FOR JURISDICTIONS OF A SIMILAR SIZE

The NRPA has processed the gathered data to allow jurisdictions to compare their amenity offerings to jurisdictions serving a similar size population. The population ranges are: less than 20,000, 20,000 to 49,999, 50,000 to 99,999, 100,000 to 250,000, and more than 250,000. Belmont has a 2020 population within the 20,000 to 49,999 range.

AMENITY RATIOS FOR THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

The NRPA has processed the gathered data to allow jurisdictions to compare their amenity offerings to jurisdictions in their region. The regions are: New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southern, Great Lakes, Midwest, Southwest, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest.

AMENITY RATIOS FOR CALIFORNIA

The NRPA has processed the gathered data to allow jurisdictions to compare their amenity offerings to jurisdictions in their state.

PARKLAND + AMENITY RATIOS FOR JURISDICTIONS OF A SIMILAR SIZE

Amenity	Residents
Basketball	1: 7,000
Community Garden	1: 25,480
Diamond Field (Baseball, Adult)	1: 20,522
Diamond Field (Baseball, Youth)	1: 5,099
Diamond Field (Softball, Adult)	1: 11,184
Diamond Field (Softball, Youth)	1: 9,891
Dog Park	1: 27,528
Ice rink (Outdoor)	1: 13,049
Multi-Use Synthetic Field	1: 22,041
Multi-Use Court (Basketball, Volleyball)	1: 18,850
Overlay Fields	1: 8,935
Playground	1: 2,961
Rectangular (Multi-use)	1: 7,400
Rectangular Field (Cricket)	1: 29,404
Rectangular Field (Field Hockey)	1: 15,007
Rectangular Field (Football)	1: 16,584
Rectangular Field (Lacrosse)	1: 13,333
Rectangular Field (Soccer, Adult)	1: 11,161
Rectangular Field (Soccer, Youth)	1: 5,833
Skate Park	1: 31,248
Swimming Pool (Outdoor)	1: 25,402
Tennis Court	1: 4,819
Tot Lot	1: 8,974

Source: 2021 NRPA Outdoor P&R Facilities, Population per Facility for Jurisdictions of 20,000 to 49,999 people

PARKLAND + AMENITY RATIOS FOR THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION	
Amenity	**Residents**
Basketball	1: 8,885
Community Garden	1: 67,579
Diamond Field (Baseball, Adult)	1: 30,077
Diamond Field (Baseball, Youth)	1: 13,443
Diamond Field (Softball, Adult)	1: 22,250
Diamond Field (Softball, Youth)	1: 16,948
Dog Park	1: 51,593
Ice rink (Outdoor)	1: 304,712
Multi-Use Synthetic Field	1: 51,992
Multi-Use Court (Basketball, Volleyball)	1: 27,072
Overlay Fields	1: 14,751
Playground	1: 5,242
Rectangular (Multi-use)	1: 10,738
Rectangular Field (Cricket)	1: 178,482
Rectangular Field (Field Hockey)	1: -
Rectangular Field (Football)	1: 73,636
Rectangular Field (Lacrosse)	1: 13,532
Rectangular Field (Soccer, Adult)	1: 21,032
Rectangular Field (Soccer, Youth)	1: 11,143
Skate Park	1: 83,563
Swimming Pool (Outdoor)	1: 66,924
Tennis Court	1: 7,964
Tot Lot	1: 11,017

Source: 2021 NRPA Outdoor P&R Facilities, Population per Facility for the Pacific Southwest Region

PARKLAND + AMENITY RATIOS FOR CALIFORNIA	
Amenity	**Residents**
Basketball	1: 9,986
Community Garden	1: 67,159
Diamond Field (Baseball, Adult)	1: 38,983
Diamond Field (Baseball, Youth)	1: 14,740
Diamond Field (Softball, Adult)	1: 24,523
Diamond Field (Softball, Youth)	1: 18,074
Dog Park	1: 48,651
Ice rink (Outdoor)	1: 3,999,759
Multi-Use Synthetic Field	1: 103,256
Multi-Use Court (Basketball, Volleyball)	1: 40,014
Overlay Fields	1: 13,203
Playground	1: 5,713
Rectangular (Multi-use)	1: 15,987
Rectangular Field (Cricket)	1: 529,981
Rectangular Field (Field Hockey)	1: 4,126
Rectangular Field (Football)	1: 87,629
Rectangular Field (Lacrosse)	1: 4,763
Rectangular Field (Soccer, Adult)	1: 13,386
Rectangular Field (Soccer, Youth)	1: 16,295
Skate Park	1: 94,693
Swimming Pool (Outdoor)	1: 71,000
Tennis Court	1: 11,794
Tot Lot	1: 7,631

Source: 2021 NRPA Outdoor P&R Facilities, Population per Facility for California

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APPENDIX E

AMENITY PROJECTIONS

The PROS Plan used the General Plan forecasted population of 30,500 by the year 2035.

During the PROS Plan process, the City began an update to the General Plan Housing Element. The previous Housing Element covered the 8-year span from 2015 to 2023. The upcoming Housing Element, in progress at the time of the PROS Plan, will cover 2023 to 2031. The 2023-2031 Housing Element will reflect increased population projections as a result of the additional housing units needed to respond to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation. Belmont was assigned a RHNA allocation of 1,785 new housing units for the 2023-2031 housing cycle.

During the 2023-2031 Housing Element update, the population forecasts in the General Plan were evaluated and revised. At an average of 2.44 people per unit, the RHNA allocation of 1,785 new housing units equates to a potential increased population of 4,463 residents by 2031. To account for the increase in the forecasted population, the Ideal Amenity Quantities for the Future 2035 population were revised. The benchmark and amenity analysis tables included in this section consider this additional projected population increase.

IDEAL AMENITY QUANTITY
FUTURE 2035 POPULATION
INCORPORATING HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

BENCHMARKED AMENITY	2022	2035 IDEAL	2035 + ADD
All-Abilities Playground	1	1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	13	17	+ 4
Basketball Court (Half)	6	8	+ 2
Multi-Use Athletic Field	13	17	+ 4
Play Element	3	4	+ 1
Playground	20	23	+ 3
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	4	5	+ 1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	3	4	+ 1
Tennis Court	6	8	+ 2
PRIORITY AMENITY			
Community Garden	3	4	+ 1
Dog Park	2	3	+ 1
Dog Parklet	2	3	+ 1
Pump Track (Bike Park)	1	1	0
Skate Park	1	1	0
Water Play, Pool	1	1	0
Water Play, Spray Element	1	1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	1	1	0
SECONDARY AMENITY			
Fitness Equipment Cluster	2	3	+ 1
Handball / Wallball Court	4	5	+ 1
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	4	5	+ 1
Outdoor Classroom	1	1	0
Performance Space	2	3	+ 1
Teen Outdoor Space	3	4	+ 1

Ideal Amenity Quantities for 2035 Population (Adjusted)

2022: The **assumed** quantity of an amenity given that the ideal service level for the 2022 population was met.

2035 IDEAL: The quantity of an amenity that would meet the ideal service level for the 2035 population.*

2035 ADD: The quantity of an amenity **to be added** to meet the ideal service level for the 2035 population.*

Note: The 2022 quantities were determined in 2021.
** Based on the General Plan, adjusted with the 2023-2031 Housing Element population projections.*

IDEAL AMENITY QUANTITIES
FUTURE 2022 AND 2035 POPULATIONS
INCORPORATING HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

BENCHMARKED AMENITY	EXISTS	2022 + ADD	2035 + ADD
All-Abilities Playground	0	+ 1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	13	0	+ 4
Basketball Court (Half)	6	0	+ 2
Multi-Use Athletic Field	12	+ 1	+ 4
Play Element	0	+ 3	+ 1
Playground	20	0	+ 3
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	2	+ 2	+ 1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	2	+ 1	+ 1
Tennis Court	4	+ 2	+ 2
PRIORITY AMENITY			
Community Garden	2	+ 1	+ 1
Dog Park	1	+ 1	+ 1
Dog Parklet	0	+ 2	+ 1
Pump Track (Bike Park)	0	+ 1	0
Skate Park	0	+ 1	0
Water Play, Pool	0	+ 1	0
Water Play, Spray Element	0	+ 1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	0	+ 1	0
SECONDARY AMENITY			
Fitness Equipment Cluster	1	+ 1	+ 1
Handball / Wallball Court	5	0	+ 1
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	5	0	+ 1
Outdoor Classroom	0	+ 1	0
Performance Space	2	0	+ 1
Teen Outdoor Space	1	+ 2	+ 1

Overall Amenity Quantities to be Added (Adjusted)

EXISTS: The **current** quantity of an amenity.

2022 ADD: The quantity of an amenity **to be added** to meet the ideal service level for the 2022 population.

2035 ADD: The quantity of an amenity **to be added** to meet the ideal service level for the 2035 population* (assuming that none were constructed to meet the ideal service level for 2022).

Note: The existing and 2022 quantities were determined in 2021.
** Based on the General Plan and 2023-2031 Housing Element population projections.*

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APPENDIX F

OPEN SPACE MGMT PLAN

BELMONT OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

CITY OF BELMONT, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BMP	Best Management Practice
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CE	Categorical Exemption
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
City	City of Belmont, Parks and Recreation
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
CRLF	California Red-legged Frog
CRPR	California Rare Plant Ranking
CWA	Clean Water Act
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FE	Federally Endangered
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
OHWM	Ordinary High Water Mark
OSMP	Open Space Management Plan
PROS	Parks Recreation and Open Space
Rank	California Rare Plant Rank
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SE	State Endangered
SJC	San Juan Canyon Open Space
SOC	Species of Concern
SOD	Sudden Oak Death
SSC	Species of Special Concern
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WBWG	Western Bat Working Group
WDL	Waterdog Lake Open Space

1.0 Executive Summary

In 2021, the City of Belmont (City) began developing an updated Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) as forward-looking guide for planning, maintaining, developing, and rehabilitating the City's system of parks, recreation sites, and open space areas over the next 15 years. As part of the PROS Plan, this Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) was developed to better understand the conditions in the City's two open space areas and provide a programmatic framework to address key management topics. The OSMP is organized into three chapters:

- Chapter 2.0 contains the Environmental Assessment which includes a characterization of existing conditions including flora and fauna, trail erosion, and wildfire hazards. Considerations for habitat improvements and wildfire hazard reduction are provided.
- Chapter 3.0 contains the Recreation Use Assessment and Benchmarking which includes discussions of current open space recreation trends, trail usage, condition, and density, and provides best practices for trail design, construction, and maintenance.
- Chapter 4.0 contains the Management Plan which utilizes the conclusions from the previous two chapters, City staff and public input to outline a framework of objectives, policies and recommendations focused on environmental sustainability, balanced recreation use, and natural hazard mitigation themes.

The salient findings of each chapter are summarized below. The content of this OSMP has been integrated into the formatting of the PROS Plan and references to the PROS Plan are inclusive of this OSMP (Appendix G of the PROS Plan also contains the OSMP).

Belmont's two open space areas are Waterdog Lake Open Space Area (WDL) and San Juan Canyon Open Space Area (SJC) which are both located in the western portion of the city (Figure 2.1). Both WDL and SJC contain trails through native and non-native vegetation communities and provide nature-based recreation opportunities including hiking, biking, dog walking, and wildlife and plant study.

1.1 Environmental Assessment Findings

Across both WDL and SJC Open Space areas, 11 special-status plant species and 7 special-status wildlife species have moderate/high potential to occur or are present. Limited portions of the open space areas are comprised of developed areas, eucalyptus groves, and non-native annual grassland. The majority of both WDL and SJC contain native plant species. Indeed, over 90 percent of the open space lands consist of native biological communities and both non-sensitive and sensitive communities exist. Invasive species were observed, though generally limited to patches of less than 50 square feet and represented a small portion of the overall area. As such, the overall habitat quality of the open space lands is determined to be of high quality to moderate quality, with the areas adjacent to trails and residential development generally being moderate quality. Areas with limited anthropogenic influence (set back from residential uses and major trails), have high quality habitat.

WRA mapped trail conditions for approximately 13 miles of trails, including trails that are found on city maps as well as previously unmapped trails. Collectively, the trails have a relatively small "footprint," representing approximately five acres of open space, i.e., of 1.3 percent of the total open space acreage.

Most trail erosion locations were found in the larger WDL area, and among those locations, the majority were assessed as exhibiting a "low" level of erosion. For both WDL and SJC, approximately 1 in every 10 erosion locations were categorized as "high" erosion. These results demonstrate that the trail systems in each open space area are in relatively good condition overall, but that there are specific locations of "high" erosion that should be addressed immediately. In addition, approximately 50 stream crossings were identified along existing trails with varied crossing mechanisms, ranging from a free-span wooden footbridge to a plank placed across the stream, to stepping stones. Many of these crossings should also be improved in the near term to provide better protection of the riparian habitat below.

The majority (approximately 147 of 290 acres) of vegetation in WDL is coastal live oak, which has a low hazard rating and ignition potential (East Bay Regional Parks District, 2010). This situation also applies to SJC, with the majority of vegetation there mapped as coastal live oak. However, according to the Safety Element of the 2035 City of Belmont General Plan WDL lies within the Very High Fire Hazard Zone, and SJC lies with the High Fire Hazard Zone, based on factors including steep topography, weather, and the potential to damage human life and structures (City of Belmont, 2017).

1.2 Recreation Assessment Findings

The population of Belmont and San Mateo County is increasing and the rates of participation in nature-based recreation activities are expected to continue to increase as well. In general, cycling participation has been rising in recent years especially in large cities like San Francisco (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, 2022). One likely contributor to cycling participation is the growing use of electric pedal assist bicycles (e-bikes) which have had sales increase nearly 50 percent per year since 2013 (PeopleForBikes, 2017). In addition, e-bike use on trails within parks and protected areas appears to be increasing (PeopleForBikes, 2017). Though mountain biking participation is also increasing nationally (Newcomb, 2020), whether e-bikes are driving this increase is actively being researched (Federal Highway Administration, 2022). The implication for this that the number of cyclists on trails may not be increasing dramatically, but rather existing cyclists on trails are switching to e-bikes instead of standard bikes.

As part of the public engagement process for the RROS Plan, the *Belmont Parks, Outdoor Recreation Programs and Open Space Community Survey* (PROS Survey; Gates + Associates, 2021) collected responses to an online survey during April 2021. The PROS Survey found that residents from Belmont, as well as neighboring cities like San Mateo, San Carlos, and Redwood City, participate in walking, running, biking, and dog-walking on Belmont's open space trails. The PROS Survey also found that most respondents visited open space areas multiple times per week, typically for a duration of 1-2 hours or more, and typically for the purposes of exercising, communing with nature, and experiencing peace and quiet.

Both the WDL and SJC have trail systems that are similar in density when compared to similarly urban open space areas in neighboring cities in San Mateo County. Both WDL and SJC have previously unmapped trails that make up 25 percent of all trail miles.

1.3 Management Plan

The OSMP has been prepared to provide a programmatic framework to address three main themes: environmental sustainability, balanced recreation use, and mitigation of natural hazards. Within each theme is a hierarchy of objectives, policies, and recommendations. The objectives are general statements that articulate a desired outcome. Policies are more specific statements that state what steps the City

may take to achieve a desired outcome. Recommendations are measurable actions that specify how a desired outcome can be achieved. The objectives, policies, and recommendations were developed based on existing City planning documents, City staff input, the considerations from Chapters 2 and 3 of this document, public input from the PROS Survey, emailed public comments, and an open house event held in May 2022.

1.3.1 Priority Recommendations

Several recommendations were identified as being priorities, based on habitat protection, wildfire safety, and visitor experience (Tier 1) and equity-based programs and visitor experience (Tier 2). Upon adoption of the PROS Plan, the following actions should be prioritized for implementation at WDL and SJC.

Tier 1: Habitat Protection, Wildfire Safety, and Visitor Experience

Environmental Sustainability

- **Stream Crossing Improvements:** WRA identified multiple stream crossings requiring improvements and prioritized the top seven crossings most in need of improvements.
- **Seasonal / Weather Dependent Restrictions on Maintenance Activities:** Ensure that the City's routine trail maintenance actions avoid nesting bird season to the extent possible, and avoid working in wet weather conditions (emergencies excepted) to the extent feasible.

Balanced Recreation Use

- **Monitor Use and Survey Visitors During E-Bike Pilot:** Take an approach similar to what Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has done to develop a policy for e-bike use. The district studied use levels and visitor responses for a year before making policy recommendations to their Planning and Natural Resource Committee.
- **ADA-Compliant Trails:** Identify three trail segments that offer distinctive recreation experiences and ensure those segments comply with the California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines. One segment will offer the experience to travel along a ridgeline, another segment will offer an experience to travel along a canyon floor, and a third segment will offer opportunities for panoramic views.

Natural Hazard Mitigation

- **Fuels Reduction Plan:** The fuels reduction plan would prioritize fuel break areas to be treated as shown and Figures 2.4 and 2.5, and would highlight additional areas that would benefit from fuels reduction.

Tier 2: Equity-Based Programs and Visitor Experience

Environmental Sustainability

- **Volunteer Restoration Programs:** These programs which have been informally carried out would be codified and respond to the interests and actions of environmentally focused community members.

Balanced Recreation Use

- **Nature-Based Recreation Programs:** Respond to the community's interest in environmental education with focused programs that, among other things, may reinforce support for protecting the two open space areas and create "citizen scientists."
- **Trail Calming Features:** Implement trail calming features in targeted locations to respond to community comments about feeling some sections of trails are unsafe due to blind turns, steep slopes, narrow trails, or a combination of all three.

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2.0 Environmental Assessment

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an environmental assessment of existing conditions pertaining to biological resources, trail erosion, and wildfire hazards at WDL and SJC. Following the baseline information collected for these resources, management recommendations are provided to promote a balanced and fair approach that considers environmental protection, public health and safety, diverse recreation, and sustainability. This assessment was conducted by WRA, Inc. (WRA) to inform and support the OSMP as part of the PROS Plan. This chapter describes the results of the site visit, which assessed the open space areas for (1) the presence of sensitive biological communities, special-status plant species, and special-status wildlife species, (2) the potential for the site to support special-status plant and wildlife species.

In addition to documenting existing biological communities and sensitive habitats in both park units, WRA broadly assessed the baseline quality of such habitats located near the trails. This will enable the City to track and evaluate any changes in habitat quality and implement management actions accordingly.

WDL is approximately 290 acres of city-owned property and features the following: trails which meander through chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian habitats; a viewshed of the San Francisco Bay; and Waterdog Lake at its center. SJC is approximately 39 acres of City-owned property surrounded by undeveloped parcels that are privately owned, located approximately ¾-mile west of Waterdog, across Ralston Way. SJC features similar habitats as WDL. Both open spaces are generally surrounded by single-family residential land use; boundary lines depicted are approximate to illustrate the Study Area within which the environmental the recreation assessments were performed (Figure 2.1).

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Figure 2.1. San Juan Canyon and Waterdog Lake Open Spaces

Waterdog Lake Open Space
Belmont, California
Boundary lines are for illustration only

0 400 800 Feet

wra ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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2.2 Regulatory Background

The following sections explain the regulatory context of the biological assessment, including applicable laws and regulations that were applied to the field investigations and would apply to any future, ground disturbing actions to sensitive and common species that the city may choose to implement following adoption of the PROS Plan.

2.2.1 Special-Status Species

Special-status species include those plants and wildlife species that have been formally listed, are proposed as endangered or threatened, or are candidates for such listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA). These Acts afford protection to both listed and proposed species. In addition, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern (SSC), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Species of Concern (SOC), are species that face extirpation if current population and habitat trends continue. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Birds of Conservation Concern, sensitive species included in USFWS Recovery Plans, and CDFW special-status invertebrates are also considered special-status species. Although CDFW Species of Special Concern generally have no special legal status, they are given special consideration under CEQA. In addition to regulations for special-status species, most birds in the United States, including non-status species, are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. Under this legislation, destroying active nests, eggs, and young is illegal. Bat species designated as "High Priority" by the Western Bat Working Group qualify for legal protection under Section 15380(d) of the CEQA Guidelines. "High Priority" species are defined as "imperiled or are at high risk of imperilment based on available information on distribution, status, ecology and known threats".

Plant species included within the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (Inventory, CNPS 2020) with California Rare Plant Rank (Rank) of 1, 2, and 3 are also considered special-status plant species and must be considered under the CEQA. Some Rank 4 plant species meet the definitions of Section 1901 Chapter 10 of the Native Plant Protection Act or Sections 2062 and 2067 of the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) that outlines CESA. However, the CNPS and CDFW strongly recommend that these species be fully considered during the preparation of environmental documentation related to CEQA. This may be particularly appropriate for the type locality of a Rank 4 plant species, for populations at the periphery of a species range, or in areas where the taxon is especially uncommon or has sustained heavy losses, or from populations exhibiting unusual morphology or occurring on unusual substrates. A description of Ranks is provided below in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Description of Ranks and Threat Codes

California Rare Plant Ranks (formerly known as CNPS Lists)	
Rank 1A	Presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
Rank 1B	Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
Rank 2A	Presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere
Rank 2B	Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but common elsewhere
Rank 3	Plants about which more information is needed - A review list

California Rare Plant Ranks (formerly known as CNPS Lists)	
Rank 4	Plants of limited distribution - A watch list
Threat Ranks	
0.1	Seriously threatened in California
0.2	Moderately threatened in California
0.3	Not very threatened in California

2.2.2 Sensitive Biological Communities

Sensitive biological communities include habitats that fulfill special functions or have special values, such as wetlands, streams, and riparian habitat. These habitats are regulated under federal regulations (such as the Clean Water Act [CWA]), state regulations (such as the Porter-Cologne Act, the CDFW Streambed Alteration Program, and CEQA), or local ordinances or policies (such as City or County Tree Ordinances, Special Habitat Management Areas, applicable Local Coastal Programs, and General Plan Elements).

2.2.3 Waters of the United States

The stream channels in WDL connect to Belmont Creek, which empties out into the San Francisco Bay, a traditional navigable water. SJC includes Laurel Creek, which also empties into the San Francisco Bay. Based on the current federal regulations, this establishes a federal nexus; stream channels and creeks within the open space areas are therefore potentially considered Waters of the U.S. Section 404 of the CWA gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps regulatory and permitting authority regarding discharge of dredged or fill material into "navigable" waters of the U.S. Section 502(7) of the CWA defines navigable waters as "waters of the United States, including territorial seas." Section 328 of Chapter 33 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) defines the term "waters of the United States" as it applies to the jurisdictional limits of the authority of the Corps under the CWA. A summary of this definition of "waters of the United States" in 33 CFG 328.3(a) includes:

> *(1) waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; the territorial seas; or interstate waters;*
>
> *(2) impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition, other than impoundments of waters identified under paragraph (5) of this section;*
>
> *(3) tributaries of waters identified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this section that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water;*
>
> *(4) wetlands adjacent to the following waters: waters identified in paragraph (1) of this section; or relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water identified in paragraph (2) or (3) of this section and with a continuous surface connection to those waters;*

(5) intrastate lakes and ponds not identified in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this section that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water with a continuous surface connection to the waters identified in paragraph (1) or (3) of this section.

In the Corps Rivers and Harbors regulations (33 CFR Part 329.4), the term "navigable waters of the U.S." is defined to include all those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, and/or presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

The definitions of wetlands and non-wetland waters, as well as areas exempt from jurisdiction, are discussed in more detail below.

Wetlands

Wetlands are defined in 33 CFR 328.3(c) as:

…those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

The basis for determining whether a given area is a wetland for the purposes of Section 404 of the CWA is outlined in the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Corps Manual; Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Delineation Manual* for the respective region (Arid West or Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast for California). As defined in 33 CFR 328.4(c), the extent of federal jurisdiction within wetlands is defined as extending to the limit of the wetland as determined using the methods outlined in the manuals.

Areas Exempt from Section 404 Jurisdiction

Some areas that meet the technical criteria for wetlands or waters may not be jurisdictional under the CWA per Section 404 regulations and the Corps Manual. As defined in 33 CFR 328.3(b), the following features are exempt from Section 404 Jurisdiction:

(1) Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons, designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act;

(2) Prior converted cropland designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. The exclusion would cease upon a change of use, which means that the area is no longer available for the production of agricultural commodities. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other Federal agency, for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the final authority regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with EPA;

(3) Ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only dry land and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water;

(4) Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to dry land if the irrigation ceased;

(5) Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing;
(6) Artificial reflecting or swimming pools or other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating or diking dry land to retain water for primarily aesthetic reasons;
(7) Waterfilled depressions created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel unless and until the construction or excavation operation is abandoned and the resulting body water meets the definition of waters of the United States; and
(8) Swales and erosional features (e.g., gullies, small washes) characterized by low volume, infrequent, or short duration flow.

2.2.4 Waters of the State

The Dickey Water Pollution Act of 1949 and Porter Cologne Act of 1969 established the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) districts in the State of California. The SWRCB and each RWQCB district regulates activities in Waters of the State, which include Waters of the U.S. Waters of the State are defined by the Porter-Cologne Act as "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state." In addition, the SWRCB has adopted a wetland definition that is similar to, but slightly different from, that used by the Corps. The state definition as adopted in April 2019 and currently in effect, states that:

> *An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation.*

The RWQCB regulates discharges of fill and dredged material under Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act through the State Water Quality Certification Program. State Water Quality Certification is necessary for all projects that require a Corps permit, or fall under other federal jurisdiction, and have the potential to impact waters of the State. In order for a Section 404 permit to be valid, Section 401 of the CWA requires a Water Quality Certification or waiver to be obtained. The Water Quality Certification (or waiver) determines that the permitted activities will not violate water quality standards individually or cumulatively over the term of the action. Water quality certification must be consistent with the requirements of the CWA, CEQA, the CESA and Porter-Cologne Act.

If a proposed project or portion of a proposed project does not require a federal permit, but does involve dredge or fill activities that may result in a discharge to Waters of the State, the RWQCB has the option to regulate the dredge and fill activity under its state authority in the form of Waste Discharge Requirements or Certification of Waste Discharge Requirements. In these cases, a Water Quality Certification is not necessary under Section 401 of the CWA because federal jurisdiction does not apply.

2.2.5 Streams, Lakes, and Riparian Habitat

Streams and lakes, as habitat for fish and wildlife species, are subject to jurisdiction by CDFW under Sections 1600-1616 of the CFGC. Alterations to or work within or adjacent to streambeds or lakes generally require a 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. The term stream, which includes creeks and rivers, is defined in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) as follows: "a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having a surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation" (14 CCR 1.72). In addition, the term stream can include ephemeral streams, dry washes, watercourses with subsurface flows, canals, aqueducts, irrigation ditches, and other means of water conveyance if they support aquatic life, riparian vegetation, or stream dependent terrestrial wildlife (CDFG ESD 1994). Riparian is defined as, "on, or pertaining to, the banks of a stream;" therefore, riparian vegetation is defined as, "vegetation which occurs in and/or adjacent to a stream and is dependent on, and occurs because of, the stream itself" (CDFG ESD 1994). Removal of riparian vegetation also requires a Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW.

2.2.6 Other Sensitive Biological Communities

Other sensitive biological communities not discussed above include habitats that fulfill special functions or have special values. Natural communities considered sensitive are those identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW. The CDFW ranks sensitive communities as "threatened" or "very threatened" and keeps records of their occurrences in its Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, CDFW 2020). Sensitive plant communities are also identified by CDFW on their *List of California Natural Communities Recognized by the CNDDB* (CDFW 2020). Impacts to sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS must be considered and evaluated under CEQA (CCR: Title 14, Div. 6, Chap. 3, Appendix G). Specific habitats may also be identified as sensitive in City or County General Plans or ordinances.

2.2.7 Relevant City of Belmont Policies

Policies relative to management and conservation of the City's open space areas are found in the following planning documents:

- Belmont Parks and Open Space Plan (1992)
- City of Belmont General Plan, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element (2017)
- City of Belmont General Plan, Conservation Element (2017)
- The Western Hills Area Plan (1990)

Belmont Parks and Open Space Plan (1992)

Action focused recommendations from the 1992 Belmont Parks and Open Space Plan include the following:

- The preserved open space should be retained in a natural state for passive recreation, education, and aesthetic purposes.
- Vegetation management will be required to create and maintain native ecosystems and for fire control.
- Development should be limited to those types of facilities that support the intended passive uses, including trails, trailheads, signage, picnic areas, and small neighborhood parks.

Relevant policies from the 1992 Belmont Parks and Open Space Plan include the following:

- Assist the Fire Protection District to identify wildland fire hazard areas and develop fire access roads.
- Preserve large contiguous units of open space.
- Protect wildlife habitat by maintaining wildlife corridors and preserving habitat and corridors in new residential neighborhoods.

City of Belmont General Plan, Parks and Conservation Elements (2017)

Goals and policies presented in the General Plan apply to all areas within the City. The goals and policies listed below from the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element as well as the Conservation Element are especially relevant to this OSMP (City of Belmont, 2017) and include the following:

- Continue to develop and support a balanced and integrated open space system reflecting a variety of considerations, including natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and public health and safety, to ensure synergies between various open space components and compatibility with land use planning.
- Continue to designate and protect open space lands for the preservation of scenic areas, natural drainage ways, and plant and wildlife habitats; for outdoor recreation; and for public health and safety. See also policies in the Conservation and Safety elements.
- Maintain connectivity between large open spaces in Belmont and the region, including the WDL area, San Juan Hills area, Sugarloaf Mountain, and the open space in the San Francisco Public Utility District's Crystal Springs watershed.
- Consistent with the San Juan Hills and Western Hills area plans, cluster development in the hillside areas of western Belmont in order to maintain contiguous habitat areas, minimize grading, and limit exposure to steep slopes and other sensitive areas. See also policies in the Land Use Element.
- Develop programs to control invasive plant species that threaten the natural resources.
- Continue programs to reduce the fire danger in the open space.
- Preserve and protect open space resources using various methods available to the City.
- Protect Belmont Creek from future encroachment through regulation, development review, conservation easements, or other appropriate actions.
- Seek to preserve the existing open space areas in the San Juan Hills and Western Hills, consistent with the Area Plans, especially on steep hillsides and sensitive habitat areas.
- Protect and maintain open space for the preservation of natural resources.
- Ensure that any improvements recommended for open space areas are appropriate for the type of open space and the use proposed.
- In portions of Belmont that include significant open space resources, use area plans to address the balance and interface between natural and developed areas.
- Reduce risk of wildland fire, ecological succession, and pathogen threats (such as Sudden Oak Death) through active maintenance of public spaces and education and enforcement of development standards on private property.
- Ensure that future acquisitions of open space land are compatible with the City's open space strategy and long-term interests.
- Protect and restore biological and ecological resources in Belmont, including sensitive wildlife species and their habitats.

- Support the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of habitats of State or federally listed rare, threatened, endangered and/or other sensitive and special status species, and favor enhancement of contiguous areas over small, segmented remainder parcels.
- Continue to maintain, protect, restore, and enhance Belmont's ecologically important areas and seek to reduce impacts on them, including the creek corridors, the open space, and the wetlands around O'Neill Slough.
- To the greatest extent feasible, ensure that development does not disturb sensitive habitat and special status species by requiring appropriate and feasible mitigation measures.
- Maintain functional wildlife corridors and habitat linkage in order to contribute to regional biodiversity and the viability of rare, unique or sensitive biological resources throughout the city and region.
- In design and construction, require use of best practices that preserve natural resources, such as soil, trees, native plants, and permeable surfaces.
- Avoid light pollution and unnecessary glare by requiring development projects to use design features and shielding methods that cast outdoor light downward and minimize glare and to install the minimum amount of outdoor lighting necessary for safety and security.
- Encourage the planting of native trees, shrubs, and grasslands in order to preserve the visual integrity of the landscape, provide habitat conditions suitable for native vegetation, and ensure the maximum number and variety of well-adapted plants are maintained.
- Preserve and restore Belmont's waterways and adjacent corridors as valuable community resources that serve as plant and wildlife habitats, groundwater recharge facilities, flood control and irrigation components, and connections between open space areas.
- Restore Belmont Creek to enhance ecological functions, biological resources, hydrology function, and flood control.
- Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses or provide naturalized drainage channels within the city. Where necessary and feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation measures.
- Protect, restore, and enhance a continuous corridor of native riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat along Belmont's waterways, water bodies, and wetlands.
- Preserve and enhance the natural riparian environment along waterway corridors, including Belmont Creek, by minimizing environmental and visual impacts.
- Preserve water quality by promoting the protection of Belmont's creeks and other natural water bodies from pollution.
- Continue to participate in the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program.
- Encourage residents and businesses to use best management practices (BMPs) to reduce water pollutant loads that result from daily activities, such as using landscaping chemicals and fertilizers and repairing and washing cars outdoors.
- Require development projects to incorporate structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate or reduce the projected increases in pollutant loads, in accordance with the NPDES permit guidelines.
- Ensure that the design and construction of new infrastructure elements does not contribute to stream bank or hillside erosion or creek or wetland siltation, and incorporates site design and source control BMPs, construction phase BMPs, and treatment control BMPs to minimize impacts to water quality.
- Implement water pollution prevention methods to the maximum extent practicable, supplemented by pollutant source controls and treatment.

The Western Hills Area Plan (1990)

Relevant goals and policies from the 1990 Western Hills Area Plan include the following:

- Encourage Open Space Protection: Encourage the preservation of open space in areas of scenic, natural resource, and recreational value, as well as areas that are geologically hazardous or steeply sloped. Assist private landowners in finding ways for them to manage and permanently preserve private open space.
- Preserve and maintain existing open space areas.

2.3 Methods

On March 8, 21, and 22, 2022 WRA biologists, Ivy Poisson and Brian Kearns, traversed over 10 miles of existing trails within the Study Area to:

1. Ground-truth vegetation communities obtained from the San Mateo County vegetation mapping dataset (2021)
2. Determine if existing conditions provide suitable habitat for special-status plant or wildlife species,
3. Determine the baseline conditions of habitat quality within view from the trails,
4. Conduct a qualitative trail assessment, and
5. Determine the open spaces' consistency with existing regulations and policies.

A list of incidental species observations was also compiled. Plant nomenclature follows the Jepson Flora Project (2022), except where noted. For cases in which taxonomic discrepancies occur between Baldwin et al. and the CNPS Inventory, precedence was given to the species classification used in the Inventory.

2.3.1 Sensitive Biological Communities

The San Mateo County vegetation mapping dataset (2021) was examined to provide baseline information on plant communities. Biological communities present in the Study Area were classified based on existing plant community descriptions described in the *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland 1986) and *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009). However, in some cases it is necessary to identify variants of community types or to describe non-vegetated areas that are not described in the literature. Biological communities were classified as sensitive or non-sensitive as defined by CEQA, and other applicable laws and regulations. Each biological community is given a state or global ranking, ranging from 1 to 5. These rankings are defined below, with G indicating global status, and S indicating state status for California. State and/or global rankings of 1, 2, or 3 are considered sensitive.

1 **Critically Imperiled** — At very high risk of extinction or elimination due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, very severe threats, or other factors.
2 **Imperiled** — At high risk of extinction or elimination due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.
3 **Vulnerable** — At moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors.

4 **Apparently Secure** — At fairly low risk of extinction or elimination due to an extensive range and/or many populations or occurrences, but with possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors.

5 **Secure** — At very low risk of extinction or elimination due to a very extensive range, abundant populations or occurrences, and little to no concern from declines or threats.

Non-sensitive biological communities are those communities that are not afforded special protection under CEQA, and other state, federal, and local laws, regulations and ordinances, and generally are ranked 4 or 5 on a global or state level. These communities may provide suitable habitat for some special-status plant or wildlife species and are discussed below. Sensitive biological communities are defined as those communities that are given special protection under CEQA and other applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and ordinances. Applicable laws and ordinances are discussed above. Special methods used to identify sensitive biological communities are discussed below.

Wetlands and Waters

The Study Area was surveyed at a reconnaissance level to determine if any wetlands and waters potentially subject to jurisdiction by the Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW were present. The assessment was based primarily on the presence of wetland plant indicators but may also include any observed indicators of wetland hydrology as defined by the Corps Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Corps 2008). Any potential wetland areas were identified as areas dominated by plant species with a wetland indicator status of obligate wetland (OBL), facultative wetland (FACW), or facultative (FAC) as given on the U.S. Department of Agriculture: National Wetland Plant List (Corps 2020). Evidence of wetland hydrology can include evidence such as visible inundation or saturation, surface sediment deposits, algal mats and drift lines, and oxidized root channels. Given that the site visits did not include a routine-level wetland delineation and was only reconnaissance level, soils were not examined in the field as part of this assessment. Streams were remotely mapped in ArcGIS using hydrologic modeling tools. Using the 2010 ARRA lidar dataset, streams were modeled using a 3-acre watershed with a nearest neighbor algorithm to determine flowlines.

2.3.2 Special-status Species

Potential occurrence of special-status species in the Study Area was evaluated by first determining which special-status species occur in the vicinity of the Study Area through a literature and database search. Database searches for known occurrences of special-status species were for the San Mateo and eight surrounding 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles. The following sources were reviewed to determine which special-status plant and wildlife species have been documented to occur in the vicinity of the Study Area:

- CNDDB records (CDFW 2022)
- USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation Species (USFWS 2022)
- CNPS Inventory records (CNPS 2022)
- California Bird Species of Special Concern (Shuford and Gardali 2008)
- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper (USFWS 2022)

Special status species are defined as federally or state listed species (threatened or endangered; FT, ST, FE, SE), CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC) and CDFW Fully Protected (FP). In addition to federal and state listing status for plant species, species with a California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) of 1 through 4 is also included in this report.[1] Bats are also given special consideration if they are listed by the Western Bat Working Group (WBWG) as Medium or High.[2]

2.3.3 Habitat Quality

The overall habitat quality of the Study Area was evaluated based on the cover of native versus non-native plant species, presence and extent of invasive plant species, and extent of anthropogenic disturbance. General notes and observations of plant species composition were made throughout the Study Area by WRA biologists while traversing throughout the existing trail network, followed by a review of aerial imagery, in order to assign a general value to the Study Area. This assessment is qualitative in nature and should not be interpreted to be a comprehensive assessment of each biological community that is identified within the Study Area. The definitions of habitat quality ranking are listed in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2. Habitat Quality Categories

High Quality / Mostly Intact ● Vegetation is composed of greater than 75 percent native plant cover ● Invasive species are generally absent based on visual estimates from the trail network ● Visible evidence of vegetation trampling by trail users is absent or negligible
Moderate Quality / Moderately Altered or Impacted ● Vegetation is composed of greater than 50 percent native plant cover ● Invasive species are present but was observed to be less than 50 square feet based on visual estimates from the trail ● Visible evidence of vegetation trampling by trail users is present but not extensive
Low Quality ● Vegetation is composed of less than 50 percent native plant cover based on visual estimates from the trail ● Invasive species are present, comprise more than 100 square feet, and is observed to be crowding out/negatively impacting native species within the vegetation community ● Visible evidence of vegetation trampling by trail users is present but not extensive
Low Quality / Extensively Altered or Impacted ● Vegetation is composed of less than 50 percent native plant cover based on visual estimates from the trail ● This habitat features an invasive species as a dominant or codominant in the tree/shrub/herb stratum ● Visible evidence of vegetation trampling by trail users is present and extensive

2.3.4 Trail Assessment

The purpose of the trail environmental condition assessment was to generally characterize environmental conditions on open space trails, which could be used to develop recommendations that could be implemented as part of the OSMP. A qualitative assessment of trail conditions on both mapped trails (those shown by City maps) and unmapped trails (those which are not shown on City maps) was made

[1] Definitions of CRPR ranking is available here: https://www.cnps.org/rare-plants/cnps-rare-plant-ranks

[2] WBWG "High" designation represents those species considered the highest priority for funding, planning, and conservation actions; "medium" designation indicates a level of concern that should warrant closer evaluation, more research, and conservation actions of both the species and possible threats.

based on the level of erosion and vegetation impacts observed. Categories include high, medium, and low erosion; these categories are defined in Table 2.3 below, along with a representative photo of the category. Point data were collected along the trail feature. In addition, WRA also noted if adjacent vegetation shows signs of impacts (trampling, what appears to be obvious/unsanctioned vegetation trimming). Maps of trail conditions can be found in Chapter 3.

Table 2.3. Trail Condition Categories

High	**High Erosion** There are more than two deep ruts located along the length of the trail, and there are several observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities where it causes trail users to create additional pathways to avoid this erosion feature. For this category, evidence of trail user impacts resulting from the erosion feature includes more than one of the following: trail widening, braided trails, unsanctioned trails, soil compaction, and vegetation trampling.	
Medium	**Medium Erosion** There are one or two noticeable ruts forming along the length of the trail, and there are some observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities. For this category, evidence of trail user impacts resulting from the erosion feature includes one of the following: trail widening, braided trails, unsanctioned trails, soil compaction, and vegetation trampling.	
Low	**Low Erosion** There is a shallow rill forming along the length of the trail, but there are no observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities. There is no evidence of trail users negatively impacting adjacent vegetation to avoid this erosion feature.	

2.4 Results

2.4.1 Biological Communities and Vegetation Management

Non-sensitive biological communities in the Study Area include developed areas, coast live oak woodland (*Quercus agrifolia*, S4 G5), eucalyptus groves (*Eucalyptus* spp., not ranked), coyote brush scrub (*Baccharis pilularis*, S5 G5), California sagebrush scrub (*Artemisia californica*, S5 G5), chamise chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*, S5 G5), non-native annual grassland (not ranked), and developed. Sensitive biological communities include California bay woodland (*Umbellularia californica*, S3 G4), arroyo willow thickets (*Salix lasiolepis*, S3 G4), and California buckeye groves (*Aesculus californica*, S3 G3). **Figure 2.2** and **Figure 2.3** shows the location of each biological community for WDL and SJC, respectively. Descriptions for each biological community are provided below, the mapped extent of each biological community within each open space is identified in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4. Biological Communities within the Study Area

Biological Community[1]	Natural Community[3]	WDL (acres)	SJC (acres)[5]	percent of Study Area
Non-Sensitive[4]				
broadleafed upland forest	coast live oak woodland	146.75	48.59	52.1
broadleafed upland forest	eucalyptus groves	1.59	0.05	0.4
coastal scrub	coyote brush scrub	18.82	18.45	9.9
chaparral	California sagebrush scrub	22.84	-	6.1
chaparral	chamise chaparral	52.01	-	13.9
chaparral	mixed shrub	8.97	-	2.4
valley and foothill grassland	non-native annual grassland	8.78	4.93	3.7
developed[2]		0.84	2.07	0.8
Sensitive[4]				
broadleafed upland forest	California bay woodland	22.62	-	6.0
riparian woodland	arroyo willow	7.23	5.87	3.5
riparian woodland	California buckeye groves	1.70	1.68	0.9

[1]Holland (1986), [2]Biological community not described in Holland (1986), [3]Sawyer et al. (2009), [4]Determination based on the *List of California Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2021), [5]Study area includes both public and private parcels within mapped extent.

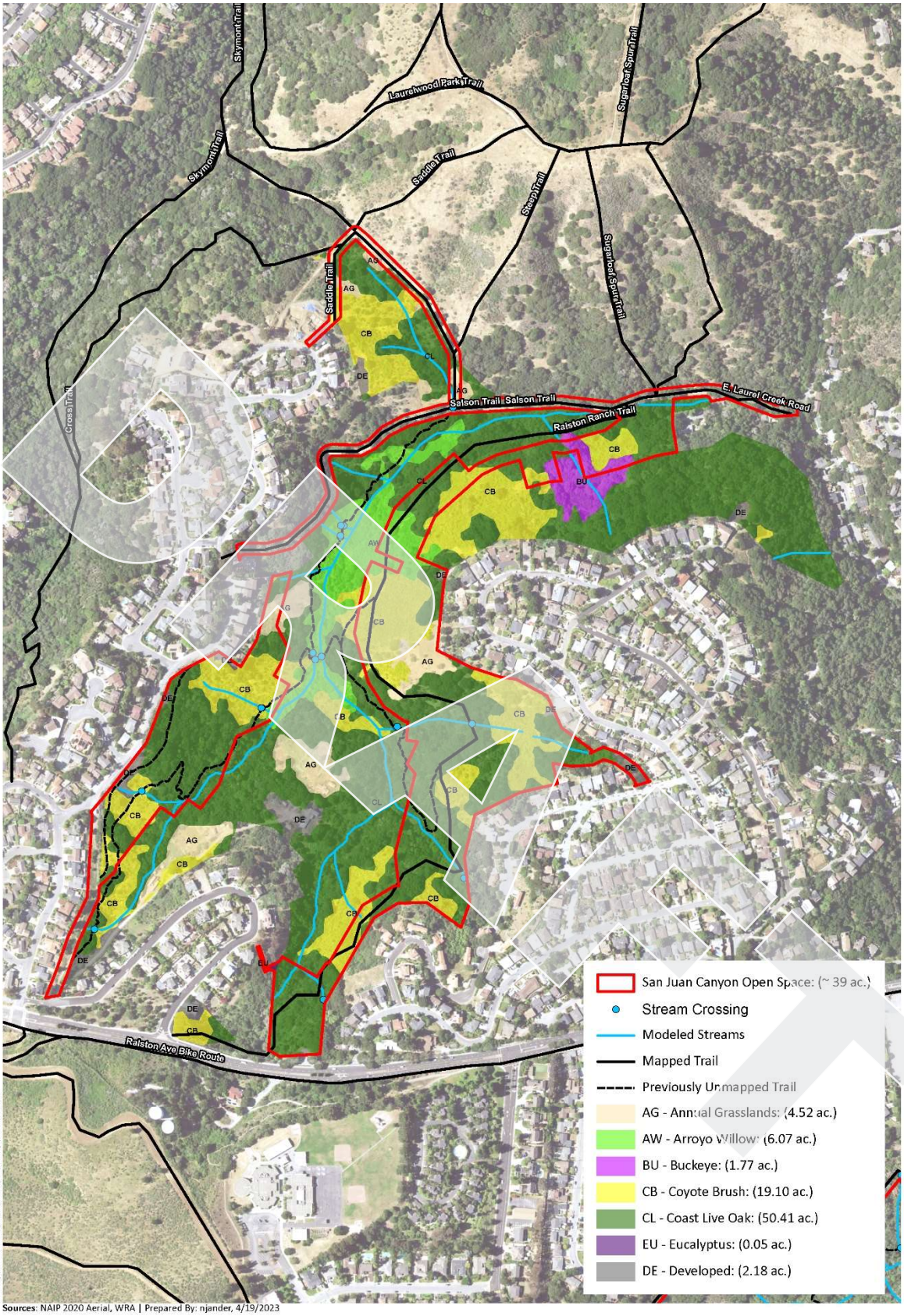


Figure 2.2. San Juan Canyon Open Space Land Cover Types

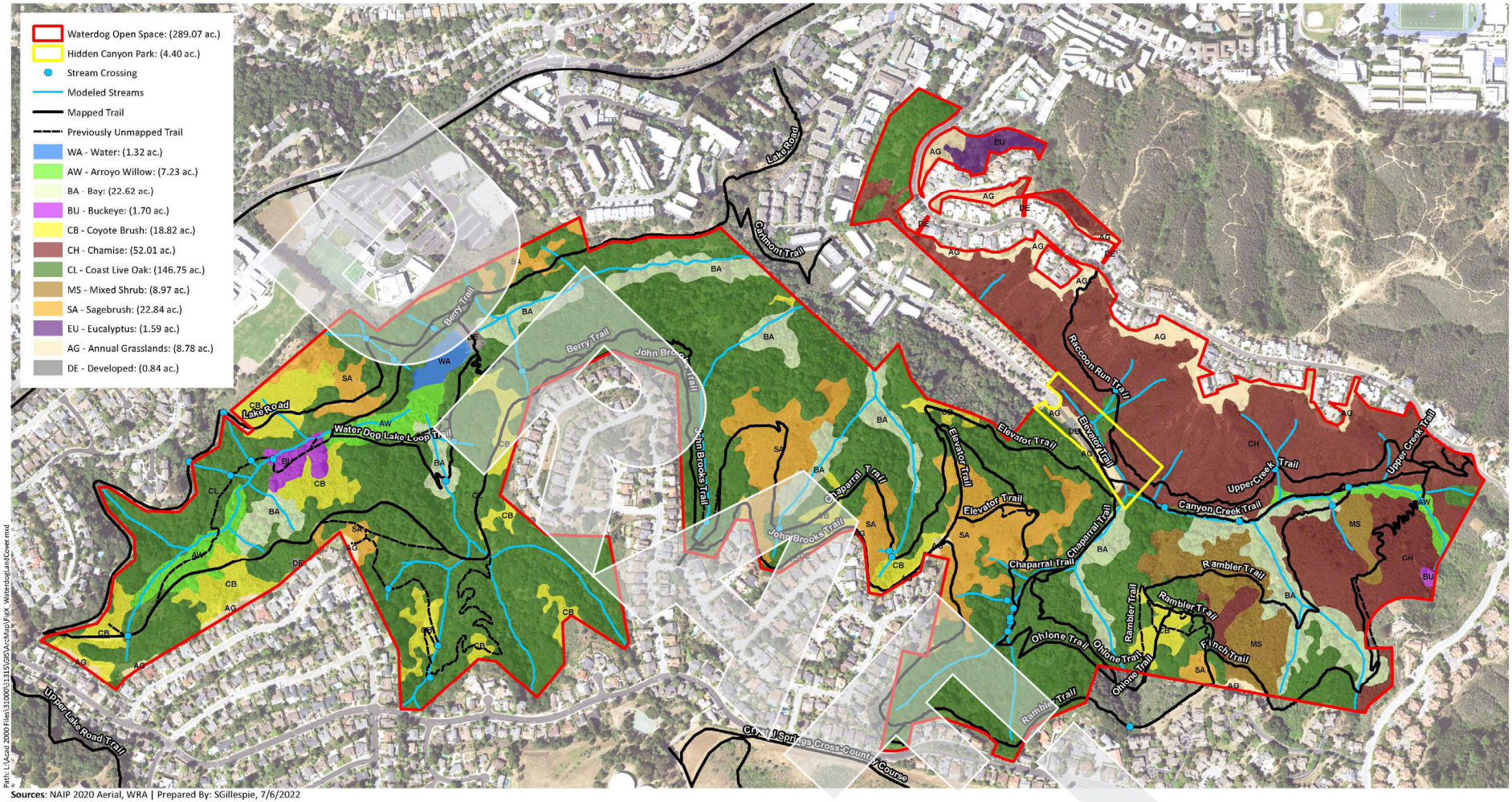
San Juan Canyon Open Space
Belmont, California
Vegetation acreage is reported for mapped extent
Boundary lines are approximate

0 200 400 Feet N

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Sources: NAIP 2020 Aerial, WRA | Prepared By: SGillespie, 7/6/2022

Figure 2.3. Waterdog Lake Open Space Land Cover Types

Waterdog Lake Open Space
Belmont, California

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Coast live oak woodland (*Quercus agrifolia*, S4 G5) are known from the outer and inner Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges, and southern coast from northern Mendocino County south to San Diego County. This vegetation community is typically located on terraces, canyon bottoms, slopes, and flats underlain by deep, well-drained sandy or loam substrates with high organic content (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, coast live oak woodlands occupy approximately 194 acres, or 51.8 percent. Coast live oak woodlands are generally found in the cooler, north-facing slopes in WDL and throughout SJC. Dominant species in the tree layer include coast live oak, California bay, and California buckeye, with coast live oak comprising greater than 50 percent of the relative cover in this stratum, with less than 30 percent relative cover of California bay. Most stands contain a relatively dense and well-developed tree canopy reducing the density of a shrub layer to scattered individuals. Shrub species observed in the coast live oak woodlands include poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), coyote brush, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), and blueblossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*). The herbaceous layer is dominated by a mix of shade tolerant native herbs and non-native, invasive forbs. Native species includes but is not limited to the following: common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), California mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), soaproot (*Chloragalum pomeridianum*), bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*). Non-native herbaceous species include oat grass (*Avena fatua*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), scarlet pimpernel (*Lysimachia arvensis*), and sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*).

Eucalyptus groves (*Eucalyptus* spp., not ranked) are known from the Coast Ranges and Central Valley, typically as planted woodlands and sheiterbelts to buffer coastal winds and provide shade. These groves are not described in Holland (1986), but are included in Sawyer et al. (2009), which describes eucalyptus groves as *Eucalyptus globulus* Semi-Natural Woodland Stands. This vegetation alliance is dominated by one of several eucalyptus species, which are not native to North America. Eucalyptus groves are frequently situated in rural and semi-urbanized settings, along streams, and coastal hills and prairies. Eucalyptus groves comprise 0.4 percent of the Study Area and is limited to a small stand within the northeastern corner of Waterdog, at the end of Cliffside Court. A small stand of trees was observed in SJC, along Ralston Ranch Road.

Coyote brush scrub (*Baccharis pilularis*, S5 G5) is described by Sawyer (2009) as known from the outer Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada Foothills from Del Norte County south to San Diego County. This vegetation community is typically located on river mouths, riparian areas, terraces, stabilized dunes, coastal bluffs, open hillsides, and ridgelines on all aspects underlain by variable substrate of sand to clay (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, this biological community often intergrades with coast live oak woodland and California sagebrush scrub, and share many of the common species found in the understory, like poison oak, California sagebrush, blue blossom, and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*).

California sagebrush scrub (*Artemisia californica*, S5 G5) is known from the outer Coast Ranges, western Transverse Range, and Peninsular Ranges from Marin County south to San Diego County. This vegetation community is typically located steep, well-drained slopes underlain by shallow alluvial and colluvial derived soils (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, California sagebrush scrub is only found within Waterdog. This community often intergrades with coast live oak woodland, California bay woodland, and coyote brush scrub. The majority of California sagebrush scrub occurs in the southeastern section of Waterdog. Coast live oak was occasionally observed within this scrub community, but the individual oak trees were still relatively small and is at low cover. Other shrub species observed include coyote brush, poison oak, and sticky monkey flower. Species within the herbaceous layer consist of a mix of native and

nonnative species; native species include purple needle grass and Pacific sanicle, non-native species include compact brome and scarlet pimpernel.

Chamise chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*, S5 G5) occurs across cismontane California in a variety of topographic settings from coastal bluffs to steep, lower montane slopes (Sawyer et al. 2009). This biological community is found only at Waterdog, on the arid, south-facing slopes. Other shrub species observed within this community include California sagebrush, coyote brush, poison oak, blueblossom, sticky monkey flower, and common manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*). Occasionally, French broom was also observed (*Genista monspessulana*). Native species observed in the herbaceous layer include purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*), manroot (*Marah fabacea*), and soap plant. Non-native species include compact brome (*Bromus madritensis*), scarlet pimpernel, and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*).

Mixed shrub (no ranking) consists of an even mix of California sagebrush, chamise, and coyote brush in the shrub layer. Since these three species are co-dominants (approx. 30 percent relative cover each), this does not fit into any of the vegetation classifications and membership rules described by the Manual of California Vegetation (CNPS 2022b). Other non-dominant shrubs include sticky monkey flower, toyon, fuchsia flowered gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), and buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*). Species observed in the herbaceous layer are similar to the other shrub-scrub communities described previously.

Non-native annual grassland (no ranking) is described by Holland (1986) as a dense to sparse cover of non-native annual grasses with flowering culms 0.2- to 1-meter-high and is often associated with numerous species of showy-flowered annual forbs. Most species found in this biological community within the Study Area include non-native grasses and forbs that are characteristic of disturbed areas. This includes oatgrass (*Avenua fatua),* black mustard (*Brassica nigra),* bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare),* common stork's bill (*Erodium botrys),* Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis),* fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare),* barley (*Hordeum murinum),* burr medic (*Medicago polymorpha)*, Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica),* English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and lesser trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*). Native species observed in this habitat type include purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*), nude buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*), California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica)*, pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), and Torrey's melic grass (*Melica torreyana*). Occasionally, there are small individuals of coast live oak or coyote brush appearing in this community, but this generally appears at less than 1 percent absolute cover – i.e., not in large enough absolute or relative cover to be classified as coast live oak woodland or coyote brush scrub. Generally, no clear dominants for any of the species listed above were observed in this habitat type; as such, there was no vegetation community from the Manual of Californica Vegetation that was suitable to be applied. Non-native annual grassland is found in both open spaces, has no ranking, and is not considered to be a sensitive habitat type.

Developed areas are areas within the park extent that have been cleared of natural vegetation communities and sometimes consist of impermeable surfaces like concrete. Developed areas are fairly limited within the open space areas (approximately 2 percent of the Study Area) and are restricted to the outer edges of the open spaces that are adjacent to residences.

California bay woodland (*Umbellularia californica*, S3 G4) are known from the inner and outer Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges, and Sierra Nevada Foothills from Del Norte County south to San Diego County. This vegetation community is typically located on terraces, canyon bottoms, north-facing slopes, and rock outcrops underlain by shallow to deep sand to loam substrates (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, this community type is found along streams in canyon bottoms and intergrades with arroyo willow

thickets. Dominant species in the tree layer include California bay and coast live oak with California bay comprising greater than 30 percent of the relative cover in this stratum. In most locations, the tree canopy is extremely dense, therefore reducing the shrub and herbaceous layers within these communities. Scattered individuals of shrubs include poison oak, and fuchsia flowered gooseberry. The herbaceous layer is relatively depauperate and dominated by shade tolerant forbs including California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*), miner's lettuce, California bedstraw (*Galium californicum*), manroot, Pacific sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), and chickweed (*Stellaria media*). California bay is a noted alternate host for sudden oak death (SOD) caused by the water mold, *Phytophthera ramorum*.

Arroyo willow thickets (*Salix lasiolepis*, S4 G4) are common throughout the state of California and consist of a canopy dominated by arroyo willows. To qualify as a true arroyo willow thicket, there must be 50 percent relative cover in the shrub or tree canopy (Keeler-Wolf et al. 2003) or at least 25 percent absolute cover. Understory plants consist of typical scrub vegetation which varies throughout the community's geographic range. This community is typically found along stream banks and benches, slope seeps, and along drainages (CNPS 2020b). Within the Study Area, arroyo willow thickets are found along canyon bottoms, adjacent to streams. Coast live oak trees are also found within the tree stratum but are typically around 10-15 percent of the relative cover. Poison oak is found growing among the arroyo willows, with stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), bee plant, common snowberry, and soap plant occurring in the herbaceous layer.

California buckeye groves (*Aesculus californica*, S3 G3) are known from the southern Cascade Range, Coast Ranges, northern Transverse Range, and Sierra Nevada Foothills from Siskiyou County south to Ventura County. This vegetation community is typically located on shallow, moderate to well-drained soils in canyons and alluvial terraces (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, California buckeye groves can be found along canyon bottoms, adjacent to streams; this commonly intergrades with the California bay and arroyo willow thickets along the riparian corridor. California buckeye groves are limited, at 0.9 percent of the Study Area. Co-dominant species within the tree stratum include California buckeye, California bay, and coast live oak. The understory is fairly depauperate, with coyote brush and stinging nettle being the most observed species.

2.4.2 Special-Status Species

Since both WDL and SJC contain similar habitats (e.g., coyote brush scrub, coast live oak woodland, arroyo willow thickets, and annual grasslands), the assessment of special-status species applies to both parks, unless otherwise noted.

A total of 94 special-status plant species and 59 special-status wildlife species were evaluated for potential to occur within the Study Area. Of these, 11 special-status plant species and 7 special-status wildlife species have moderate/high potential to occur or are present within the Study Area. Species were ruled out if the Study Area was not within the known/expected range for the species, if the Study Area does not contain suitable habitat/microhabitat necessary to support this species, or if the species is generally understood to be extirpated from the region. All plant and wildlife species observed during the March 2022 site visits are included as Attachment A. The full list of the special status-species considered for this project is listed in Attachment B**.** Each species that has moderate/high potential to occur on site, or are present, are discussed below.

Plants

Franciscan onion (*Allium peninsulare* var. *franciscanum*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present**. Franciscan onion is a perennial forb in the lily family (Liliaceae) that blooms from May to June. It typically occurs on dry hillsides underlain by clay substrate, often derived from serpentine, in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland habitat at elevations ranging from 165 to 975 feet (CDFW 2022, CNPS 2022). This species has a serpentine affinity rank of weak indicator (1.8) (Safford et al. 2005). Associated species include California bay, California buckeye, coast live oak, leather oak (*Q. durata*), and purple needlegrass (CDFW 2022). This species was documented within both WDL and SJC open spaces in 2015, located within coast live oak woodland (CDFW 2022). This species was not observed during the March site assessments; however, the surveys did not take place during the blooming period for this species and was not intended to be a rare plant survey.

Bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), CRPR 1B.2. **Moderate Potential**. Bent-flowered fiddleneck is an annual forb in the forget-me-not family (Boraginaceae) that blooms from March to June. It typically occurs in open areas within cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, and coastal bluff scrub habitat often underlain by clay substrate at elevations ranging from 10 to 1,625 feet (CDFW 2022, CNPS 2022). Associated species include coast live oak, buck brush, poison oak, common yarrow, goldenback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*), one-sided bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), and slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*) (CDFW 2022). Cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area. The nearest documented CNDDB occurrence is 1.5 southwest of SJC open space, and 1.5 miles northwest of Waterdog, in 2018 (CDFW 2022). This occurrence was in native and non-native grassland on a south-facing slope; similar habitats are found within the Study Area.

Pink star-tulip (*Calochortus comosa*), CRPR 4.2. **Moderate Potential.** Coastal scrub and meadows and seep habitat are present within the Study Area, along with seasonally moist meadows and forested habitats. The nearest occurrences are 5 miles to the northwest, within the Crystal Springs reservoir recreation area.

San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present**. San Francisco collinsia is an annual herb that blooms from March to May. It typically occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest and coastal scrub at elevations ranging from 100 to 900 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include poison oak, coyote brush, California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), snowberry, California blackberry, western leatherwood, oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii),* and California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus,* CDFW 2022). Coastal scrub habitat and moist, shady scrub or forest microhabitat is located within the Study Area boundary; there is one CNDDB occurrence in SJC and two CNDDB occurrences in WDL Open Space.

Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present**. Western leatherwood is a deciduous shrub in the mezereum family (Thymelaeaceae) that blooms from January to April, but is typically identifiable via vegetative structures into late summer and/or early fall. It typically occurs on brushy, mesic slopes in partial shade in broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, riparian forest, and riparian woodland habitat at elevations range from 165 to 1,285 feet (CDFW 2022, CNPS 2022, Baldwin et al. 2012). Associated species include coast live oak, California bay, poison oak, toyon, California buckeye, coyote brush, yerba buena (*Clinopodium douglasii*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Pacific sanicle, and Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) (CDFW 2022).

Western leatherwood has several CNDDB occurrences within WDL and was observed during trail and habitat assessment surveys in March.

California bottle-brush grass (*Elymus californicus*), CRPR 4.3. **Moderate Potential**. California bottle-brush grass is a perennial graminoid in the grass family (Poaceae) that blooms from May to November. It typically occurs along stream banks or other mesic sites within broadleaf upland forest, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, and riparian woodland habitat at elevations ranging from 45 to 1,530 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), California bay, red alder (*Alnus rubra*), California hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*), California coffeeberry, California blackberry, sword fern, hedge nettle (*Stachys ajugoides*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and woodland brome (*Bromus laevipes*) (CNPS 2022, California Consortium of Herbaria 2022). California bottle-brush grass has a moderate potential to occur in the Study Area due the presence of broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, and riparian forest habitats are located within the Study Area, and microhabitats of sandy humus soils are also present to support this species. The nearest documented CNPS occurrence is 2 miles to the northeast.

San Mateo woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum latilobum*), FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1. **High Potential.** San Mateo woolly sunflower is a perennial herb that blooms from May to June. It typically occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats at elevations ranging from 150 to 1085 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include coast live oak, California buckeye, California bay, foothill needle grass (*Stipa lepida*), California sagebrush, and white globe lily (*Calochortus albus*) (CDFW 2022). Suitable habitat of cismontane woodland and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of roadcuts are present, and most of the associated species were also observed throughout the Study Area. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 1.5 miles to the northwest, along a road.

Harlequin lotus (*Hosackia gracilis*), CRPR 4.2. **Moderate Potential.** Harlequin lotus is a perennial forb in the pea family (Fabaceae) that blooms from March to July. It typically occurs in wetlands or ditches in broadleaf upland forest, coastal scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, meadow and seep, marsh and swamp, North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland habitat at elevations ranging from 0 to 2,275 feet (CNPS 2022). This species has a wetland indicator status of facultative wetland (FACW). Associated species include coyote brush, little quaking grass (*Briza minor*), California oat grass (*Danthonia californica*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterraneanum*) (CCH2 2022). Suitable habitat of broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, and meadows and seeps and microhabitats of wetlands and roadsides are present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2 miles west of the Study Area.

Bristly leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon acicularis*), CRPR 4.2. **Moderate Potential.** Bristly leptosiphon is an annual forb in the phlox family (Polemoniaceae) that blooms from April to July. It typically occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, and valley and foothill grassland habitats at elevations ranging from 175 to 4,875 feet (CNPS 2022). Bristly leptosiphon has a moderate potential to occur within the Study Area due to the presence of associated species and vegetation types; however, this species typically occurs in natural open or herbaceous serpentine and/or volcanic areas. The nearest CNPS occurrence is 2.5 miles to the west.

Arcuate bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus arcuatus*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present.** Arcuate bush-mallow is a shrub that blooms from April to September. It typically occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland habitats

at elevations ranging from 50 to 1165 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include coast live oak, bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*), chamise, western leather wood, California sagebrush, coyote brush, and buck brush (CDFW 2022). Chaparral and cismontane woodland habitat and gravelly alluvium microhabitats are present within the Study Area, in addition to a documented CNDDB occurrence within WDL as of 2013. This species was not observed during the March 2022 trail assessment and habitat reconnaissance surveys, which was conducted before the bloom period.

Woodland woolythreads (*Monolopia gracilens*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present.** Woodland woolythreads is an annual herb that blooms from March to July. It typically occurs in broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, north coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland habitats at elevations ranging from 330 to 3935 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include yerba santa (*Eriodictyon* spp.), chamise, buck brush, poison oak, bigberry manzanita, and sticky monkey flower (CDFW 2022). Suitable habitat of broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland and microhabitat of grassy sites in openings is present to support this species. There is a CNDDB occurrence within/adjacent to Waterdog; this record was documented in the 70s, and location is approximate, not exact.

Choris's popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*), CRPR 1B.2. **Moderate Potential.** Choris's popcornflower is an annual herb that blooms from March to June. It typically occurs in chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub at elevations ranging from 10 to 525 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include common yarrow, coyote brush, common toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), brass buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*), fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), California blackberry and Buck's horn plaintain (*Plantago coronopus*) (CDFW 2022). Chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Study Area, and microhabitats of mesic sites (and low-lying depressions) are present to support this species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2 miles to the southwest.

Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*), CRPR 2B.2. **Present.** Chaparral ragwort is an annual herb that blooms from January to April. It typically occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub at elevations ranging from 50 to 2625 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), nude buckwheat, stork's bill, redstem filaree, black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California sagebrush, and soap root. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats are present within the Study Area, and there is a CNDDB occurrence within or near Waterdog.

Wildlife

Moderate or higher potential to occur

Western (Pacific) pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. The western pond turtle is the only native freshwater turtle in California. This turtle is uncommon to common in suitable aquatic habitat throughout California, west of the Sierra-Cascade crest and Transverse Ranges. Western pond turtles inhabit perennial aquatic habitats, such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and canals that provide submerged cover and suitable basking structures, such as rocks and logs (Zeiner et. al. 1990). Western pond turtles prefer to nest on unshaded upland slopes close to their aquatic habitat, and hatchlings require shallow water with relatively dense emergent and submergent vegetation for foraging for aquatic invertebrates (Jennings and Hayes 1994).

A small number of turtles were briefly observed swimming in WDL, although it could not be determined whether the turtles were invasive red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta*) or pond turtles. Turtle habitat in general within the Study Area is limited to WDL, as no other perennial water bodies of this size exist. Emergent vegetation is present on the side of the lake most distant from the existing dam, and downed timber and rocky shorelines could provide suitable basking sites. Breeding habitat at this location would mostly be limited to the slope against the existing levee, which appears highly trafficked by recreational users. Given the presence of suitable habitat and the observation of turtles in WDL, it is highly likely that native turtles such as western pond turtle could be present in this aquatic habitat and occasionally in adjacent uplands.

Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. The olive-sided flycatcher is a summer resident in California, wintering in Latin America. It breeds in a variety of forested habitats, typically coniferous forests at higher elevations, but also in mixed forest and woodlands at lower elevations. Breeding habitat is often associated with forest openings and edges, both natural (e.g., meadows, canyons) and man-made (e.g., logged areas) (Altman and Sallabanks 2012). Nests are usually in conifers, and placed at variable height on the outer portions of branches. This species forages for insects, usually from prominent tree snags.

Although this species was not observed during site visits, mixed low-elevation forests are common within the Study Area and could support nesting by this species. This species may be more commonly observed foraging within the Study Area.

White tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), CDFW Fully Protected Species. The white-tailed kite is resident in open to semi-open habitats throughout the lower elevations of California, including grasslands, savannahs, woodlands, agricultural areas and wetlands. Vegetative structure and prey availability seem to be more important habitat elements than associations with specific plants or vegetative communities (Dunk 1995). Nests are constructed mostly of twigs and placed in trees, often at habitat edges. Nest trees are highly variable in size, structure, and immediate surroundings, ranging from shrubs to trees greater than 150 feet tall (Dunk 1995). This species preys upon a variety of small mammals, as well as other vertebrates and invertebrates.

While this species is usually observed in closer proximity to San Francisco Bay, higher elevation areas characterized by small trees interspersed with grasses and low shrubs could provide nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the Study Area.

San Francisco (saltmarsh) common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. This subspecies of the common yellowthroat is found in freshwater marshes, coastal swales, riparian thickets, brackish marshes, and saltwater marshes. Their breeding range extends from Tomales Bay in the north, Carquinez Strait to the east, and Santa Cruz County to the south. This species requires thick, continuous cover such as tall grasses, tule patches, or riparian vegetation down to the water surface for foraging and prefers willows for nesting (Shuford and Gardali 2008).

Although this species is more typically documented nesting in salt marshes around the San Francisco Bay Area, more isolated patches of riparian vegetation within the Study Area could potentially support nesting by this species. This type of vegetation exists around WDL and along stream drainages adjacent to trails.

Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), WBWG Medium. Hoary bats are highly associated with forested habitats in the western United States, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. They are a solitary species and roost primarily in foliage of both coniferous and deciduous trees, near the ends of branches, usually at the edge of a clearing. Roosts are typically 10 to 30 feet above the ground. This species tolerates a wide range of temperatures and has been captured at air temperatures between 0 and 22 degrees Celsius. They usually emerge late in the evening to forage, typically from just over one hour after sunset to after midnight.

Many of the CNDDB occurrences in the immediate vicinity that document this species are older "specimen samples" from the early 1900's. However, this species is known to occur in forested habitats within the San Francisco Bay Area and immediate vicinity. Forested habitats within the Study Area, particularly in the vicinity of riparian areas that could provide sources of forage, should thus be considered to have moderate potential to support Hoary bat and other non-status bats with baseline protections.

San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. This subspecies of the dusky-footed woodrat occurs in the Coast Ranges between San Francisco Bay and the Salinas River (Matocq 2004). Occupied habitats are variable and include forest, woodland, riparian areas, and chaparral. Woodrats feed on woody plants, but will also consume fungi, grasses, flowers, and acorns. Foraging occurs on the ground and in bushes and trees. This species constructs robust stick houses/nests in areas with moderate cover and a well-developed understory containing woody debris. Breeding takes place from December to September. Individuals are active year-round and generally nocturnal.

Woodrat houses were observed widely throughout the Study Area, both along riparian strips and in more upland thickets of various types of shrubs. Densest concentrations of houses, however, were observed along creek drainages. While no individual woodrats were observed, this species should be assumed to have potential to nest in any portion of the Study Area with a relatively dense understory.

American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. The American badger is a large, semi-fossorial member of the Mustelidae (i.e. weasel family). It is found uncommonly within the region in drier open stages of most scrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats where friable soils and prey populations are present. Badgers are typically solitary and nocturnal, digging burrows to provide refuge during daylight hours. Burrow entrances are usually elliptical (rather than round), and each burrow generally has only one entrance. Young are born in the spring and independent by the end of summer. Badgers are carnivores, preying on a variety of fossorial mammals (especially ground squirrels) and occasionally other vertebrates and their eggs. Home ranges for this species tend to be large, depending on the habitat available; population density averages one badger per square mile in prime open country (Long 1973).

This species is likely to avoid highly trafficked areas where trails have been relatively compacted, or densely forested or vegetated habitats that dominate the Study Area. However, friable soils and more open habitats exist in higher elevation locations within the Study Area that could support this species. It thus has moderate potential to occur.

Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*), CDFW Candidate Species**.** Mountain lions are the second largest felid in North America and have the largest geographic range of any carnivore in the western hemisphere that stretches from southern Chile to the Canadian Yukon (CDFW online, accessed 10/19/2023). This large distribution speaks to the extreme adaptability of the species with respect to its ability to exploit a great variety of different habitats. This adaptability is largely explained by the species' ability to thrive across a

huge range of environmental conditions. Mountain lions are mobile predators of the landscapes that they inhabit, with home ranges within the Santa Cruz mountains estimated to be between 40 and 150 square miles. Males tend to defend smaller territories against other males and females tend to have larger territories that may overlap with other lion's territories. Deer and smaller mammals make up the majority of mountain lion diets and their hunting activities are mostly nocturnal.

The Study Area represents a pocket of marginally suitable habitat, largely surrounded by urban development. Highway 280 represents a major barrier to dispersal from more suitable habitat in the Santa Cruz mountains, and areas to the west are very densely populated. While some mountain lions may occasionally pass through the Study Area, it is likely that most mountain lions would not traverse into this area due to offsite barriers and onsite recreational activities that are currently present. The Study Area may be temporarily attractive to an individual mountain lion with a higher than typical tolerance for anthropogenic disturbance. However, it is unlikely that the site would remain occupied by a mountain lion for extended periods due to its limited size and correspondingly limited prey availability. Because the species is so adaptable, if disturbed they would simply move on to another, more suitable part of their range.

Unlikely to occur

California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). Federal Threatened, CDFW Species of Special Concern. The California red-legged frog (CRLF) is the only native "pond frog" found throughout much of California. Suitable aquatic breeding habitat is characterized by deep and still or slow-moving water associated with emergent marsh and/or riparian vegetation, typically with at least 20 weeks of continuous inundation (USFWS 2010). Suitable features include ponds (perennial and non-), streams/creeks, seasonal wetlands, springs, seeps, man-made features (e.g. stock ponds, roadside ditches), marshes, dune ponds, and lagoons. Dependent upon local conditions, CRLF may complete its entire life cycle in a particular habitat patch (e.g., a perennial pond suitable for all life stages), or utilize multiple habitat types. In aquatic features that dry down seasonally, CRLFs often undergo aestivation (a period of inactivity) during the dry months, retreating to small mammal burrows or other substrates that provide suitable refugia (Thomson et al. 2016). Adults and sub-adults (newly metamorphosed individuals) may disperse from breeding habitats to nearby riparian and/or aestivation areas in the summer. Conversely, during the rainy season CRLFs may migrate from aestivation sites to waters suitable for breeding. During such dispersals, frogs can travel over one mile over a variety of topographic and habitat types (Bulger et al. 2003). Upland dispersal habitats are variable and typically include riparian corridors, grasslands, and oak savannas.

CRLF has been documented to occur in the vicinity of the Study Area, mainly within Crystal Springs reservoir and wetlands immediate adjacent (CDFW 2022). However, no occurrences have been documented within the Study Area or in locations immediately adjacent. Interstate 280 also constitutes a near complete dispersal barrier for this species, except in locations where hydrologic connectivity allows passage of this species from known occupied habitats and source populations (e.g., San Mateo Creek). The Study Area does not contain any potential corridors that would allow the passage of this species from known occupied habitats to habitats within the Study Area. Potentially suitable breeding habitats for this species within the Study Area are also extremely limited, given that most stream features are intermittent or ephemeral and do not possess appropriate vegetation for the attachment of egg sacks. WDL has potentially suitable habitat for this species given that it is a perennial water body, but to WRA's knowledge the species has not been identified within this water body and dispersal to this isolated location is unlikely.

Considering barriers to dispersal and the relative lack of suitable habitat, CRLF is unlikely to occur within the Study Area.

2.4.3 Habitat Quality

Except for developed portions of the site, eucalyptus groves, and the non-native annual grassland, the plant species observed within the Study Area are mostly native. This is also demonstrated by the biological communities listed in the previous section; over 90 percent of the Study Area consists of native biological communities. Invasive species were observed but were generally limited to patches of less than 50 square feet and represent a small portion of the overall Study Area. Unsurprisingly, the primary cause of vegetation impacts is from unauthorized trails and the inadvertent expanded width of trails (resulting from braided trails).

As such, the overall habitat quality of the Study Area is high quality to moderate quality, with the areas adjacent to trails and residential development generally being moderate quality. Areas adjacent to development/residential tend to be disturbed, via fire breaks that are then recolonized by non-native species annual species (non-native annual grassland). Some areas adjacent to homes were observed to have large patches of ice plant, and vegetation clearing where the tops of coast live oak and other shrubs were removed. Areas with limited anthropogenic influence (set back from residential uses and major trails), have high quality habitat.

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2.4.4 Trail Environmental Conditions

The number of instances where erosion was noticed on both mapped and unmapped trails is shown in Table 2.5. The instances of erosion are categorized by the qualitative level, low, medium, high. In addition, approximately 50 stream crossings were identified along existing trails, and these crossings varied in terms of crossing mechanism. This ranges from a free-span wooden footbridge to a plank placed across the stream, to stepping stones.

Table 2.5. Trail Erosion Instances

Location	Low Erosion	Medium Erosion	High Erosion	Total Erosion Instances
WDL				
Mapped trails	127 (56%)	77 (34%)	25 (11%)	229
Unmapped trails	59 (83%)	7 (10%)	6 (8%)	71
SJC				
Mapped trails	5 (38%)	7 (54%)	1 (8%)	13
Unmapped trails	11 (85%)	2 (15%)	0 (0%)	13

2.4.5 Wildfire Hazard Analysis

Wildfire Hazards

However, according to the Safety Element of the 2035 City of Belmont General Plan WDL lies within the Very High Fire Hazard Zone, and SJC lies with the High Fire Hazard Zone (City of Belmont, 2017). These hazard ratings are based on multiple factors including:

- Vegetation type and density
- Topography (fires that start on slopes tend to travel uphill)
- Weather (including wind speed and direction, and relative humidity)
- Potential Fire Behavior (e.g., flame lengths, ability to generate embers)
- Potential to damage human life and structures

The two open space areas include steeply sloped, vegetated areas adjacent to residential areas and thus have been assigned relatively high wildfire hazard ratings. Figures 2.2 and 2.3 depict vegetation types across the city's two open space areas. The majority of vegetation in WDL and SJC is coastal live oak.

According to the *Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan* prepared by East Bay Regional Park District (2010), the following fuel reduction methods are typically used to reduce wildfire fuels on Bay Area open space lands:

- Hand Labor;
- Mechanical Treatment;
- Chemical Treatment;
- Prescribed Burning and;
- Grazing.

Due to the configuration of, access to, and slopes within the WDL open space area, the only practical treatments for wildfire fuel reduction are hand labor and grazing. In contrast, SJC has better access for vehicles and large types of equipment, and therefore could be appropriate for using mechanical treatments to reduce wildfire fuels. Due to the proximity of Belmont's residential areas to adjacent open space areas, neither chemical treatment nor prescribed burning are recommended as fuel reduction treatments.

Fuel Hazards by Vegetation Types

Both ignition potential and fuel hazards are rated depending on the vegetation type as shown in Table 2.6.

Table 2.6. Fire Hazard Rating for Fuel Types Vegetation Type

Vegetation Type	Hazard Rating	Ignition Potential[1]
Grasslands and Herbaceous Vegetation		
Coastal Prairie	Moderate	2
Serpentine Bunchgrass Grasslands	Low	2
California Annual Grasslands	Moderate	1
Ruderal Vegetation	Moderate	3
Scrub Vegetation		
Maritime Chaparral (Manzanita-Chinquapin)	Extreme	6
North Coastal Scrub-Xeric	Extreme	4
North Coastal Scrub-Mesic	High	8
Coyote Brush Scrub	High	4
Non-native Scrub	High	6
Woodlands and Forest Plantations		
Mature Eucalyptus Forest	High	1

Vegetation Type	Hazard Rating	Ignition Potential[1]
Young Eucalyptus Forest	High	2
Mature Monterey Pine Forest	Moderate to High	2
Young Monterey Pine Forest	High	2
Oak-Bay Woodland	Low	6-8
Redwood Forest	Low	8
Riparian Woodland	Low	8

Source: Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan, EBRPD, 2010
1-ignition potential was ranked 1 to 10, where the highest potential is represented by a "1" and the lowest potential is ranked by a "10."

Wildfires tend to start in vegetation that ignites easily such as annual grasslands, or coastal scrub. Once ignited, these vegetation types have a significant influence on a wildfire's rate of spread. Woodland areas tend to ignite much more slowly than grassland and shrub vegetation types, but once ignited can contribute to greater heat per unit area, and higher flame lengths. Under extreme weather conditions all vegetation types have the ability to contribute to a wildfire's rate of spread, heat per unit area, and flame length.

The majority (approximately 147 acres) of vegetation in the WDL open space area is coastal live oak (Figure 2.3), which has a low hazard rating and ignition potential, since it is associated with oak-Bay woodland. This situation also applies to the SJC open space area, with the majority of vegetation there mapped as coastal live oak. However, the area west of Hastings Drive is classified as chamise which is associated with the North Coastal Scrub-Xeric vegetation type, and has an extreme fuel hazard rating. Based on aerial photograph review, there is a buffer of grass or no vegetation between much of the housing west of Hastings Drive and the chamise vegetation on the open space. The city engages in wildfire fuel reduction activities in the WDL open space area, as depicted in Figures 2.4 and 2.5. There were three areas that were treated in 2021, and another group of areas treated in 2019 and 2021, also shown in Figures 2.4 and 2.5.

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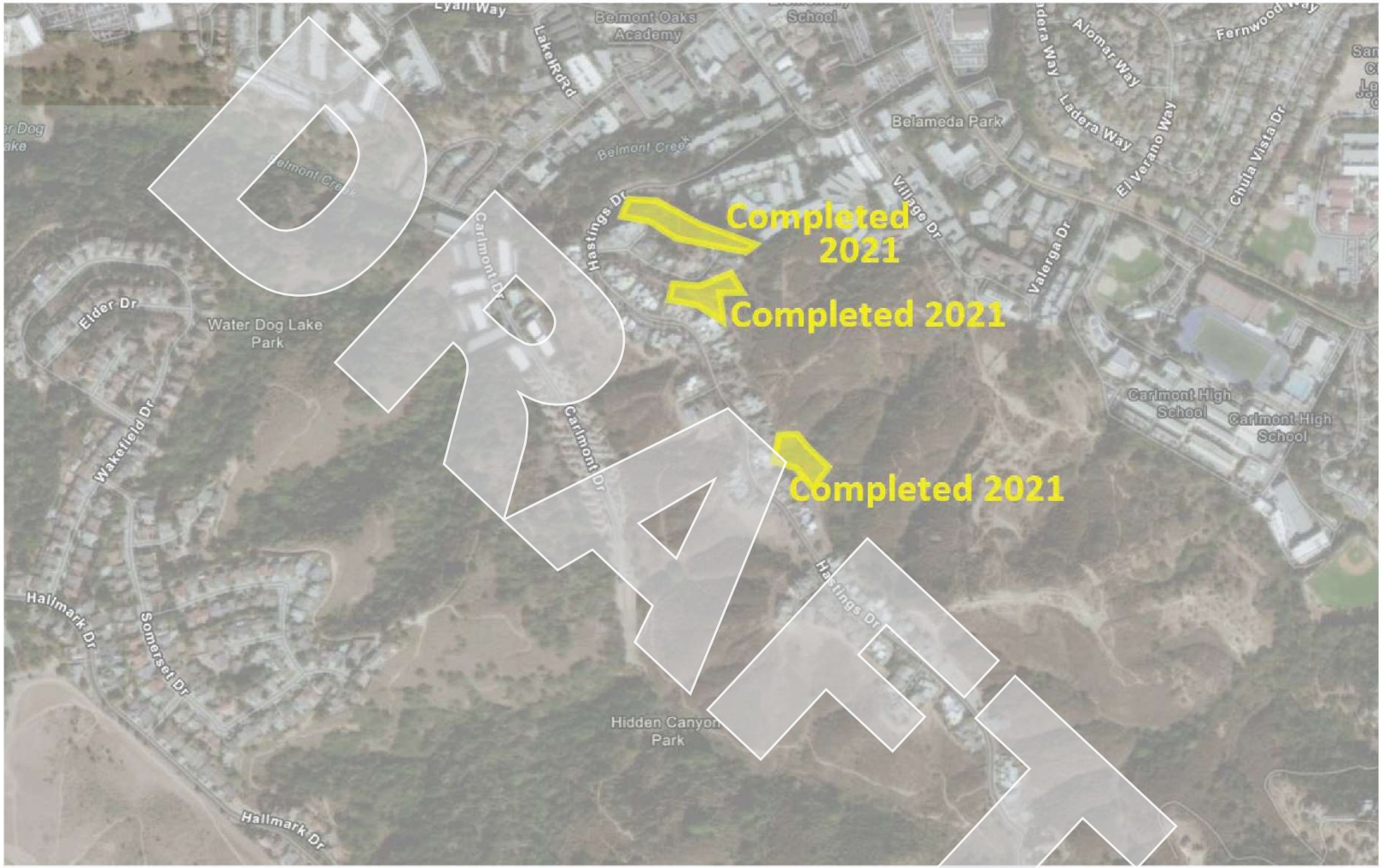


Figure 2.4. Wildfire Fuel Reduction Areas Near Hastings Drive

Waterdog Lake Open Space
Belmont, CA

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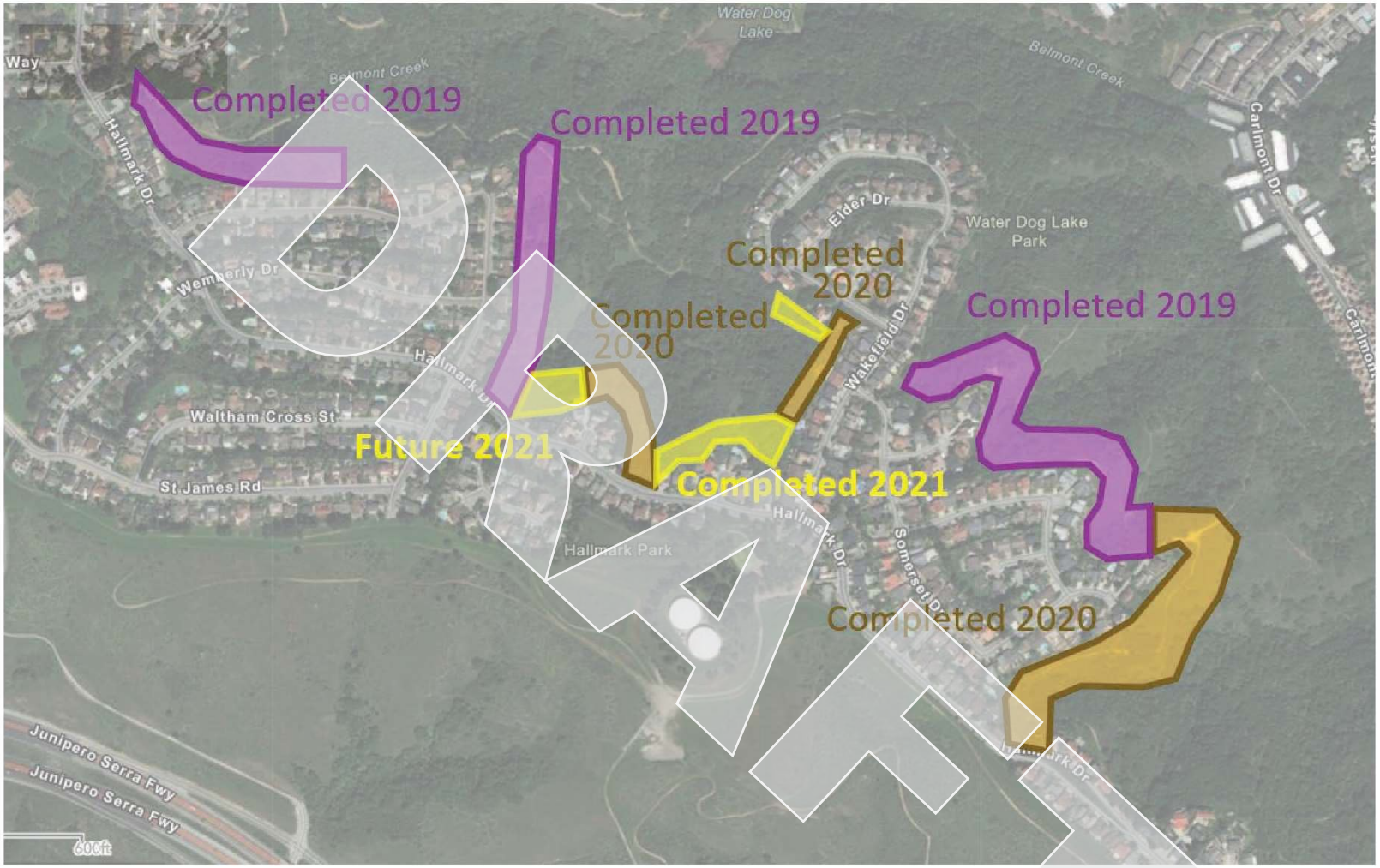


Figure 2.5. Wildfire Fuel Reduction Areas Near Hallmark Drive

Waterdog Lake Open Space
Belmont, CA

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2.5 Conclusions and Considerations

2.5.1 Habitat and Species

Although the habitat within the open space areas appears to be in good health, there are still management considerations that can ensure this valuable community resource continues to thrive, for both residents and wildlife alike. The following conclusions and considerations are a result of observations from the reconnaissance site visits and community feedback.

Sudden Oak Death

Sudden oak death (SOD, or *Phythopthora ramorum*) is a pathogen that is a common management concern for Belmont's Open Spaces. Although SOD has been detected in San Mateo County (and much of the west coast), there are no current or active cases reported by statewide, citizen science SOD mapping efforts through Calinvasives or University of California Berkeley's SODmap (Calflora 2022 and UC Berkeley 2022). There are no reported cases in SJC open space, and there are three confirmed positive cases documented in Waterdog. These three cases are located along Lake Road Trail on a bay tree in 2014, one along Berry trail on a coast live oak tree in 2008, and another off-trail (southwest of Berry Trail) on a bay tree in 2013. However, these cases are inactive according to follow-up visits to the same infected trees as part of the Calinvasives mapping program in 2016, 2016, and 2014, respectively (Calflora 2022).

Although there are no known active cases according to these databases, it is still possible that SOD is present and dormant within Belmont's Open Spaces. Therefore, recommendations for SOD management include adding educational signage and decontamination equipment at all trailheads for these open spaces. Educational signage may include but is not limited to the following: photos that show what symptoms of SOD look like, how to report cases to the citizen science programs mentioned previously (if observed), how to reduce the risk of spread by avoiding trails 24-48 hours after a significant precipitation event and encouraging trail users to remove tracked mud found on the bottom of shoes and bike tires. Decontamination stations located at access points may include boot brushes and 70 percent isopropyl alcohol spray bottles that are mounted to the educational signage.

Invasive Species

Several observations of invasive species were detected within WDL and SJC.[3] This includes ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*, Cal-IPC: High), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*, Cal-IPC: High), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*, Cal-IPC: High), and English ivy (*Hedera helix*, Cal-IPC: High). Trail working groups like Friends of the WDL and WDL Trailkeepers indicated current efforts to control these species, and these efforts were observed during the site assessment. For example, only the vegetative (non-flowering)

[3] *Invasive species are typically defined as California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) species rated Moderate or High. Species ranked as "high" is defined as "… species [that] have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Most are widely distributed ecologically." Moderate is defined as "… species [that] have substantial and apparent—but generally not severe—ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal, though establishment is generally dependent upon ecological disturbance. Ecological amplitude and distribution may range from limited to widespread."*

portions of pampas grass were observed, as someone had removed the flowering heads to prevent the species from re-seeding.

Recommendations for managing invasive species found within the Study Area include early detection and response. Early detection and response are best management practices for invasive species control that focuses monitoring for new or spreading occurrences of undesirable species, then applies the most effective management action for the control of the species. For example, if an invasive species is primarily spread via seed, then attempts would be made to remove the flowering portion of the plant before the seeds have a chance to develop, mature, and spread. Another example would be species that spread via rhizome/stolons; the entire plant would be manually removed to prevent further spread.

Public community meetings for the open space planning efforts indicate that volunteer groups already have this type of program in place; therefore, continued collaboration between the City and community groups would be helpful for invasive species control efforts. Another advantage of the SOD decontamination stations (brushes and rubbing alcohol) also reduces the inadvertent introduction of weedy species by trail users.

Additional Surveys

Due to the large Study Area and number of special-status species with potential to occur, protocol-level surveys for special-status species with high or moderate potential to occur are recommended for any ground or vegetation disturbing activities. Having clearly defined project footprints, or smaller study areas, for protocol-level surveys will allow the City to use resource management budget wisely and comply with applicable federal, state, and local policies. This is because the number of species with potential to occur may be tailored based on the habitat present within the project footprint and will generally result in reduced species that need protocol-level surveys to determine presence/absence.

Generally, appropriately timed work can avoid or minimize impacts to special-status species and sensitive natural resources. For example, vegetation management activities should take place during September through January to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Nesting bird season is generally accepted as February 1 through August 31 for the City of Belmont. Another example includes conducting ground disturbance activities during the dry season (June through October) when possible, particularly if the project footprint will be located near waterways.

Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Opportunities

While most of the habitats found within the open spaces were in good condition, there are still opportunities for habitat enhancement and restoration, particularly within the non-native annual grassland and creek crossing spots within riparian corridors. As stated in the habitat description, the non-native annual grassland was observed to have mostly non-native species, with some native grasses and forbs. The presence of small patches of purple needlegrass (perennial bunchgrass) found in the understory of shrubs and within disturbed areas is promising, and this could be expanded by additional seeding, or planting more plugs of other perennial native bunchgrasses to compete with the non-native annuals. This should be followed up by monitoring these re-seeded or revegetated areas, with some supplemental water to help perennial bunchgrasses get established.

Generally, stream crossings should be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. Paths may be re-routed or consolidated to reduce the number of stream crossings. Retired crossings should be decommissioned

by placing signs indicating trail closure and habitat restoration, with physical barriers placed, like logs, while vegetation is filling back in. Vegetation will generally grow back in abandoned trails, but intervention may be needed if soil compaction or vegetation impacts are extensive. Revegetation methods like willow staking are common in riparian restoration efforts and would be appropriate for most creek crossing decommissioning locations within the open space. Where crossings are inevitable, a hydrologically appropriate crossing (that allows passage during high water flow events) should be planned and placed. This helps the waterway take its natural course with minimal anthropogenic influence, like increased erosion due to mechanical erosion from trail users. Collaborations between the City and with citizen science groups or volunteer groups could help ensure the success of these efforts.

2.5.2 Wildfire Hazard Reduction

Based on the wildfire hazard analysis, the following considerations are offered:

- If the city desires a more aggressive fuel treatment plan, develop and implement an annual fuel treatment plan.
- Maintain the currently treated areas as depicted in Figures 2.4 and 2.5.
- Evaluate wildfire fuel conditions in SJC for possible treatment. There are multiple areas with coyote brush scrub that could be treated to reduce wildfire hazards.
- Continue to maintain the low vegetation area west of Hastings Drive, and consider expanding this area downhill, subject to avoiding nesting bird season, and any other types of environmental requirements.

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3.0 Recreation Use Assessment and Benchmarking

3.1 Purpose

This section describes current and potential open space recreation trends and summarizes best practices for trail usage, layout and maintenance within the City of Belmont. The Recreation Use Assessment and Benchmarking section draws from the findings of the Environmental Assessment presented in Chapter 2. The recommendations in this assessment were used to inform the Management Plan. This section includes an overview of regional surveys of open space related to outdoor recreation activity participation and recreation trends and their implications for the OSMP. Considerations for assessing future recreation use and trail conditions are provided, and an overview of best practices for trail construction, maintenance, and management is included.

Belmont Parks and Recreation Department staff indicated that common activities on open space areas are walking/running, biking, and dog walking. These types of activities are generally referred to as passive, which makes the recreation use occurring on Belmont's open space lands consistent with existing policies.

3.2 Current Outdoor Recreational Participation

Current and potential future recreation uses of the Belmont open space areas were assessed by examining national, statewide, regional surveys of outdoor recreation participation, as well as results from the community survey for the PROS Plan. Nationally, about 50 percent of people participate in outdoor recreation activities (Outdoor Foundation, 2022). According to the 2012 *Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures* report, nationally, both how long and how often people spend time outdoors have increased over the previous 15 years (Cordell, 2012). However, the 2012 *Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California*, suggested that the amount of time California respondents spend in outdoor recreation activities had remained roughly the same over the previous five years (California State Parks, 2014). This same study found that common activities for respondents were walking, hiking, and picnicking.

California State Parks (2014) also found that over 38 percent of San Francisco Bay Area respondents[4] visited parks at least once a week and about 27 percent used trails at least once a week. San Francisco Bay Area respondents also reported that their time spent at parks was increasing. Additionally, the most common activities reported by San Francisco Bay Area respondents were walking, hiking, and picnicking.

A study of visitors to San Mateo County parks found that respondents most often reported walking/hiking and running while much smaller proportions of visitors reported biking (Roberts et al., 2016). Respondents also indicated that they visited the parks to improve their physical fitness, be with family/friends, connect with nature, improve mental well-being, dog walking, and experience scenic views.

According to the 2021 *Belmont Parks, Outdoor Recreation Programs and Open Space Community Survey,* respondents typically visited open space areas multiple times per week, typically for a duration of 1-2 hours or more, and typically for the purposes of exercising, communing with nature, and experiencing peace and quiet ("Belmont Parks, Outdoor Recreation Programs and Open Space Community Survey," 2021). Survey respondents reported living not only in the City of Belmont, but also in nearby

[4] *Respondents comprised of residents from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma counties.*

neighborhoods in San Mateo, San Carlos, and Redwood City. Belmont Parks and Recreation Department staff indicated that common activities on open space areas are walking/running, biking, and dog walking. These types of activities are generally referred to as passive, which makes the recreation use occurring on Belmont's open space lands consistent with existing policy on all parcels, including the John Brooks parcel.

Both anecdotal and documented evidence has shown increased use at park and recreation resources throughout the San Francisco Bay Area since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, WRA conducted a study in San Mateo County Parks that showed a 40 percent increase in use of Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Parks from 2019 to 2020. Indeed, in 2020, more Americans reported participating in outdoor recreation than ever before (Outdoor Foundation, 2022). However, the Outdoor Foundation found that as many as 25 percent of participants reported that they were unlikely to continue their activities once pandemic impacts subsided. In fact, National Park Service visitation in 2021 was lower compared to the 3 years preceding the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (National Park Service, 2022). Therefore, it is possible that Belmont Open Space Areas experienced a surge in visitor use during 2020, but that use levels have decreased to pre-pandemic levels in 2022.

3.3 Recreation Trends and Implications

3.3.1 Cycling and e-bikes

In general, cycling participation has been rising in recent years, especially in large cities like San Francisco (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, 2022). One likely contributor to cycling participation is the growing use of electric pedal assist bicycles (e-bikes) which have had sales increase nearly 50% per year since 2013 (PeopleForBikes, 2017). In addition, e-bike use on trails within parks and protected areas appears to be increasing (PeopleForBikes, 2017). Though mountain biking participation is also increasing nationally (Newcomb, 2020), whether e-bikes are driving this increase is actively being researched (Federal Highway Administration, 2022). According to the 2020 study *E-bikes on Public Lands*, the majority of e-bike owners who ride on natural surface trails (henceforth: trails) reported owning multiple standard bikes in addition to an e-bike (Perry and Casey, 2020). This finding suggests that existing cyclists are the primary users of e-bikes on trails rather than those who are new to cycling. The implication for this that the number of cyclists on trails may not be increasing dramatically, but rather existing cyclists on trails are switching to e-bikes instead of standard bikes.

Some concerns over the use of e-bikes on trails have been focused on the potential for increased environmental impacts due to e-bikes being heavier, having wider tires, or being able to be ridden further than traditional bikes (Chaney et al., 2019). However, it has been found that e-bikes are essentially equivalent to traditional mountain bikes in terms of trail impact effects (The International Mountain Bicycling Association, 2015). Alternatively, riders of standard mountain bikes have historically expressed concerns about visitor conflict and e-bike riders' behavior potentially resulting in getting all bikes banned from trails, but tensions seem to have eased in recent years as general bike restrictions have not come to fruition (Felton, 2015).

Under California Vehicle Code (§ 312.5), e-bikes are considered bicycles, not motor vehicles, and are divided into three classes, where Class 1 e-bikes require pedaling to gain electric assist and have a maximum speed of 20mph. Class 2 bikes with throttle-controlled motor and Class 3 allow higher speeds, up to 20 mph and 28mph, respectively. References to e-bikes in this discussion refer solely to Class 1 as agencies that typically allow e-bikes on trails limit the policy to Class 1. Still, agency policies regulating Class 1 e-bikes on trails vary widely. The National Park Service has adopted the policy that e-bikes are

allowed wherever bicycles are allowed (General Provisions; Electric Bicycles, 2020). California State Parks only allows e-bikes on trails in certain park types, i.e. e-bikes are allowed on trails in State Recreation Areas, while e-bikes are not allowed on trails in State Parks (California State Parks, 2021).[5] East Bay Regional Parks District allows e-bikes only on select paved paths (East Bay Regional Parks District, 2019). More recently, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) -which does not allow e-bikes on trails - commissioned a set of studies to investigate visitor perceptions and ecological impacts of e-bikes. A report on these studies to the Board of Directors submitted in March 2022 included a recommendation that e-bikes be allowed wherever bikes were allowed (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 2022). However, the Board decided on June 29, 2022 against the recommendations and to uphold the ban of e-bikes on trails – with the exception of 6.5 miles of paved roads and paths.

3.3.2 Electric transportation devices

The use of other electric transportation devices, such as electric skateboards, has the potential to increase usage on trails in open space lands. In fact, major manufacturers of electric skateboards already market some models for trail or "all-terrain" use.[6] Additionally, electric transportation devices can often be categorized as powered mobility devices which are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (Department of Justice, 2014).

3.3.3 General trends

More general recreation trends indicate that photography and nature-based activities have been increasing in popularity, replacing more traditional outdoor activities like fishing and hunting (Cordell, 2012). In addition, the *Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California* found latent demand for some activities where respondents reported that they wanted to start participating or participate more in picnicking and camping activities (California State Parks, 2014). Implications for these trends may include a decrease in fishing in WDL and an increase in shoreline picnicking.

3.4 Assessing Recreation Use

3.4.1 Visitation and Recreation Use

To better gauge recreation use levels on open space lands in the face of emerging trends, many parks assess recreation use. Recreation use is typically categorized as follows: who the visitors are, what activities they do, where they go, and how many visits a site receives (aka visitation). Measuring recreation use can provide monthly, seasonal, and annual data for visitation, but also can be used for funding requests, facility planning, utility capacity estimates, future open space planning, and management actions. Understanding the visitors and their perceptions can help the City meet visitor preferences for recreation for open space areas, evaluate the effectiveness of the diversity, inclusion, and equity goals of the PROS Plan. A brief discussion of recreation use assessment options are provided below. Table 3.1 outlines brief pros and cons of the assessment options as well as what types of data they can be used to collect. Note that the type of technology, survey questions, or locations of data collection must be selected appropriately for the desired data type.

[5] *E-bikes are allowed on paved roads in California State Parks and generally on paved roads that allow cars.*
[6] *See Onewheel.com and Boostedusa.com*

Table 3.1. Summary of Visitor Survey and Count Methods

Method	Who visitors are/visitor perceptions	What activities visitors do	Where visitors go	Number of visits
On-site visitor survey Pros: gather lots of information at once for people actively using the area Cons: time and resource intensive, only a snapshot in time	X	X	X	X
Online visitor survey Pros: gather lots of information at once, assess latent demand and reasons for not using open space areas, or decreased open space use Cons: Not all potential respondents have internet access, more difficult to control the sample of respondents selected to survey	X	X	X	X
Visitor counts from on-site observer Pros: easily collect digital data Cons: time and resource intensive		X	X	X
Visitor counts from remote motion-activated camera Pros: remote data collection Cons: time intensive or expensive data analysis		X	X	X
Visitor counts from automated counters Pros: remote data collection Cons: more types of data are more expensive		X	X	X
Visitor counts from cellphone location data Pros: data is voluntarily collected and preexisting Cons: unknown data reliability and potentially expensive			X	X

On-site visitor surveys are useful in gathering large amounts of information from visitors and are a great way to gather demographic and other information regarding who the visitors are, what activities they participated in during their visit, and which trailheads and trails they used in addition to counting the number of visits. Data collected from surveys are often used for many years by both the agency involved as well as other local and neighboring agencies and researchers. Pairing on-site surveys with relatively infrequent planning processes such as park and recreation master plans can help keep the snapshot of data relevant and can provide immediate applications for the data. In addition, surveys can help understand visitor perceptions and on-site recreation experiences. If an online survey is used, perceptions can be gauged for potential visitors who have never visited or used to visit but don't anymore.

Visitor counting systems are the main method park and recreation agencies employ when collecting recreation use data. The term visitor use counting system is used to describe an ongoing effort to measure primarily the number of visits as well as visitors' locations and activities. In Table 3.1 above, the On-site

observer, Remote, motion-activated camera, and Automated counters are all methods that can be used as part of a visitor counting system.

An on-site observer can collect a variety of information in addition to the types listed in Table 1 including group size, times of entry and exit, mode of access, and direction of travel. Additionally, observers can informally track compliance with open space regulations. Observers can be placed in multiple locations to assess which trails are being used and how much. When and where observers are stationed can be designed to fill in data gaps or minimize time in the field. Technology advances have made it easy for observers to log data digitally and automatically store in an online-accessible database. Data collection can also be tailored to minimize cleaning and analysis. Unfortunately, staff time conducting on-site observations can be expensive and potentially tedious for the people assigned, sometimes resulting in quality control issues with the data being collected.

Remote, motion-sensing cameras can be used in place of an on-site observer and are already used extensively for wildlife detection. Effective and secure placement can sometimes be challenging depending on the vegetation structure and site conditions. Even with technology advances photos typically must be manually downloaded and analyzed by staff.

The most common method used in visitor counting systems is automated counters. These types of counters range in complexity from a simple tally of visitors passing by an infrared beam that must be manually downloaded, to an integrated bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian counter automatically uploading data including activity type, direction of travel, and total number of visits to an online portal. Selecting automated counters depends on the type of information desired, and the budget. Automated counters must also be regularly maintained by staff to ensure quality data.

Continuing advancements in cellphone technology allows for passive tracking of location data. Some applications facilitate location tracking and allow users to voluntarily share data which can also made publicly available. An example of this type of app is Strava. Because this data comes from specific users who decided to use a particular app designed for tracking specific activities, the information gleaned about where visitors go in the open space can only be applied to a subset of people. Without other visitor counting technologies, there is no way to determine what proportion of visitors have been accounted for. Other applications track user location continuously in the background and sell the data.[7] This data can be expensive to purchase, but can potentially represent every visitor who recreates on open space lands with a smartphone.

Additional visitor counting systems regularly employed include automated vehicle counters and reservation systems. Vehicle counters can only be used to estimate number of visits and cannot be used to understand activity type. Reservation systems are typically employed in areas experiencing crowded conditions. Because activity type is of interest to the City and crowded conditions have not been observed or reported, these methods were determined to be unsuitable for the OSMP.

Any programming that the City or its partners want to undertake would do well to count participants not only to gauge the engagement of the program but also to understand the relationship of planned group activities with the visitation overall.

[7] *Many apps collect location data which may be sold to firms like Streetlight which aggregates the data and sells analysis packages.*

3.4.2 Trail Usage and Density

Both the WDL and SJC Open Spaces have trail systems that are similar in density when compared to nearby open space areas. Trail density is calculated by the total miles of trail over the acreage of the open space. WDL (293 ac) has a trail density of about .03 miles per acre for the trails included on current City maps - referred to as mapped trails.[8] Comparable to WDL in area, the Laurelwood/Sugarloaf Open Space (225 ac) in San Mateo has a trail density of .02 miles per acre. The *Laurelwood Park and Sugarloaf Mountain Open Space Management Plan Amendment* (City of San Mateo, 2015) found a number of existing trails which are not mapped and not utilized in the trail density calculation (City of San Mateo Parks and Recreation, 2015). When WDL's trails that do not appear on current City maps are included -referred to as previously unmapped trails- the trail density increases to .04 miles per acre. The activity types allowed on trails in both areas seem to be consistent, allowing hiking, dogs on leash, and biking. Table 3.2 shows the trail mileage for both mapped and previously unmapped trails in Belmont's open spaces.

SJC (39 acres) has a trail density of .03 miles per acre for mapped trails in the City-owned portion of the area. The total trail density on both City-owned parcels and private parcels, including unmapped trails, is also 0.3 miles per acre. The majority of previously unmapped trails are located on neighboring privately owned parcels. Similar in size to SJC and surrounding parcels are Big Canyon and Eaton Parks (74 acres combined) in San Carlos, where the combined trail density is .05 miles per acre. The 2012 *San Carlos Hillside Trails Plan* also indicated that well established, unmapped trails existed (City of San Carlos, 2012). These unmapped trails would further increase the trail density in Big Canyon and Eaton Parks. These San Carlos parks allow hiking and dogs on leash, but do not allow bikes.

Table 3.2. Miles of Trails in Belmont Open Spaces

Trails	WDL Trail Miles	SJC Trail Miles[1]	Total
Mapped	8.57 (81%)	1.04 (45%)	9.61 (75%)
Previously unmapped	1.96 (19%)	1.26 (55%)	3.22 (25%)
All	10.53 (100%)	2.3 (100%)	12.83 (100%)

[1]*Includes both City and neighboring parcels.*

Though research on the effects of trail density on wildlife and their habitat is limited, some studies have investigated the effect of trail creation on wildlife. Miller et al., (2020) suggest that the construction of new trails can negatively alter wildlife habitat in the short term, but species rebound and return to the area quickly. In addition, a study of urban open spaces in Ohio found that trails and recreationists did not limit the movement of wildlife (Escalambre, 2020). Similarly, a study conducted in San Francisco Bay Area open spaces found that different types of recreation activities -namely hiking and biking- do not seem to negatively impact wildlife (Reilly et al., 2017). Reilly et al., found that domestic dogs did seem to have a small effect on wildlife, but the effect was limited to a small number of species, in particular, nesting birds, and carnivores. WRA conducted an environmental assessment for Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff Park in San Mateo County and did not find any impacts from dogs on wildlife and plant species found in those parks. As part of this same project, WRA conducted a comprehensive review of studies that examined dog

[8] *Current City trail maps were developed in 2003. The trails shown on these maps are referred to as mapped trails. Other trails exist but are not shown on these maps, these trails are referred to as previously unmapped.*

related recreation impacts on wildlife across multiple park and recreation areas but found scant evidence of chasing or killing wildlife. Finally, the Environmental Assessment section of the OSMP found that wildlife habitats in WDL and SJC are in good condition suggesting that the current trail usage and trail density are not having undue negative impacts.

3.4.3 Trail Condition Assessment

During March and April 2022, WRA staff recorded trail conditions for the trail systems in both WDL and SJC.[9] Chapter 2.3.4 includes a description of the methods used for this assessment – note that this effort was not a comprehensive inventory. Point data of erosion instances and linear data of previously unmapped trails are shown in Figures 3.1 and 3.2. In addition, WRA also noted stream crossings and if adjacent vegetation shows signs of impacts (trampling, what appears to be obvious/illegal vegetation trimming).

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[9] *Trail connections across neighboring private parcels are included.*

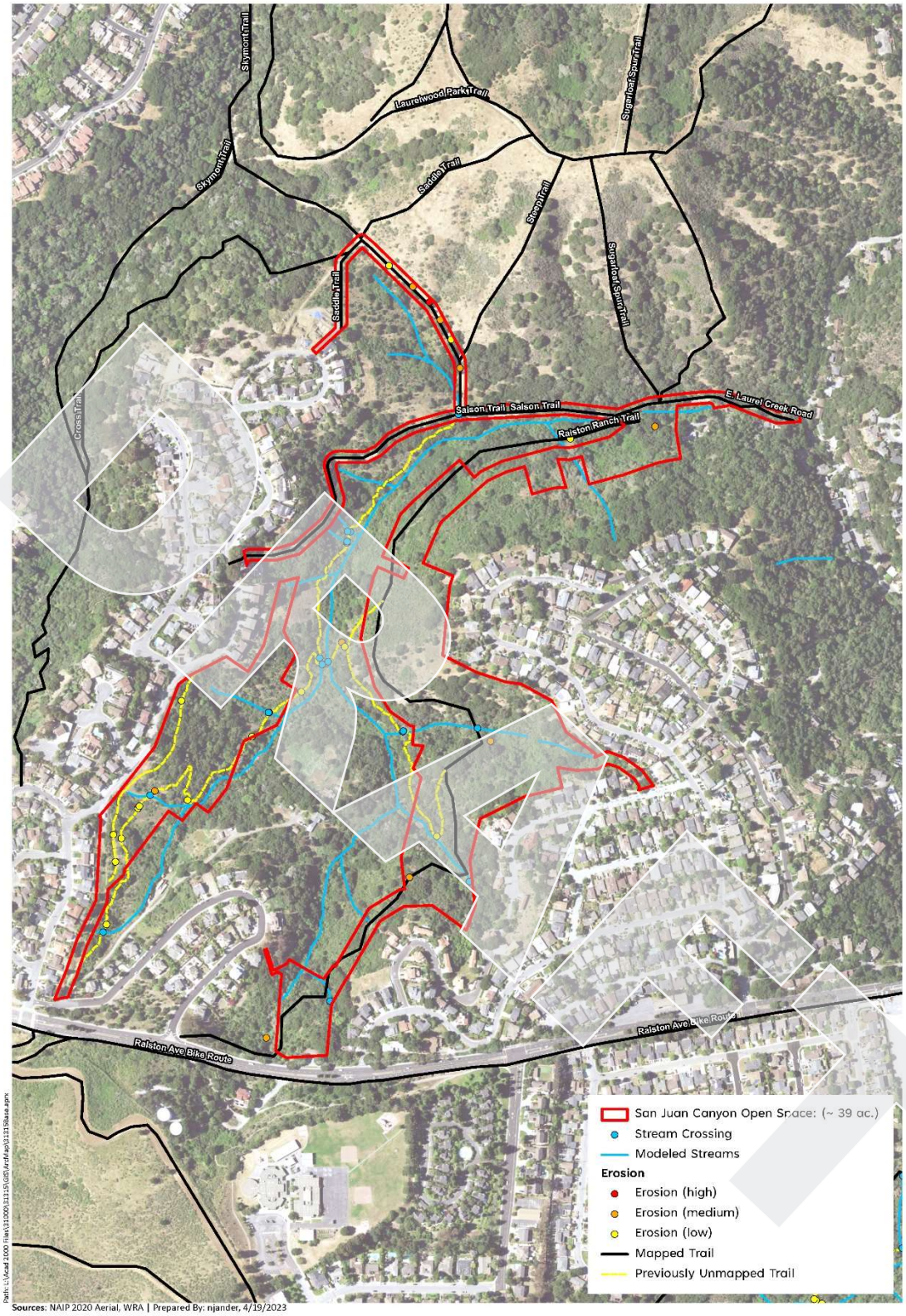


Figure 3.1. San Juan Canyon Open Space Trail Assessment

San Juan Canyon Open Space
Belmont, California
Boundary lines are approximate

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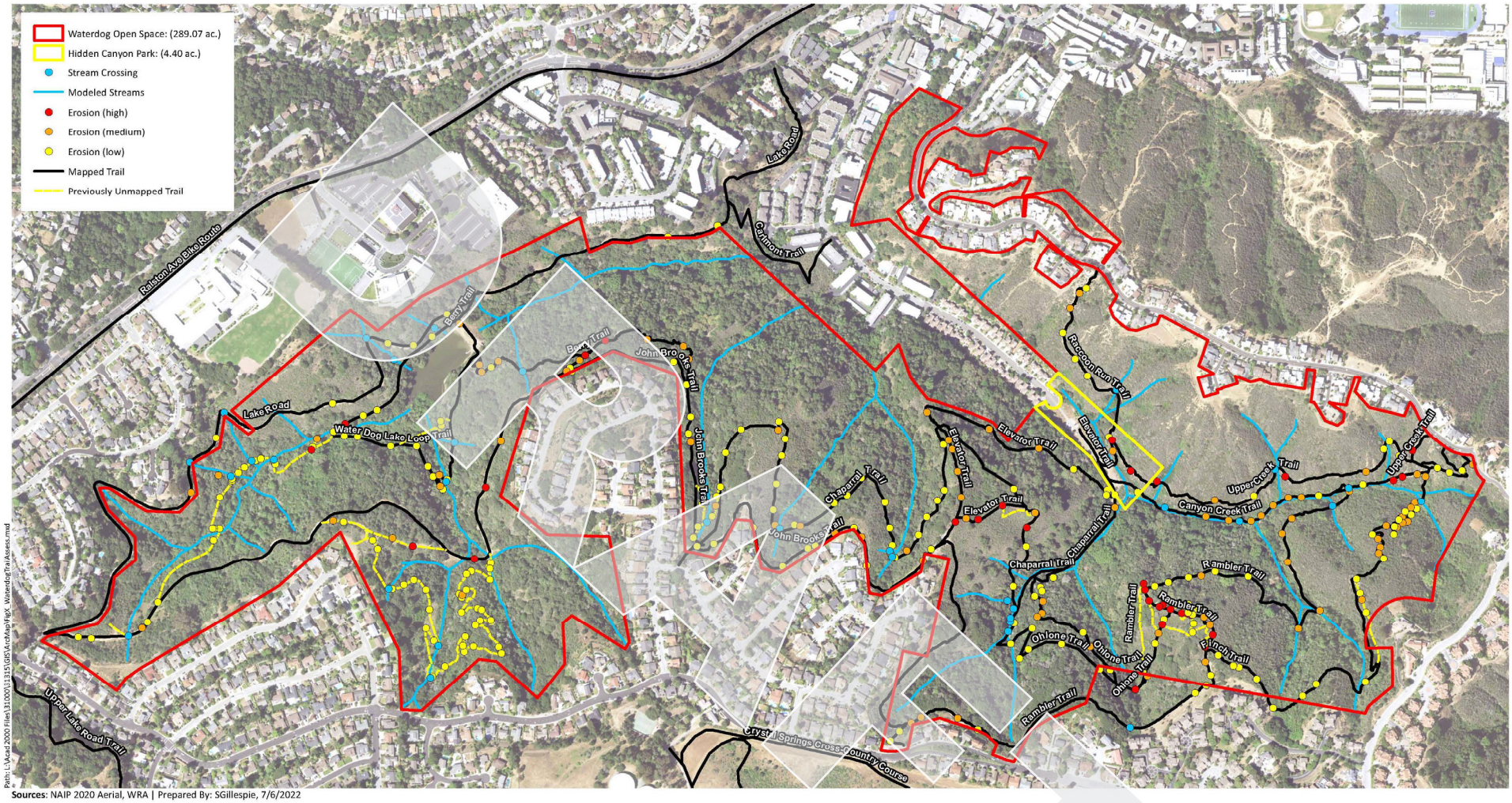


Figure 3.2. Waterdog Lake Open Space Trail Assessment

Waterdog Lake Open Space
Belmont, California

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Table 3.4 depicts erosion levels for the City's two open space areas. Most erosion locations were found in the larger WDL Open Space Area, and among those locations, the majority were assessed as "low" on both mapped and previously unmapped trails. For both WDL and SJC the number of locations assessed as having "high" erosion were about one in ten; 8-11 percent for WDL, and 0-8 percent for SJC. These results demonstrate that the trail systems in each open space area are in relatively good condition overall, but that there are locations of "high" erosion that should be addressed immediately.

Table 3.3. Instances of Erosion on Trails

Location	Low Erosion	Medium Erosion	High Erosion	Total Erosion Instances
WDL				
Mapped trails	127 (56%)	77 (34%)	25 (11%)	229
Previously unmapped trails	59 (83%)	7 (10%)	6 (8%)	71
SJC				
Mapped trails	5 (38%)	7 (54%)	1 (8%)	13
Previously unmapped trails	11 (85%)	2 (15%)	0 (0%)	13

Trail connections across neighboring private parcels are included in analyses.

Recreational uses can contribute to erosion on trails though the effect is largely mediated by the trail alignment, climate, and soil type (Leung and Marion, 1996). Some studies that have examined the relative impacts of different modes of recreation suggest that hiking trails experience more soil loss than biking trails, and equestrian and motorized trails experience the most soil loss. Typically, more soil loss – and other ecological impacts - results from recreation use occurring off-trail rather than on established trails (Hammitt et al., 2015).

3.5 Conclusions and Considerations

The following considerations offered are aimed at improving the condition of existing trails and managing existing and future recreation use. These considerations are not designed to increase recreation use on trails, and a variety of methods are described. The City may choose to implement one or more methods at their discretion. Considerations were developed from desktop research, field visits, and public comments. Methods consist of established best practices.

3.5.1 Trail Condition and Maintenance

Stream Crossings and Erosion

Attachment C shows specific locations with the most urgent need. Stream crossings should be either removed by rerouting the trail or protected with a structure (e.g. bridges). Trail professionals and

hydrologists should be consulted to determine the type of structure needed for each stream crossing. [10] Additional areas identified as having high levels of erosion should to be evaluated by trail professionals to determine if trail sections can be improved with drainage features or if the trail needs to be rerouted. Consider requiring training for volunteers engaged in trail construction and maintenance.

Previously Unmapped Trails

Once stream crossings and erosion issues have been remedied, most previously unmapped trails can be incorporated into City maps, named according to City policy, and wayfinding signage installed. Trail segments that should not be incorporated but rather decommissioned include trail segments surrounding erosion issues – i.e. the re-routing of a trail will result in sections being decommissioned. Additional unmapped trails that should be decommissioned are all those which exist between Waterdog Loop Trail and the shoreline of WDL. The steep slopes in this area not only makes these informal trails hazardous to visitor safety, but also can result in erosion, water quality, and riparian impacts. Decommissioned trails should be closed with signage, soil should be de-compacted and revegetated if needed.

Ongoing Assessments

Recommended trail maintenance standards and guidelines for the City's open space areas are based on information found in chapter 5 of the *County of Los Angeles Trails Manual* (County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013). The City may choose to adopt other reputable trail maintenance guidelines.

Trail maintenance should be based regular assessments of trail conditions. For many park and recreation agencies these are done on an annual basis, documenting trail conditions and need for maintenance and or repair. Trail inspectors should record information about runoff and potential effects on water quality of nearby habitats, spread of invasive exotic plants, and status and quality of any known sensitive resources in the immediate vicinity that could be affected by road or trail use and/or maintenance.

Generally, assessments should address the need for conducting the following activities:

- Tree and brush trimming
- Trail grading and reducing surface erosion
- Culvert cleaning
- Maintaining water crossings and structures for wet areas
- Maintaining signage
- Graffiti removal
- Homeless encampment removal
- Fire fuels reduction

[10] *See Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship*

3.5.2 Trail Operations and Management

Pilot Policy on Electric Transportation Devices

A pilot policy may be implemented regarding the use of e-bikes, and other electric transportation devices on trails which adheres to ADA regulations. A policy that can be implemented for at least 1 year during which usage, behavior, and visitor perceptions can be monitored is recommended. This policy may allow Class 1 e-bikes on trails where traditional bikes are allowed, similar to local agencies like Santa Clara County. Other electric transportation devices like electric skateboards may not be allowed on natural surface trails as they do not qualify as a bike or e-bike. Other-powered mobility devices as defined by the ADA may only be used by individuals with mobility disabilities on open space trails.

Wayfinding and Site Identification Signage

Wayfinding signage will need to be added to newly incorporated trails and closed signage to newly decommissioned trails to eliminate ambiguity. The City may also consider developing a trail naming policy. Consistent site identification signage should utilize a similar design across all open space lands and be installed at all designated trailheads. Attachment D shows examples of inconsistent signage design and ambiguous trailheads needing identification.

For trail operation, hours of use should be clearly posted at major access points like trailheads. Other relevant information, such as local regulations, or trail etiquette guidelines, should also be posted in these locations. Closure policies (e.g., wildfire hazard, wet weather conditions) should also be clearly posted. In addition, changes to trail or open space conditions may need to be communicated through multiple methods simultaneously such as website updates, and social media, as well as on-site signage.

Visitor Surveys and Education

Survey visitors and non-visitors to gather information on the effect of management actions on visitor experiences. Some management actions are only measurable by asking visitors about their experience, such as visitor feelings of safety and crowding. Online surveys are recommended to capture responses from people who may not be visiting and help to understand why and if people are being displaced.

The following education-related tools may be implemented at the City's discretion.

- Actively educating visitors on trail etiquette can help improve feelings of safety. The Slow and Say Hello philosophy encourages all trail users to slow down and communicate when passing any other visitor (Marin County Bicycle Coalition et al., 2022). This method does not rely on users memorizing the "share-the-trail" rules and encourages general friendliness. This method also educates visitors to slow whenever they encounter another user, which can potentially slow speeds overall. Actively educating all trail users can help diffuse feelings of resentment where one user groups feels like they are the only ones behaving correctly. This tool is recommended to be implemented first and in an ongoing capacity.

- Actively educating cyclists to use passive bells or providing loaner bells at trailheads can help all users hear when a bike is approaching.[11] Actively educating hikers to listen for bells must also happen in order to reduce startling situations.

Measure Recreation Use in Open Spaces

Consider automated counters installed at key trailheads that can differentiate between pedestrians and cyclists. On-site observers could be used instead of automated counters. Observers must be strategically deployed to collect data during all types of hours, days, seasons. Only staff should be used as on-site observers to avoid any bias or perception of bias that may come with the use of volunteers. Any group events should provide an estimate of the number of attendees.

Trail Rules and Etiquette

During the OSMP process, public meeting participants have expressed a wide range of experiences from wonderful to feeling unsafe. Participants who expressed feeling unsafe conveyed that trail user speed was a key factor. To address trail user speed, a variety of tools shown to slow speeds and improve perceptions of safety are provided.

The following trail regulation and design tools would need preemptive actions in order to be implemented. First, public outreach would be needed to identify specific trail segments where user speed is a concern for visitor safety. Second, those trail segments would need to be evaluated to determine the most appropriate tool to be implemented as not all tools may be feasible, effective, or supported by the public.

- Visitors' feeling of safety may be improved through the addition of regulations around trail user speed, such as signed speed limits or designated slow/walk zones. Many parks have a 15-mph speed limit on trails, however, without speedometers, users are unaware of their speed. Additionally, regulations rely on education and enforcement which can be challenging with limited staffing. Some trail segments may have faster speeds but would be a poor candidate for a slow zone because trail users would be physically unable to slow in time. For these segments, if safety was a concern, a different tool would be needed.

- Trail user speed can effectively be reduced through a number of biking specific trail design features described in section 4.1.3 below. Additional general design features include installing flat landings to narrow trails to provide areas of respite and wider areas for passing.

- Designating trails as single use can improve feelings of safety by increasing predictability by allowing only one activity type such as hiking only or biking only. Evaluating if/where this tool is appropriate will rely on visitor perceptions because if trail users do not support the change, compliance may be low. Compliance with single use may also be low if the trail segment is a key connector between other desirable segments or access to trailheads.

[11] *WRA staff noted during field visits that many cyclists already use passive bells when riding.*

- Designating trails as one-way can reduce the need for passing as well as reduce speed by making steep sections uphill only. Evaluating if/where this tool is appropriate will rely on visitor perceptions because if trail users do not support the change, compliance may be low. Evaluation of this tool will also rely on existing use patterns, where compliance with one-way directions may be low if existing use patterns show that users typically travel in the opposite direction.

Changes in visitor use patterns to enhance visitor experiences and protect sensitive resources can be facilitated through clearly communicated regulations and result in decreasing visitor conflict and decreasing environmental impacts. Trail closures during or immediately after rain events may help reduce erosion and may reduce vegetation trampling/trail braiding around wet/muddy areas. Temporal separation of visitor activities has also shown success in reducing conflict and unauthorized trail creation. Direction of travel on trails can be another dynamic management tools. Involving visitors in trail maintenance or clean-up days can be an effective way to teach visitors about trail etiquette, habitat protection, and engagement in management.

3.5.3 Trail Construction and Design

The following section contains guidelines and standards for designing and constructing new trails or rehabilitating existing trails. General information is presented that applies to all trails, followed by specific details for mountain bike trails and for trails that comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many of these standards and guidelines can be found in the California State Park's *Trails Handbook* (California State Parks, 2019). The City may choose to adopt trail construction guidelines from other reputable sources.

General Standards and Guidelines

Trail design elements can be effective at protecting the surrounding habitats and in managing visitor use. Delineating edges of trails can help visitors identify authorized trails and discourages off-trail travel. Delineating trails can be done with natural materials such as logs or rocks, or with built materials like a short curb on a paved path. Often, if resources are especially sensitive or if off-trail travel is becoming a problem, barriers can be installed at trail margins. Barriers can include fencing or other structures, or they can consist of live vegetation like shrubs. However, sometimes barriers can be ineffective at preventing off-trail travel like that which results in trail braiding and trail widening. Usually in these situations, either a wider trail is needed, or the trail surface needs to be hardened with materials like gravel, or decomposed granite.

Effective trail design can be as simple as ensuring authorized trails access places that people want or need to go, and unauthorized trails are decommissioned effectively. Other trail design elements depend on the current use and desired use of the trail system. Seating, and wider gathering places are often installed at vistas. For these and areas with interpretive signage, such as trailheads, trail surfaces should be wider and hardened.

Locations for new trails should take advantage of existing roads, trails, or other disturbed areas wherever possible and appropriate.

Strategies should be implemented to keep visitors on trails and discourage informal trail creation. This is particularly important where there are steep slopes and sensitive resources and unauthorized trails that can sometimes result in environmental impacts. These strategies include:

- Install clear directional signage at trailheads and intersections.
- Provide educational signage on trail stewardship, including prohibition of establishment of new trails, shortcuts, etc. without City authorization.
- Install natural features as barriers to minimize unauthorized trail development.
- Use volunteer trail patrols to monitor and document newly developed unauthorized trails.
- Engage trail users in park stewardship.
- Use logs and vegetation debris to block newly developed unauthorized trails
- Trails will be aligned along cross slopes and outsloped as feasible; running slopes will be minimized to avoid erosion to the greatest extent feasible.
- Full bench construction shall be used where feasible. This means the full tread width is supported by undisturbed soil without the need for fill on the downhill side. This technique results in more stable trails that are less susceptible to erosion.
- Locally-sourced materials shall be used for trail construction as available.
- Rolling dips shall be constructed to direct water off the trail for minor seasonal drainage crossings and at appropriate intervals to effectively dewater trail based on trail slope.
- Armored rolling dips shall be constructed at moderate seasonal drainage crossings to minimize erosion and sediment impacts and provide all weather access for trail users.
- New riparian/creek crossings shall be located on geologically stable sites (i.e. low slopes in channel and banks) and constructed to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, streambank and bed erosion.
- Development of new public trails through landslide areas shall be avoided.
- Trail cross slope (perpendicular to the direction of travel) shall be 5 percent maximum, except at armored crossings and rolling dips where cross-slope shall not exceed 10%.

ADA Standards and Guidelines

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that some portion of a recreation resource or trail offer opportunities for those with disabilities. The following standards apply to trail design and construction to ensure reasonable access to all trail users:

- A clear tread width of accessible trails shall be 48” minimum, and 72” maximum.
- Cane-detectable edging shall be provided along at least one side of accessible trails. This can either include an elevation change (such as curb, 3” minimum height), or texture change (such as a transition from gravel to vegetation).
- Running slopes of accessible trails in the direction of travel shall be as follows:
    - 5 percent or less for any distance.
    - From 5.1 percent to 8.33 percent for 200’ maximum.
    - Cross slope (perpendicular to the direction of travel) of accessible trails shall be 3 percent maximum.

- Where accessible trail clear tread width is less than 60", and the running slope is greater than 5%, a 60" long resting space shall be provided at least every 200'.
- Accessible trails shall be constructed with an all-weather surface that retains its surface integrity when wet. Examples include stabilized soil or decomposed granite, wood or plastic decking, unit pavers, asphalt paving, or concrete.
- Steps shall not be permitted on accessible trails.
- Accessible trails shall not have tread obstacles, such as roots or rocks, higher than 3"
- Objects that protrude into an accessible trail between 27" and 80" from the ground shall not protrude more than 4". Objects mounted below 27", such as interpretive exhibits or benches, may protrude any amount but shall not reduce the clear width of the trail to less than 36".

Trail Design Features Specific to Mountain Bike Trails

Most of this section offers general standards and guidelines that are applicable to any trail type. However, there are specific aspects of mountain bike trail use that need to be carefully considered during the design process. According to the *California State Parks Trail Handbook*, an important element in mountain bike trail design is reducing the speed of cyclists. High rates of speed can lead to increased user conflicts with cyclists and other trail users, safety issues, resource degradation, and trail sustainability issues. Reducing mountain biker speed is a means of addressing these issues, and there are several design techniques that can be used to help reduce bike speed, including:

- Increasing trail sinuosity
- Reducing long sight lines
- Staying within the maximum sustainable grade
- Reducing tread width
- Use "run outs" at the bottom of lengthy downhill trail segments to provide for adequate braking distances
- Using natural or artificial features to create pinch points
- Avoiding flat ground to the extent feasible
- Texturing the trail tread

Using these design techniques collectively rather than simply relying on a single technique will result in greater speed reduction, user safety, and user satisfaction. Additional details on each of these techniques may be found in Chapter 6 of the Handbook.

Design of Drainage, Wetland, or Stream Crossings

The open space areas managed by the City of have multiple stream crossings. To maintain the City's trails in an environmentally sustainable manner, proper cross drainage will be required when a trail or road crosses an existing drainage, wetland, or stream. Whether a pipe or open conveyance is chosen, adequately sizing and sloping the cross drainage to convey up to the 100-year design flow is critical to ensuring long-term functionality with minimal maintenance. Selection and design of each crossing installation will consider, at a minimum, the trail type, required vehicle use and load-bearing capacity, stream type, fish-passage requirements, and estimated flood flows. Project-specific engineering design

and analysis will be conducted to ensure correct size, material, and placement before construction can begin.

The following standards and guidelines are generally applicable to drainage feature design, and or crossing wetlands and streams:

- Blocked culverts may affect water quality, change the watercourse, increase erosion or sediment runoff, or affect wildlife. Therefore, trails should be designed to minimize the need for culverts.
- Any unstable fill slopes and cut banks that have the potential to erode and negatively affect water quality of nearby wetlands and waters should be removed entirely and graded to a stable contour. These areas should be revegetated with appropriate native species.
- Sediment filtration barriers should be deployed around the edges of unstable slopes as necessary to prevent erosion and runoff into wetlands and waters.
- Grading and other activities associated with road or trail maintenance shall only occur during the dry months (generally April 1 to October 31), when associated erosion can be reduced to the maximum extent possible.

Dips and Water Bars

Rolling/reverse grade dips or water bars will be constructed to disperse flow and to minimize the potential for concentrated flow, which might otherwise cause rilling or gullying. Rolling dips are more durable and drivable than water bars and are therefore the preferred method.

Dip and bar spacing is dependent upon grade, soil type, and expected runoff volume. General guidance for spacing dips is as follows, although the specific engineering specification may differ, depending on site conditions and other factors:

- 2% - 3% grade = 200 to 300 feet
- 5% - 7% grade = 160 to 180 feet
- 8% - 10% grade = 140 to 150 feet

Ditch Relief Culverts and Outlets

Ditch relief culverts are necessary to drain an inside ditch at specified intervals to prevent excess velocities in the ditch or overflow onto the trail from the ditch. Relief culverts convey the flow under and across the trail or roadway to the outsloped area below. When a ditch relief or permanent culvert empties onto a steep slope, an extension of the piping may be warranted to prevent erosion at the outlet.

Slope Stability

Steep slopes adjacent to trails and roadways can result in slumping or gullying that can damage the road or trail and degrade water quality. The following measures are to be considered in stabilizing steep slopes adjacent to trails and roads:

- lay back the slope (modify to 2:1 or flatter) and install vegetation
- rip rap a steep slope (1:1)

- retaining wall

Slopes that are sloped back to 2:1 or flatter and seeded may also require temporary erosion-control blanket installations to stabilize the hill slope while the vegetation matures. A retaining wall may only be applicable in special cases where a short vertical slope (around 3 to 5 feet) needs to be stabilized in a park area that includes some urban or residential interface.

Biotechnical treatments, such as wattles or woody debris revetments, are the preferred method for slope stabilization over hardscape solutions, such as rip rap, when the designs are feasible under existing and forecasted site conditions.

Catchment Basins
The following methods may be used to capture and infiltrate runoff from any trails or parking areas. Method selection will be based on the site's available land area, soil type, groundwater level, and estimated volume of runoff to be collected. All the following options require engineering design prior to installation:

- Dry basin
- Wet basin
- Infiltration trench
- Subsurface infiltration gallery or drywell

Sensitive Areas

The best way to protect sensitive resources is to avoid locating trails in sensitive biological communities to the extent possible. The following standards and guidelines pertain to those situations for which it's infeasible for the trail to avoid traversing sensitive areas. While many routine maintenance activities will not require special permits, some maintenance activities and new trail construction may. When required, this process will typically result in implementation of best management practices (BMPs) required by the resource agencies. As defined in the OSMP, a BMP is a practice, or combination of practices, that has been determined to be most effective and practicable in preventing or reducing the level of environmental harm created from an activity to a level compatible with environmental goals and regulatory standards.

BMPs can be drawn upon during the resource permitting process and can be supplemented by any additional practices required by the resource agencies. For projects not requiring permits or regulatory involvement, appropriate BMPs should be implemented as necessary and practicable to protect sensitive resources on the City's open space areas. The general and topically specific practices can be considered as standards to be followed and implemented as appropriate for any road and trail management action. The BMPs have been divided into categories listed below:

- General
- Sensitive Natural Resources Best Management Practices
- Special-Status Wildlife Best Management Practices
- Special-Status Plants
- Invasive Plants
- Construction contracts

- Cultural Resources
- Water Quality
- Geologic Hazards
- Air Quality
- Noise

The specific BMPs within each of the categories may be found in Tables 6.2 through 6. 11, in chapter 6 of the Marin County *Road and Trail Management Plan* (Marin County Parks and Marin County Open Space District, 2014).

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3.6 References

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4.0 Management Plan

The purpose of the OSMP is to ensure environmental sustainability, balanced recreation use, and mitigation of natural hazards for the City's two open space areas. Adopting the over-arching PROS Plan (of which this OSMP is a subset of) will allow the City to augment existing goals and policies pertaining to open space. The City will also be able to commit to specific actions that may require new funding and possibly environmental compliance and permitting requirements.

4.1 Plan Development Process

During the planning process, the City and WRA staff developed a Base Plan and two alternatives to give the City the option of adding emphasis to topics of interest to the community. The Base Plan was developed to be relatively comprehensive to protect sensitive resources, guide trail maintenance, manage recreation, and mitigate the risk of natural hazards. The alternatives represented minor additions to the Base Plan: the Recreation Emphasis Alternative would supplement trail and recreational use policies; and the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative would include additional policies to prioritize the protection of native plant communities and wildlife.

During the May 31, 2022 PROS Plan Advisory Committee meeting, 4 plan options were presented to the community and Committee members, and they were asked which option they preferred. The responses below showed that people preferred the Base Plan with the Recreation Emphasis additions (37%) and the Base Plan plus all additions (40%). After continued discussion, the Committee recommended that both alternatives be combined with the Base Plan to better encompass all the topics desired by the community.

WHICH MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE DO YOU SUPPORT?	
	Percentage responses[1]
Base Plan	6%
Base Plan + Recreation Emphasis	37%
Base Plan + Habitat Restoration Emphasis	17%
Base Plan + Recreation Emphasis + Habitat Restoration Emphasis	40%

[1]*Responses for 35 people (including Advisory Committee members and public meeting participants).*

4.2 Management Plan Framework

The final management plan framework represents the combined emphasis and community desired topics.[12] Three main topic areas or themes were identified through City and public input and are used to organize the components of the plan. The themes include:

- Environmental sustainability,
- Balanced recreation use, and
- Mitigation of natural hazards,

[12] *In Chapter 4.2, policies that came from the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative have been identified with a single asterisk (*). Policies that had originally been listed under the Recreation Emphasis Alternative have been identified with a double asterisk (**).*

The components of the management plan framework include objectives, policies, and recommendations. The objectives are general statements that articulate a desired outcome. Policies are more specific statements that state what steps the City may take to achieve a desired outcome. Recommendations are measurable actions that specify how a desired outcome or policy can be achieved. Objectives, policies, and recommendations were developed based on existing City plans (discussed in Chapter 2.2.7), City staff and public input, as well as the considerations discussed in Chapters 2 and 3 of this document.

The following tables in Chapters 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 depict the objectives and policies across the three main themes. Chapter 4.2.3 displays tables of recommendations which are categorized by their degree of difficulty to carry out – when considering financial, staffing, and level of effort challenges. Finally, a small selection of recommendations were prioritized as those which are most needed.

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4.2.1 Objectives

Table 4.1. Environmental Sustainability Objectives

THEME	OBJECTIVE	DESCRIPTION
Environmental Sustainability	**ES-1**	Sustain and promote viable and diverse native plant communities that are characteristic of the region.
	ES-2	Maintain and promote healthy and diverse native wildlife populations.
	ES-3	Protect and restore natural water courses, wetlands, and hydrologic processes.
	E-S4	Use and document scientific knowledge of comparable open space resources and widely accepted and well documented resource management techniques as a basis for management decisions.
	ES-5	Expand ability to perform natural resource management.

Table 4.2. Balanced Recreation Use Objectives

THEME	OBJECTIVE	DESCRIPTION
Balanced Recreation Use	**BR-1**	Provide diverse, nature-dependent recreation activities in the City's open space areas.
	BR-2	Improve and maintain trails to be environmentally sustainable.
	BR-3	Facilitate and encourage multi-use compatibility on trails.
	BR-4	Enhance partnerships and programs aimed at improving recreation experiences.

Table 4.3. Natural Hazard Mitigation Objectives

THEME	OBJECTIVE	DESCRIPTION
Natural Hazard Mitigation	**NH-1**	Reduce the risk and severity of wildland fire and minimize the impact of fire suppression activities within City open spaces and adjacent residential areas.
	NH-2	Protect life and property from natural hazards, including neighboring communities during mitigation or hazard events.
	NH-3	Improve cooperative planning to respond to natural hazards.

4.2.2 Policies

Table 4.4. Environmental Sustainability Policies

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
ES-1: Vegetation Protection	**P1**	Limit trail construction, and facility development in riparian and other wetland areas (and associated buffers) to protect them from disturbance. Recreational, educational, and other programmatic activities should be conducted in previously developed areas, when possible, to minimize impacts to riparian/wetland areas.
	P2	Monitor open space conditions with an emphasis on documenting the location, distribution, and abundance of special-status plants and plant communities, native grasses, wildflowers, and other native flora.
	P3	Align or relocate, modify trails to avoid impacting sensitive habitats such as wetlands and areas where endangered species are present. Avoid aligning trails along the boundaries of sensitive habitats.
	P4	Protect riparian ecosystems and habitat to maintain natural hydrologic process, water quality, and wildlife benefits. If necessary, enhance and restore riparian habitats to improve function.
	P5	Protect common native plant species from disturbance, such as trampling, and disease, such as Sudden Oak Death.
	P6	Monitor and control exotic or nuisance plant species.
	P7	Preserve and enhance riparian, stream, and other wetland communities locally and in coordination with other agencies to continue providing important habitat networks.*
ES-2: Wildlife Protection	**P8**	Monitor sensitive terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species in terms of their presence/absence and potential to occur on City of Belmont open space lands.
	P9	Avoidance of sensitive wildlife species, critical breeding or nesting seasons, and critical breeding or nesting habitats during trail or facility construction.
	P10	Protect common native wildlife species from disturbance, and disease.
	P11	Preserve and enhance native wildlife habitat locally and in coordination with other agencies to continue protecting important habitat networks.*
ES-3: Water Resources	**P12**	Protect surface and ground water from chemical contamination.

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
ES-3: Water Resources	**P13**	Minimize unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation of waters and wetlands.
ES-4: Science-Based Management	**P14**	Develop performance measures when designing City projects for the purpose of open space management and collect monitoring data to evaluate project success.
	P15	Designation and evaluation of trail improvement project proposals will be based on the environmental sustainability and on best available data, including inventories of wildlife, and vegetation resources. The City will undertake site specific and programmatic efforts to extend and improve upon the biological data and recreational benefits underlying its decision-making criteria.
ES-5: Expand Ability	**P16**	Develop written agreements with volunteer groups to perform natural resource management tasks.
	P17	The City will lead, coordinate, or partner with institutions, agencies, and organizations when conducting natural resource management activities.
	P18	Expand volunteer restoration programs subject to established protocols to ensure optimal environmental protection.*

**Policies came from the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative. **Policies came from the Recreation Emphasis Alternative.*

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Table 4.5. Balanced Recreation Policies

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
BR-1: Balanced Recreation Uses	**P19**	Trail access should be provided for a range of user capabilities and needs (including persons with physical limitations) in a manner consistent with State and Federal regulations. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas will inform trail improvement and maintenance where conditions permit.
	P20	Design and improve trails to facilitate safe trail use by all visitors with a focus toward slowing travel speeds, adjusting sight lines, and establishing safe passing zones.
	P21	The City may prohibit certain trail uses or apply increased trail use restrictions within certain areas to enhance safety, minimize conflicts between trail users, and protect natural resources in sensitive resource areas.
	P22	Maintain high quality visitor experiences.
	P23	Diversify recreation opportunities in the open space areas, subject to policies that apply to all users of these areas.
BR-2: Trail Management	**P24**	Authorized trailheads include site and trail identifying signage, allowed uses, posted trail map, garbage can with securable lid, and a dog waste bag dispenser.
	P25	Monitor and evaluate open space trail conditions on City open space lands to identify significant erosion, informally created trails, trail redundancy or otherwise unnecessary trail segments.
	P26	Maintain trails by improving drainage, hardening, widening based on critical evaluations, and in accordance with trail building standards in Section 3.5.3, or equivalent sources.
	P27	Conduct any grading activities necessary for trail maintenance before soil conditions inhibit their excavation, movement, and compacting
	P28	Modification to any open space resources on open space lands is prohibited unless authorized personnel have given express approval to perform such tasks, including trail construction, improvement, closing, or decommissioning trails.
	P29	Authorized trails must have wayfinding signage and associated naming conventions.

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
BR-2: Trail Management	**P30**	Evaluate opportunities to construct new trails that could connect with other regional trails, with existing City recognized trails, and by designating other trails not currently formally recognized as part of the City's open space trail system.
	P31	Evaluate opportunities to implement trail calming design features.**
BR-3: User Compatibility	**P32**	To provide visitor opportunities to experience natural sounds, no amplified sounds – i.e. portable speakers – are allowed on open space lands unless expressly approved as part of a group activity permit.
	P33	On multiuse trails, the following etiquette rules apply: cyclists yield to all other trail users, pedestrians yield to equestrians. Downhill travel yield to uphill travel. Maintain safe speeds and announce yourself when passing.
	P34	Use of Belmont open space lands is subject to the City's existing regulations, including hours of operation. Entry into Waterdog Lake is prohibited.
	P35	On multiuse trails, follow best practices and City Code re: : group size s. Groups of 25 or more require a permit under City code (Ch 16, Article II, Sec 16-23).**
BR-4: Enhance Partnerships	**P36**	Develop written agreements with volunteer groups to perform trail maintenance or construction tasks.
	P37	Identify locations where trails can be improved or established in open space to connect the City and other open space areas neighboring Belmont, such as Sugarloaf Mountain. Coordinate with San Mateo County and the City of San Mateo.

**Policies came from the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative. **Policies came from the Recreation Emphasis Alternative.*

Table 4.6. Natural Hazard Mitigation Policies

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	DESCRIPTION
NH-1: Wildfire Hazards	**P38**	Evaluate the potential to reduce forest fuel loading through the removal of smaller trees to reduce forest floor fuel buildup and ladder fuels.
	P39	Prepare wildland fire response plans and include suppression activities, first responders, mutual aid agreements, as well as detailed maps of infrastructure and sensitive resources to be avoided.
	P40	Prohibit activities that have a high risk of sparking fires during periods of extreme fire hazard.
	P41	Close open space areas of particular concern during extreme fire weather, as determined by San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, and increase patrol levels where appropriate.
	P42	Consider use of a grazing program to reduce grassland fuels, brush encroachment, and encourage the vigor of native grass and forb species.
	P43	Manage scrub, shrub, and chaparral communities to maintain a mosaic of ages and species within strategic management corridors on roads, ridgetops, and near residential development or other critical infrastructure to compartmentalize preserves and reduce fuel loads.
	P44	Minimize and reduce ground disturbance, erosion, and rehabilitation efforts associated with heavy machinery fire suppression.
	P45	Develop guidelines for post-fire appropriate rehabilitation measures to address erosion, revegetation, invasive species, trail and road stability, security, public safety, and natural and cultural resources.
	P46	Limb fallen trees/branches to reduce aerial fuels along trails.**
NH-2: Protect Life and Property	**P47**	Manage dead and dying trees to limit wind throw and falling trees and limbs.
	P48	Manage severe erosion areas on hill slopes and near/within streams.
	P49	Respond to trail and open space impacts resulting from severe weather, landslides, or other natural events.
NH-3: Improve Cooperative Planning	**P50**	Participate in county Fire Safe Councils and any relevant Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) efforts.
	P51	Partner with abutting property owners to manage adjacent vegetation and fuel levels.
	P52	Work with PG&E to identify areas where wildlife risks could be reduced through increased vegetation management and/or transmission line undergrounds.

**Policies came from the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative. **Policies came from the Recreation Emphasis Alternative.*

4.2.3 Recommendations

Below are recommended actions based on the City's goals, public input, and the environmental and recreation assessments in Chapters 2 and 3. Recommendations are designed to accomplish one or more of the policies laid out in the preceding tables. Relevant policies are referenced by the policy number and the notation "P#". Each recommendation has been categorized using the Easy, Medium, and Hard designations and color-coding in the scale below to estimate the feasibility and ease of implementation. The feasibility designation scale incorporates two aspects by which a recommendation can be evaluated: the operational capacity of the City's existing programs, funding, and staff to implement the action, and the scope of the action. Both of these aspects are considered as a spectrum.

Easy	Medium	Hard
These actions can be performed immediately under existing City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.	These actions require additional planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes.	These actions may require substantial planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.

To provide a brief example, in Table 4.7, providing educational materials on Sudden Oak Death (SDO) is categorized as an "Easy" action because recreation related SDO materials already exist and can be installed with minimal effort by existing staff or volunteers. In Table 4.8, designating existing connection routes or building new trails between open space areas is categorized as a "Medium" action because it would require planning outside of normal City operations, likely require additional funding and coordination with other agencies. In Table 4.9, inventory open space lands to assess fuel loads is considered a "Hard" action because it would require additional planning, funding, and expertise outside of normal City operations as well as likely be an ongoing need, requiring permanent resources.

Table 4.7. Environmental Sustainability Actions

Easy	Medium	Hard
1. Provide educational materials on Sudden Oak Death (SOD) and information about how to minimize the spread of SOD at high use trailheads. (P5) 2. To the extent possible, avoid vegetation management activities during nesting bird season, February 1 to August 31. If nesting bird season cannot be avoided, conduct nesting bird surveys per CDFW guidance. (P9) 3. Temporarily close trails during extremely wet conditions. Temporary closure periods will be determined by City staff based on evaluation of conditions and forecasted weather patterns. (P13) 4. Prohibition of dogs in water bodies. Dogs are not allowed to enter any water bodies, including streams and marshes, on open space lands. Messaging and signage and education should be developed. (P13) 5. Avoid ground disturbing activities like trail maintenance and construction activities prior to rain events. (P13) 6. Engage volunteer groups to monitor plant and wildlife species using citizen science efforts like Audubon Christmas Bird Count or "bio-blitzes." (P5/P10)*	1. Realign, add drainage, or otherwise improve trail sections identified in the Recreation Use Assessment as having "high" erosion levels. The Rambler Trail was identified as a top priority given its severity. Prioritize other trail segments for improvement and incorporate into a multi-year workplan. (P13/P26) 2. Implement an "early detection and response" protocol as defined in the Environmental Assessment, to monitor and control new or spreading exotic or undesirable species. Create an agreement and work plan with existing volunteer groups to perform the work in accordance with the protocol. (P6/P16) 3. Actively seek additional funding sources to support natural resource management. (P17) 4. Restore and expand native bunchgrass areas. (P2/P6/P18)* 5. Install wildlife cameras at high activity locations or in riparian habitats to monitor wildlife presence. Coordinate with local agencies and non-profits (e.g. Felidae) to share wildlife camera data to support wildlife distribution study regionally. (P7/P17)* 6. Install decontamination stations at high use trailheads to prevent the spread of SOD. (P5)*	1. Periodically inventory trails and facilities to assess any impacts to watercourses, riparian areas, and wetlands, and prepare plans for protection or restoration, as appropriate. (P3) 2. Conduct protocol surveys for sensitive wildlife or plant species, as defined by the USFWS or CDFW, in areas where these species have at least moderate potential to occur, whenever conducting ground disturbing activities. (P2) 3. Improve trail stream crossings by either realigning the trail to prevent crossing the stream altogether or elevating the trail over the stream. (P3/P4/P9/P13)

**Actions came from the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative. **Actions came from the Recreation Emphasis Alternative.*

Table 4.8. Balanced Recreation Actions

Easy	Medium	Hard
1. Increase education and enforcement of open space regulations including dogs on leash, speed limits, amplified sound, etc. (P23/P32) 2. Periodically conduct visitor surveys to gauge experiences for all trail users. (P22) 3. Clearly identify property boundaries of open space lands and develop an education and enforcement program for adjacent landowners conducting illegal modifications to open space lands (e.g. building trails to access open space lands from their house or neighborhood). (P28) 4. Develop a standard trail naming policy for designated trails. The naming policy will be adopted on all open space signage and messaging. (P29) 5. Update regulatory signage at trailheads to use a consistent design across City open space lands. (P24)	1. Designate existing connection routes or build new trails between open space areas and to other adjacent protected lands. (P30/P35)** 2. Implement single-use and one-way trail segments in areas identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following sufficient public outreach. (P21)** 3. Evaluate potential new nature-based recreation programming for open space lands. Specifically, collaborate with environmental educators or other groups to develop a series of docent led nature walks for a variety of audiences. (P22/P23)** 4. Incorporate or decommission trails identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following further public outreach. (P20) 5. Decommission redundant trail segments. Conduct de-compaction and revegetation where needed. (P1/P20) 6. Develop a policy for managing organized group use of open space lands, such as camps, school field trips, and exercise classes. (P23) 7. Identify three trail segments that can be made ADA compliant which offer the following visitor experiences: travel along a ridgeline, travel along a canyon floor, and panoramic views. (P19)	1. Implement an e-bike pilot program similar to existing regulations on nearby Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The City will observe the effects of the pilot to determine if additional studies, outreach, and policies are needed. (P21/P23) 2. Add calming features on trails to reduce speed, and add landings for respite, passing, and vistas. (P20/P31)

**Actions came from the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative. **Actions came from the Recreation Emphasis Alternative.*

Table 4.9. Natural Hazard Mitigation Actions

Easy	Medium	Hard
1. Widen existing fuel breaks and treated wildland-urban-interface areas. (P47)* 2. Trim trees and mow or remove invasive species ladder fuels along trails to maintain tree health and minimize crown fire. (P38)* 3. Continue fuel reduction treatments in previously treated areas in WDL. (P38)	1. Remove invasive Acacia trees which pose a significant threat of casting embers during fire. (P38)* 2. Create "islands" of vegetation by thinning in steepest areas and fuel breaks to break up crown fires and reduce potential erosion and preserve habitat. (P43)* 3. Remove invasive species from areas recently cleared for fuel reduction. (P38)* 4. Develop annual fuel reduction treatment plan. (P39) 5. Encourage neighboring property owners to maintain adequate fire clearance around existing development. Consult with regulatory agencies to encourage that construction of new development maintains fire agency recommended setbacks for fire clearance between new development and City forest and woodland. (P51) 6. Actively seek additional funding sources to support wildfire hazard mitigation. (P38/P39) 7. Develop emergency response plan for extreme weather, landslides, and resulting trail impacts. (P49)	1. Inventory City open space lands to assess fuel loads and forest structure related to fire. Identify access issues and City and community or regional fire concerns. (P38) 2. Conduct a field-based evaluation of fuel conditions in SJC and WDL for possible further fuel reduction treatments. (P38) 3. Coordinate with fire agencies and neighboring communities to identify locations where additional fire suppression infrastructure is desirable and practical (e.g. hydrants, water tanks, helicopter zones, safety zones, fuel breaks, consistent with the incident command system. Work cooperatively with these groups to install needed infrastructure. (P39/P51)

**Actions came from the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative. **Actions came from the Recreation Emphasis Alternative.*

4.2.4. Priorities

The easy-hard rating system for the recommendations listed above is aimed at providing City officials with more information regarding the level of effort and investment needed to enact these changes. Some actions are deemed to be priorities regardless of their rating as easy-medium-hard. These priority actions have been separated into two tiers where Tier 1 contains actions that are the highest priority due to laws protecting species and habitats, visitor and regional wildfire safety, or important visitor experiences. The actions in this category are important for the City to address right away. Tier 2 contains priority actions aimed at diversity and equity objectives and policies. The actions in this category are important to address soon but are less urgent than those in Tier 1.

Tier 1: Habitat Protection, Wildfire Safety, and Visitor Experience

Environmental Sustainability

- **Stream Crossing Improvements:** WRA identified multiple stream crossings requiring improvements and prioritized the top seven crossings most in need of improvements.
- **Seasonal / Weather Dependent Restrictions on Maintenance Activities:** Ensure that the City's routine trail maintenance actions avoid nesting bird season to the extent possible, and avoid working in wet weather conditions (emergencies excepted) to the extent feasible.

Balanced Recreation Use

- **Monitor Use and Survey Visitors During E-Bike Pilot:** Take an approach similar to what Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has done to develop a policy for e-bike use. The district studied use levels and visitor responses for a year before making policy recommendations to their Planning and Natural Resource Committee.
- **ADA-Compliant Trails:** Identify three trail segments that offer distinctive recreation experiences and ensure those segments comply with the California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines. One segment will offer the experience to travel along a ridgeline, another segment will offer an experience to travel along a canyon floor, and a third segment will offer opportunities for panoramic views.

Natural Hazard Mitigation

- **Fuels Reduction Plan:** The fuels reduction plan would prioritize fuel break areas to be treated as shown and Figures 2.4 and 2.5, and would highlight additional areas that would benefit from fuels reduction.

Tier 2: Equity-Based Programs and Visitor Experience

Environmental Sustainability

- **Volunteer Restoration Programs:** These programs which have been informally carried out would be codified and respond to the interests and actions of environmentally focused community members.

Balanced Recreation Use

- **Nature-Based Recreation Programs:** Respond to the community's interest in environmental education with focused programs that, among other things, may reinforce support for protecting the two open space areas and create "citizen scientists."
- **Trail Calming Features:** Implement trail calming features in targeted locations to respond to community comments about feeling some sections of trails are unsafe due to blind turns, steep slopes, narrow trails, or a combination of all three.

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5.0 Glossary

Objective	An objective is an overarching statement that articulates a desired outcome.
Policy	A policy is a more specific statement to help City staff achieve a desired outcome.
Recommendation	A recommendation is a discrete, measurable action that achieves a desired outcome.
Monitoring	Periodically collect data/information to track changes over time.
Riparian	Riparian areas are defined as the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams and other freshwater bodies, such as lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
Habitat Network	The configuration of patches of habitat allowing species dispersal through a landscape.
Habitat	The combination of living and non-living factors which contains suitable living conditions for a species within the range of that species.
Disturbance	(Ecological) The disruption of an ecosystem's structure and function, generally with effects that last for time periods longer than a single seasonal growing cycle for vegetation.
Restoration	The process of returning land that has been degraded and disturbed into functional habitat.
Native	Those elements of the natural world occurring within an ecosystem prior to disturbance from an outside event.
Non-native	Species which moved into, or were introduced into, pre-serve environments as a direct or indirect result of human activities.
Fuel reduction	The removal of combustible vegetation to reduce the amount of flammable material to prevent or reduce the spread of wildfire.
Invasive species	Animal or plant species that take over sufficiently large areas to reduce biodiversity.
Wildfire hazard mitigation	Action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from hazards such as proximity of flammable vegetation, dead or dying tree limbs, or pollution or contamination in close proximity to homes or public facilities.
Best management practice	The preferred manner in which an activity is to be performed in order to be protective of both human health and the environment.
Natural resource management	Natural resource management generally consists of protecting, restoring, enhancing, and monitoring native vegetation and wildlife, and monitoring and protecting the quality of geological and hydrological conditions.

ATTACHMENT A– SPECIES OBSERVED DURING MARCH 2022 SITE VISITS

Attachment A-1. Wildlife species observed during March 2022 site visits.

Scientific name	Common Name	Status
Birds		
Callipepla californica	California quail	No status
Calypte anna	Anna's hummingbird	No status
Melospiza melodia	Song sparrow	No status
Melozone crissalis	California towhee	No status
Pipilo maculatus	Spotted towhee	No status
Regulus calendula	Ruby-crowned kinglet	No status
Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture	No status
Spinus psaltria	Lesser goldfinch	No status
Haemorhous mexicanus	House finch	No status
Cyanocitta stelleri	Steller's jay	No status
Aphelocoma californica	California scrub jay	No status
Colaptes auratus	Northern flicker	No status
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered hawk	No status
Toxostoma redivivum	California thrasher	No status
Junco hyemalis	Dark-eyed junco	No status
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow	No status
Chamaea fasciata	Wrentit	No status
Mergus merganser	Common merganser	No status
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	No status
Mammals		
Odocoileus hemionus	Black-tailed mule deer	No status
Reptiles and Amphibians		
Sceloporus occidentalis	Western fence lizard	No status
N/A	Pond turtle	Unknown

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Attachment A-2. Plant species observed during March 2022 site visits.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Form	Rarity Status	CAL-IPC Status	Wetland Status (AW 2020)
Acacia sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	native	perennial herb	-	-	FACU
Adelinia grandis	Pacific Hound's tongue	native	perennial herb	-	-	-
Adenostoma fasciculatum	Chamise	native	tree, shrub	-	-	-
Adiantum jordanii	California maidenhair fern	native	fern	-	-	FAC
Aesculus californica	Buckeye	native	tree	-	-	-
Arbutus menziesii	Madrone	native	tree	-	-	-
Arctostaphylos manzanita	Whiteleaf manzanita	native	shrub	-	-	-
Arctostaphylos sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Artemisia californica	Coastal sage brush	native	shrub	-	-	-
Artemisia douglasiana	California mugwort	native	perennial herb	-	-	FAC
Avena fatua	Wildoats	non-native (invasive)	annual grass	-	Moderate	-
Avena sativa	Wild oat	non-native	annual, perennial grass	-	-	UPL
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote brush	native	shrub	-	-	-
Brassica nigra	Black mustard	non-native (invasive)	annual herb	-	Moderate	-
Bromus diandrus	Ripgut brome	non-native (invasive)	annual grass	-	Moderate	-
Bromus madritensis	Foxtail brome	non-native	annual grass	-	-	UPL
Carex sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carpobrotus edulis	Iceplant	non-native (invasive)	perennial herb	-	High	-
Ceanothus cuneatus	Buck brush	native	shrub	-	-	-
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus	Blueblossom	native	tree, shrub	-	-	-

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Form	Rarity Status	CAL-IPC Status	Wetland Status (AW 2020)
Chlorogalum pomeridianum	Amole	native	perennial herb	-	-	-
Cirsium vulgare	Bullthistle	non-native (invasive)	perennial herb	-	Moderate	FACU
Claytonia perfoliata	Miner's lettuce	native	annual herb	-	-	FAC
Conium maculatum	Poison hemlock	non-native (invasive)	perennial herb	-	Moderate	FACW
Cortaderia sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotoneaster sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deschampsia danthonioides	Annual hairgrass	native	annual grass	-	-	FACW
Diplacus aurantiacus	Sticky monkeyflower	native	shrub	-	-	FACU
Dipterostemon capitatus	Blue dicks	native	perennial herb	-	-	FACU
Dirca occidentalis	Western leatherwood	native	shrub	Rank 1B.2	-	FAC
Eriodictyon californicum	Yerba santa	native	shrub	-	-	-
Eriogonum nudum	Naked buckwheat	native	shrub	-	-	-
Erodium botrys	Big heron bill	non-native	annual herb	-	-	FACU
Eucalyptus globulus	Blue gum	non-native (invasive)	tree	-	Limited	-
Festuca californica	California fescue	native	perennial grass	-	-	FACU
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	non-native (invasive)	perennial herb	-	High	-
Galium californicum	California bedstraw	native	perennial herb	-	-	-
Galium parisiense	Wall bedstraw	non-native	annual herb	-	-	UPL
Galium sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genista monspessulana	French broom	non-native (invasive)	shrub	-	High	-
Geranium dissectum	Wild geranium	non-native (invasive)	annual herb	-	Limited	-
Heracleum maximum	Common cowparsnip	native	perennial herb	-	-	FACW

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Form	Rarity Status	CAL-IPC Status	Wetland Status (AW 2020)
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	native	shrub	-	-	-
Hordeum murinum	Foxtail barley	non-native (invasive)	annual grass	-	Moderate	FACU
Juncus effusus	Common bog rush	native	perennial grasslike herb	-	-	FACW
Juncus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lasthenia californica	Goldfields	native	annual herb	-	-	FACU
Lonicera hispidula	Pink honeysuckle	native	vine, shrub	-	-	FACU
Lupinus succulentus	Arroyo lupine	native	annual herb	-	-	-
Lysimachia arvensis	Scarlet pimpernel	non-native	annual herb	-	-	FAC
Maianthemum stellatum	Starry false lily of the valley	native	perennial herb	-	-	FACU
Malva sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marah fabacea	California man-root	native	perennial herb, vine	-	-	-
Matricaria discoidea	Pineapple weed	native	annual herb	-	-	FACU
Medicago polymorpha	Bur clover	non-native (invasive)	annual herb	-	Limited	FACU
Melica torreyana	Torrey's melica	native	perennial grass	-	-	-
Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda buttercup	non-native (invasive)	perennial herb	-	Moderate	-
Pedicularis densiflora	Indian warrior	native	perennial herb	-	-	-
Pentagramma triangularis	Gold back fern	native	fern	-	-	-
Phalaris aquatica	Harding grass	non-native (invasive)	perennial grass	-	Moderate	FACU
Pinus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort	non-native (invasive)	perennial herb	-	Limited	FAC
Prunus virginiana var. demissa	Western choke cherry	native	tree, shrub	-	-	FAC

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Form	Rarity Status	CAL-IPC Status	Wetland Status (AW 2020)
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak	native	tree	-	-	-
Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum	Flowering currant	native	shrub	-	-	UPL
Ribes speciosum	Fuchsia flowered gooseberry	native	shrub	-	-	-
Rubus ursinus	California blackberry	native	vine, shrub	-	-	FAC
Salix sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea	Blue elderberry	native	shrub	-	-	FACU
Sanicula crassicaulis	Pacific sanicle	native	perennial herb	-	-	-
Scirpus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scrophularia californica	California bee plant	native	perennial herb	-	-	FAC
Sonchus asper ssp. asper	Prickly sow thistle	non-native	annual herb	-	-	FAC
Stellaria media	Chickweed	non-native	annual herb	-	-	FACU
Stipa pulchra	Purple needle grass	native	perennial grass	-	-	-
Stipa sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus	Common snowberry	native	shrub	-	-	FACU
Toxicodendron diversilobum	Poison oak	native	vine, shrub	-	-	FACU
Trifolium dubium	Shamrock	non-native	annual herb	-	-	UPL
Trillium sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typha sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umbellularia californica	California bay	native	tree	-	-	FAC
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle	native	perennial herb	-	-	FAC
Vicia sativa	Spring vetch	non-native	annual herb, vine	-	-	FACU
Vinca major	Vinca	non-native (invasive)	perennial herb	-	Moderate	FACU

- All species identified using the *Jepson eFlora* [Jepson Flora Project (eds.) 2022]; nomenclature follows *Jepson eFlora* [Jepson Flora Project (eds.) 2022]

[1] **California Native Plant Society. 2022. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v9-01 1.5). Sacramento, California. Online at: http://rareplants.cnps.org/; most recently accessed: March 2022**

FE:	Federal Endangered
FT:	Federal Threatened
SE:	State Endangered
ST:	State Threatened
SR:	State Rare
Rank 1A:	Plants presumed extinct in California
Rank 1B:	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
Rank 2:	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
Rank 3:	Plants about which we need more information – a review list
Rank 4:	Plants of limited distribution – a watch list

[2] **California Invasive Plant Council. 2022. California Invasive Plant Inventory Database. California Invasive Plant Council, Berkeley, CA. Online at: http://www.cal-ipc.org/paf/; most recently accessed: April 2022**

High:	Severe ecological impacts; high rates of dispersal and establishment; most are widely distributed ecologically.
Moderate:	Substantial and apparent ecological impacts; moderate-high rates of dispersal, establishment dependent on disturbance; limited-moderate distribution ecologically
Limited:	Minor or not well documented ecological impacts; low-moderate rate of invasiveness; limited distribution ecologically
Assessed:	Assessed by Cal-IPC and determined to not be an existing current threat

[3] **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2020. National Wetland Plant List, version 3.5. Engineer Research and Development Center. Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, NH. Online at: http://wetland-plants.usace.army.mil/; most recently accessed: April 2022.**

OBL:	Almost always found in wetlands
FACW:	Usually found in wetlands
FAC:	Equally found in wetlands and uplands
FACU:	Usually not found in wetlands
UPL:	Almost never found in wetlands
NL:	Not listed, assumed almost never found in wetlands
NI:	No information; not factored during wetland delineation

ATTACHMENT B – SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES FOR WATERDOG LAKE AND OPEN SPACE AND SAN JUAN CANYON OPEN SPACE STUDY AREA

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
Plants			
San Mateo thorn-mint	FE, SE, Rank 1B.1	chaparral, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 165 to 985 feet (50 to 300 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, no serpentine vertisol clay microhabitat is present.
Blasdale's bent grass	Rank 1B.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie. Elevation ranges from 0 to 490 feet (0 to 150 meters). Blooms May-Jul.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.
Franciscan onion	Rank 1B.2	cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 170 to 1000 feet (52 to 305 meters). Blooms (Apr)May-Jun.	**Present.** Cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, and there are CNDDB occurrences in both SJC and WDL open space.
bent-flowered fiddleneck	Rank 1B.2	cismontane woodland, coastal bluff scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 10 to 1640 feet (3 to 500 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**Moderate Potential.** Cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area. Four CNDDB occurrences are documented within 1.5 miles northwest of the Study Area.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
California androsace	Rank 4.2	chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 490 to 4280 feet (150 to 1305 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**Unlikely.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
coast rockcress	Rank 4.3	broadleafed upland forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 10 to 3610 feet (3 to 1100 meters). Blooms Feb-May.	**Unlikely.** Although broadleafed upland forest and coastal scrub habitats are present within the Study Area, rocky microhabitat is not present to support this species.
Anderson's manzanita	Rank 1B.2	broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, north coast coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 195 to 2495 feet (60 to 760 meters). Blooms Nov-May.	**Unlikely.** Although broadleafed upland forest and chaparral habitats are present within the Study Area, no redwood forest microhabitat is present.
Franciscan manzanita	FE, Rank 1B.1	coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 195 to 985 feet (60 to 300 meters). Blooms Feb-Apr.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub habitat is present within the Study Area, no serpentine outcrop microhabitat is present.
San Bruno Mountain manzanita	SE, Rank 1B.1	chaparral, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 900 to 1215 feet (275 to 370 meters). Blooms Feb-May.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species; this species is restricted to the San Bruno Mountain in San Mateo County.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
Presidio manzanita	FE, SE, Rank 1B.1	chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 150 to 705 feet (45 to 215 meters). Blooms Feb-Mar.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub habitat is present within the Study Area, no serpentine outcrop microhabitat is present.
Montara manzanita	Rank 1B.2	chaparral, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 260 to 1640 feet (80 to 500 meters). Blooms Jan-Mar.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Pacific manzanita	SE, Rank 1B.1	chaparral, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 1085 to 1085 feet (330 to 330 meters). Blooms Feb-Apr.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of known range of this species; this species is restricted to the San Bruno Mountain in San Mateo County.
Kings Mountain manzanita	Rank 1B.2	broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, north coast coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 1000 to 2395 feet (305 to 730 meters). Blooms Dec-Apr.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the expected elevation range of this species.
ocean bluff milk-vetch	Rank 4.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes. Elevation ranges from 10 to 395 feet (3 to 120 meters). Blooms Jan-Nov.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.

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SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
coastal marsh milk-vetch	Rank 1B.2	coastal dunes, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps. Elevation ranges from 0 to 100 feet (0 to 30 meters). Blooms (Apr)Jun-Oct.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub habitat is present within the Study Area, no mesic sites in dune or along streams/coastal salt marsh microhabitats are present.
alkali milk-vetch	Rank 1B.2	playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Elevation ranges from 5 to 195 feet (1 to 60 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although valley and foothill grassland habitat is present within the Study Area, no alkali flats/flooded land/vernal pool microhabitat is present.
Brewer's calandrinia	Rank 4.2	chaparral, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 35 to 4005 feet (10 to 1220 meters). Blooms (Jan)Mar-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are present within the Study Area, and loamy soil microhabitat is also present in both open spaces, this species is typically found within recently disturbed (because of fire) sites. The nearest CNPS occurrence is 1 mile southeast of the WDL, and the last observation date was in 1973 in a recently burned area.
Oakland star-tulip	Rank 4.2	broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 330 to 2295 feet (100 to 700 meters). Blooms Mar-May.	**Unlikely.** Although broadleafed upland forest and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, no serpentine microhabitat is present.
pink star-tulip	Rank 4.2	coastal prairie, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, north coast coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 35 to 3510 feet (10 to 1070 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**Moderate Potential.** Coastal scrub and meadows and seep habitat are present within the Study Area, along with seasonally moist meadows and forested habitats. The nearest occurrences are 5 miles to the northwest, within the Crystal Springs reservoir recreation area.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
bristly sedge	Rank 2B.1	coastal prairie, marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 0 to 2050 feet (0 to 625 meters). Blooms May-Sep.	**Unlikely.** Although marshes and swamps are present within the Study Area along WDL margins, the nearest extant CNDDB occurrence is over 30 miles south.
johnny-nip	Rank 4.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Elevation ranges from 0 to 1425 feet (0 to 435 meters). Blooms Mar-Aug.	**Unlikely.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Congdon's tarplant	Rank 1B.1	valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 0 to 755 feet (0 to 230 meters). Blooms May-Oct(Nov).	**Unlikely.** Although the Study Area contains valley and foothill grassland habitat, it does not contain the microhabitat of alkaline clay soils needed to support this species.
pappose tarplant	Rank 1B.2	chaparral, coastal prairie, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 0 to 1380 feet (0 to 420 meters). Blooms May-Nov.	**Unlikely.** Although the Study Area contains chaparral, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grassland habitat, it does not contain the microhabitat of alkaline-vernally mesic needed to support this species.
Point Reyes salty bird's-beak	Rank 1B.2	marshes and swamps. Elevation ranges from 0 to 35 feet (0 to 10 meters). Blooms Jun-Oct.	**No Potential.** The Study Area does not contain coastal salt marsh

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SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
San Francisco Bay spineflower	Rank 1B.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 10 to 705 feet (3 to 215 meters). Blooms Apr-Jul(Aug).	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub habitat is present within the Study Area, no microhabitats containing sandy soil on terraces and slopes are present.
robust spineflower	FE, Rank 1B.1	chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 10 to 985 feet (3 to 300 meters). Blooms Apr-Sep.	**Unlikely.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Franciscan thistle	Rank 1B.2	broadleafed upland forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 0 to 490 feet (0 to 150 meters). Blooms Mar-Jul.	**Unlikely.** The Study Area is outside the known range of the species.
fountain thistle	FE, SE, Rank 1B.1	chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 150 to 575 feet (45 to 175 meters). Blooms (Apr)May-Oct.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, microhabitat of serpentine seeps were not observed within the Study Area.
compact cobwebby thistle	Rank 1B.2	chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 15 to 490 feet (5 to 150 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral and coastal scrub habitat is present within the Study Area, dune and clay soil microhabitat is not present to support this species.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
lost thistle	Rank 1A		**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.
round-headed Chinese-houses	Rank 1B.2	coastal dunes. Elevation ranges from 0 to 65 feet (0 to 20 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.
San Francisco collinsia	Rank 1B.2	closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 100 to 900 feet (30 to 275 meters). Blooms (Feb)Mar-May.	**Present.** Coastal scrub habitat and moist, shady scrub or forest microhabitat is located within the Study Area boundary; there is one CNDDB occurrence in SJC and two CNDDB occurrences in WDL Open Space.
clustered lady's-slipper	Rank 4.2	lower montane coniferous forest, north coast coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 330 to 7990 feet (100 to 2435 meters). Blooms Mar-Aug.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.
western leatherwood	Rank 1B.2	broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, north coast coniferous forest, riparian forest, riparian woodland. Elevation ranges from 80 to 1395 feet (25 to 425 meters). Blooms Jan-Mar(Apr).	**Present.** Western leatherwood has several CNDDB occurrences within WDL and was observed during trail and habitat assessment surveys in March.
California bottle-brush grass	Rank 4.3	broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, north coast coniferous forest, riparian woodland. Elevation ranges from 50 to 1540 feet (15 to 470 meters). Blooms May-Aug(Nov).	**Moderate Potential.** Broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, and riparian forest habitats are located within the Study Area, and microhabitats of sandy humus soils are also present to support this species. The nearest CNPS occurrence is 2 miles to the northeast.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
San Mateo woolly sunflower	FE, SE, Rank 1B.1	cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 150 to 1085 feet (45 to 330 meters). Blooms May-Jun.	**Moderate Potential.** Cismontane woodland and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Study Area, and microhabitats of roadcuts are also present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 1.5 miles to the northwest, along a road.
Hoover's button-celery	Rank 1B.1	vernal pools. Elevation ranges from 10 to 150 feet (3 to 45 meters). Blooms (Jun)Jul(Aug).	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.
Jepson's coyote-thistle	Rank 1B.2	valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Elevation ranges from 10 to 985 feet (3 to 300 meters). Blooms Apr-Aug.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.
San Francisco wallflower	Rank 4.2	chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 0 to 1805 feet (0 to 550 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are present within the Study Area, no serpentine soils/outcrop microhabitat is present.
Hillsborough chocolate lily	Rank 1B.1	cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 490 to 490 feet (150 to 150 meters). Blooms Mar-Apr.	**Unlikely.** Although valley and foothill grassland habitat is present within the Study Area, no serpentine soils/outcrop microhabitat is present.
fragrant fritillary	Rank 1B.2	cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 10 to 1345 feet (3 to 410 meters). Blooms Feb-Apr.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, no serpentine soils/outcrop microhabitat is present.
blue coast gilia	Rank 1B.1	coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 5 to 655 feet (2 to 200 meters). Blooms Apr-Jul.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
dark-eyed gilia	Rank 1B.2	coastal dunes. Elevation ranges from 5 to 100 feet (2 to 30 meters). Blooms Apr-Jul.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.
San Francisco gumplant	Rank 3.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 50 to 1310 feet (15 to 400 meters). Blooms Jun-Sep.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, no serpentine soils/outcrop or sea bluff microhabitat is present.
Diablo helianthella	Rank 1B.2	broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 195 to 4265 feet (60 to 1300 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
congested-headed hayfield tarplant	Rank 1B.2	valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 65 to 1835 feet (20 to 560 meters). Blooms Apr-Nov.	**Unlikely.** Although valley and foothill grassland habitat is located within the Study Area, the nearest documented CNDDB location is over 10 miles to the northwest.
short-leaved evax	Rank 1B.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie. Elevation ranges from 0 to 705 feet (0 to 215 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
Marin western flax	FT, ST, Rank 1B.1	chaparral, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 15 to 1215 feet (5 to 370 meters). Blooms Apr-Jul.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, no serpentine barrens/grassland microhabitat is present.
water star-grass	Rank 2B.2	marshes and swamps. Elevation ranges from 100 to 4905 feet (30 to 1495 meters). Blooms Jul-Oct.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Loma Prieta hoita	Rank 1B.1	chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland. Elevation ranges from 100 to 2820 feet (30 to 860 meters). Blooms May-Jul(Aug-Oct).	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral and riparian woodland habitats are present within the Study Area, microhabitats of serpentine soils/outcrop are not present to support this species
Kellogg's horkelia	Rank 1B.1	chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 35 to 655 feet (10 to 200 meters). Blooms Apr-Sep.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral and coastal scrub habits are present within the Study Area, microhabitats of old dunes and coastal sandhills are not present to support this species.
Point Reyes horkelia	Rank 1B.2	coastal dunes, coastal prairie, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 15 to 2475 feet (5 to 755 meters). Blooms May-Sep.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub habitat is located within the Study Area, microhabitat of sandy flats and dunes near coast are not present to support this species.
harlequin lotus	Rank 4.2	broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps, north coast coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 0 to 2295 feet (0 to 700 meters). Blooms Mar-Jul.	**Moderate Potential.** Suitable habitat of broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, and meadows and seeps and microhabitats of wetlands and roadsides are present. The nearest CNDDB

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
			occurrence is approximately 2 miles west of the Study Area.
island tube lichen	Rank 1B.3	chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 1180 to 1330 feet (360 to 405 meters).	**No Potential.** The Study Area is below the expected elevation range for this species.
coast iris	Rank 4.2	coastal prairie, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Elevation ranges from 0 to 1970 feet (0 to 600 meters). Blooms Mar-May(Jun).	**Unlikely.** Although meadows and seeps habitats and microhabitat of mesic sites are located within the Study Area, the nearest known occurrence is located approximately 4 miles to the west on the other side of the Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir.
perennial goldfields	Rank 1B.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 15 to 1705 feet (5 to 520 meters). Blooms Jan-Nov.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub habitat is located within the Study Area, microhabitat of dunes along immediate coast is not present to support this species.
Contra Costa goldfields	FE, Rank 1B.1	cismontane woodland, playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Elevation ranges from 0 to 1540 feet (0 to 470 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of vernal pools, swales, and low depressions are not present to support this species.
beach layia	FE, SE, Rank 1B.1	coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 0 to 195 feet (0 to 60 meters). Blooms Mar-Jul.	**Unlikely.** Although suitable habitat of coastal scrub is present within Study Area, microhabitat of sand dunes is not present to support this species.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
bristly leptosiphon	Rank 4.2	chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 180 to 4920 feet (55 to 1500 meters). Blooms Apr-Jul.	**Moderate Potential.** Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats are located within the Study Area. The nearest CNPS occurrence is 2.5 miles to the west.
serpentine leptosiphon	Rank 4.2	cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 395 to 3710 feet (120 to 1130 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland are located within the Study Area, microhabitat of serpentine soils are not present to support this species.
coast yellow leptosiphon	SE, Rank 1B.1	coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie. Elevation ranges from 35 to 490 feet (10 to 150 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.
large-flowered leptosiphon	Rank 4.2	cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 15 to 4005 feet (5 to 1220 meters). Blooms Apr-Aug.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
broad-lobed leptosiphon	Rank 4.3	broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland. Elevation ranges from 560 to 4920 feet (170 to 1500 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
rose leptosiphon	Rank 1B.1	coastal bluff scrub. Elevation ranges from 0 to 330 feet (0 to 100 meters). Blooms Apr-Jul.	**No Potential.** Suitable habitat is not present within Study Area.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
Crystal Springs lessingia	Rank 1B.2	cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 195 to 655 feet (60 to 200 meters). Blooms Jul-Oct.	**Unlikely.** Although cismontane woodland and coastal scrub are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of grassy slopes on serpentine are not present to support this species.
San Francisco lessingia	FE, SE, Rank 1B.1	coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 80 to 360 feet (25 to 110 meters). Blooms (Jun)Jul-Nov.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
woolly-headed lessingia	Rank 3	broadleafed upland forest, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 50 to 1000 feet (15 to 305 meters). Blooms Jun-Oct.	**Unlikely.** Although broadleafed upland forest and valley and foothill grassland habitats are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of clay serpentine soils are not present to support this species.
spring lessingia	Rank 4.3	chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 985 to 7055 feet (300 to 2150 meters). Blooms May-Jul.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is below the expected elevation range for this species.
Ornduff's meadowfoam	Rank 1B.1	meadows and seeps. Elevation ranges from 35 to 65 feet (10 to 20 meters). Blooms Nov-May.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
San Mateo tree lupine	Rank 3.2	chaparral, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 295 to 1805 feet (90 to 550 meters). Blooms Apr-Jul.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of sandy soils and rocky hills are not present to support this species. In addition, most CNDDB occurrences are located in areas with more coastal influence (the western side of the Santa Cruz mountains).

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
arcuate bush-mallow	Rank 1B.2	chaparral, cismontane woodland. Elevation ranges from 50 to 1165 feet (15 to 355 meters). Blooms Apr-Sep.	**Present.** Chaparral and cismontane woodland habitat and gravelly alluvium microhabitats are present within the Study Area, in addition to a documented CNDDB occurrence within WDL as of 2013. This species was not observed during the March 2022 surveys, which was conducted before the bloom period.
northern curly-leaved monardella	Rank 1B.2	chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 0 to 985 feet (0 to 300 meters). Blooms (Apr)May-Jul(Aug-Sep).	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
woodland woollythreads	Rank 1B.2	broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, north coast coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 330 to 3935 feet (100 to 1200 meters). Blooms (Feb)Mar-Jul.	**Present.** Suitable habitat of broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland and microhabitat of grassy sites in openings is present to support this species. There is a CNDDB occurrence within/adjacent to WDL; this record was documented in the 70s, and location is approximate, not exact.
white-rayed pentachaeta	FE, SE, Rank 1B.1	cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 115 to 2035 feet (35 to 620 meters). Blooms Mar-May.	**Unlikely.** Although cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of soils derived from serpentine bedrock are not present to support this species.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
Michael's rein orchid	Rank 4.2	chaparral, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 10 to 3000 feet (3 to 915 meters). Blooms Apr-Aug.	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of mudstone soils and humus are not present to support this species.
Choris' popcornflower	Rank 1B.2	chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 10 to 525 feet (3 to 160 meters). Blooms Mar-Jun.	**Moderate Potential.** Chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Study Area, and microhabitats of mesic sites (and low-lying depressions) are present to support this species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2 miles to the southwest.
Hickman's popcornflower	Rank 4.2	chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, vernal pools. Elevation ranges from 50 to 1280 feet (15 to 390 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Oregon polemonium	Rank 2B.2	coastal prairie, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 0 to 6005 feet (0 to 1830 meters). Blooms Apr-Sep.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub habitat is located within the Study Area, the nearest CNDDB occurrence is over 5 miles to the northwest, on the other side of Crystal Springs Reservoir.
Marin knotweed	Rank 3.1	marshes and swamps. Elevation ranges from 0 to 35 feet (0 to 10 meters). Blooms (Apr)May-Aug(Oct).	**No Potential.** Suitable microhabitat of coastal salt marshes and brackish marshes are not present within Study Area.
Hickman's cinquefoil	FE, SE, Rank 1B.1	closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps. Elevation ranges from 35 to 490 feet (10 to 149 meters). Blooms Apr-Aug.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
Lobb's aquatic buttercup	Rank 4.2	cismontane woodland, north coast coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Elevation ranges from 50 to 1540 feet (15 to 470 meters). Blooms Feb-May.	**Unlikely.** Although cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, the nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 3 miles to the southwest, separated by the 280 freeway.
adobe sanicle	SR, Rank 1B.1	chaparral, coastal prairie, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 100 to 785 feet (30 to 240 meters). Blooms Feb-May.	**No Potential.** This species is extirpated from the Bay Area.
chaparral ragwort	Rank 2B.2	chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 50 to 2625 feet (15 to 800 meters). Blooms Jan-Apr(May).	**Present.** Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats are present within the Study Area, and a there is a CNDDB occurrence within or near WDL.
Scouler's catchfly	Rank 2B.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 0 to 1970 feet (0 to 600 meters). Blooms (Mar-May)Jun-Aug(Sep).	**Unlikely.** Although valley and foothill grassland habitat is present within the Study Area, this species typically occurs in coastal areas west of the Santa Cruz mountains.
San Francisco campion	Rank 1B.2	chaparral, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 100 to 2115 feet (30 to 645 meters). Blooms (Feb)Mar-Jul(Aug).	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill habitats are present within the Study Area, microhabitats of mudstone or shale soil types are not documented within the Study Area.
long-styled sand-spurrey	Rank 1B.2	marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps. Elevation ranges from 0 to 835 feet (0 to 255 meters). Blooms Feb-May.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
most beautiful jewelflower	Rank 1B.2	chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 310 to 3280 feet (95 to 1000 meters). Blooms (Mar)Apr-Sep(Oct).	**Unlikely.** Although chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area, microhabitat of serpentine outcrops on ridges and slopes were not observed within the Study Area.
northern slender pondweed	Rank 2B.2	marshes and swamps. Elevation ranges from 985 to 7055 feet (300 to 2150 meters). Blooms May-Jul.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is below the elevation range for this species.
California seablite	FE, Rank 1B.1	marshes and swamps. Elevation ranges from 0 to 50 feet (0 to 15 meters). Blooms Jul-Oct.	**Unlikely.** Although perennial emergent vegetation is present at the fringes of WDL, microhabitat of coastal salt marsh is not present within the Study Area.
two-fork clover	FE, Rank 1B.1	coastal bluff scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 15 to 1360 feet (5 to 415 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although valley and foothill grassland habitat and open, sunny microhabitats are present within the Study Area, the nearest CNDDB occurrence is over 12 miles to the northwest.

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SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
saline clover	Rank 1B.2	marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Elevation ranges from 0 to 985 feet (0 to 300 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although marshes and swamps and valley and foothill grassland habitats are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of alkaline soils are not present to support this species.
San Francisco owl's-clover	Rank 1B.2	coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation ranges from 35 to 525 feet (10 to 160 meters). Blooms Apr-Jun.	**Unlikely.** Although coastal scrub and valley and foothill grassland are present within the Study Area, the nearest known occurrence on CNDDB was recorded in 1950 and located within the Crystal Springs reservoir.
coastal triquetrella	Rank 1B.2	coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub. Elevation ranges from 35 to 330 feet (10 to 100 meters).	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Methuselah's beard lichen	Rank 4.2	broadleafed upland forest, north coast coniferous forest. Elevation ranges from 165 to 4790 feet (50 to 1460 meters).	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Wildlife			
tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	ST, SSC, RP	Nearly endemic to California, where it is most numerous in the Central Valley and vicinity. Highly colonial, nesting in dense aggregations over or near freshwater in emergent growth or riparian thickets. Also uses flooded agricultural fields. Abundant insect prey near breeding areas essential.	**Unlikely.** Dense stands of emergent vegetation are limited within the Study Area to around WDL. This isolated patch of vegetation and distance from source populations makes it unlikely for a colony to establish.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	CFP	Occurs year-round in rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and deserts. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also nests in large trees, usually within otherwise open areas.	**Unlikely.** No rocky cliffs or canyons are present to support nesting by this species. May periodically fly over the Study Area.
great blue heron *Ardea herodias*	none (breeding sites protected by CDFW)	Year-round resident. Nests colonially or semi-colonially in tall trees and on cliffs, also sequested terrestrial substrates. Breeding sites usually in close proximity to foraging areas: marshes, lake margins, tidal flats, and rivers. Forages primarily on fishes and other aquatic prey, also smaller terrestrial vertebrates.	**Unlikely.** No breeding sites located in the vicinity of the Study Area.
short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*	SSC	Occurs year-round, but primarily as a winter visitor; breeding very restricted in most of California. Found in open, treeless areas (e.g., marshes, grasslands) with elevated sites for foraging perches and dense herbaceous vegetation for roosting and nesting. Preys mostly on small mammals, particularly voles.	**Unlikely.** Grasslands that would support this species are generally not present within the Study Area. May occasionally disperse through or fly over the Study Area.
long-eared owl *Asio otus*	SSC	Occurs year-round in California. Nests in trees in a variety of woodland habitats, including oak and riparian, as well as tree groves. Requires adjacent open land with rodents for foraging, and the presence of old nests of larger birds (hawks, crows, magpies) for breeding.	**Unlikely.** Forest/grassland matrix is generally not present within the Study Area to support this species.
burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	SSC	Year-round resident and winter visitor. Occurs in open, dry grasslands and scrub habitats with low-growing vegetation, perches and abundant mammal burrows. Preys upon insects and small vertebrates. Nests and roosts in old mammal burrows, most commonly those of ground squirrels.	**Unlikely.** Areas of ground squirrel burrowing activity were not observed within the Study Area. The Study Area is generally forested or contains dense scrub/shrub cover, and thus does not provide suitable habitat for burrowing owl.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
marbled murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus*	FT, SE	Predominantly coastal marine. Nests in old-growth coniferous forests up to 30 miles inland along the Pacific coast, from Eureka to Oregon border, and in Santa Cruz/San Mateo Counties. Nests are highly cryptic, and typically located on platform-like branches of mature redwoods and Douglas firs. Forages on marine invertebrates and small fishes.	**No Potential.** No old-growth coniferous forests in the Study Area.
western snowy plover *Charadrius nivosus (alexandrines) nivosus*	FT, SSC, RP	Federal listing applies only to the Pacific coastal population. Year-round resident and winter visitor. Occurs on sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and the shores of large alkali lakes. Nests on the ground, requiring sandy, gravelly or friable soils.	**No Potential.** No beaches or large alkali lakes within the Study Area.
black tern *Chlidonias niger*	SSC	(Nesting colony) freshwater lakes, ponds, marshes and flooded agricultural fields. At coastal lagoons and estuaries during migration. Breeding range reduced. Breeds primarily in Modoc Plateau region, with some breeding in Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.	**No Potential.** No suitable nesting substrates are available for this species within the Study Area.
northern harrier *Circus hudsonius (cyaneus)*	SSC	Year-round resident and winter visitor. Found in open habitats including grasslands, prairies, marshes and agricultural areas. Nests on the ground in dense vegetation, typically near water or otherwise moist areas. Preys on small vertebrates.	**Unlikely.** Typical nesting habitat for this species is scarce within the Study Area. WDL constitutes the only water body, and the vegetation around this lake is either too tall or too scant to provide suitable nesting areas for northern harrier.
olive-sided flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*	SSC	Summer resident. Typical breeding habitat is montane coniferous forests. At lower elevations, also occurs in wooded canyons and mixed forests and woodlands. Often associated with forest edges. Arboreal nest sites located well off the ground.	**Moderate Potential.** Mixed forests are common within the Study Area and could support nesting by this species.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
yellow rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*	SSC	Summer resident in eastern Sierra Nevada in Mono County, breeding in shallow freshwater marshes and wet meadows with dense vegetation. Also a rare winter visitor along the coast and other portions of the state. Extremely cryptic.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
white-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	CFP	Year-round resident in coastal and valley lowlands with scattered trees and large shrubs, including grasslands, marshes and agricultural areas. Nests in trees, of which the type and setting are highly variable. Preys on small mammals and other vertebrates.	**Moderate Potential.** While this species is generally observed in closer proximity to San Francisco Bay, higher elevation areas characterized by small trees interspersed with grasses and low shrubs could provide nesting or foraging habitat for this species.
American peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*	FD, SD, CFP	Year-round resident and winter visitor. Occurs in a wide variety of habitats, though often associated with coasts, bays, marshes and other bodies of water. Nests on protected cliffs and also on man-made structures including buildings and bridges. Preys on birds, especially waterbirds. Forages widely.	**Unlikely.** Cliffs or large manmade structures that could support nesting by this species are absent within the Study Area. May be observed flying over or foraging within the Study Area.
San Francisco common yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*	SSC	Resident of the San Francisco Bay region, in fresh and salt water marshes. Requires thick, continuous cover down to water surface for foraging; tall grasses, tule patches, willows for nesting.	**Moderate Potential.** Dense emergent vegetation around WDL could support nesting by this species. May also be found in dense willow thickets in riparian areas.
bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	FD, SE, CFP	Occurs year-round in California, but primarily a winter visitor; breeding population is growing. Nests in large trees in the vicinity of larger lakes, reservoirs and rivers. Wintering habitat somewhat more variable but usually features large concentrations of waterfowl or fish.	**Unlikely.** Large trees or structures directly adjacent to large water bodies are not present within the Study Area. May be seen flying over or foraging within the Study Area given the proximity of Crystal Springs Reservoir.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	ST, CFP	Year-round resident in marshes (saline to freshwater) with dense vegetation within four inches of the ground. Prefers larger, undisturbed marshes that have an extensive upper zone and are close to a major water source. Extremely secretive and cryptic.	**Unlikely.** Marsh habitats are extremely limited within the Study Area, and are exclusive to the small patch of emergent vegetation around WDL.
Alameda song sparrow *Melospiza melodia pusillula*	SSC	Year-round resident of salt marshes bordering the south arm of San Francisco Bay. Inhabits primarily pickleweed marshes; nests placed in marsh vegetation, typically shrubs such as gumplant.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
black-crowned night heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*	none (breeding sites protected by CDFW)	Year-round resident. Nests colonially, usually in trees but also in patches of emergent vegetation. Rookery sites are often on islands and usually located adjacent to foraging areas: margins of lakes and bays.	**Unlikely.**
California Ridgway's (clapper) rail *Rallus obsoletus obsoletus*	FE, SE, CFP	Year-round resident in tidal marshes of the San Francisco Bay estuary. Requires tidal sloughs and intertidal mud flats for foraging, and dense marsh vegetation for nesting and cover. Typical habitat features abundant growth of cordgrass and pickleweed. Feeds primarily on molluscs and crustaceans.	**No Potential.** The study Area does not contain salt marsh habitats to support this species.
black skimmer *Rynchops niger*	SSC	Found primarily in southern California; South San Francisco Bay has a small resident population. Nests colonially on gravel bars, low islets, and sandy beaches	**No Potential.** The Study Area does not contain sandy beaches or gravel bars for this species to nest on.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
California least tern *Sternula antillarum browni*	FE, SE, CFP	Summer resident along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California; inland breeding also very rarely occurs. Nests colonially on barren or sparsely vegetated areas with sandy or gravelly substrates near water, including beaches, islands, and gravel bars. In San Francisco Bay, has also nested on salt pond margins.	**No Potential.** The Study Area does not contain sandy beaches or gravel bars for this species to nest on.
pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	SSC, WBWG High	Found in a variety of habitats ranging from grasslands to mixed forests, favoring open and dry, rocky areas. Roost sites include crevices in rock outcrops and cliffs, caves, mines, and also hollow trees and various manmade structures such as bridges, barns, and buildings (including occupied buildings). Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	**Unlikely.** Wooded habitats dominate the Study Area, which may provide foraging but are unlikely to provide roost habitats for this species.
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	SSC, WBWG High	Associated with a wide variety of habitats from deserts to higher-elevation mixed and coniferous forests. Females form maternity colonies in buildings, caves and mines, and males roost singly or in small groups. Foraging typically occurs at edge habitats near wooded areas, e.g. along streams.	**Unlikely.** Wooded habitats dominate the Study Area, which may provide foraging but are unlikely to provide roost habitats for this species.
Steller (=Northern) sea lion *Eumetopias jubatus*	FD, MMC SSC	Breeds on Año Nuevo, San Miguel and Farallon islands, Point Saint George, and Sugarloaf. Hauls-out on islands and rocks. Needs haul-out and breeding sites with unrestricted access to water, near aquatic food supply and with no human disturbance.	**No Potential.** The Study Area does not contain any coastal beaches.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
hoary bat *Lasiurus cinereus*	WBWG Medium	Prefers open forested habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths.	**Moderate Potential.** Forested habitats within the Study Area could provide roosting habitat for this species.
fringed myotis *Myotis thysanodes*	WBWG High	Associated with a wide variety of habitats including dry woodlands, desert scrub, mesic coniferous forest, grassland, and sage-grass steppes. Buildings, mines and large trees and snags are important day and night roosts.	**Unlikely.** Wooded habitats dominate the Study Area, which may provide foraging but are unlikely to provide roost habitats for this species.
San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat *Neotoma fuscipes annectens*	SSC	Forest habitats of moderate canopy and moderate to dense understory. Also in chaparral habitats. Constructs nests of shredded grass, leaves, and other material. May be limited by availability of nest-building materials.	**Present.** Numerous woodrat houses were observed during 2022 site visits. This species is assumed to be present variously throughout the Study Area.
big free-tailed bat *Nyctinomops macrotis*	SSC, WBWG med-high	Occurs rarely in low-lying arid areas. Requires high cliffs or rocky outcrops for roosting sites.	**Unlikely.** Wooded habitats dominate the Study Area, which may provide foraging but are unlikely to provide roost habitats for this species.
mountain lion *Puma concolor*	CDFW Candidate	Diverse habitat types including temperate redwood forest, coniferous/deciduous forest, coastal chaparral, foothills and mountains.	**Moderate Potential.** Forested and chaparral habitats exist within the Study Area.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
salt-marsh harvest mouse *Reithrodontomys raviventris*	FE, SE, CFP	Endemic to emergent salt and brackish wetlands of the San Francisco Bay Estuary. Pickleweed marshes are primary habitat; also occurs in various other wetland communities with dense vegetation. Does not burrow, builds loosely organized nests. Requires higher areas for flood escape.	**No Potential.** No salt marsh habitats are present within the Study Area to support this species.
Alameda Island mole *Scapanus latimanus parvus*	SSC	Known only from Alameda Island. Found in a variety of habitats, especially annual and perennial grasslands. Prefers moist, friable soils. Avoids flooded soils.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is not on Alameda Island.
salt-marsh wandering shrew *Sorex vagrans halicoetes*	SSC	Salt marshes of the south arm of San Francisco Bay. Medium high marsh 6 to 8 feet above sea level where abundant driftwood is scattered among *Salicornia*.	**No Potential.** No salt marsh habitats are present within the Study Area to support this species.
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Requires friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents.	**Moderate Potential.** Higher elevation areas within the Study Area provide shrub and herbaceous habitats with friable soils that could allow for denning by this species.
Delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus*	FT, SE, RP	Lives in the Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary in areas where salt and freshwater systems meet. Occurs seasonally in Suisun Bay, Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. Seldom found at salinities > 10 ppt; most often at salinities < 2 ppt.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known breeding range for this species.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
tidewater goby *Eucyclogobius newberryi*	FE, SSC	Brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches; requires fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	**No Potential.** No brackish water habitats are present within the Study Area to support this species.
California tiger salamander *Ambystoma californiense*	FE/FT, ST, RP	Populations in Santa Barbara and Sonoma counties currently listed as endangered; threatened in remainder of range. Inhabits grassland, oak woodland, ruderal and seasonal pool habitats. Adults are fossorial and utilize mammal burrows and other subterranean refugia. Breeding occurs primarily in vernal pools and other seasonal water features.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Santa Cruz black salamander *Aneides flavipunctatus niger*	SSC	Climbing salamanders of the genus *Aneides* frequent damp woodlands and are usually found hiding under various debris (i.e. bark, woodrat nests, logs). The Santa Cruz black salamander exists south of the San Francisco Bay and was only recently recognized as a separate and protected species. Santa Cruz black salamander is highly sedentary, preferring to stay hidden under riparian debris. Prey items include millipedes, spiders, and other insects (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012).	**Unlikely.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas*	FT (west coast populations)	Found in fairly shallow waters inside reefs, bays and inlets with marine grass and algae. Open beaches with a sloping platform and minimal disturbance are required for nesting. This species exhibits high site fidelity.	**No Potential.** There are no coastal beaches within the Study Area.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
California giant salamander *Dicamptodon ensatus*	SSC	Occurs in the north-central Coast Ranges. Moist coniferous and mixed forests are typical habitat; also uses woodland and chaparral. Adults are terrestrial and fossorial, breeding in cold, permanent or semi-permanent streams. Larvae usually remain aquatic for over a year.	**Unlikely**. Few, if any, permanent streams that are likely to remain cool are present within the Study Area to support this species.
Pacific (western) pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata*	SSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. Require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks, and suitable upland habitat (sandy banks or grassy open fields) for egg-laying.	**High Potential.** Turtles were observed in WDL, although it was not determined whether the turtles were invasive red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta*) or pond turtles. It is highly likely that native turtles could be present.
Alameda whipsnake *Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*	FT, ST	Inhabits chaparral and foothill-hardwood habitats in the eastern Bay Area. Prefers south-facing slopes and ravines with rock outcroppings where shrubs form a vegetative mosaic with oak trees and grasses and small mammal burrows provide basking and refuge.	**No Potential.** The Study Area is outside of the known breeding range of this species.
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	FT, SSC, RP	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11 to 20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Associated with quiet perennial to intermittent ponds, stream pools and wetlands. Prefers shorelines with extensive vegetation. Disperses through upland habitats after rains.	**Unlikely.** Despite the presence of multiple occurrences around nearby Crystal Springs Reservoir, the Study Area is separated from these occurrences by Interstate 280 which constitutes a complete barrier to dispersal for CRLF. Additionally, no hydrologic connectivity appears to exist between potentially suitable habitats within the Study Area and known source populations.
San Francisco garter snake *Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*	FE, SE, CFP, RP	Vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds and slow moving streams in San Mateo County and extreme northern Santa Cruz County. Prefers dense cover and water depths of at least one foot. Upland areas near water are also very important.	**Unlikely.** Ponds and perennial streams are limited within the Study Area to support this species. CRLF being unlikely to occur also deprives this species of its chief prey item.

SPECIES	STATUS*	HABITAT	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE**
vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	FT, RP	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, central coast mountains, and south coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	**No Potential.** No vernal pools are present within the Study Area.
San Bruno elfin butterfly *Callophrys mossii bayensis*	FE	Limited to the vicinity of San Bruno Mountain, San Mateo County. Colonies are located on in rocky outcrops and cliffs in coastal scrub habitat on steep, north-facing slopes within the fog belt. Species range is tied to the distribution of the larval host plant, Sedum spathulifolium.	**Unlikely.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	none (winter roosts protected by CDFW)	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, Monterey cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	**Unlikely.** Large stands of trees with the appropriate wind block or thermoregulatory properties to support winter roosting by this species were not observed within the Study Area.
Bay checkerspot butterfly *Euphydryas editha bayensis*	FT, RP	Restricted to native grasslands on outcrops of serpentine soil in the vicinity of San Francisco Bay. *Plantago erecta* is the primary host plant; *Orthocarpus densiflorus* and *O. purpurscens* are the secondary host plants.	**Unlikely.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.
Mission blue butterfly *Icaricia icarioides missionensis*	FE, RP	Inhabits grasslands and coastal chaparral of the San Francisco peninsula and southern Marin County, but mostly found on San Bruno Mountain. Three larval host plants: *Lupinus albifrons*, *L. variicolor*, and *L. formosus*, of which *L. albifrons* is favored.	**Unlikely.** The Study Area is outside of the known range of this species.

FE: Federal Endangered
FT: Federal Threatened
FD: Federal Delisted

RP:	Published Recovery Plan
SE:	State Endangered
ST:	State Threatened
SD:	State Delisted
SR:	State Rare
Rank 1A:	Plants presumed extinct in California
Rank 1B:	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
Rank 2:	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
Rank 3:	Plants about which we need more information – a review list
Rank 4:	Plants of limited distribution – a watch list
CFP:	CDFW Fully Protected Species
SSC:	CDFW Species of Special Concern
MMC SSC:	Marine Mammal Commission Species of Special Concern
WBWG:	Western Bat Working Group Priority Species

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ATTACHMENT C – EXAMPLE TRAIL SEGMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following locations were identified as priorities for trail improvements based on existing high levels of trail erosion. Implementation of trail improvements may require site review by necessary experts such as hydrologists, geotechnical engineers, or civil engineers.

Location: 37.49919, -122.2958



Recommendation: Drainage feature to convey stream flows, and a single path of travel across the bridge.

Location: 37.49953, -122.2971



Recommendation: Drainage feature to convey stream flows, and a single path of travel across the bridge.

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Location: 37.50067, -122.2967



Recommendation: Narrow the trail tread and re-contour to avoid channelizing storm flows.

DRAFT

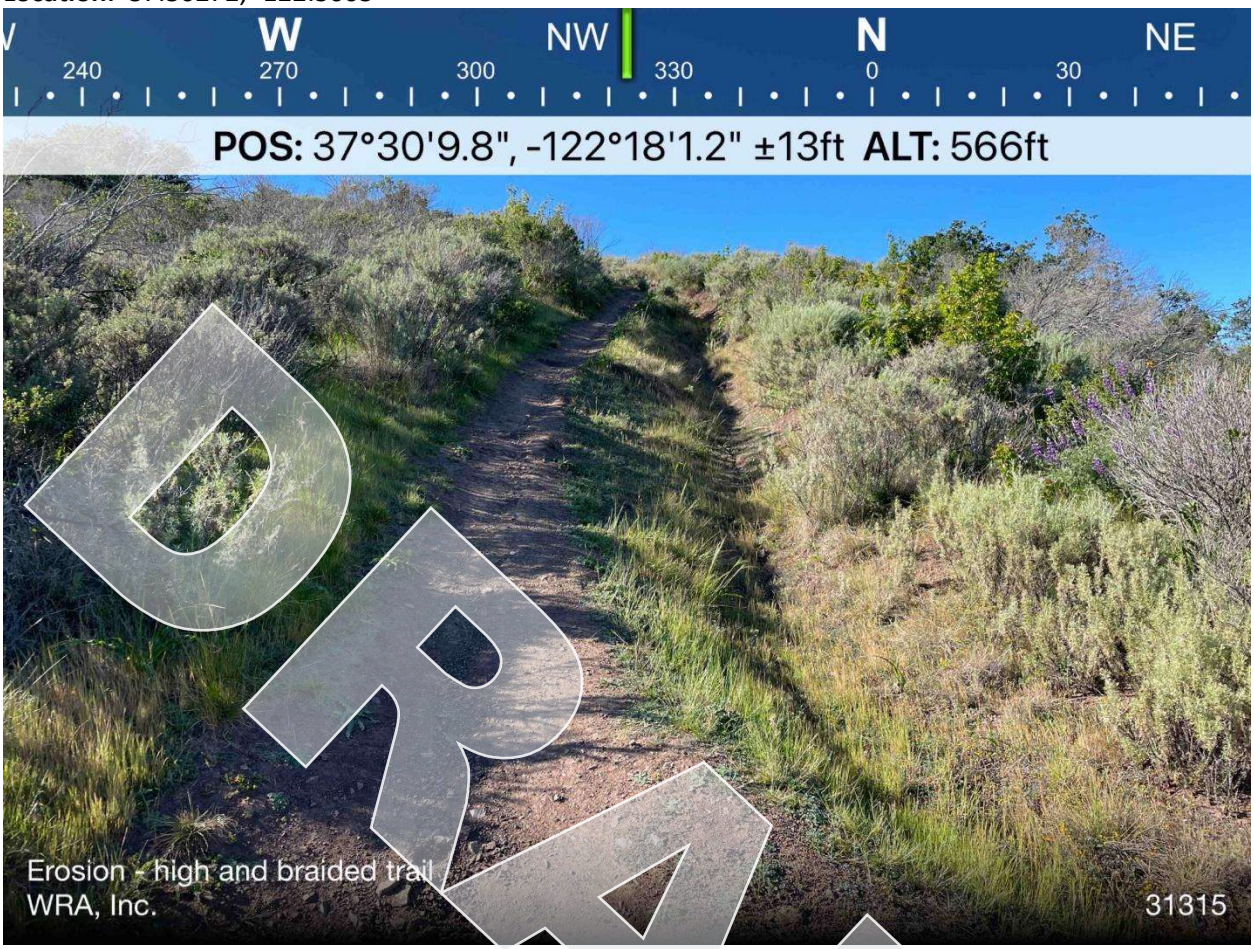
Location: 37.50154, -122.2979



Recommendation: Replace existing with a wider bridge, and eliminate the braided trail through the stream channel.

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Location: 37.50272, -122.3003



Recommendation: Re-contour to outslope trail tread, and/or add drainage feature to ensure water flows in the ditch instead of the trail.

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Location: 37.51764, -122.3218



Recommendation: Install puncheon since the areas before and after this stream crossing are frequently muddy.

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Location: 37.499898, -122.298454

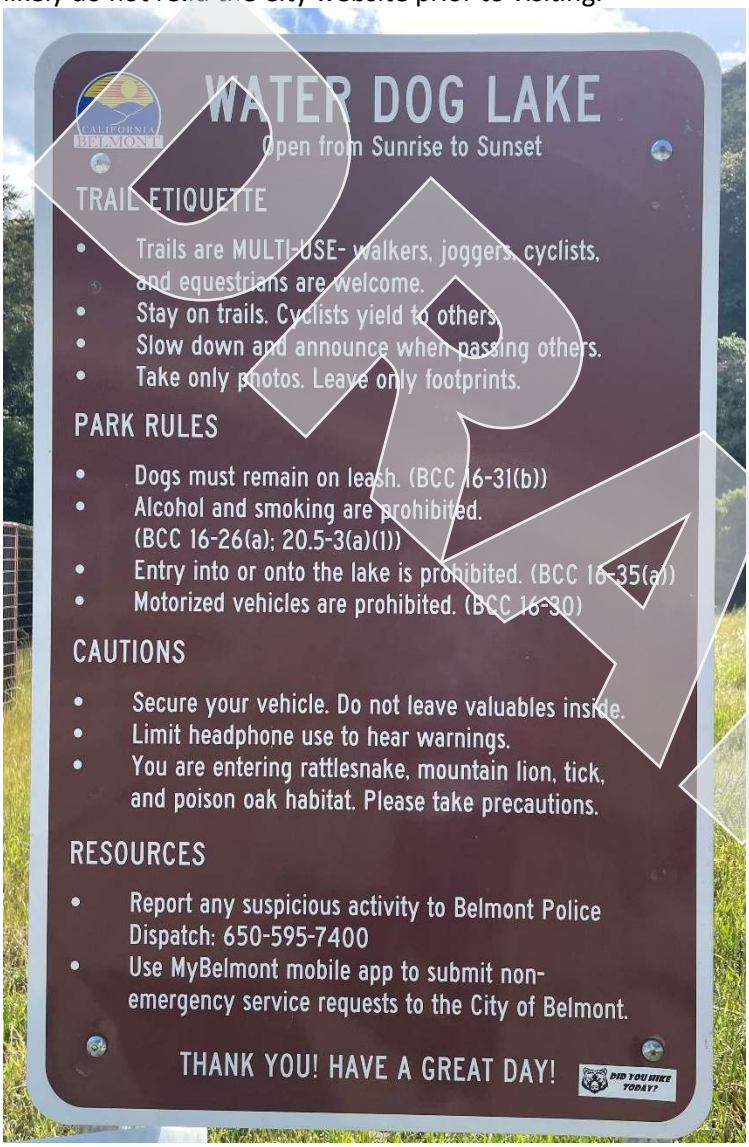


Recommendation: Close trail segment and install physical barrier to prevent future use. Reroute trail using nearby existing segments.

ATTACHMENT D – EXAMPLE SIGNAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific examples of signage recommendations.

Use consistent naming conventions on all open space messaging. The photo below shows a sign indicating the location as WDL, however, on City trail maps this location is listed on Google as Hidden Canyon Park. This creates confusion for visitors not only trying to access or navigate the site, but also when interpreting regulations and where they may apply. Occasional information such as post-rain closures, and wildfire risk should also be communicated through on-site signage since many local visitors likely do not read the City website prior to visiting.



Use consistent sign design across City open space lands. The photo above and the photo below are both signs containing trail etiquette and regulatory information, but the design is drastically different. This can create confusion for visitors over what is an enforceable regulation and what is not. Different styles of signage also typically indicate different locations.



Use open space identifying signage at trailheads. Site and trail identification are necessary pieces of information at every trailhead. This lets visitors know they are in the right place and helps visitors distinguish designated trailheads from unauthorized access points. The photo below shows what Google labels as the John Brooks Trailhead. However, the signage does not identify the open space by name (WDL and Open Space) nor does it identify the trail by name. It is also recommended that trailheads be equipped with a trail map, trash can with lid, and dog waste bags.



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APPENDIX G

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - TOTAL POINTS						
AMENITIES		POINTS				
PARK Site	AMENITY	GOALS	COMMUNITY PRIORITY	RESOLVE DEFICIENCY	EXISTING CONDITION	SUM
Alexander	Park redesign for proposed park amenities	5	5	12	1	**23**
Alexander	Continue looped walking path around lawn	4	5	3	0	**12**
Alexander	Provide ADA accessible path to existing and new amenities	6	5	6	0	**17**
Alexander	Increase visibility and celebrate the park by enhancing and upgrading the street entrance experience (incorporating art, such as murals, along the entrance access)	4	3	6	0	**13**
Alexander	Resurface and restripe Tennis Court to include Pickleball (completed Summer 2022)	4	3	9	1	**17**
Alexander	Repair/Replace BBQs	1	0	3	2	**6**
Alexander	Add Bocce Ball Court	4	3	6	0	**13**
Alexander	Replace an existing playground with an All-Abilities Playground	3	5	19	0	**27**
Alexander	Increase seating opportunities	3	5	3	0	**11**
Alexander	Monitor Oak tree	4	5	3	2	**14**
Alexander	Enhance existing plantings with native and drought-tolerant species	5	5	3	0	**13**
Alexander	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site	3	3	3	0	**9**
Alexander	Expand tree canopy and shade with tree plantings (maintain central lawn without obstruction)	5	5	3	1	**14**
Barrett Cor	Implement the recommendations from the Barrett Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)	6	5	6	0	**17**
Barrett Cor	Add seating opportunities	3	5	0	0	**8**
Barrett Cor	Remove fitness equipment on-site to re-use at alternative park location	1	0	0	0	**1**
Barrett Cor	Improve planting near entrance	5	3	0	2	**10**
Barrett Cor	Construct Multi-Use Athletic Field in Conceptual Design Report as synthetic turf	5	0	3	1	**9**
Barrett Cor	Restructure parking size and configuration	1	0	0	0	**1**
Barrett Cor	Add Dog Parklet	3	5	6	0	**14**
Barrett Cor	Add Pool (Water Play)	3	5	3	0	**11**
Barrett Cor	Add Spray Park (Water Play)	3	5	3	0	**11**
Barrett Cor	Relocate and upgrade Playground with inclusive, all-abilities play	4	5	16	1	**26**
Barrett Cor	Construct new Community Center	6	5	13	0	**24**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - TOTAL POINTS						
AMENITIES		POINTS				
PARK Site	AMENITY	GOALS	COMMUNITY PRIORITY	RESOLVE DEFICIENCY	EXISTING CONDITION	SUM
Barrett Cor	Consider synthetic turf for Multi-use Athletic Field	5	0	3	0	**8**
Barrett Cor	Relocate multi-use sports court	4	3	0	0	**7**
Barrett Cor	Add picnic area	2	5	0	0	**7**
Barrett Cor	Plant trees to increase shade	5	5	0	0	**10**
Belameda	Add fitness equipment course along existing and extended walking path (Recreation Amenity)	4	5	3	0	**12**
Belameda	Create walking loop extension	4	5	0	0	**9**
Belameda	Increase entrance and connection opportunities to create better park access	4	5	3	1	**13**
Belameda	Add Wi-Fi access to site	6	5	3	0	**14**
Belameda	Create a Teen Outdoor Space to complement offerings at the Belmont Library	3	5	6	0	**14**
Belameda	Continue path to create a walking and learn-to-bike loop in land west of parking lot	6	5	3	0	**14**
Belameda	Increase seating opportunities	3	5	0	0	**8**
Belameda	Consider inclusive, all-abilities play in playground	3	5	6	0	**14**
Belameda	Add native planting near entrance	5	5	0	1	**11**
Belameda	Refresh planting around playground	5	5	0	1	**11**
Belameda	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site	3	3	0	0	**6**
Belmont Sp	Add bike repair station	4	3	3	0	**10**
Belmont Sp	Create an accessible Social Gathering Space to promote social interactions	4	5	0	0	**9**
Belmont Sp	Redevelop underutilized space with a Pump Track (Bike Park)	4	5	6	0	**15**
Belmont Sp	Add a Fitness Equipment Course around North Field path	4	5	3	0	**12**
Belmont Sp	Relocate picnic tables	4	0	0	1	**5**
Belmont Sp	Increase seating opportunities	3	5	0	0	**8**
Belmont Sp	Add native planting areas	5	5	0	0	**10**
Belmont Sp	Consider transitioning South Field and Marina Field to synthetic turf	5	0	3	0	**8**
Belmont Sp	Add interpretive signage about marsh and bay ecology	2	3	3	0	**8**
Cipriani	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan	5	0	0	1	**6**
Cipriani	Formalize dog park entrance from school's parking lot	4	3	3	1	**11**
Cipriani	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	6	5	3	0	**14**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - TOTAL POINTS						
AMENITIES		POINTS				
PARK Site	AMENITY	GOALS	COMMUNITY PRIORITY	RESOLVE DEFICIENCY	EXISTING CONDITION	SUM
Cipriani	Rebuild entrance stairs, ramp, and pathway from Buena Vista Ave	6	5	3	2	**16**
Cipriani	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small	3	5	0	0	**8**
Cipriani	Upgrade playground structure	3	5	0	1	**9**
Cipriani	Redesign dog park area to better address community needs and surfacing best suited to use	3	5	10	2	**20**
Cipriani	Increase seating opportunities	3	5	0	0	**8**
Cipriani	Consider additional amenities in partnership with adjacent school	4	3	0	0	**7**
Cipriani	Add trees around perimeter of fenced dog park area for shade	5	5	0	0	**10**
Cipriani	Evaluate multi-use flexible lawn for turf improvement	4	0	0	1	**5**
College Vie	Assess paved surface for access and repair/replace as needed	6	5	0	2	**13**
College Vie	Consider creating and interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between College View Park, Semeria Park, and Patricia Wharton Park	4	5	3	0	**12**
College Vie	Explore opportunities to connect to the NDNU Campus	4	3	3	0	**10**
College Vie	Continue to refill wood chips in Playground area periodically	1	0	0	1	**2**
College Vie	Replace benches	4	3	0	2	**9**
College Vie	Add planted area near picnic area	5	5	0	2	**12**
College Vie	Plant trees to increase shade	5	5	0	1	**11**
Davey Glen	Add signage for a walking loop within the park (depicted path on ramp, around lawn, and stairs is 0.1 mile)	4	3	3	0	**10**
Davey Glen	Continue to maintain the high-quality planting across the site	3	3	0	0	**6**
Hallmark	Create seating in shaded area (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)	3	5	0	0	**8**
Hallmark	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan	5	3	0	2	**10**
Hallmark	Evaluate paths' accessibility and reconstruct as needed	6	5	0	2	**13**
Hallmark	Resurface and restripe Tennis Courts to include Pickleball (completed Spring 2022)	4	3	6	1	**14**
Hallmark	Update, expand, and consider relocating playground structure	3	5	0	1	**9**
Hallmark	Increase seating opportunities	3	5	0	0	**8**
Hallmark	Plant trees to replace declining existing trees across the site (succession planting)	5	5	0	1	**11**
Hallmark	Plant trees to increase shade	5	5	0	1	**11**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - TOTAL POINTS						
AMENITIES		POINTS				
PARK Site	AMENITY	GOALS	COMMUNITY PRIORITY	RESOLVE DEFICIENCY	EXISTING CONDITION	SUM
Hallmark	Consider adding native planting areas	5	5	0	0	**10**
Hastings Tc	Park redesign for proposed park amenities	5	3	6	2	**16**
Hastings Tc	Add crosswalk for connectivity to park and adjacent trailhead	4	5	0	0	**9**
Hastings Tc	Replenish playground fibar	1	3	0	2	**6**
Hastings Tc	Replace and consider reorienting benches for eyes on the playground and sunset view	4	3	3	2	**12**
Hastings Tc	Replace wood stake fence	1	3	0	5	**9**
Hastings Tc	Create safety barrier between playground and adjacent Hasting Drive	4	5	3	0	**12**
Hastings Tc	Update play structure	4	5	0	1	**10**
Hastings Tc	Create native planting area around playground	5	5	0	0	**10**
Hastings Tc	Add interpretive signage to educate about native plants and open spaces	2	3	3	0	**8**
Hidden Can	Add seating opportunities (Seating)	3	5	3	0	**11**
Hidden Can	Add Nature Play Element (Play Amenity)	4	5	3	0	**12**
Hidden Can	Add a small and shaded Picnic Areas (Picnic Opportunity)	2	5	3	0	**10**
Hidden Can	Add an Outdoor Classroom (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)	5	5	6	0	**16**
Hidden Can	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	5	5	9	2	**21**
Hidden Can	Add ADA parking stall	1	5	6	0	**12**
Hidden Can	Increase quantity of parking stalls to accommodate volume of visitors	1	3	3	1	**8**
Hidden Can	Add restroom with water fountain	2	3	3	0	**8**
Hidden Can	Add Open Space Gateway Element	4	3	9	0	**16**
Hidden Can	Add seating opportunities	3	5	3	0	**11**
Hidden Can	Maintain native plantings	5	5	0	0	**10**
Hidden Can	Remove non-native plants	5	3	0	0	**8**
Hidden Can	Add shade (trees or shade structure) to seating areas	5	5	3	0	**13**
McDougal	Add All-Abilities Play Element (Play Amenity)	4	5	16	0	**25**
McDougal	Utilize adjacent school for off-street parking during limited hours (Off-Street Parking)	1	3	3	2	**9**
McDougal	Add permanent restroom (Permanent Restroom)	2	3	6	0	**11**
McDougal	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and amenities proposed with a Park Design Plan	5	3	9	2	**19**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - TOTAL POINTS						
AMENITIES		POINTS				
PARK Site	AMENITY	GOALS	COMMUNITY PRIORITY	RESOLVE DEFICIENCY	EXISTING CONDITION	SUM
McDougal	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	6	5	6	0	**17**
McDougal	Explore adding stair, ramp preferred, access closer to Solana Dr	6	5	3	0	**14**
McDougal	Add an accessible Gathering Space to promote social interaction	4	5	3	0	**12**
McDougal	Replace storage containers	1	0	0	2	**3**
McDougal	Replace picnic tables	4	0	0	2	**6**
McDougal	Replace benches	4	0	0	2	**6**
McDougal	Increase seating opportunities	3	5	0	0	**8**
McDougal	Evaluate condition of trees near entrance and remove or treat as needed	4	3	0	2	**9**
McDougal	Consider transitioning Multi-use Athletic Fields to synthetic turf	5	0	3	1	**9**
McDougal	Plant trees to increase shade	5	0	0	0	**5**
O'Donnell	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small	4	5	9	0	**18**
O'Donnell	Replace BBQs	2	0	3	2	**7**
O'Donnell	Refurbish the existing half basketball courts	4	3	3	1	**11**
O'Donnell	Add shade, tables, and outdoor games	3	5	6	0	**14**
O'Donnell	Refresh planting areas with native plants	5	5	3	1	**14**
O'Donnell	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site	3	3	3	0	**9**
Patricia Wh	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed	6	5	0	1	**12**
Patricia Wh	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Patricia Wharton Park, Semeria Park, and College View Park	4	5	3	0	**12**
Patricia Wh	Replace seating	4	3	0	2	**9**
Patricia Wh	Add boulders or stumps as seating or play elements in center planter area	3	5	3	0	**11**
Patricia Wh	Add native planting to hillside	5	5	0	0	**10**
Patricia Wh	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site	3	3	0	0	**6**
Ralston Ran	Add benches (Seating)	3	5	10	0	**18**
Ralston Ran	Add Natural Play Element (Play Amenity)	4	5	10	0	**19**
Ralston Ran	Add individual Picnic Tables (Picnic Opportunity)	3	5	10	0	**18**
Ralston Ran	Add small seating space (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)	3	5	10	0	**18**
Ralston Ran	Add walking path (Recreation Amenity)	4	5	10	0	**19**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - TOTAL POINTS						
AMENITIES		POINTS				
PARK Site	AMENITY	GOALS	COMMUNITY PRIORITY	RESOLVE DEFICIENCY	EXISTING CONDITION	SUM
Ralston Ra	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	5	0	16	0	**21**
Ralston Ra	Monitor trees and replace as necessary	4	5	7	1	**17**
Ralston Ra	Add native planting areas	5	5	7	0	**17**
Ralston Ra	Utilize trees as screening from Ralston Avenue and as wind protection	5	3	7	0	**15**
Semeria	Add fitness signage (Recreation Amenity)	3	5	3	0	**11**
Semeria	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Semeria Park, Patricia Wharton Park, and College View Park	4	5	3	0	**12**
Semeria	Garbage receptable access from sidewalk	1	0	0	1	**2**
Semeria	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site	3	3	0	0	**6**
Twin Pines	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed	6	5	0	1	**12**
Twin Pines	Pave path to restroom	6	5	3	2	**16**
Twin Pines	Implement Twin Pines Master Plan (2019)	6	5	3	1	**15**
Twin Pines	Evaluate and repair picnic tables in poor condition	4	3	0	2	**9**
Twin Pines	Replace BBQs	2	0	0	2	**4**
Twin Pines	Replace drinking fountain	1	0	0	2	**3**
Twin Pines	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site	3	3	0	0	**6**
Twin Pines	Restructure arrival zone to strengthen visual and physical connections	4	3	3	2	**12**
Twin Pines	Prioritize pedestrian expereince in Town Square area	3	0	3	1	**7**
Twin Pines	Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries	4	3	6	2	**15**
Twin Pines	Add looped walking path(s)	5	5	3	1	**14**
Twin Pines	Renovate and expand playground structure with inclusive, all-abilities play	4	3	16	1	**24**
Twin Pines	Add Water Play Element	3	3	3	0	**9**
Twin Pines	Renovate Picnic Area	4	3	0	1	**8**
Twin Pines	Add Bocce Ball Court	4	3	3	0	**10**
Twin Pines	Add Teen Outdoor Space	3	5	6	0	**14**
Twin Pines	Add Multi-use Lawn	4	3	3	0	**10**
Twin Pines	Establish and improve visual and access connections to Belmont Creek	5	5	6	2	**18**
Wakefield	Create overlook opportunity (Identifiable Amenity)	3	3	3	0	**9**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - TOTAL POINTS						
AMENITIES		POINTS				
PARK Site	AMENITY	GOALS	COMMUNITY PRIORITY	RESOLVE DEFICIENCY	EXISTING CONDITION	SUM
Wakefield	Improve existing walking path(s)	4	5	0	2	**11**
Wakefield	Add benches	3	5	3	0	**11**
Wakefield	Add entrance signage to increase park visibility	4	3	6	0	**13**
Wakefield	Plant trees to increase shade	5	5	0	0	**10**
Wakefield	Add native planting areas	5	3	0	0	**8**
Wakefield	Public Art opportunity	5	3	3	0	**11**
Central Sch	Create looped walking path around lawn	4	5	0	0	**9**
Central Sch	Rejuvenate outdoor classroom space	5	3	3	1	**12**
Central Sch	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time	5	0	3	1	**9**
Fox School	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time	5	0	3	1	**9**
Nesbit Schc	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time	5	0	3	1	**9**
Ralston Sch	Update exterior path at property line to better connect to ropes course south of the school if former ropes course activated for other use	4	5	0	0	**9**
Ralston Sch	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time	5	0	3	1	**9**
Ralston Ave	Create gateway planting as an entry for Belmont (Natural Environment)	4	3	10	0	**17**
Ralston Ave	Add benches (Seating)	3	3	13	0	**19**
Ralston Ave	Add Skate Park (Identifiable Amenity)	4	3	19	0	**26**
Ralston Ave	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	5	3	16	0	**24**
Ralston Ave	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	6	5	10	0	**21**
Ralston Ave	Add Dog Parklet	3	3	16	0	**22**
Ralston Ave	Add placemaking space to host community gathering, event space, pop-up business space, etc.	3	3	16	0	**22**
Ralston Ave	Install Public Art piece	5	3	16	0	**24**
Oak Knoll D	Add benches (Seating)	3	5	10	0	**18**
Oak Knoll D	Add Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)	5	5	10	0	**20**
Oak Knoll D	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	5	5	10	0	**20**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - TOTAL POINTS						
AMENITIES		POINTS				
PARK Site	AMENITY	GOALS	COMMUNITY PRIORITY	RESOLVE DEFICIENCY	EXISTING CONDITION	SUM
Oak Knoll D	Encourage creation of a "safety circle" at the terminus of Oak Knoll Drive to highlight park use in center	4	5	10	0	**19**
Oak Knoll D	Add native planting areas	5	5	7	0	**17**
Alameda d	Add benches (Seating)	3	5	10	0	**18**
Alameda d	Add Nature Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)	5	3	10	0	**18**
Alameda d	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	5	0	13	0	**18**
Alameda d	Add looped walking path(s)	4	5	10	0	**19**
Alameda d	Encourage creation of sidewalks along and connecting to park	4	5	10	0	**19**
Alameda d	Add bike repair station	4	5	10	0	**19**
Alameda d	Add fence or protective barrier between play element and road	4	0	7	0	**11**
Alameda d	Add native planting areas	5	5	7	0	**17**

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PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS

		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Alexander	Park redesign for proposed park amenities			1		1	1					1	1	5
Alexander	Continue looped walking path around lawn	1	1	1			1							4
Alexander	Provide ADA accessible path to existing and new amenities	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
Alexander	Increase visibility and celebrate the park by enhancing and upgrading the street entrance experience (incorporating art, such as murals, along the entrance access)	1		1		1			1					4
Alexander	Resurface and restripe Tennis Court to include Pickleball (completed Summer 2022)		1	1		1				1				4
Alexander	Repair/Replace BBQs		1											1
Alexander	Add Bocce Ball Court		1	1		1				1				4
Alexander	Replace an existing playground with an All-Abilities Playground			1	1					1				3
Alexander	Increase seating opportunities		1	1	1									3
Alexander	Monitor Oak tree						1		1		1		1	4
Alexander	Enhance existing plantings with native and drought-tolerant species			1			1		1		1		1	5
Alexander	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site										1	1	1	3
Alexander	Expand tree canopy and shade with tree plantings (maintain central lawn without obstruction)			1			1		1		1		1	5
Barrett Con	Implement the recommendations from the Barrett Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)		1	1	1	1						1	1	6
Barrett Con	Add seating opportunities		1	1	1									3
Barrett Con	Remove fitness equipment on-site to re-use at alternative park location												1	1
Barrett Con	Improve planting near entrance			1			1		1		1		1	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS													
		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Barrett Con	Construct Multi-Use Athletic Field in Conceptual Design Report as synthetic turf		1	1		1	1						1	5
Barrett Con	Restructure parking size and configuration	1												1
Barrett Con	Add Dog Parklet			1		1				1				3
Barrett Con	Add Pool (Water Play)		1	1			1							3
Barrett Con	Add Spray Park (Water Play)		1	1			1							3
Barrett Con	Relocate and upgrade Playground with inclusive, all-abilities play			1	1	1				1				4
Barrett Con	Construct new Community Center		1	1	1	1	1		1					6
Barrett Con	Consider synthetic turf for Multi-use Athletic Field		1	1		1	1						1	5
Barrett Con	Relocate multi-use sports court		1	1		1				1				4
Barrett Con	Add picnic area		1	1										2
Barrett Con	Plant trees to increase shade			1			1		1		1		1	5
Belameda	Add fitness equipment course along existing and extended walking path (Recreation Amenity)	1		1		1			1					4
Belameda	Create walking loop extension	1	1	1			1							4
Belameda	Increase entrance and connection opportunities to create better park access	1		1		1			1					4
Belameda	Add Wi-Fi access to site	1		1	1	1	1		1					6
Belameda	Create a Teen Outdoor Space to complement offerings at the Belmont Library			1	1	1								3
Belameda	Continue path to create a walking and learn-to-bike loop in land west of parking lot	1	1	1	1	1				1				6
Belameda	Increase seating opportunities		1	1	1									3
Belameda	Consider inclusive, all-abilities play for playground			1	1	1								3
Belameda	Add native planting near entrance			1			1		1		1		1	5
Belameda	Refresh planting around playground			1			1		1		1		1	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS

		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Belameda	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site										1	1	1	3
Belmont Sp	Add bike repair station	1		1		1				1				4
Belmont Sp	Create an accessible Social Gathering Space to promote social interactions		1	1	1	1								4
Belmont Sp	Redevelop underutilized space with a Pump Track (Bike Park)	1		1		1				1				4
Belmont Sp	Add a Fitness Equipment Course around North Field path	1		1		1			1					4
Belmont Sp	Relocate picnic tables		1	1	1	1								4
Belmont Sp	Increase seating opportunities		1	1	1									3
Belmont Sp	Add native planting areas			1			1		1		1		1	5
Belmont Sp	Consider transitioning South Field and Marina Field to synthetic turf		1	1		1	1						1	5
Belmont Sp	Add interpretive signage about marsh and bay ecology						1		1					2
Cipriani	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan			1		1	1					1	1	5
Cipriani	Formalize dog park entrance from school's parking lot	1		1		1			1					4
Cipriani	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
Cipriani	Rebuild entrance stairs, ramp, and pathway from Buena Vista Ave	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
Cipriani	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small		1	1	1									3
Cipriani	Upgrade playground structure			1	1					1				3
Cipriani	Redesign dog park area to better address community needs and surfacing best suited to use			1		1				1				3
Cipriani	Increase seating opportunities		1	1	1									3

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS														
		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Cipriani	Consider additional amenities in partnership with adjacent school			1			1		1			1		4
Cipriani	Add trees around perimeter of fenced dog park area for shade			1			1		1		1		1	5
Cipriani	Evaluate multi-use flexible lawn for turf improvement		1	1	1	1								4
College Vie	Assess paved surface for access and repair/replace as needed	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
College Vie	Consider creating and interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between College View Park, Semeria Park, and Patricia Wharton Park	1			1		1		1					4
College Vie	Explore opportunities to connect to the NDNU Campus	1			1		1		1					4
College Vie	Continue to refill wood chips in Playground area periodically												1	1
College Vie	Replace benches		1	1	1	1								4
College Vie	Add planted area near picnic area			1			1		1		1		1	5
College Vie	Plant trees to increase shade			1			1		1		1		1	5
Davey Glen	Add signage for a walking loop within the park (depicted path on ramp, around lawn, and stairs is 0.1 mile)		1	1		1				1				4
Davey Glen	Continue to maintain the high-quality planting across the site										1	1	1	3
Hallmark	Create seating in shaded area (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)		1	1	1									3
Hallmark	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan			1		1	1					1	1	5
Hallmark	Evaluate paths' accessibility and reconstruct as needed	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
Hallmark	Resurface and restripe Tennis Courts to include Pickleball (completed Spring 2022)		1	1		1				1				4

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS

		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Hallmark	Update, expand, and consider relocating playground structure			1	1					1				3
Hallmark	Increase seating opportunities		1	1	1									3
Hallmark	Plant trees to replace declining existing trees across the site (succession planting)			1			1		1		1		1	5
Hallmark	Plant trees to increase shade			1			1		1		1		1	5
Hallmark	Consider adding native planting areas			1			1		1		1		1	5
Hastings Tc	Park redesign for proposed park amenities			1		1	1					1	1	5
Hastings Tc	Add crosswalk for connectivity to park and adjacent trailhead	1			1		1		1					4
Hastings Tc	Replenish playground fibar												1	1
Hastings Tc	Replace and consider reorienting benches for eyes on the playground and sunset view		1	1	1	1								4
Hastings Tc	Replace wood stake fence												1	1
Hastings Tc	Create safety barrier between playground and adjacent Hasting Drive			1	1	1				1				4
Hastings Tc	Update play structure		1	1	1					1				4
Hastings Tc	Create native planting area around playground			1			1		1		1		1	5
Hastings Tc	Add interpretive signage to educate about native plants and open spaces						1		1					2
Hidden Can	Add seating opportunities (Seating)		1	1	1									3
Hidden Can	Add Nature Play Element (Play Amenity)			1	1	1				1				4
Hidden Can	Add a small and shaded Picnic Areas (Picnic Opportunity)		1	1										2
Hidden Can	Add an Outdoor Classroom (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)			1		1	1		1		1			5
Hidden Can	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan			1		1	1					1	1	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS													
		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Hidden Can	Add ADA parking stall	1												1
Hidden Can	Increase quantity of parking stalls to accommodate volume of visitors	1												1
Hidden Can	Add restroom with water fountain				1	1								2
Hidden Can	Add Open Space Gateway Element	1		1		1			1					4
Hidden Can	Add seating opportunities		1	1	1									3
Hidden Can	Maintain native plantings			1			1		1		1		1	5
Hidden Can	Remove non-native plants			1			1		1		1		1	5
Hidden Can	Add shade (trees or shade structure) to seating areas			1			1		1		1		1	5
McDougal	Add All-Abilities Play Element (Play Amenity)			1	1	1				1				4
McDougal	Utilize adjacent school for off-street parking during limited hours (Off-Street Parking)	1												1
McDougal	Add permanent restroom (Permanent Restroom)				1	1								2
McDougal	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and amenities proposed with a Park Design Plan			1		1	1					1	1	5
McDougal	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
McDougal	Explore adding stair, ramp preferred, access closer to Solana Dr	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
McDougal	Add an accessible Gathering Space to promote social interaction		1	1	1	1								4
McDougal	Replace storage containers												1	1
McDougal	Replace picnic tables		1	1	1	1								4
McDougal	Replace benches		1	1	1	1								4
McDougal	Increase seating opportunities		1	1	1									3
McDougal	Evaluate condition of trees near entrance and remove or treat as needed						1		1		1		1	4

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS

		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
McDougal	Consider transitioning Multi-use Athletic Fields to synthetic turf		1	1		1	1						1	5
McDougal	Plant trees to increase shade			1			1		1		1		1	5
O'Donnell	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small		1	1	1	1								4
O'Donnell	Replace BBQs		1										1	2
O'Donnell	Refurbish the existing half basketball courts		1	1		1				1				4
O'Donnell	Add shade, tables, and outdoor games		1	1	1									3
O'Donnell	Refresh planting areas with native plants			1			1		1		1		1	5
O'Donnell	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site										1	1	1	3
Patricia Wh	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
Patricia Wh	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Patricia Wharton Park, Semeria Park, and College View Park	1			1		1		1					4
Patricia Wh	Replace seating		1	1	1	1								4
Patricia Wh	Add boulders or stumps as seating or play elements in center planter area		1	1		1								3
Patricia Wh	Add native planting to hillside			1			1		1		1		1	5
Patricia Wh	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site										1	1	1	3
Ralston Ran	Add benches (Seating)		1	1	1									3
Ralston Ran	Add Natural Play Element (Play Amenity)			1	1	1				1				4
Ralston Ran	Add individual Picnic Tables (Picnic Opportunity)		1	1	1									3
Ralston Ran	Add small seating space (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)		1	1	1									3
Ralston Ran	Add walking path (Recreation Amenity)	1	1	1			1							4
Ralston Ran	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan			1		1	1					1	1	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS													
		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Ralston Ran	Monitor trees and replace as necessary						1		1		1		1	4
Ralston Ran	Add native planting areas			1			1		1		1		1	5
Ralston Ran	Utilize trees as screening from Ralston Avenue and as wind protection			1			1		1		1		1	5
Semeria	Add fitness signage (Recreation Amenity)		1	1		1								3
Semeria	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Semeria Park, Patricia Wharton Park, and College View Park	1			1		1		1					4
Semeria	Garbage receptable access from sidewalk												1	1
Semeria	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site										1	1	1	3
Twin Pines	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
Twin Pines	Pave path to restroom	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
Twin Pines	Implement Twin Pines Master Plan (2019)		1	1	1	1						1	1	6
Twin Pines	Evaluate and repair picnic tables in poor condition		1	1	1	1								4
Twin Pines	Replace BBQs		1										1	2
Twin Pines	Replace drinking fountain												1	1
Twin Pines	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site										1	1	1	3
Twin Pines	Restructure arrival zone to strengthen visual and physical connections	1		1		1			1					4
Twin Pines	Prioritize pedestrian expereince in Town Square area	1		1		1								3
Twin Pines	Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries	1			1		1		1					4
Twin Pines	Add looped walking path(s)	1	1		1	1				1				5
Twin Pines	Renovate and expand playground structure with inclusive, all-abilities play			1	1	1				1				4
Twin Pines	Add Water Play Element		1	1			1							3
Twin Pines	Renovate Picnic Area		1	1	1	1								4

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS

		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Twin Pines	Add Bocce Ball Court		1	1		1				1				4
Twin Pines	Add Teen Outdoor Space			1	1	1								3
Twin Pines	Add Multi-use Lawn		1	1	1	1								4
Twin Pines	Establish and improve visual and access connections to Belmont Creek	1	1	1						1	1			5
Wakefield	Create overlook opportunity (Identifiable Amenity)			1	1						1			3
Wakefield	Improve existing walking path(s)	1	1	1			1							4
Wakefield	Add benches		1	1	1									3
Wakefield	Add entrance signage to increase park visibility	1		1		1			1					4
Wakefield	Plant trees to increase shade			1			1		1		1		1	5
Wakefield	Add native planting areas			1			1		1		1		1	5
Wakefield	Public Art opportunity			1		1	1		1				1	5
Central Sch	Create looped walking path around lawn	1	1	1			1							4
Central Sch	Rejuvenate outdoor classroom space			1		1	1		1		1			5
Central Sch	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time		1	1		1	1						1	5
Fox School	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time		1	1		1	1						1	5
Nesbit Schc	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time		1	1		1	1						1	5
Ralston Sch	Update exterior path at property line to better connect to ropes course south of the school if former ropes course activated for other use	1	1	1			1							4
Ralston Sch	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time		1	1		1	1						1	5
Ralston Ave	Create gateway planting as an entry for Belmont (Natural Environment)	1		1		1			1					4
Ralston Ave	Add benches (Seating)		1	1	1									3

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - GOAL POINTS													
		The City as Your Backyard			Outdoor Recreation for			Celebrate the Outdoors			Environmental & Financial			
Park	**Park Element**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**SUM**
Ralston Ave	Add Skate Park (Identifiable Amenity)		1	1	1					1				4
Ralston Ave	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan			1		1	1					1	1	5
Ralston Ave	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	1	1		1	1				1			1	6
Ralston Ave	Add Dog Parklet			1		1				1				3
Ralston Ave	Add placemaking space to host community gathering, event space, pop-up business space, etc.		1	1	1									3
Ralston Ave	Install Public Art piece			1		1	1		1				1	5
Oak Knoll D	Add benches (Seating)		1	1	1									3
Oak Knoll D	Add Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)		1	1	1	1				1				5
Oak Knoll D	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan			1		1	1					1	1	5
Oak Knoll D	Encourage creation of a “safety circle” at the terminus of Oak Knoll Drive to highlight park use in center			1	1	1				1				4
Oak Knoll D	Add native planting areas			1			1		1		1		1	5
Alameda de	Add benches (Seating)		1	1	1									3
Alameda de	Add Nature Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)		1	1	1	1				1				5
Alameda de	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan			1		1	1					1	1	5
Alameda de	Add looped walking path(s)	1	1	1			1							4
Alameda de	Encourage creation of sidewalks along and connecting to park	1			1		1		1					4
Alameda de	Add bike repair station	1		1		1				1				4
Alameda de	Add fence or protective barrier between play element and road			1	1	1				1				4
Alameda de	Add native planting areas			1			1		1		1		1	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - COMMUNITY POINTS					
		N/A	Medium	High	SUM
Park	**Park Element**	0	3	5	5
Alexander	Park redesign for proposed park amenities			X	5
Alexander	Continue looped walking path around lawn			X	5
Alexander	Provide ADA accessible path to existing and new amenities			X	5
Alexander	Increase visibility and celebrate the park by enhancing and upgrading the street entrance experience (incorporating art, such as murals, along the entrance access)		X		3
Alexander	Resurface and restripe Tennis Court to include Pickleball (completed Summer 2022)		X		3
Alexander	Repair/Replace BBQs	X			0
Alexander	Add Bocce Ball Court		X		3
Alexander	Replace an existing playground with an All-Abilities Playground			X	5
Alexander	Increase seating opportunities			X	5
Alexander	Monitor Oak tree			X	5
Alexander	Enhance existing plantings with native and drought-tolerant species			X	5
Alexander	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X		3
Alexander	Expand tree canopy and shade with tree plantings (maintain central lawn without obstruction)			X	5
Barrett Cor	Implement the recommendations from the Barrett Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)			X	5
Barrett Cor	Add seating opportunities			X	5
Barrett Cor	Remove fitness equipment on-site to re-use at alternative park location	X			0
Barrett Cor	Improve planting near entrance		X		3
Barrett Cor	Construct Multi-Use Athletic Field in Conceptual Design Report as synthetic turf	X			0
Barrett Cor	Restructure parking size and configuration	X			0
Barrett Cor	Add Dog Parklet			X	5
Barrett Cor	Add Pool (Water Play)			X	5
Barrett Cor	Add Spray Park (Water Play)			X	5
Barrett Cor	Relocate and upgrade Playground with inclusive, all-abilities play			X	5
Barrett Cor	Construct new Community Center			X	5
Barrett Cor	Consider synthetic turf for Multi-use Athletic Field	X			0
Barrett Cor	Relocate multi-use sports court		X		3

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - COMMUNITY POINTS					
		N/A	Medium	High	SUM
Park	Park Element	0	3	5	5
Barrett Cor	Add picnic area			X	5
Barrett Cor	Plant trees to increase shade			X	5
Belameda	Add fitness equipment course along existing and extended walking path (Recreation Amenity)			X	5
Belameda	Create walking loop extension			X	5
Belameda	Increase entrance and connection opportunities to create better park access			X	5
Belameda	Add Wi-Fi access to site			X	5
Belameda	Create a Teen Outdoor Space to complement offerings at the Belmont Library			X	5
Belameda	Continue path to create a walking and learn-to-bike loop in land west of parking lot			X	5
Belameda	Increase seating opportunities			X	5
Belameda	Consider inclusive, all-abilities play for playground			X	5
Belameda	Add native planting near entrance			X	5
Belameda	Refresh planting around playground			X	5
Belameda	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X		3
Belmont Sp	Add bike repair station		X		3
Belmont Sp	Create an accessible Social Gathering Space to promote social interactions			X	5
Belmont Sp	Redevelop underutilized space with a Pump Track (Bike Park)			X	5
Belmont Sp	Add a Fitness Equipment Course around North Field path			X	5
Belmont Sp	Relocate picnic tables	X			0
Belmont Sp	Increase seating opportunities			X	5
Belmont Sp	Add native planting areas			X	5
Belmont Sp	Consider transitioning South Field and Marina Field to synthetic turf	X			0
Belmont Sp	Add interpretive signage about marsh and bay ecology		X		3
Cipriani	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan				0
Cipriani	Formalize dog park entrance from school's parking lot		X		3
Cipriani	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities			X	5
Cipriani	Rebuild entrance stairs, ramp, and pathway from Buena Vista Ave			X	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - COMMUNITY POINTS					
		N/A	Medium	High	SUM
Park	**Park Element**	0	3	5	5
Cipriani	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small			X	5
Cipriani	Upgrade playground structure			X	5
Cipriani	Redesign dog park area to better address community needs and surfacing best suited to use			X	5
Cipriani	Increase seating opportunities			X	5
Cipriani	Consider additional amenities in partnership with adjacent school		X		3
Cipriani	Add trees around perimeter of fenced dog park area for shade			X	5
Cipriani	Evaluate multi-use flexible lawn for turf improvement	X			0
College Vie	Assess paved surface for access and repair/replace as needed			X	5
College Vie	Consider creating and interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between College View Park, Semeria Park, and Patricia Wharton Park			X	5
College Vie	Explore opportunities to connect to the NDNU Campus		X		3
College Vie	Continue to refill wood chips in Playground area periodically	X			0
College Vie	Replace benches		X		3
College Vie	Add planted area near picnic area			X	5
College Vie	Plant trees to increase shade			X	5
Davey Glen	Add signage for a walking loop within the park (depicted path on ramp, around lawn, and stairs is 0.1 mile)		X		3
Davey Glen	Continue to maintain the high-quality planting across the site		X		3
Hallmark	Create seating in shaded area (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)			X	5
Hallmark	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan		X		3
Hallmark	Evaluate paths' accessibility and reconstruct as needed			X	5
Hallmark	Resurface and restripe Tennis Courts to include Pickleball (completed Spring 2022)		X		3
Hallmark	Update, expand, and consider relocating playground structure			X	5
Hallmark	Increase seating opportunities			X	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - COMMUNITY POINTS					
		N/A	Medium	High	SUM
Park	Park Element	0	3	5	5
Hallmark	Plant trees to replace declining existing trees across the site (succession planting)			X	5
Hallmark	Plant trees to increase shade			X	5
Hallmark	Consider adding native planting areas			X	5
Hastings Tr	Park redesign for proposed park amenities		X		3
Hastings Tr	Add crosswalk for connectivity to park and adjacent trailhead			X	5
Hastings Tr	Replenish playground fibar		X		3
Hastings Tr	Replace and consider reorienting benches for eyes on the playground and sunset view		X		3
Hastings Tr	Replace wood stake fence		X		3
Hastings Tr	Create safety barrier between playground and adjacent Hasting Drive			X	5
Hastings Tr	Update play structure			X	5
Hastings Tr	Create native planting area around playground			X	5
Hastings Tr	Add interpretive signage to educate about native plants and open spaces		X		3
Hidden Car	Add seating opportunities (Seating)			X	5
Hidden Car	Add Nature Play Element (Play Amenity)			X	5
Hidden Car	Add a small and shaded Picnic Areas (Picnic Opportunity)			X	5
Hidden Car	Add an Outdoor Classroom (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)			X	5
Hidden Car	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan			X	5
Hidden Car	Add ADA parking stall			X	5
Hidden Car	Increase quantity of parking stalls to accommodate volume of visitors		X		3
Hidden Car	Add restroom with water fountain		X		3
Hidden Car	Add Open Space Gateway Element		X		3
Hidden Car	Add seating opportunities			X	5
Hidden Car	Maintain native plantings			X	5
Hidden Car	Remove non-native plants		X		3
Hidden Car	Add shade (trees or shade structure) to seating areas			X	5
McDougal	Add All-Abilities Play Element (Play Amenity)			X	5
McDougal	Utilize adjacent school for off-street parking during limited hours (Off-Street Parking)		X		3
McDougal	Add permanent restroom (Permanent Restroom)		X		3
McDougal	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and amenities proposed with a Park Design Plan		X		3

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - COMMUNITY POINTS					
		N/A	Medium	High	SUM
Park	**Park Element**	0	3	5	5
McDougal	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities			X	5
McDougal	Explore adding stair, ramp preferred, access closer to Solana Dr			X	5
McDougal	Add an accessible Gathering Space to promote social interaction			X	5
McDougal	Replace storage containers	X			0
McDougal	Replace picnic tables	X			0
McDougal	Replace benches	X			0
McDougal	Increase seating opportunities			X	5
McDougal	Evaluate condition of trees near entrance and remove or treat as needed		X		3
McDougal	Consider transitioning Multi-use Athletic Fields to synthetic turf	X			0
McDougal	Plant trees to increase shade				0
O'Donnell	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small			X	5
O'Donnell	Replace BBQs	X			0
O'Donnell	Refurbish the existing half basketball courts		X		3
O'Donnell	Add shade, tables, and outdoor games			X	5
O'Donnell	Refresh planting areas with native plants			X	5
O'Donnell	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X		3
Patricia Wl	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed			X	5
Patricia Wl	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Patricia Wharton Park, Semeria Park, and College View Park			X	5
Patricia Wl	Replace seating		X		3
Patricia Wl	Add boulders or stumps as seating or play elements in center planter area			1	5
Patricia Wl	Add native planting to hillside			1	5
Patricia Wl	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X		3
Ralston Ra	Add benches (Seating)			X	5
Ralston Ra	Add Natural Play Element (Play Amenity)			X	5
Ralston Ra	Add individual Picnic Tables (Picnic Opportunity)			X	5
Ralston Ra	Add small seating space (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)			X	5
Ralston Ra	Add walking path (Recreation Amenity)			X	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - COMMUNITY POINTS					
		N/A	Medium	High	SUM
Park	**Park Element**	0	3	5	5
Ralston Ra	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	X			
Ralston Ra	Monitor trees and replace as necessary			X	5
Ralston Ra	Add native planting areas			X	5
Ralston Ra	Utilize trees as screening from Ralston Avenue and as wind protection		X		3
Semeria	Add fitness signage (Recreation Amenity)			X	5
Semeria	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Semeria Park, Patricia Wharton Park, and College View Park			X	5
Semeria	Garbage receptable access from sidewalk	X			0
Semeria	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X		3
Twin Pines	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed			X	5
Twin Pines	Pave path to restroom			X	5
Twin Pines	Implement Twin Pines Master Plan (2019)			X	5
Twin Pines	Evaluate and repair picnic tables in poor condition		X		3
Twin Pines	Replace BBQs	X			0
Twin Pines	Replace drinking fountain	X			0
Twin Pines	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X		3
Twin Pines	Restructure arrival zone to strengthen visual and physical connections		X		3
Twin Pines	Prioritize pedestrian expereince in Town Square area	X			0
Twin Pines	Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries		X		3
Twin Pines	Add looped walking path(s)			X	5
Twin Pines	Renovate and expand playground structure with inclusive, all-abilities play		X		3
Twin Pines	Add Water Play Element		X		3
Twin Pines	Renovate Picnic Area		X		3
Twin Pines	Add Bocce Ball Court		X		3
Twin Pines	Add Teen Outdoor Space			X	5
Twin Pines	Add Multi-use Lawn		X		3
Twin Pines	Establish and improve visual and access connections to Belmont Creek			X	5
Wakefield	Create overlook opportunity (Identifiable Amenity)		X		3

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - COMMUNITY POINTS					
		N/A	Medium	High	SUM
Park	Park Element	0	3	5	5
Wakefield	Improve existing walking path(s)			X	5
Wakefield	Add benches			X	5
Wakefield	Add entrance signage to increase park visibility		X		3
Wakefield	Plant trees to increase shade			X	5
Wakefield	Add native planting areas		X		3
Wakefield	Public Art opportunity		X		3
Central Sch	Create looped walking path around lawn			X	5
Central Sch	Rejuvenate outdoor classroom space		X		3
Central Sch	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time	X			0
Fox School	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time	X			0
Nesbit Scho	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time	X			0
Ralston Sch	Update exterior path at property line to better connect to ropes course south of the school if former ropes course activated for other use			X	5
Ralston Sch	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time	X			0
Ralston Av	Create gateway planting as an entry for Belmont (Natural Environment)		1		3
Ralston Av	Add benches (Seating)		1		3
Ralston Av	Add Skate Park (Identifiable Amenity)		X		3
Ralston Av	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan		X		3
Ralston Av	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities			1	5
Ralston Av	Add Dog Parklet		X		3
Ralston Av	Add placemaking space to host community gathering, event space, pop-up business space, etc.		X		3
Ralston Av	Install Public Art piece		X		3
Oak Knoll L	Add benches (Seating)			X	5
Oak Knoll L	Add Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)			X	5
Oak Knoll L	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan			X	5
Oak Knoll L	Encourage creation of a “safety circle” at the terminus of Oak Knoll Drive to highlight park use in center			X	5
Oak Knoll L	Add native planting areas			X	5
Alameda d	Add benches (Seating)			X	5

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - COMMUNITY POINTS					
		N/A	Medium	High	SUM
Park	**Park Element**	0	3	5	5
Alameda d	Add Nature Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)		X		3
Alameda d	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	X			0
Alameda d	Add looped walking path(s)			X	5
Alameda d	Encourage creation of sidewalks along and connecting to park			X	5
Alameda d	Add bike repair station			X	5
Alameda d	Add fence or protective barrier between play element and road	X			0
Alameda d	Add native planting areas			X	5

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PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group	Underserved Area of Belmont	Anticipated Density Increase	New Use	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use	Resolve Access Issues	SUM
		3	7	3	3	3	3	
Alexander	Park redesign for proposed park amenities			X	X	X	X	12
Alexander	Continue looped walking path around lawn			X				3
Alexander	Provide ADA accessible path to existing and new amenities			X			X	6
Alexander	Increase visibility and celebrate the park by enhancing the entrance at the street and upgrade the experience by incorporating art, such as murals, along the entrance access			X			X	6
Alexander	Resurface and restripe Tennis Court to include Pickleball (completed Summer 2022)			X	X	X		9
Alexander	Repair/Replace BBQs			X				3
Alexander	Add Bocce Ball Court			X	X			6
Alexander	Replace an existing playground with an All-Abilities Playground	X	X	X	X	X		19
Alexander	Increase seating opportunities			X				3
Alexander	Monitor Oak tree			X				3
Alexander	Enhance existing plantings with native and drought-tolerant species			X				3
Alexander	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site			X				3
Alexander	Expand tree canopy and shade with tree plantings (maintain central lawn without obstruction)			X				3
Barrett Cor	Implement the recommendations from the Barrett Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)				X	X		6
Barrett Cor	Add seating opportunities							0
Barrett Cor	Remove fitness equipment on-site to re-use at alternative park location							0
Barrett Cor	Improve planting near entrance							0
Barrett Cor	Construct Multi-Use Athletic Field in Conceptual Design Report as synthetic turf					X		3

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group	Underserved Area of Belmont	Anticipated Density Increase	New Use	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use	Resolve Access Issues	SUM
		3	7	3	3	3	3	
Barrett Cor	Restructure parking size and configuration							0
Barrett Cor	Add Dog Parklet				X	X		6
Barrett Cor	Add Pool (Water Play)				X			3
Barrett Cor	Add Spray Park (Water Play)				X			3
Barrett Cor	Relocate and upgrade Playground with inclusive, all-abilities play	X	X		X	X		16
Barrett Cor	Construct new Community Center	X	X		X			13
Barrett Cor	Consider synthetic turf for Multi-use Athletic Field					X		3
Barrett Cor	Relocate multi-use sports court							0
Barrett Cor	Add picnic area							0
Barrett Cor	Plant trees to increase shade							0
Belameda	Add fitness equipment course along existing and extended walking path (Recreation Amenity)				X			3
Belameda	Create walking loop extension							0
Belameda	Increase entrance and connection opportunities to create better park access						X	3
Belameda	Add Wi-Fi access to site				X			3
Belameda	Create a Teen Outdoor Space to complement offerings at the Belmont Library	X			X			6
Belameda	Continue path to create a walking and learn-to-bike loop in land west of parking lot				X			3
Belameda	Increase seating opportunities							0
Belameda	Consider inclusive, all-abilities play for playground				X	X		6
Belameda	Add native planting near entrance							0
Belameda	Refresh planting around playground							0
Belameda	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site							0
Belmont Sp	Add bike repair station				X			3
Belmont Sp	Create an accessible Social Gathering Space to promote social interactions							0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group	Underserved Area of Belmont	Anticipated Density Increase	New Use	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use	Resolve Access Issues	SUM
		3	7	3	3	3	3	
Belmont Sp	Redevelop underutilized space with a Pump Track (Bike Park)	X			X			6
Belmont Sp	Add a Fitness Equipment Course around North Field path				X			3
Belmont Sp	Relocate picnic tables							0
Belmont Sp	Increase seating opportunities							0
Belmont Sp	Add native planting areas							0
Belmont Sp	Consider transitioning South Field and Marina Field to synthetic turf					X		3
Belmont Sp	Add interpretive signage about marsh and bay ecology				X			3
Cipriani	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan							0
Cipriani	Formalize dog park entrance from school's parking lot						X	3
Cipriani	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities						X	3
Cipriani	Rebuild entrance stairs and pathway from Buena Vista Ave						X	3
Cipriani	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small							0
Cipriani	Upgrade playground structure							0
Cipriani	Redesign dog park area to better address community needs and surfacing best suited to use		X			X		10
Cipriani	Increase seating opportunities							0
Cipriani	Consider additional amenities in partnership with adjacent school							0
Cipriani	Add trees around perimeter of fenced dog park area for shade							0
Cipriani	Evaluate multi-use flexible lawn for turf improvement							0
College Vie	Assess paved surface for access and repair/replace as needed							0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group	Underserved Area of Belmont	Anticipated Density Increase	New Use	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use	Resolve Access Issues	SUM
		3	7	3	3	3	3	
College Vie	Consider creating and interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between College View Park, Semeria Park, and Patricia Wharton Park						X	3
College Vie	Explore opportunities to connect to the NDNU Campus						X	3
College Vie	Continue to refill wood chips in Playground area periodically							0
College Vie	Replace benches							0
College Vie	Add planted area near picnic area							0
College Vie	Plant trees to increase shade							0
Davey Glen	Add signage for a walking loop within the park (depicted path on ramp, around lawn, and stairs is 0.1 mile)				X			3
Davey Glen	Continue to maintain the high-quality planting across the site							0
Hallmark	Create seating in shaded area (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)							0
Hallmark	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan							0
Hallmark	Evaluate paths' accessibility and reconstruct as needed							0
Hallmark	Resurface and restripe Tennis Courts to include Pickleball				X	X		6
Hallmark	Update, expand, and consider relocating playground structure							0
Hallmark	Increase seating opportunities							0
Hallmark	Plant trees to replace declining existing trees across the site (succession planting)							0
Hallmark	Plant trees to increase shade							0
Hallmark	Consider adding native planting areas							0
Hastings Tc	Park redesign for proposed park amenities					X	X	6
Hastings Tc	Add crosswalk for connectivity to park and adjacent trailhead							0
Hastings Tc	Replenish playground fibar							0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group	Underserved Area of Belmont	Anticipated Density Increase	New Use	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use	Resolve Access Issues	SUM
		3	7	3	3	3	3	
Hastings Tc	Replace and consider reorienting benches for eyes on the playground and sunset view					X		3
Hastings Tc	Replace wood stake fence							0
Hastings Tc	Create safety barrier between playground and adjacent Hasting Drive						X	3
Hastings Tc	Update play structure							0
Hastings Tc	Create native planting area around playground							0
Hastings Tc	Add interpretive signage to educate about native plants and open spaces				X			3
Hidden Car	Add seating opportunities (Seating)				X			3
Hidden Car	Add Nature Play Element (Play Amenity)				X			3
Hidden Car	Add a small and shaded Picnic Area (Picnic Opportunity)				X			3
Hidden Car	Add an Outdoor Classroom (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)				X	X		6
Hidden Car	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan				X	X	X	9
Hidden Car	Add ADA parking stall				X		X	6
Hidden Car	Increase quantity of parking stalls to accommodate volume of visitors						X	3
Hidden Car	Add restroom				X			3
Hidden Car	Add Open Space Gateway Element				X	X	X	9
Hidden Car	Add seating opportunities				X			3
Hidden Car	Maintain native plantings							0
Hidden Car	Remove non-native plants							0
Hidden Car	Add shade (trees or shade structure) to seating areas				X			3
McDougal	Add All-Abilites Play Element (Play Amenity)	X	X		X	X		16
McDougal	Utilize adjacent school for off-street parking during limited hours (Off-Street Parking)						X	3
McDougal	Add permanent restroom (Permanent Restroom)				X	X		6

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group (3)	Underserved Area of Belmont (7)	Anticipated Density Increase (3)	New Use (3)	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use (3)	Resolve Access Issues (3)	SUM
McDougal	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and amenities proposed with a Park Design Plan				X	X	X	9
McDougal	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities				X		X	6
McDougal	Explore adding stair, ramp preferred, access closer to Solana Dr						X	3
McDougal	Add an accessible Gathering Space to promote social interaction				X			3
McDougal	Replace storage containers							0
McDougal	Replace picnic tables							0
McDougal	Replace benches							0
McDougal	Increase seating opportunities							0
McDougal	Evaluate condition of trees near entrance and remove or treat as needed							0
McDougal	Consider transitioning Multi-use Athletic Fields to synthetic turf					X		3
McDougal	Plant trees to increase shade							0
O'Donnell	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small			X	X	X		9
O'Donnell	Replace BBQs			X				3
O'Donnell	Refurbish the existing half basketball courts			X				3
O'Donnell	Add shade, tables, and outdoor games			X	X			6
O'Donnell	Refresh planting areas with native plants			X				3
O'Donnell	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site			X				3
Patricia Wh	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed							0
Patricia Wh	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Patricia Wharton Park, Semeria Park, and College View Park						X	3
Patricia Wh	Replace seating							0
Patricia Wh	Add boulders or stumps as seating or play elements in center planter area				X			3
Patricia Wh	Add native planting to hillside							0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group	Underserved Area of Belmont	Anticipated Density Increase	New Use	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use	Resolve Access Issues	SUM
		3	7	3	3	3	3	
Patricia Wh	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site							0
Ralston Ra	Add benches (Seating)		X		X			10
Ralston Ra	Add Natural Play Element (Play Amenity)		X		X			10
Ralston Ra	Add individual Picnic Tables (Picnic Opportunity)		X		X			10
Ralston Ra	Add seating space (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)		X		X			10
Ralston Ra	Add walking path (Recreation Amenity)		X		X			10
Ralston Ra	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan		X		X	X	X	16
Ralston Ra	Monitor trees and replace as necessary		X					7
Ralston Ra	Add native planting areas		X					7
Ralston Ra	Utilize trees as screening from Ralston Avenue and as wind protection		X					7
Semeria	Add fitness signage (Recreation Amenity)				X			3
Semeria	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Semeria Park, Patricia Wharton Park, and College View Park						X	3
Semeria	Garbage receptable access from sidewalk							0
Semeria	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site							0
Twin Pines	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed							0
Twin Pines	Pave path to restroom						X	3
Twin Pines	Implement Twin Pines Master Plan (2019)					X		3
Twin Pines	Evaluate and repair picnic tables in poor condition							0
Twin Pines	Replace BBQs							0
Twin Pines	Replace drinking fountain							0
Twin Pines	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site							0
Twin Pines	Restructure arrival zone to strengthen visual and physical connections						X	3
Twin Pines	Prioritize pedestrian expereince in Town Square area						X	3

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group (3)	Underserved Area of Belmont (7)	Anticipated Density Increase (3)	New Use (3)	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use (3)	Resolve Access Issues (3)	SUM
Twin Pines	Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries					X	X	6
Twin Pines	Add looped walking path(s)				X			3
Twin Pines	Renovate and expand playground structure with inclusive, all-abilities play	X	X		X	X		16
Twin Pines	Add Water Play Element				X			3
Twin Pines	Renovate Picnic Area							0
Twin Pines	Add Bocce Ball Court				X			3
Twin Pines	Add Teen Outdoor Space	X			X			6
Twin Pines	Add Multi-use Lawn				X			3
Twin Pines	Establish and improve visual and access connections to Belmont Creek					X	X	6
Wakefield	Create overlook opportunity (Identifiable Amenity)				X			3
Wakefield	Improve existing walking path(s)							0
Wakefield	Add benches				X			3
Wakefield	Add entrance signage to increase park visibility				X		X	6
Wakefield	Plant trees to increase shade							0
Wakefield	Add native planting areas							0
Wakefield	Public Art opportunity				X			3
Central Sch	Create looped walking path around lawn							0
Central Sch	Rejuvenate outdoor classroom space					X		3
Central Sch	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time					X		3
Fox School	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time					X		3
Nesbit Schc	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time					X		3
Ralston Sch	Update exterior path at property line to better connect to ropes course south of the school if ropes course activated							0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - DEFICIENCY POINTS

Park	Park Element	Demographic Group	Underserved Area of Belmont	Anticipated Density Increase	New Use	Avaialbility of Amenity/Use	Resolve Access Issues	SUM
		3	7	3	3	3	3	
Ralston Sch	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time					X		3
Ralston Ave	Create gateway planting as an entry for Belmont (Natural Environment)		X	X				10
Ralston Ave	Add benches (Seating)		X	X	X			13
Ralston Ave	Add Skate Park (Identifiable Amenity)	X	X	X	X	X		19
Ralston Ave	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	X	X	X	X			16
Ralston Ave	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities		X	X				10
Ralston Ave	Add Dog Parklet		X	X	X	X		16
Ralston Ave	Add placemaking space to host community gathering, event space, pop-up business space, etc.		X	X	X	X		16
Ralston Ave	Install Public Art piece		X	X	X	X		16
Oak Knoll D	Add benches (Seating)		X		X			10
Oak Knoll D	Add Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)		X		X			10
Oak Knoll D	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan		X		X			10
Oak Knoll D	Encourage creation of a “safety circle” at the terminus of Oak Knoll Drive to highlight park use in center		X				X	10
Oak Knoll D	Add native planting areas		X					7
Alameda de	Add benches (Seating)		X		X			10
Alameda de	Add Nature Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)		X		X			10
Alameda de	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan		X		X	X		13
Alameda de	Add looped walking path(s)		X		X			10
Alameda de	Encourage creation of sidewalks along and connecting to park		X				X	10
Alameda de	Add bike repair station		X		X			10
Alameda de	Add fence or protective barrier between play element and road		X					7
Alameda de	Add native planting areas		X					7

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - CONDITION POINTS							
		New or N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical/Unsafe	
PARK	**Park Element**	0	0	1	2	5	**SUM**
Alexander	Park redesign for proposed park amenities			X			1
Alexander	Continue looped walking path around lawn	X					0
Alexander	Provide ADA accessible path to existing and new amenities	X					0
Alexander	Increase visibility and celebrate the park by enhancing the entrance at the street and upgrade the experience by incorporating art, such as murals, along the entrance access	X					0
Alexander	Resurface and restripe Tennis Court to include Pickleball (completed Spring 2022)			X			1
Alexander	Repair/Replace BBQs				X		2
Alexander	Add Bocce Ball Court	X					0
Alexander	Replace an existing playground with an All-Abilities Playground		X				0
Alexander	Increase seating opportunities	X					0
Alexander	Monitor Oak tree				X		2
Alexander	Enhance existing plantings with native and drought-tolerant species		X				0
Alexander	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X				0
Alexander	Expand tree canopy and shade with tree plantings (maintain central lawn without obstruction)			X			1
Barrett Commu	Implement the recommendations from the Barrett Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)	X					0
Barrett Commu	Add seating opportunities	X					0
Barrett Commu	Remove fitness equipment on-site to re-use at alternative park location		X				0
Barrett Commu	Improve planting near entrance				X		2
Barrett Commu	Construct Multi-Use Athletic Field in Conceptual Design Report as synthetic turf			X			1
Barrett Commu	Restructure parking size and configuration						0
Barrett Commu	Add Dog Parklet	X					0
Barrett Commu	Add Pool (Water Play)	X					0
Barrett Commu	Add Spray Park (Water Play)	X					0
Barrett Commu	Relocate and upgrade Playground with inclusive, all-abilities play			X			1
Barrett Commu	Construct new Community Center	X					0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - CONDITION POINTS							
		New or N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical/Unsafe	
PARK	**Park Element**	0	0	1	2	5	**SUM**
Barrett Commu	Consider synthetic turf for Multi-use Athletic Field	X					0
Barrett Commu	Relocate multi-use sports court		X				0
Barrett Commu	Add picnic area	X					0
Barrett Commu	Plant trees to increase shade		X				0
Belameda	Add fitness equipment course along existing and extended walking path (Recreation Amenity)	X					0
Belameda	Create walking loop extension	X					0
Belameda	Increase entrance and connection opportunities to create better park access			X			1
Belameda	Add Wi-Fi access to site	X					0
Belameda	Create a Teen Outdoor Space to complement offerings at the Belmont Library	X					0
Belameda	Continue path to create a walking and learn-to-bike loop in land west of parking lot	X					0
Belameda	Increase seating opportunities	X					0
Belameda	Consider inclusive, all-abilities play for playground		X				0
Belameda	Add native planting near entrance			X			1
Belameda	Refresh planting around playground			X			1
Belameda	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X				0
Belmont Sports	Add bike repair station	X					0
Belmont Sports	Create an accessible Social Gathering Space to promote social interactions	X					0
Belmont Sports	Redevelop underutilized space with a Pump Track (Bike Park)	X					0
Belmont Sports	Add a Fitness Equipment Course around North Field path	X					0
Belmont Sports	Relocate picnic tables			X			1
Belmont Sports	Increase seating opportunities	X					0
Belmont Sports	Add native planting areas	X					0
Belmont Sports	Consider transitioning South Field and Marina Field to synthetic turf		X				0
Belmont Sports	Add interpretive signage about marsh and bay ecology	X					0
Cipriani	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan			X			1
Cipriani	Formalize dog park entrance from school's parking lot			X			1

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - CONDITION POINTS							
		New or N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical/Unsafe	
PARK	**Park Element**	0	0	1	2	5	**SUM**
Cipriani	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	X					0
Cipriani	Rebuild entrance stairs and pathway from Buena Vista Ave				X		2
Cipriani	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small	X					0
Cipriani	Upgrade playground structure			X			1
Cipriani	Redesign dog park area to better address community needs and surfacing best suited to use				X		2
Cipriani	Increase seating opportunities	X					0
Cipriani	Consider additional amenities in partnership with adjacent school	X					0
Cipriani	Add trees around perimeter of fenced dog park area for shade	X					0
Cipriani	Evaluate multi-use flexible lawn for turf improvement			X			1
College View	Assess paved surface for access and repair/replace as needed				X		2
College View	Consider creating and interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between College View Park, Semeria Park, and Patricia Wharton Park	X					0
College View	Explore opportunities to connect to the NDNU Campus	X					0
College View	Continue to refill wood chips in Playground area periodically			X			1
College View	Replace benches				X		2
College View	Add planted area near picnic area				X		2
College View	Plant trees to increase shade			X			1
Davey Glen	Add signage for a walking loop within the park (depicted path on ramp, around lawn, and stairs is 0.1 mile)	X					0
Davey Glen	Continue to maintain the high-quality planting across the site		X				0
Hallmark	Create seating in shaded area (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)	X					0
Hallmark	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Master Plan				X		2
Hallmark	Evaluate paths' accessibility and reconstruct as needed				X		2
Hallmark	Resurface and restripe Tennis Courts to include Pickleball			X			1

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - CONDITION POINTS

PARK	Park Element	New or N/A 0	Good 0	Fair 1	Poor 2	Critical/Unsafe 5	SUM
Hallmark	Update, expand, and consider relocating playground structure			X			1
Hallmark	Increase seating opportunities	X					0
Hallmark	Plant trees to replace declining existing trees across the site (succession planting)			X			1
Hallmark	Plant trees to increase shade			X			1
Hallmark	Consider adding native planting areas	X					0
Hastings Tot Lo	Park redesign for proposed park amenities				X		2
Hastings Tot Lo	Add crosswalk for connectivity to park and adjacent trailhead	X					0
Hastings Tot Lo	Replenish playground fibar				X		2
Hastings Tot Lo	Replace and consider reorienting benches for eyes on the playground and sunset view				X		2
Hastings Tot Lo	Replace wood stake fence					X	5
Hastings Tot Lo	Create safety barrier between playground and adjacent Hasting Drive	X					0
Hastings Tot Lo	Update play structure			X			1
Hastings Tot Lo	Create native planting area around playground	X					0
Hastings Tot Lo	Add interpretive signage to educate about native plants and open spaces	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Add seating opportunities (Seating)	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Add Nature Play Element (Play Amenity)	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Add a small and shaded Picnic Area (Picnic Opportunity)	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Add an Outdoor Classroom (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan				X		2
Hidden Canyon	Add ADA parking stall	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Increase quantity of parking stalls to accommodate volume of visitors			X			1
Hidden Canyon	Add restroom	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Add Open Space Gateway Element	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Add seating opportunities	X					0
Hidden Canyon	Maintain native plantings		X				0
Hidden Canyon	Remove non-native plants		X				0
Hidden Canyon	Add shade (trees or shade structure) to seating areas	X					0
McDougal Park	Add All-Abilities Play Element (Play Amenity)	X					0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - CONDITION POINTS							
		New or N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical/Unsafe	
PARK	**Park Element**	0	0	1	2	5	**SUM**
McDougal Park	Utilize adjacent school for off-street parking during limited hours (Off-Street Parking)				X		2
McDougal Park	Add permanent restroom (Permanent Restroom)	X					0
McDougal Park	Whole park redesign for better accessibility and amenities proposed with a Park Design Plan				X		2
McDougal Park	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	X					0
McDougal Park	Explore adding stair, ramp preferred, access closer to Solana Dr	X					0
McDougal Park	Add an accessible Gathering Space to promote social interaction	X					0
McDougal Park	Replace storage containers				X		2
McDougal Park	Replace picnic tables				X		2
McDougal Park	Replace benches				X		2
McDougal Park	Increase seating opportunities	X					0
McDougal Park	Evaluate condition of trees near entrance and remove or treat as needed				X		2
McDougal Park	Consider transitioning Multi-use Athletic Fields to synthetic turf			X			1
McDougal Park	Plant trees to increase shade	X					0
O'Donnell	Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small	X					0
O'Donnell	Replace BBQs				X		2
O'Donnell	Refurbish the existing half basketball courts			X			1
O'Donnell	Add shade, tables, and outdoor games	X					0
O'Donnell	Refresh planting areas with native plants			X			1
O'Donnell	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X				0
Patricia Whartc	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed			X			1
Patricia Whartc	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Patricia Wharton Park, Semeria Park, and College View Park	X					0
Patricia Whartc	Replace seating				X		2
Patricia Whartc	Add boulders or stumps as seating or play elements in center planter area	X					0
Patricia Whartc	Add native planting to hillside	X					0
Patricia Whartc	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X				0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - CONDITION POINTS								
		New or N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical/Unsafe	
PARK	**Park Element**	0	0	1	2	5	**SUM**
Ralston Ranch	Add benches (Seating)	X					0
Ralston Ranch	Add Natural Play Element (Play Amenity)	X					0
Ralston Ranch	Add individual Picnic Tables (Picnic Opportunity)	X					0
Ralston Ranch	Add seating space (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)	X					0
Ralston Ranch	Add walking path (Recreation Amenity)	X					0
Ralston Ranch	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	X					0
Ralston Ranch	Monitor trees and replace as necessary			X			1
Ralston Ranch	Add native planting areas	X					0
Ralston Ranch	Utilize trees as screening from Ralston Avenue and as wind protection	X					0
Semeria	Add fitness signage (Recreation Amenity)	X					0
Semeria	Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Semeria Park, Patricia Wharton Park, and College View Park	X					0
Semeria	Garbage receptable access from sidewalk			X			1
Semeria	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X				0
Twin Pines	Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed			X			1
Twin Pines	Pave path to restroom				X		2
Twin Pines	Implement Twin Pines Master Plan (2019)			X			1
Twin Pines	Evaluate and repair picnic tables in poor condition				X		2
Twin Pines	Replace BBQs				X		2
Twin Pines	Replace drinking fountain				X		2
Twin Pines	Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site		X				0
Twin Pines	Restructure arrival zone to strengthen visual and physical connections				X		2
Twin Pines	Prioritize pedestrian expereince in Town Square area			X			1
Twin Pines	Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries				X		2
Twin Pines	Add looped walking path(s)			X			1
Twin Pines	Renovate and expand playground structure with inclusive, all-abilities play			X			1
Twin Pines	Add Water Play Element	X					0
Twin Pines	Renovate Picnic Area			X			1
Twin Pines	Add Bocce Ball Court	X					0
Twin Pines	Add Teen Outdoor Space	X					0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - CONDITION POINTS							
		New or N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical/Unsafe	
PARK	**Park Element**	0	0	1	2	5	**SUM**
Twin Pines	Add Multi-use Lawn	X					0
Twin Pines	Establish and improve visual and access connections to Belmont Creek				X		2
Wakefield	Create overlook opportunity (Identifiable Amenity)	X					0
Wakefield	Improve existing walking path(s)				X		2
Wakefield	Add benches	X					0
Wakefield	Add entrance signage to increase park visibility	X					0
Wakefield	Plant trees to increase shade	X					0
Wakefield	Add native planting areas	X					0
Wakefield	Public Art opportunity	X					0
Central School	Create looped walking path around lawn	X					0
Central School	Rejuvenate outdoor classroom space			X			1
Central School	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time			X			1
Fox School	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time			X			1
Nesbit School	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time			X			1
Ralston School	Update exterior path at property line to better connect to ropes course south of the school if ropes course activated	X					0
Ralston School	Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time			X			1
Ralston Ave + O	Create gateway planting as an entry for Belmont (Natural Environment)	X					0
Ralston Ave + O	Add benches (Seating)	X					0
Ralston Ave + O	Add Skate Park (Identifiable Amenity)	X					0
Ralston Ave + O	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	X					0
Ralston Ave + O	Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities	X					0
Ralston Ave + O	Add Dog Parklet	X					0
Ralston Ave + O	Add placemaking space to host community gathering, event space, pop-up business space, etc.	X					0
Ralston Ave + O	Install Public Art piece	X					0
Oak Knoll Dr	Add benches (Seating)	X					0
Oak Knoll Dr	Add Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)	X					0

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX - CONDITION POINTS							
		New or N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	Critical/Unsafe	
PARK	**Park Element**	0	0	1	2	5	**SUM**
Oak Knoll Dr	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	X					0
Oak Knoll Dr	Encourage creation of a "safety circle" at the terminus of Oak Knoll Drive to highlight park use in center	X					0
Oak Knoll Dr	Add native planting areas	X					0
Alameda de las	Add benches (Seating)	X					0
Alameda de las	Add Nature Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)	X					0
Alameda de las	Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan	X					0
Alameda de las	Add looped walking path(s)	X					0
Alameda de las	Encourage creation of sidewalks along and connecting to park	X					0
Alameda de las	Add bike repair station	X					0
Alameda de las	Add fence or protective barrier between play element and road	X					0
Alameda de las	Add native planting areas	X					0

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APPENDIX H

PROBABLE COSTS

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	ALEXANDER PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
-. Park redesign for proposed park amenities				
Park design plan (medium-sized park)	1	LS	$ 150,000	$ 150,000
1. Continue looped walking path around lawn				
Site preparation	680	SF	$ 5	$ 3,400
Concrete path (48" wide)	680	SF	$ 25	$ 17,000
2. Provide ADA accessible path to existing and new amenities				
Site preparation	880	SF	$ 5	$ 4,400
Concrete path (48" wide)	880	SF	$ 25	$ 22,000
3. Increase visibility and celebrate the park by enhancing the entrance at the street and upgrade the experience by incorporating art, such as murals, along the entrance access				
Artful park sign	1	EA	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Mural on fence	1	LS	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
4. Resurface and restripe Tennis Court to include Pickleball (completed Summer 2022)				
Current project, probable cost not included				
5. Repair/Replace BBQs				
Demolish existing BBQ	1	LS	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
BBQ	2	EA	$ 2,500	$ 5,000
6. Add Bocce Ball Court				
Site preparation	1,700	SF	$ 15	$ 25,500
Bocce court	1	EA	$ 200,000	$ 200,000
7. Replace an existing playground with an All-Abilities Playground				
Demolish existing playground	1	LS	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
All-abilities playground structure (medium)	1	LS	$ 750,000	$ 750,000
Playground safety surfacing	2,125	SF	$ 45	$ 95,625
-. Increase seating opportunities *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
8. Monitor Oak tree				
Arborist visit (park site, annually)				*Conducted by City arborist*
-. Enhance existing plantings with native and drought-tolerant species *(price per 100 SF)*				
Native planting	100	SF	$ 15	$ 1,500
-. Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site				
Maintenance effort, probable cost not included				
-. Expand tree canopy and shade with tree plantings (maintain central lawn without obstruction) *(price per tree)*				
Tree (24" box)	1	EA	$ 650	$ 650

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	ALEXANDER PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
SUBTOTAL				**$ 1,345,325**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 336,331
Contingency			30%	$ 403,598
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 2,085,254**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	BARRETT COMMUNITY PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
Implement the recommendations from the Barrett Community Center Conceptual Design Report (2020)				
Refer to 2020 Conceptual Design Report				
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	BELAMEDA PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
f. Add fitness equipment course along existing and extended walking path (Recreation Amenity)				
Site preparation	300	SF	$ 5	$ 1,500
Fitness equipment station	3	EA	$ 15,000	$ 45,000
Concrete pad	300	SF	$ 25	$ 7,500
1. Create walking loop extension				
Site preparation	500	SF	$ 5	$ 2,500
Concrete path (48" wide)	500	SF	$ 25	$ 12,500
-. Increase entrance and connection opportunities to create better park access				
Park sign	1	EA	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
Artful park sign	1	EA	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
-. Add Wi-Fi access to site				
Wi-Fi	1	LS	$ 30,000	$ 30,000
2. Create a Teen Outdoor Space to complement offerings at the Belmont Library				
Site preparation	500	SF	$ 5	$ 2,500
Concrete area pad	500	SF	$ 25	$ 12,500
Alternative seating (seat pads, wall, etc.)	4	EA	$ 4,000	$ 16,000
Picnic Table	2	EA	$ 4,500	$ 9,000
3. Continue path to create a walking and learn-to-bike loop in land west of parking lot				
Site preparation	3,300	SF	$ 5	$ 16,500
Concrete path (72" wide)	3,300	SF	$ 25	$ 82,500
-. Increase seating opportunities *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
4. Add native planting near entrance				
Native planting	500	SF	$ 15	$ 7,500
Drip irrigation	500	SF	$ 12	$ 6,000
5. Refresh planting around playground				
Native planting	1,500	SF	$ 15	$ 22,500
-. Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site				
Maintenance effort, probable cost not included				
SUBTOTAL				**$ 310,750**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 77,688
Contingency			30%	$ 93,225
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 481,663**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
1. Add bike repair station				
Site preparation	100	SF	$ 5	$ 500
Bike repair station	1	EA	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Concrete pad	100	SF	$ 25	$ 2,500
2. Create an accessible Social Gathering Space to promote social interactions				
Site preparation	4,000	SF	$ 5	$ 20,000
Concrete pad	4,000	SF	$ 25	$ 100,000
Shade structure (small)	1	EA	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Bench	6	EA	$ 3,500	$ 21,000
Picnic table	4	EA	$ 4,500	$ 18,000
3. Redevelop underutilized space with a Pump Track (Bike Park)				
Site preparation	11,250	SF	$ 5	$ 56,250
Pump track (asphalt surface)	1	LS	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
4. Add a Fitness Equipment Course around North Field path				
Site preparation	300	SF	$ 5	$ 1,500
Fitness equipment station	3	EA	$ 15,000	$ 45,000
Concrete pad	300	SF	$ 25	$ 7,500
5. Relocate picnic tables				
Site preparation	700	SF	$ 5	$ 3,500
Relocate picnic table	1	LS	$ 2,500	$ 2,500
Concrete pad	700	SF	$ 25	$ 17,500
-. Increase seating opportunities *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
6. Add native planting areas				
Native planting	4,500	SF	$ 15	$ 67,500
Drip irrigation	4,500	SF	$ 12	$ 54,000
7. Consider transitioning South Field and Marina Field to synthetic turf				
South Field - Site preparation	69,000	SF	$5	$ 345,000
South Field - Synthetic sports field turf (base, cork infill, grading, drainage)	69,000	SF	$50	$ 3,450,000
Marina Field - Site preparation	33,000	SF	$5	$ 165,000
Marina Field - Synthetic sports field turf (base, cork infill, grading, drainage)	33,000	SF	$50	$ 1,650,000
8. Add interpretive signage about marsh and bay ecology				
Interpretive signage	3	EA	$ 8,000	$ 24,000

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
SUBTOTAL				**$ 6,610,500**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 1,652,625
Contingency			30%	$ 1,983,150
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 10,246,275**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	CIPRIANI PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
-. Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Design Plan				
Park design plan (large-sized park)	1	LS	$ 200,000	$ 200,000
1. Formalize dog park entrance from school's parking lot				
Site preparation	800	SF	$ 5	$ 4,000
Park sign	1	EA	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
Concrete path (48" wide)	800	SF	$ 25	$ 20,000
2. Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities				
Site preparation	860	SF	$ 5	$ 4,300
Concrete path (48" wide)	860	SF	$ 25	$ 21,500
3. Rebuild entrance stairs and pathway from Buena Vista Ave				
Site preparation	2,600	SF	$ 5	$ 13,000
Concrete stair and ramp	1	LS	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
Concrete path (48" wide)	2,000	SF	$ 25	$ 50,000
4. Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small				
Site preparation	750	SF	$ 5	$ 3,750
Concrete area pad	750	SF	$ 25	$ 18,750
Accessory furniture for picnic area	1	LS	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
Shade structure (small)	1	EA	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Picnic table	6	EA	$ 4,500	$ 27,000
5. Upgrade playground structure				
Demolish existing playground	1	LS	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Playground structure (medium)	1	LS	$ 225,000	$ 225,000
Playground safety surfacing	900	SF	$ 45	$ 40,500
6. Redesign dog park area to better address community needs and surfacing best suited to use				
Demolish existing dog park	1	LS	$ 10,000	$ 10,000
Fence, chain link (6')	750	LF	$ 100	$ 75,000
Pedestrian entry gate	6	EA	$ 5,000	$ 30,000
Synthetic surfacing dog park	26,000	SF	$ 35	$ 910,000
Dog agility furniture	3	EA	$ 1,500	$ 4,500
Dog waste station	3	EA	$ 1,500	$ 4,500
Bench	6	EA	$ 3,500	$ 21,000
Picnic table	4	EA	$ 4,500	$ 18,000
Concrete pad	550	SF	$ 25	$ 13,750
Shade structure (small)	1	EA	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
-. Increase seating opportunities *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
-. Consider additional amenities in partnership with adjacent school				

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	CIPRIANI PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
7. Add trees around perimeter of fenced dog park area for shade				
Tree (24" box)	3	EA	$ 650	$ 1,950
8. Evaluate multi-use flexible lawn for turf improvement				
Turf evalutation (determine extent of repair)	1	LS	$ 10,000	$ 10,000
SUBTOTAL				**$ 2,366,250**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 591,563
Contingency			30%	$ 709,875
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 3,667,688**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	COLLEGE VIEW PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
1. Assess paved surface for access and repair/replace as needed				
To-be-conducted by current department staff				
Demo existing paving	350	SF	$ 10	$ 3,500
Concrete area pad	350	SF	$ 25	$ 8,750
-. Consider creating and interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between College View Park, Semeria Park, and Patricia Wharton Park				
Site preparation	250	SF	$ 25	$ 6,250
Bike rack	1	EA	$ 1,500	$ 1,500
Bike repair station	1	EA	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Road signage	2	EA	$ 500	$ 1,000
Wayfinding signage	1	EA	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
Bench	2	EA	$ 3,500	$ 7,000
Concrete pad	250	SF	$ 25	$ 6,250
2. Explore opportunities to connect to the NDNU Campus				
Wayfinding signage	1	EA	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
3. Continue to refill wood chips in Playground area periodically				
Playground fibar replenish	1,500	SF	$ 3	$ 4,500
4. Replace benches				
Demolish existing bench	2	EA	$ 1,000	$ 2,000
Bench	2	EA	$ 3,500	$ 7,000
5. Add planted area near picnic area				
Native planting	1,000	SF	$ 15	$ 15,000
Drip irrigation	1,000	SF	$ 12	$ 12,000
-. Plant trees to increase shade *(price per tree)*				
Tree (24" box)	1	EA	$ 650	$ 650
SUBTOTAL				**$ 95,400**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 23,850
Contingency			30%	$ 28,620
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 147,870**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	DAVEY GLEN PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
f. Add signage for a walking loop within the park (depicted path on ramp, around lawn, and stairs is 0.1 mile)				
Interpretive signage	2	EA	$ 8,000	$ 16,000
-. Continue to maintain the high-quality planting across the site				
Maintenance effort, probable cost not included				
SUBTOTAL				**$ 16,000**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 4,000
Contingency			30%	$ 4,800
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 24,800**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	HALLMARK PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
e. Create seating in shaded area (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)				
Site preparation	100	SF	$ 5	$ 500
Bench	4	EA	$ 3,500	$ 14,000
Concrete pad	100	SF	$ 25	$ 2,500
-. Whole park redesign for better accessibility and space utilization with a Park Design Plan				
Park design plan (medium-sized park)	1	LS	$ 150,000	$ 150,000
1. Evaluate paths' accessibility and reconstruct as needed				
Accessibility study (park site)	1	LS	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Site preparation	2,900	SF	$ 5	$ 14,500
Concrete path (48" wide)	2,900	SF	$ 25	$ 72,500
2. Resurface and restripe Tennis Courts to include Pickleball (completed Spring 2022)				
Current project, probable cost not included				
3. Update, expand, and consider relocating playground structure				
Demolish existing playground	1	LS	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Playground structure (medium)	1	LS	$ 225,000	$ 225,000
Playground safety surfacing	1,250	SF	$ 45	$ 56,250
-. Increase seating opportunities *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
-. Plant trees to increase shade *(price per tree)* -. Plant trees to replace declining existing trees across the site (succession planting) *(price per tree)*				
Tree (24" box)	1	EA	$ 650	$ 650
-. Consider adding native planting areas				
Native planting	100	SF	$ 15	$ 1,500
Drip irrigation	100	SF	$ 12	$ 1,200
SUBTOTAL				**$ 592,850**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 148,213
Contingency			30%	$ 177,855
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 918,918**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	HASTINGS TOT LOT PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
-. Park redesign for proposed park amenities				
Park design plan (small-sized park)	1	LS	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
1. Add crosswalk for connectivity to park and adjacent trailhead				
Demolish existing paving	40	SF	$ 10	$ 400
Curb ramp	1	EA	$ 10,000	$ 10,000
Pavement markings for crosswalk	1	EA	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Road signage	2	EA	$ 500	$ 1,000
2. Replenish playground fibar				
Playground fiber replenish	1,400	SF	$ 3	$ 4,200
3. Replace and consider reorienting benches for eyes on the playground and sunset view *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
4. Replace wood stake fence				
Demolish existing fence	150	LS	$ 30	$ 4,500
Retaining wall (3')	150	LF	$ 450	$ 67,500
5. Create safety barrier between playground and adjacent Hasting Drive				
Site preparation	60	SF	$ 5	$ 300
Fence, chain link (6')	30	LF	$ 100	$ 3,000
Pedestrian entry gate	1	EA	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
6. Update play structure				
Demolish existing playground	1	LS	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Playground structure (medium)	1	LS	$ 225,000	$ 225,000
Playground safety surfacing	1,400	SF	$ 45	$ 63,000
7. Create native planting area around playground				
Native planting	450	SF	$ 15	$ 6,750
Drip irrigation	450	SF	$ 12	$ 5,400
8. Add interpretive signage to educate about native plants and open spaces				
Interpretive signage	2	EA	$ 8,000	$ 16,000
SUBTOTAL				**$ 546,300**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 136,575
Contingency			30%	$ 163,890
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 846,765**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	HIDDEN CANYON PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
b. Add seating opportunities (Seating) *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
c. Add Nature Play Element (Play Amenity)				
Site preparation	1,200	SF	$ 5	$ 6,000
Play element (independent play, swing, etc.)	3	EA	$ 40,000	$ 120,000
Playground safety surfacing	1,200	SF	$ 45	$ 54,000
d. Add a small and shaded Picnic Areas (Picnic Opportunity)				
Site preparation	1,500	SF	$ 5	$ 7,500
Concrete area pad	1,500	SF	$ 25	$ 37,500
Accessory furniture for picnic area	2	LS	$ 3,000	$ 6,000
Shade structure (small)	2	EA	$ 50,000	$ 100,000
Picnic table	6	EA	$ 4,500	$ 27,000
e. Add an Outdoor Classroom (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)				
Site preparation	500	SF	$ 5	$ 2,500
Decomposed granite area pad	500	SF	$ 12	$ 6,000
Bench	8	EA	$ 3,500	$ 28,000
-. Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan				
Park design plan (medium-sized park)	1	LS	$ 150,000	$ 150,000
1. Add ADA parking stall				
Parking lot ADA striping	*See Recommendation 2. Re-stripe entire lot*			
Signage	1	EA	$ 500	$ 500
2. Increase quantity of parking stalls to better accommodate current parking demand				
Site preparation	3,500	SF	$ 5	$ 17,500
Asphalt paving	3,500	SF	$ 25	$ 87,500
Parking lot striping	1	LS	$ 15,000	$ 15,000
3. Add restroom with water fountain				
Prefabricated restroom	1	LS	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
Restroom utility connection	1	LS	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
4. Add Open Space Gateway Element				
Site preparation	300	SF	$ 5	$ 1,500
Open Space gateway element	1	LS	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
-. Maintain native plantings				
Maintenance effort, probable cost not included				
-. Remove non-native plants				
Maintenance effort, probable cost not included				
-. Add shade (trees or shade structure) to seating areas *(price per tree)*				
Tree (24" box)	1	EA	$ 650	$ 650

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	HIDDEN CANYON PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
SUBTOTAL				**$ 1,246,400**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 311,600
Contingency			30%	$ 373,920
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 1,931,920**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	McDOUGAL PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
c. Add Play Element (Play Amenity)				
Site preparation	1,200	SF	$ 5	$ 6,000
Play element (independent play, swing, etc.)	3	EA	$ 40,000	$ 120,000
Playground safety surfacing	1,200	SF	$ 45	$ 54,000
g. Utilize adjacent school for off-street parking during limited hours (Off-Street Parking)				
No associated capital cost				
-. Whole park redesign for better accessibility and amenities proposed amenities with a Park Desig				
Park design plan (medium-sized park)	1	LS	$ 150,000	$ 150,000
-. Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities				
Accessibility study (park site)	1	LS	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Site preparation	6,000	SF	$ 5	$ 30,000
Concrete path (48" wide)	6,000	SF	$ 25	$ 150,000
1. Explore adding stair, ramp preferred, access closer to Solana Dr				
Site preparation	1,000	SF	$ 5	$ 5,000
Concrete stair	1	LS	$ 200,000	$ 200,000
2. Add an accessible Gathering Space to promote social interaction				
Site preparation	750	SF	$ 5	$ 3,750
Concrete area pad	750	SF	$ 25	$ 18,750
Shade structure (large)	1	LS	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
Bench	6	EA	$ 3,500	$ 21,000
h. Add permanent restroom (Permanent Restroom)				
Prefabricated restroom	1	LS	$ 500,000	$ 500,000
Restroom utility connection	1	LS	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
3. Replace storage containers				
Remove existing storage container	1	LS	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Storage structure	1	LS	$ 35,000	$ 35,000
4. Replace picnic tables				
Demo existing picnic table	3	LS	$ 1,500	$ 4,500
Picnic table	3	EA	$ 4,500	$ 13,500
5. Replace benches *(price per bench)*				
Demo existing bench	1	LS	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
-. Increase seating opportunities *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	McDOUGAL PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
-. Evaluate condition of trees near entrance and remove or treat as needed				
Arborist visit (park site, annually)			*Conducted by City arborist*	
6. Consider transitioning Multi-use Athletic Fields to synthetic turf				
Site preparation	72,500	SF	$5	$ 362,500
Syntheticsports field turf (base, cork infill, grading, drainage)	72,500	SF	$50	$ 3,625,000
-. Plant trees to increase shade *(price per tree)*				
Tree (24" box)	1	EA	$ 650	$ 650
SUBTOTAL				**$ 5,463,400**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 1,365,850
Contingency			30%	$ 1,639,020
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 8,468,270**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	O'DONNELL PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
1. Establish a Reservable Picnic Area, Small				
Site preparation	750	SF	$ 5	$ 3,750
Concrete area pad	750	SF	$ 25	$ 18,750
Accessory furniture for picnic area	1	LS	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
Shade structure (small)	1	EA	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Picnic table	6	EA	$ 4,500	$ 27,000
2. Replace BBQs				
Demolish existing BBQs	2	LS	$ 1,000	$ 2,000
BBQ	2	EA	$ 2,500	$ 5,000
3. Refurbish the existing half basketball courts				
Resurface court (1/2 basketball)	2	EA	$ 18,000	$ 36,000
Court marking and hoops (1/2 court)	2	EA	$ 7,500	$ 15,000
4. Add shade, tables, and outdoor games				
Site preparation	2,500	SF	$ 5	$ 12,500
Concrete area pad	2,500	SF	$ 25	$ 62,500
Shade structure (small)	1	EA	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Picnic table	4	EA	$ 4,500	$ 18,000
Outdoor game furniture	3	EA	$ 10,000	$ 30,000
-. Refresh planting areas with native plants				
Native planting	4,500	SF	$ 15	$ 67,500
-. Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site				
Maintenance effort, probable cost not included				
SUBTOTAL				**$ 401,000**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 100,250
Contingency			30%	$ 120,300
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 621,550**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	PATRICIA WHARTON PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
1. Evaluate path's accessibility and reconstruct as needed				
To-be-conducted by current department staff				
-. Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Patricia Wharton Park, Semeria Park, and College View Park				
Site preparation	250	SF	$ 250	$ 62,500
Bike rack	1	EA	$ 1,500	$ 1,500
Bike repair station	1	EA	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Road signage	2	EA	$ 500	$ 1,000
Wayfinding signage	1	EA	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
Bench	2	EA	$ 3,500	$ 7,000
Concrete pad	250	SF	$ 25	$ 6,250
2. Replace seating				
Demo existing bench	1	LS	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Bench	2	EA	$ 3,500	$ 7,000
3. Add boulders or stumps as seating or play elements in center planter area				
Alternative seating (seat pad, walls, etc.)	3	EA	$ 4,000	$ 12,000
4. Add native planting to hillside				
Native planting	500	SF	$ 15	$ 7,500
Drip irrigation	500	SF	$ 12	$ 6,000
-. Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site				
Maintenance effort, probable cost not included				
SUBTOTAL				**$ 124,250**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 31,063
Contingency			30%	$ 37,275
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 192,588**

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	RALSTON RANCH PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
b. Add benches (Seating) *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
c. Add Natural Play Element (Play Amenity)				
Site preparation	400	SF	$ 5	$ 2,000
Play element (independent play, swing, etc.)	1	EA	$ 40,000	$ 40,000
Playground safety surfacing	400	SF	$ 45	$ 18,000
d. Add individual Picnic Tables (Picnic Opportunity) *(price per table)*				
Site preparation	100	SF	$ 5	$ 500
Concrete area pad	100	SF	$ 25	$ 2,500
Picnic table	1	EA	$ 4,500	$ 4,500
e. Add seating space (Multi-purpose Flexible Space)				
Site preparation	750	SF	$ 5	$ 3,750
Decomposed granite area pad	750	SF	$ 12	$ 9,000
Bench	4	EA	$ 3,500	$ 14,000
f. Add walking path (Recreation Amenity)				
Site preparation	1,800	SF	$ 5	$ 9,000
Concrete path (48" wide)	1,800	SF	$ 25	$ 45,000
-. Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan				
Park design plan (medium-sized park)	1	LS	$ 150,000	$ 150,000
-. Monitor trees and replace as necessary				
Arborist visit (park site, annually)				*Conducted by City arborist*
-. Add native planting areas				
Native planting	900	SF	$ 15	$ 13,500
Drip irrigation	900	SF	$ 12	$ 10,800
-. Utilize trees as screening from Ralston Avenue and as wind protection *(price per tree)*				
Tree (24" box)	1	EA	$ 650	$ 650
SUBTOTAL				**$ 327,450**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 81,863
Contingency			30%	$ 98,235
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 507,548**

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	SEMERIA PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
f. Add fitness signage (Recreation Amenity)				
Interpretive signage	1	EA	$ 8,000	$ 8,000
-. Consider creating an interconnected pedestrian and bicycle priority route between Semeria Park, Patricia Wharton Park, and College View Park				
Site preparation	250	SF	$ 25	$ 6,250
Bike rack	1	EA	$ 1,500	$ 1,500
Bike repair station	1	EA	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Road signage	2	EA	$ 500	$ 1,000
Wayfinding signage	1	EA	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
Bench	2	EA	$ 3,500	$ 7,000
Concrete pad	250	SF	$ 25	$ 6,250
1. Garbage receptable access from sidewalk				
Re-orient existing trash receptacle	1	LS	$ 1,500	$ 1,500
-. Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site				
Maintenance effort, probable cost not included				
SUBTOTAL				**$ 44,000**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 11,000
Contingency			30%	$ 13,200
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 68,200**

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	TWIN PINES			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
Implement Twin Pines Master Plan (2019)				
Refer to Twin Pines Master Plan				
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	WAKEFIELD PARK			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
c. Create overlook opportunity (Identifiable Amenity)				
Site preparation	750	SF	$ 5	$ 3,750
Shade structure (small)	1	LS	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Concrete area pad	750	SF	$ 25	$ 18,750
Bench	4	EA	$ 3,500	$ 14,000
Intepretive signage	2	EA	$ 8,000	$ 16,000
1. Improve existing walking path(s)				
Demolish existing paving	2,000	SF	$ 10	$ 20,000
Asphalt path (48" wide)	2,000	SF	$ 15	$ 30,000
2. Add benches *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
3. Add entrance signage to increase park visibility				
Park sign	1	EA	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
-. Plant trees to increase shade *(price per tree)*				
Tree (24" box)	1	EA	$ 650	$ 650
-. Add native planting areas				
Native planting	1,000	SF	$ 15	$ 15,000
Drip irrigation	1,000	SF	$ 12	$ 12,000
-. Public Art opportunity				
Public Art	1	LS	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
SUBTOTAL				**$ 291,900**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 72,975
Contingency			30%	$ 87,570
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 452,445**

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	JOINT USE AGREEMENT: CENTRAL SCHOOL			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
1. Create looped walking path around lawn				
Site preparation	2,300	SF	$ 5	$ 11,500
Concrete path (48" wide)	2,300	SF	$ 25	$ 57,500
2. Rejuvenate outdoor classroom space				
Demo existing	1	LS	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Site preparation	625	SF	$ 5	$ 3,125
Bench	8	EA	$ 3,500	$ 28,000
Concrete area pad	500	SF	$ 25	$ 12,500
Concrete path (48" wide)	500	SF	$ 25	$ 12,500
3. Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time				
Site preparation	44,000	SF	$ 5	$ 220,000
Synthetic sports field turf (base, cork infill, grading, drainage)	44,000	SF	$50	$ 2,200,000
SUBTOTAL				**$ 2,550,125**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 637,531
Contingency			30%	$ 765,038
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 3,952,694**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	JOINT USE AGREEMENT: FOX SCHOOL			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
1. Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time				
Site preparation	35,500	SF	$ 5	$ 177,500
Synthetic sports field turf (base, cork infill, grading, drainage)	35,500	SF	$50	$ 1,775,000
SUBTOTAL				**$ 1,952,500**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 488,125
Contingency			30%	$ 585,750
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 3,026,375**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	JOINT USE AGREEMENT: NESBIT SCHOOL			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
1. Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time				
Site preparation	135,000	SF	$ 5	$ 675,000
Synthetic sports field turf (base, cork infill, grading, drainage)	135,000	SF	$50	$ 6,750,000
SUBTOTAL				**$ 7,425,000**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 1,856,250
Contingency			30%	$ 2,227,500
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 11,508,750**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	JOINT USE AGREEMENT: RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
1. Update exterior path at property line to better connect to ropes course south of the school if former ropes course is activated for other use				
Site preparation	5,000	SF	$ 5	$ 25,000
Decomposed granite path (48" wide)	5,000	SF	$ 12	$ 60,000
2. Convert Multi-use Athletic Field to synthetic field to increase annual usable time				
Site preparation	151,000	SF	$ 5	$ 755,000
Synthetic sports field turf (base, cork infill, grading, drainage)	151,000	SF	$50	$ 7,550,000
SUBTOTAL				**$ 8,390,000**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 2,097,500
Contingency			30%	$ 2,517,000
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 13,004,500**

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	OPPORTUNITY SITE: RALSTON AVE + OLD COUNTY RD *			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
a. Create gateway planting as an entry for Belmont (Natural Environment)				
Enhanced planting	3,750	SF	$ 20	$ 75,000
Drip irrigation	3,750	SF	$ 12	$ 45,000
b. Add benches (Seating) *(price per bench)*				
Site preparation	25	SF	$ 5	$ 125
Bench	1	EA	$ 3,500	$ 3,500
Concrete pad	25	SF	$ 25	$ 625
c. Add Skate Park (identifiable Amenity)				
Site preparation	3,500	SF	$ 5	$ 17,500
Skate park (small)	1	EA	$ 800,000	$ 800,000
-. Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan				
Park design plan (small-sized park)	1	LS	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
-. Create ADA accessible path to all existing and new amenities				
Site preparation	500	SF	$ 5	$ 2,500
Concrete path (48" wide)	500	SF	$ 25	$ 12,500
1. Add Dog Parklet				
Site preparation	3,250	SF	$ 5	$ 16,250
Fence, chain link (6')	250	LF	$ 100	$ 25,000
Pedestrian entry gate	2	EA	$ 5,000	$ 10,000
Synthetic surfacing dog park	3,250	SF	$ 35	$ 113,750
Dog waste station	2	EA	$ 1,500	$ 3,000
Bench	3	EA	$ 3,500	$ 10,500
Concrete pad	75	SF	$ 25	$ 1,875
2. Add placemaking space to host community gathering, event space, pop-up business space, etc.				
Site preparation	6,000	SF	$ 5	$ 30,000
Native planting	1,600	SF	$ 15	$ 24,000
Drip irrigation	1,600	SF	$ 12	$ 19,200
Accessory furniture for picnic area	1	LS	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
Bench	8	EA	$ 3,500	$ 28,000
Picnic table	4	EA	$ 4,500	$ 18,000
Site lighting	1	LS	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
Concrete pad	6,000	SF	$ 25	$ 150,000
3. Install Public Art piece				
Public art	1	LS	$ 100,000	$ 100,000

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	OPPORTUNITY SITE: RALSTON AVE + OLD COUNTY RD *			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
SUBTOTAL				**$ 1,709,325**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 427,331
Contingency			30%	$ 512,798
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 2,649,454**

** All recommendations for the Opportunity Site at Ralston Ave and Old County Rd may be temporary*

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs			OPPORTUNITY SITE: OAK KNOLL DRIVE	
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
a. Add native planting areas				
Native planting	250	SF	$ 15	$ 3,750
Drip irrigation	250	SF	$ 12	$ 3,000
b. Add benches (Seating)				
Site preparation	75	SF	$ 5	$ 375
Bench	3	EA	$ 3,500	$ 10,500
Concrete pad	75	SF	$ 25	$ 1,875
c. Add Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)				
Site preparation	500	SF	$ 5	$ 2,500
Play element (independent play, swing, etc.)	1	EA	$ 40,000	$ 40,000
Playground safety surfacing	500	SF	$ 45	$ 22,500
-. Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan				
Park design plan (small-sized park)	1	LS	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
-. Encourage creation of a "safety circle" at the terminus of Oak Knoll Drive to highlight park use in center				
Pavement markings	1	LS	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Road signage	1	EA	$ 500	$ 500
Site preparation	665	SF	$ 5	$ 3,325
Curb and gutter	190	LF	$ 75	$ 14,250
Concrete path (48" wide)	665	SF	$ 25	$ 16,625
SUBTOTAL				**$ 224,200**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 56,050
Contingency			30%	$ 67,260
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 347,510**

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs	OPPORTUNITY SITE: ALAMEDA DE LOS PULGAS			
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
b. Add benches (Seating)				
Site preparation	125	SF	$ 5	$ 625
Bench	5	EA	$ 3,500	$ 17,500
Concrete pad	125	SF	$ 25	$ 3,125
c. Add Nature Play Element (Identifiable Amenity)				
Site preparation	900	SF	$ 5	$ 4,500
Play element (independent play, swing, etc.)	2	EA	$ 40,000	$ 80,000
Playground safety surfacing	900	SF	$ 45	$ 40,500
-. Whole park design for amenities and accessibility with a Park Design Plan				
Park design plan (small-sized park)	1	LS	$ 100,000	$ 100,000
1. Add looped walking path(s)				
Site preparation	540	SF	$ 5	$ 2,700
Concrete path (48" wide)	540	SF	$ 25	$ 13,500
2. Encourage creation of sidewalks along and connecting to park				
Site preparation	600	SF	$ 5	$ 3,000
Concrete path (48" wide)	600	SF	$ 25	$ 15,000
Curb and gutter	90	LF	$ 75	$ 6,750
3. Add bike repair station				
Site preparation	100	SF	$ 25	$ 2,500
Bike repair station	1	EA	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Concrete pad	100	SF	$ 25	$ 2,500
4. Add fence or protective barrier between play element and road				
Fence, ornamental iron (6')	60	LF	$ 150	$ 9,000
-. Add native planting areas				
Native planting	1,000	SF	$ 15	$ 15,000
Drip irrigation	1,000	SF	$ 12	$ 12,000
SUBTOTAL				**$ 333,200**
Soft Costs			25%	$ 83,300
Contingency			30%	$ 99,960
PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST				**$ 516,460**

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs assumed amenity quantities are for pricing purposes only, and do not imply, affect, or otherwise assume the quantity of improvements that will be implemented at a PROS site.

Opinion of Probable Construction Costs				
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
Accessibility study (park site)		LS	$ 25,000	$ -
Accessory furniture for picnic area		LS	$ 3,000	$ -
All-abilities playground structure (medium)		LS	$ 750,000	
Alternative seating (seat pads, walls, etc.)		EA	$ 4,000	$ -
Artful park sign		EA	$ 25,000	$ -
Asphalt path (48" wide)		SF	$ 15	$ -
Asphalt paving		SF	$ 25	$ -
BBQ		EA	$ 2,500	$ -
Bench		EA	$ 3,500	$ -
Bike rack		EA	$ 1,500	$ -
Bike repair station		EA	$ 5,000	$ -
Bocce court		EA	$ 200,000	$ -
Concrete area pad		SF	$ 25	$ -
Concrete pad		SF	$ 25	$ -
Concrete path (48" wide)		SF	$ 25	$ -
Concrete stair and ramp		LS	$ 500,000	$ -
Court marking and hoops (1/2 court)		EA	$ 7,500	$ -
Curb and gutter		LF	$ 75	$ -
Curb ramp		EA	$ 10,000	$ -
Decomposed granite area pad		SF	$ 12	$ -
Decomposed granite path (48" wide)		SF	$ 12	$ -
Demolish existing BBQs		LS	$ 1,000	$ -
Demolish existing bench		LS	$ 1,000	$ -
Demolish existing dog park		LS	$ 10,000	$ -
Demolish existing fence		LF	$ 30	$ -
Demolish existing paving		SF	$ 10	$ -
Demolish existing picnic table		LS	$ 1,500	$ -
Demolish existing playground		LS	$ 25,000	$ -
Dog agility furniture		EA	$ 1,500	$ -
Dog waste station		EA	$ 1,500	$ -
Drip irrigation		SF	$ 12	$ -
Enhanced planting		SF	$ 20	$ -
Fence, chain link (6')		LF	$ 100	$ -
Fence, ornamental iron (6')		LF	$ 150	$ -
Fitness equipment station		EA	$ 15,000	$ -
Open space gateway element		LS	$ 50,000	$ -
Interpretive signage		EA	$ 8,000	$ -
Mural on fence		LS	$ 15,000	$ -
Native planting		SF	$ 15	$ -
Outdoor game furniture		EA	$ 10,000	$ -

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Opinion of Probable Construction Costs				
Item	**Quantity**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Subtotal**
Park design plan (small-sized park)		LS	$ 100,000	$ -
Park design plan (medium-sized park)		LS	$ 150,000	$ -
Park design plan (large-sized park)		LS	$ 200,000	$ -
Park sign		EA	$ 7,500	$ -
Parking lot signage		EA	$ 500	$ -
Parking lot striping		LS	$ 15,000	$ -
Pavement markings		EA	$ 5,000	$ -
Pavement markings for crosswalk		EA	$ 5,000	$ -
Pedestrian entry gate		EA	$ 5,000	$ -
Picnic table		EA	$ 4,500	$ -
Play element (independent play, swing, etc.)		EA	$ 40,000	$ -
Playground concrete curb		LF	$ 60	$ -
Playground fiber replenish		SF	$ 3	$ -
Playground safety surfacing		SF	$ 45	$ -
Playground structure (large)		LS	$ 350,000	$ -
Playground structure (medium)		LS	$ 225,000	$ -
Playground structure (small)		LS	$ 150,000	$ -
Prefabricated restroom		LS	$ 500,000	$ -
Public art		LS	$ 100,000	$ -
Pump track (asphalt surface)		LS	$ 500,000	$ -
Relocate picnic table		LS	$ 2,500	$ -
Remove existing storage container		LS	$ 5,000	$ -
Re-orient existing trash receptacle		LS	$ 1,500	$ -
Restroom utility connection		LS	$ 25,000	$ -
Resurface court (1/2 basketball)		EA	$ 18,000	$ -
Retaining wall (3')		LF	$ 450	$ -
Road signage		EA	$ 500	$ -
Shade structure (large)		EA	$ 100,000	$ -
Shade structure (small)		EA	$ 50,000	$ -
Site lighting		LS	$ 100,000	$ -
Site preparation		SF	$ 5	$ -
Skate park (small, modular)		EA	$ 800,000	$ -
Storage structure		EA	$ 35,000	$ -
Synthetic sports field turf (base, cork infill, grading, drainage)		SF	$50	$ -
Synthetic surfacing dog park		SF	$ 35	$ -
Trash receptacle		EA	$ 1,500	$ -
Tree (24" box)		EA	$ 650	$ -
Turf evalutation (determine extent of repair)		LS	$ 10,000	$ -
Wayfinding signage		EA	$ 7,500	$ -
Wi-Fi		LS	$ 30,000	$ -

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APPENDIX I

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ONLINE SURVEY

The online survey was open to the public for the entire month of April 2021. Over 2,800 responses were collected, of which 49 percent were from Belmont residents.

FOCUS GROUPS

In total, over 75 people participated across 11 focus groups. The focus group dates and topic areas were:

- June 3, 2021. Youth + Teen
- June 4, 2021. District + Joint-Use
- June 8, 2021. Seniors
- June 8 + 15, 2021. Dog Owners
- June 24, 2021. Youth Sports
- June 29, 2021. Inclusion
- June 29, 2021. Schools
- October 18, 2021. Hidden Canyon Park
- October 20, 2021. Ralston Ranch Park
- November 18, 2021. Youth Advisory Committee

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

The Advisory Committee consisted of 18 Belmont residents. The members and their bios are listed in Appendix A. The Committee met five times over the PROS Plan project duration.

- March 4, 2021. Project Initiation
- May 13, 2021. Community Input Summary
- September 30, 2021. Park-specific Recommendations
- April 5, 2022. Open Space Management Plan
- May 31, 2022. Open Space Management Plan

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

The Parks and Recreation Commission received updates about the PROS Plan from the Parks and Recreation Director on a monthly basis. Several public presentations were provided at various meetings by the consultants.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

- February 3, 2021
- June 2, 2021
- November 3, 2021
- May 4, 2022
- July 6, 2022
- January 10, 2024
- February 7, 2024

PLANNING COMMISSION

- April 6, 2021

CITY COUNCIL

- March 9, 2021
- November 23, 2021 (Study Session)
- March 22, 2022
- July 12, 2022
- March 12, 2024 *

** Presentation not included in the Appendix*

PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

The Park-specific Recommendations were available for public review and comment from September 2021 through March 2022. Approximately 60 comments were collected on the project website.

EMAILS TO INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

Over 950 emails were received at the PROS Plan project email address from January 2021 to February 2024. Emails were posted to the project website on a monthly basis.

EMAILS TO PARKS+RECREATION COMMISSION

Over 650 emails were received by the Parks and Recreation Commission about the PROS Plan from November 2020 to February 2024. Emails were posted to the project website on a monthly basis.

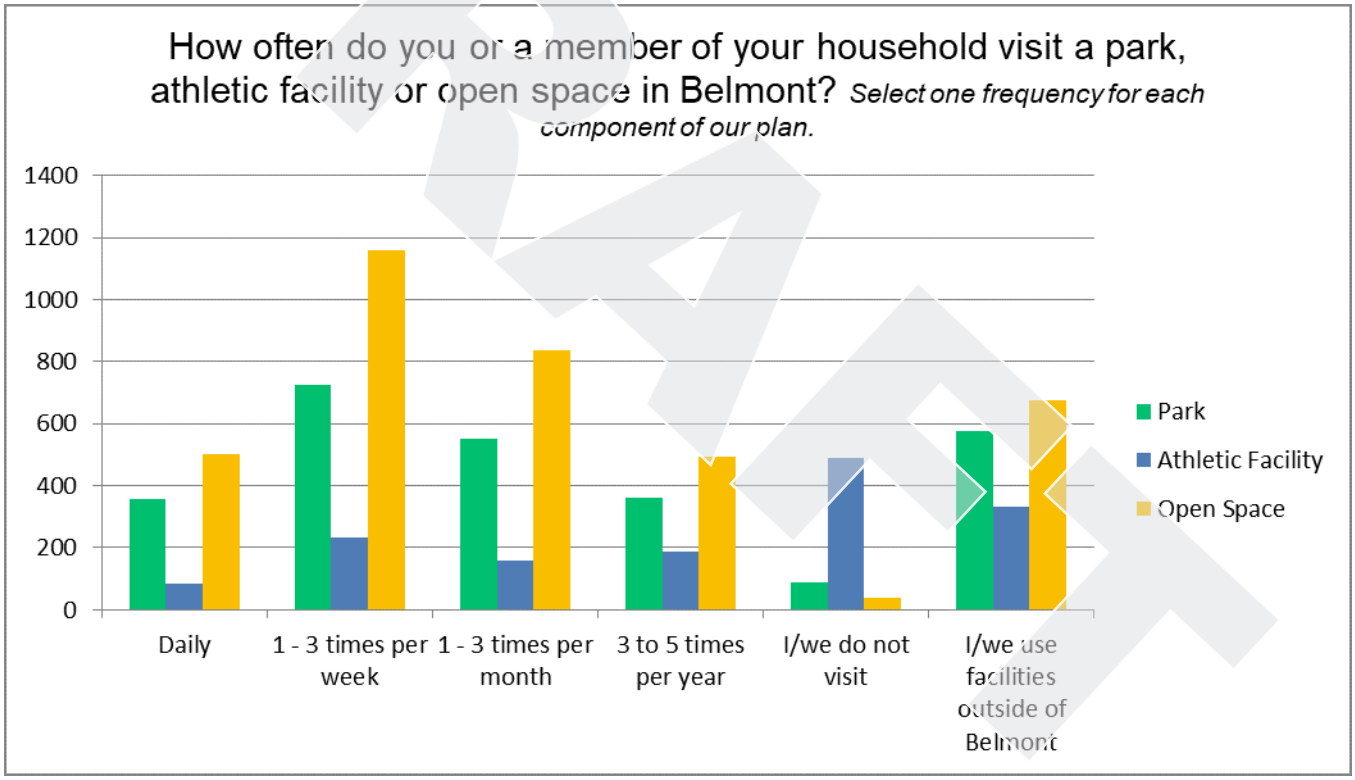
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION	QUANTITY OF RESPONSES				
	Total	Resident		Non-resident	
1. How often do you or a member of your household visit a park, athletic facility or open space in Belmont? Select one frequency for each component of our plan.	2,790	1,296	*46.5%*	1,342	*48.1%*
2. What is the typical length of your visit to parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces in Belmont?	2,776	1,290	*46.5%*	1,337	*48.2%*
3. Why do you visit parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces? Check all that apply.	2,795	1,294	*46.3%*	1,345	*48.1%*
4. How do you usually travel to parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces in Belmont? Check all that apply.	2,790	1,294	*46.4%*	1,341	*48.1%*
5. For the parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces you visit in Belmont, please tell us how you would rate the condition of that space? Select all that apply.	2,744	1,273	*46.4%*	1,328	*48.4%*
6. What factors limit your use of our parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces? Check all that apply.	1,575	812	*51.6%*	694	*44.1%*
7. The following amenities or uses would greatly enhance my experience with parks in Belmont.	2,609	1,294	*49.6%*	1,228	*47.1%*
8. The following amenities or uses would greatly enhance my experience with open spaces in Belmont.	2,709	1,267	*46.8%*	1,310	*48.4%*
9. The following programs or activities would greatly enhance my experience with outdoor recreation programs and activities in Belmont.	2,306	1,160	*50.3%*	1,076	*46.7%*
10. What factors limit your participation in outdoor programs and activities offered by the City of Belmont. Check all that apply.	2,159	1,081	*50.1%*	1,027	*47.6%*
11 In which neighborhood do you live? Select one.	2,646	1,298	*49.1%*	1,348	*50.9%*
12. What is your age?	2,733	1,289	*47.2%*	1,347	*49.3%*
13. Do you have children or youth in your household? Check all that apply.	2,711	1,286	*47.4%*	1,333	*49.2%*
14. How would you describe yourself? Check all that apply.	2,670	1,271	*47.6%*	1,313	*49.2%*
15. What else would you like us to know about Belmont's Parks?	548	--	--	--	--
16. What else would you like use to know about Belmont's Open Spaces?	1,334	--	--	--	--
17. What else would you like us to know about Belmont's Outdoor Recreation Programs (this includes youth sports, outdoor exercise, etc.)?	253	--	--	--	--
18. Would you like to subscribe to our email list for the PROS Plan? If so, please provide your email address.	531	--	--	--	--

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1. **HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD VISIT A PARK, ATHLETIC FACILITY OR OPEN SPACE IN BELMONT?** SELECT ONE FREQUENCY FOR EACH COMPONENT OF OUR PLAN.

	PARK		ATHLETIC FACILITY		OPEN SPACE		
	Total	*Resident*	*Total*	*Resident*	*Total*	*Resident*	**Total**
Daily	358	250	84	71	503	307	669
1 - 3 times per week	727	463	235	176	1161	584	1451
1 - 3 times per month	552	279	160	105	838	324	1171
3 to 5 times per year	362	154	186	123	492	142	788
I/we do not visit	90	28	489	247	40	22	524
I/we use facilities outside of Belmont	575	237	331	139	674	281	839
Other (please specify)							61
						Answered	**2790**
						Skipped	16



ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

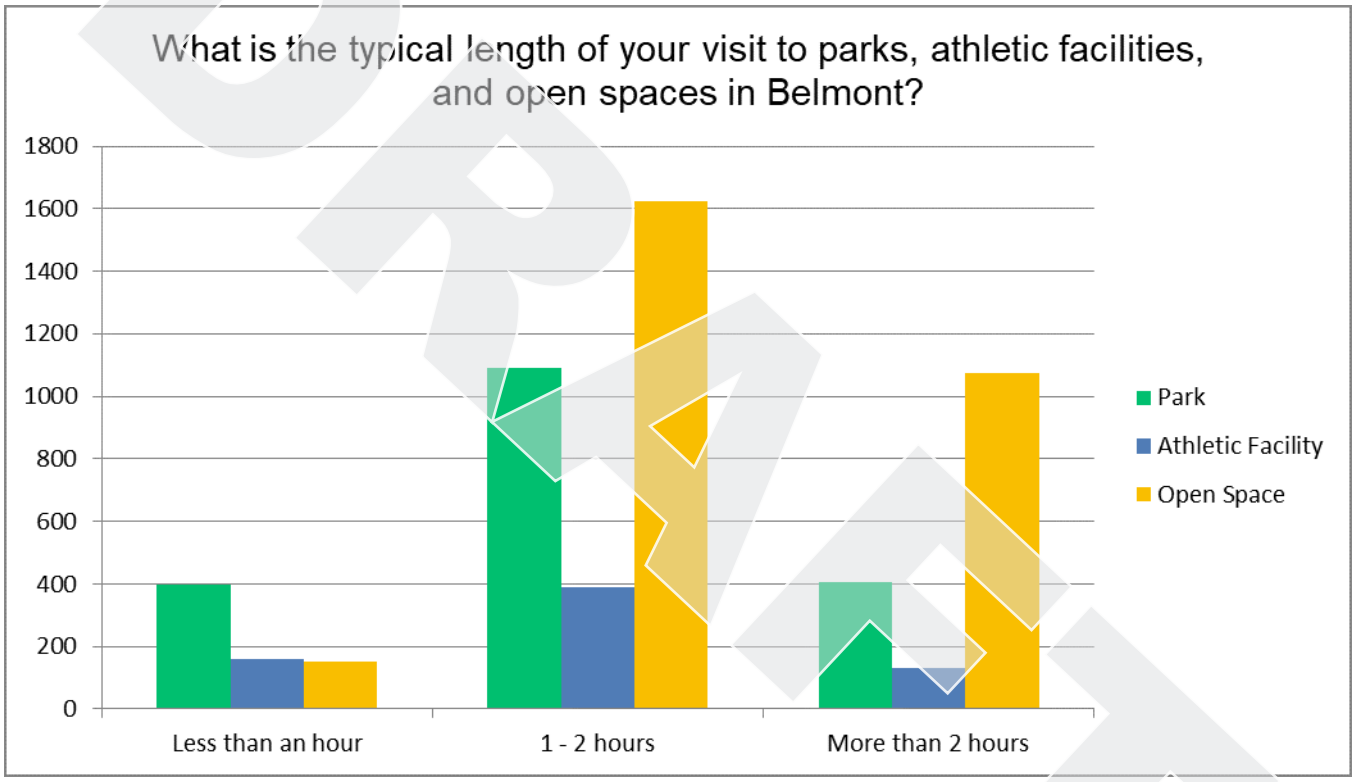
Question 1. Other Responses

- Hiking trails throughout the county
- Mid-Penn Open Space
- Children not yet participating in sports
- various open spaces, county parks, state parks
- Once a year
- Edgewood and Pulgas Ridge
- Pacifica open spaces
- Mid pen open space
- MPOSD
- Hidden Canyon
- Bay and coast access
- MPOSD
- 2nd home, North Lake Tahoe and San Mateo Athletic Club
- No dog parks in Belmont
- Edgewood, Sawyer trail, Bay trail
- Highlands Rec - Stanford RC fitness ctr
- Are used to walk at Waterdog on a daily basis but because of the crowds and the bikes, I now go elsewhere. I do this for two hours daily.
- we do not go any more after angry meeting with bike rider on trail
- All over San Mateo county
- I am considering moving to Belmont
- Skeggs, Windy Ridge, Russian Ridge, Mt. Tam, etc
- between 2 kids probably 7 times per week
- Bike trails ,(dirt and paved), BMX PUMPTRACKS
- Mountain bike trails!!
- I am a huge outdoor enthusiast and use our parks, open spaces daily!
- All
- Skeggs
- Bay Meadows
- I am an NDNU alumni and used to use the park twice a week.
- Water Dog Park
- Beaches, Ski Resorts/Areas
- Pulgas Ridge, Stulsaft, Windy Hill, Montara Mountain
- Waterdog Lake Open Space Park & Laurelwood Park
- Centro Chileno Lautaro (a non-profit organization) is extremely fortunate to have found the beautiful, large and secluded Redwood Grove in Belmont Park. Our annual picnic draws the highest attendance in our program and is a highlight in our calendar for many years. We celebrate Nature, a beautiful outdoor space with our multi-generational families, old and new members and friends. We share the barbeque, favorite Chilean foods and wine, music, dance, games and the joy of comradery. Our Scholarship Program also has a special ceremony to present our qualifying university students with their deserving Scholarship Awards at that event. In the past, we have used a smaller, cozy Cabin to host smaller luncheon events as well.
- Tennis and Pickleball
- Bay trail from Ralston to past Oracle 3 times/week
- swimming pool
- Bike routes
- I wish Belmont has a community swimming pool. & athletic facility
- Hiking and walking
- Before the pandemic, I used to attend yoga classes weekly at the lodge through parks and rec. This does not reflect that usage.
- Pickle Ball courts in Foster City
- There are almost no athletic facilities in Belmont, such as tennis courts or swimming pool
- Ice rink
- this is before Covid
- I used parks and athletic field extensively when my children were young
- We walk the Bay Trails
- Pre-pandemic, my 3 kids were playing soccer on the Belmont fields multiple times per week
- Woodside, Portola Valley, Mid Peninsula open space
- Serendipity School will use for outdoor activities
- Filoli, Coyote Point
- Tahoe Donner
- 4-7 times a week
- Mid pen open space, golden gate park
- Barrett community center's outdoor space: daily
- Purisima Creek, El Corte de Madera, Russian Ridge, Foothill
- Waterdog Lake Open Space / Park
- I visit Twin Pines park ~ once a year. I walk past Patricia Wharton Park daily. (The trees are in bloom now!!) Used to go to Cipriani dog park--bad experience with large dog.
- Save waterdog
- Alameda
- Less since the pandemic began and the trails got busier.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 2. WHAT IS THE TYPICAL LENGTH OF YOUR VISIT TO PARKS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACES IN BELMONT?

	PARK		ATHLETIC FACILITY		OPEN SPACE		
	Total	*Resident*	*Total*	*Resident*	*Total*	*Resident*	**Total**
Less than an hour	399	283	159	92	152	107	569
1 - 2 hours	1089	624	390	277	1623	795	2025
More than 2 hours	407	158	129	82	1076	404	1191
Other (please specify)							19
						Answered	**2776**
						Skipped	30



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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 2. Other Responses

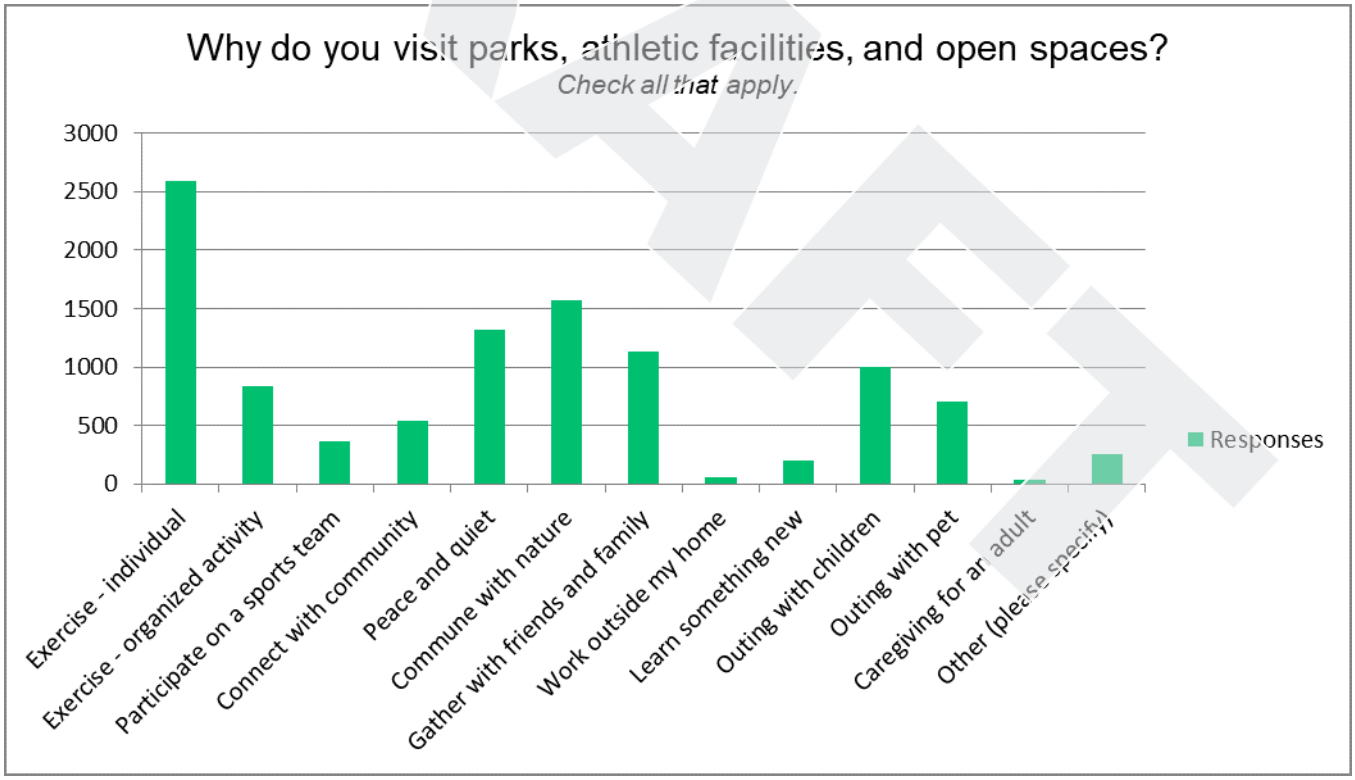
- My husband refs soccer so during soccer season it is all day.
- Go for a walk twice a day
- All day
- mountain biking
- San Mateo Athletic Club,
- Skatepark if there was one
- 2-4hours
- As an avid mountain biker and hiker I enjoy long rides and hikes!int
- Half day
- I spent about 5-6 hours there for mtn biking
- Water dog Park
- Beaches, Ski Resorts/Areas
- Our Committee begins early, 9:00AM bring in ice chests, carts full of every thing to decorate, present and start getting the food, wine, drinks ready for the BBQ Luncheon. The members and friends start arrive ready for lunch and stay entertained all afternoon. At 5:00, we clean up and carry everything back to our cars. We all had a wonderful and full day!
- I wish Belmont has a community swimming pool. & athletic facility
- Do not live in Belmont currently
- Pickle Ball courts in Foster City
- See above. We don't use Belmont OS. There are far better options.
- During the week, I typically jog with my dog in Waterdog daily. On weekends, our family typically takes longer 1+ hr hikes through Waterdog or Sugarloaf
- Serendipity School will use for outdoor activities

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 3. **WHY DO YOU VISIT PARKS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACES?** CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

	Total	*Resident*	
Exercise - individual	2588	1163	2588
Exercise - organized activity	841	359	841
Participate on a sports team	369	245	369
Connect with community	536	288	536
Peace and quiet	1315	716	1315
Commune with nature	1569	779	1569
Gather with friends and family	1135	603	1135
Work outside my home	61	41	61
Learn something new	197	101	197
Outing with children	997	586	997
Outing with pet	708	439	708
Caregiving for an adult	32	22	32
Other (please specify)	252	104	252
		Answered	**2795**
		Skipped	11



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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Use of Parks, Athletic Facilities, and Open Space



Question 3. Other Responses

- Mountain bike
- Mountain biking
- mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Volunteer - repair trails, remove litter,
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Senior Meals Program
- Events
- wildlife watching
- Mountain biking
- Summer concerts in the park!
- Mountain biking
- cycling
- Mountain Biking
- Ride my mountain bike!
- Mountain Biking
- mountain biking
- Enjoying life
- Playgrounds for children
- Mountain biking
- Multiple grandchildren's baseball and soccer games.
- mountain bike with friends
- bike
- Mountain bike, hike.
- Biking
- Fun
- Mountain biking
- mountain bike trails that are legal
- Mountain biking/training to compete
- Mountain Biking in nature
- Biking at Water Dog
- Bike
- Cycling
- Non-exercise organized activity eg. Scouts
- Biking
- MOUNTAIN BIKING!!!!
- Mountain biking
- Mountain bike

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 3. Other Responses (con't)

- Stress relief
- exercise and connect with friends and community while mountain biking
- Biking with friends
- For fun
- Mountain bike at Waterdog Park
- Ride bike
- Mountain biking with friends and neighbors
- Mountain bike
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Biking
- Recreation
- Mtb riding water dog
- Mountain bilking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Bike
- Mountain Bike
- Ride mountain bikes
- Pedal Powered Mountain Biker
- Mountain biking
- We love to bike with friends. Which is exercise (organized or individual), participate in sports, connect, peace and quite, commune and gather all in one.
- Mountain biking: this is one of the few area for mountain biking.
- Bicycling
- Ride my MTB and/or my Electric MTB
- Mountain Bike / Run at Waterdog Lake for the past 30 years
- Mountain bike
- Mountain Biking
- Bike Ride
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- mountain biking at water dog lake park - keep it as is it is!
- Ride or hike with friends and family
- Mountain Bike
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Biking (no an e-bike).
- Mountain biking
- Hike
- Mountain biking
- Getting outside
- Riding mountain bikes on singletrack trails
- Watch baseball and soccer games
- Biker ride
- Mountain Biking
- Bike
- Looking for native plants and wildflowers
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain bike riding
- Skateboarding
- skateboard
- Skate
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Biking
- Bike riding
- Cycling,jogging.
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Bike
- mountain biking
- Mountain Biking
- Riding bikes
- Mountain biking
- mountain bike with friends
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain bike
- small group bike rides
- Mountain bike
- MOUNTAIN BIKE
- Mountain Biking - Great trail system
- Mountainbiking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain bike
- habitat restoration
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Bike
- Bike riding
- One of the best parts of living in the bay area is our Open Spaces! Without them I would simply wither away.
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Biking
- Mental health
- Mountain biking
- mountain biking
- Mountain biking with friends
- Biking

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 3. Other Responses (con't)

- I mountain bike
- Mountain bike
- MOUNTAIN BIKING
- Explore flora and fauna
- Biking!
- Mountain Biking
- Biking
- ride mountain bike
- Mountain biking
- Mental therapy
- Riding my bike
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Bike
- Mountain biking
- Mountain bike with friends
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain biking
- bike
- Family mountain bike ride.
- hike & mountain bike
- Mountain biking
- Hiking
- Mountain Bike Waterdog
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Ride mtn bike
- Mountain bike
- Mountain biking
- Mountain bikes
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain biking
- Mtn biking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Bike
- Mountain bike
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain biking
- MOuntain Bike safely
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain bike
- Ride my Bicycle
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking and running
- Mountain bike
- z
- Ride my mountain on trails
- Mt Biking
- mountain bike
- mountain biking
- Mtn biking
- cycling
- Mountain biking
- Bike
- Mtn Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Mountain Biking
- Biking
- Mountain bike
- Mountian bike
- mountain Bike
- mountain bike at WaterDog Park
- exercise for me, my boyfriend and dog Karma :)
- Mountain Biking
- tennis
- Senior Tennis Workout
- Enjoy trails and views!
- Relaxation/Stress Management
- community garden
- Community garden
- Mountain bike
- Mountain Biking
- Cycling
- Experiencing the presence of wildlife is important and this cannot be done with biking on the trails.
- Mountain biking
- Bike Riding
- Mountain biking
- Mountain bike
- Tree
- Mountain biking trails
- Recreation
- Cycling
- Facilities not available elsewhere, such as biking
- Birdwatching
- Biking
- Ride a bike
- exercise with family and friends
- See above. We don't use Belmont OS. There are far better options.
- baseball
- Cycling in flat areas
- my office is in park

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 3. Other Responses (con't)

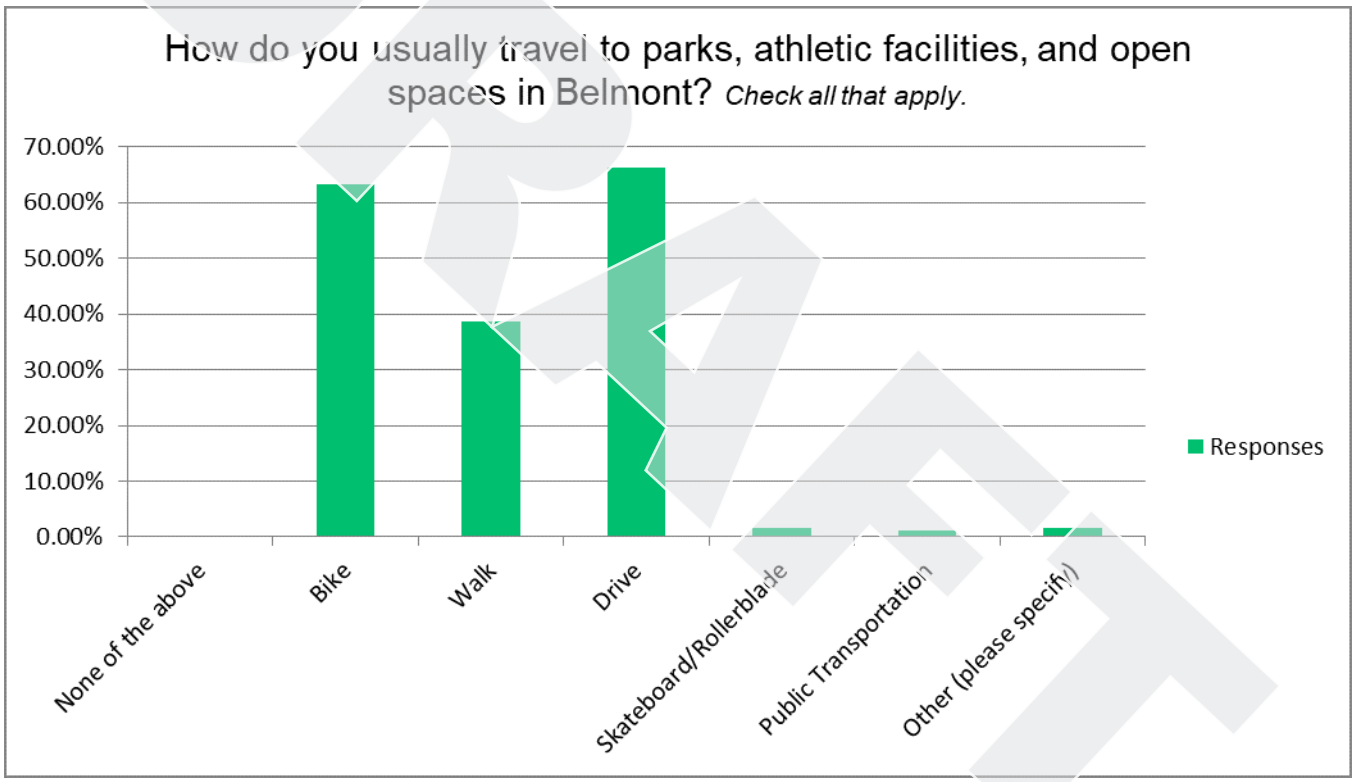
- So that our kids can spend time playing and interacting with their friends in a playground environment
- Outdoor concerts, Line Dancing
- gardening in community garden
- My children PLAY in the parks
- Exercise with friends
- Bikes
- Mountain biking
- Cycling
- adventure and exploration!
- Ride bikes
- Mountain Bike on the trails
- Serendipity School will use for outdoor activities
- Mountain bike with son at Waterdog
- Wildlife
- Enjoy the scenic views, watch the wildlife
- Birding, photography
- MTB
- Picnic or other facility rental for Girl Scout events
- Mountain Bike.
- Biking
- wildlife watching
- Mountain biking - PEDAL ONLY
- Photography

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 4. HOW DO YOU USUALLY TRAVEL TO PARKS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACES IN BELMONT? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

	Total	Resident	
None of the above	0	0	0
Bike	1768	698	1768
Walk	1079	823	1079
Drive	1849	872	1849
Skateboard/Rollerblade	45	31	45
Public Transportation	31	11	31
Other (please specify)	43	26	43
		Answered	**2790**
		Skipped	16



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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 4. Other Responses

- hike and trail running
- mountain biking
- Run
- Run
- Car
- Run
- car
- Electric bike
- Run
- Mountain bike
- hike, run
- run
- Mountain Bike
- Run
- Run
- Run from my home
- run
- Horse back ride
- Would love to walk to a diff park in my neighborhood here in Belmont
- Run
- I was a bike/CalTrain commuter before covid & it's sad traffic has returned
- use spaces outside Belmont
- Scooter
- Sometimes we will drive if it's a little further away and we have kids and dogs
- Run
- mountain biking specifically
- drive but with electric vehicle if that matters!
- trail run
- Running
- Run
- run
- Bike
- .
- Run
- Tennis
- Run
- literally only bike to Waterdog; no other good way for me to get there
- Run
- Car
- run
- See above. We don't use Belmont OS. There are far better options.
- scooter
- Kayak

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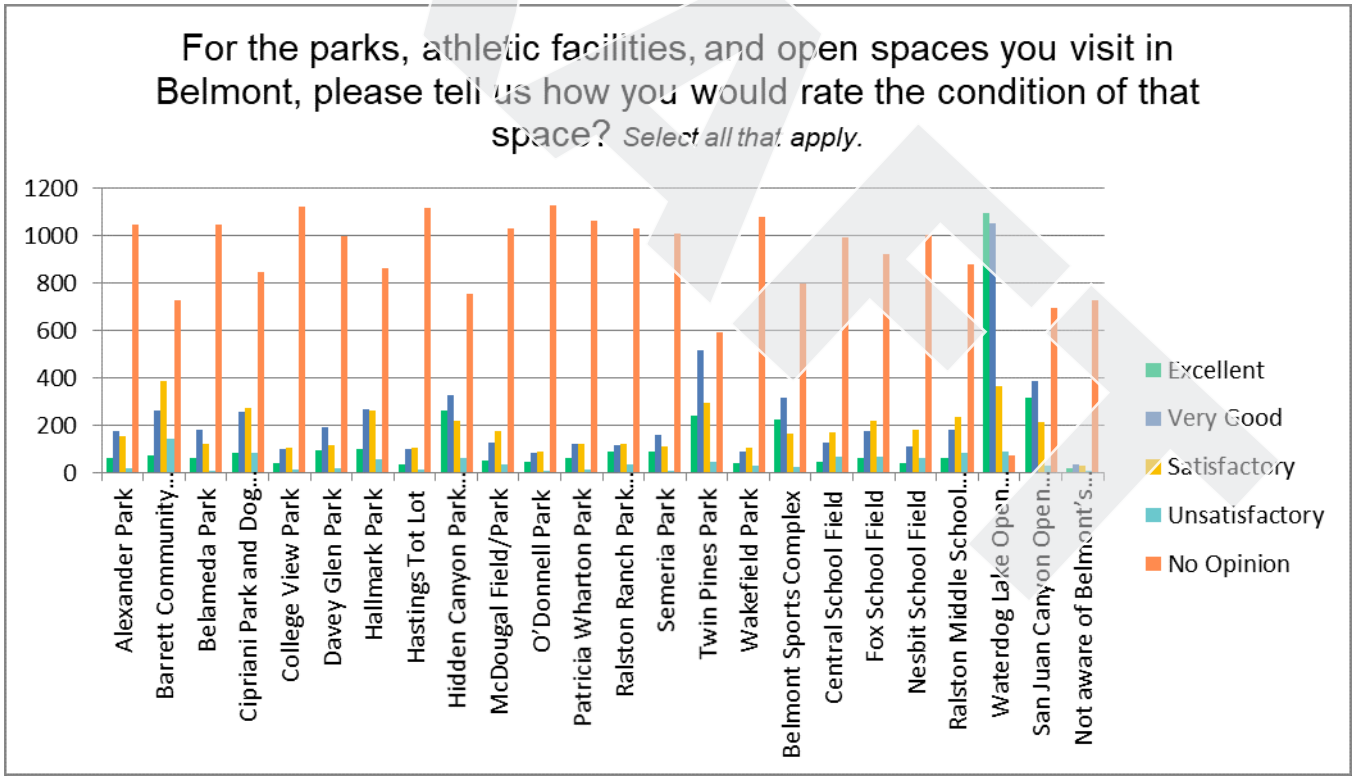
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 5. **FOR THE PARKS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACES YOU VISIT IN BELMONT, PLEASE TELL US HOW YOU WOULD RATE THE CONDITION OF THAT SPACE?** SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

	EXCELLENT		VERY GOOD		SATISFACTORY		UNSATISFACTORY		NO OPINION		
	Total	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	**Total**
Alexander Park	61	29	177	107	151	117	18	16	1048	505	1455
Barrett Community Center Park	74	47	262	184	388	324	144	139	728	222	1596
Belameda Park	60	34	183	125	120	84	6	6	1048	507	1417
Ciprian Park and Dog Park	82	43	254	162	274	215	82	74	848	356	1540
College View Park	38	21	102	55	105	67	11	9	1123	580	1379
Davey Glen Park	96	71	193	134	113	77	20	17	999	469	1421
Hallmark Park	102	48	266	165	261	189	56	51	861	396	1546
Hastings Tot Lot	34	16	101	50	106	76	10	8	1117	573	1368
Hidden Canyon Park (undeveloped)	262	110	326	153	218	123	59	48	755	397	1620
McDougal Field/Park	50	26	125	81	175	129	34	32	1029	490	1413
O'Donnell Park	47	29	85	53	90	64	6	4	1130	571	1358
Patricia Wharton Park	59	45	120	85	119	89	12	11	1065	513	1375
Ralston Ranch Park (undeveloped)	86	41	114	52	121	63	37	26	1030	549	1388
Semeria Park	89	67	161	126	112	82	7	7	1010	466	1379
Twin Pines Park	240	177	516	374	295	234	47	40	594	154	1692
Wakefield Park	42	20	88	53	107	74	27	24	1079	547	1343
Belmont Sports Complex	225	166	314	223	162	111	22	15	796	330	1519
Central School Field	44	28	127	93	172	124	66	59	993	462	1402
Fox School Field	59	41	175	126	221	177	65	58	923	399	1443
Nesbit School Field	38	23	112	75	178	142	61	54	1004	466	1393
Ralston Middle School Field	61	39	180	120	236	188	82	74	877	373	1436

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

	EXCELLENT		VERY GOOD		SATISFACTORY		UNSATISFACTORY		NO OPINION		
	Total	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	**Total**
Waterdog Lake Open Space (John Brooks. Waterdog Lake and Hidden Canyon)	1098	399	1055	484	363	228	86	71	72	43	2674
San Juan Canyon Open Space	317	152	388	214	212	123	30	29	697	349	1644
Not aware of Belmont's parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces	19	8	32	11	27	18	9	4	730	343	817
Other (please specify)											28
										Answered	**2744**
										Skipped	62

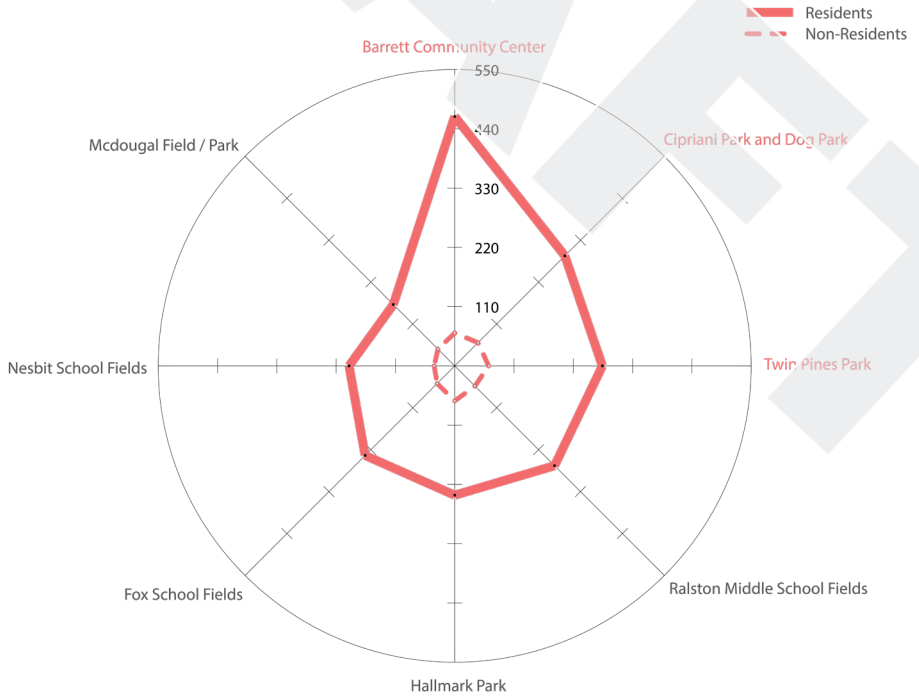


ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Resident and Non-Resident Ratings of Parks, Athletic Facilities in Belmont (Excellent/Very Good)



Resident and Non-Resident Ratings of Parks, Athletic Facilities in Belmont (Unsatisfactory/Satisfactory)



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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 5. Other Responses

- Watershed, cross country trails
- destruction of natural area is through WD/HC; city manages this open space as a bike park and the bikers treat it like that w/illegal trails & arrogant behavior (we built this trail, etc)
- sadly not many parks with swings for kids.
- Fox School field often has mole hills
- I am aware oof waterdog
- Sugarloaf
- Cipriani Dog Park users need to be restricted from running their dogs on the lawn and in the lower park. Frequently I have seen them also on the lawn in front of the school and on the school property. Perhaps put grass or and dog runs in the existing dog area. Too much dog urination and pooping on lawn and in the lower park. People let their dogs run off leash as soon as they get to grass area. This needs to really be addressed. Thank you.
- Notre Dame is private & ive missed wandering up to their Chapel
- I do know most of the park in the area
- I live in East Palo Alto
- Waterdog and Hidden Canyon are the most important and most awesome bike friendly parks for residents around. They are the jewel of our biking community.
- We need dedicated bike trails at Cipriana/dog park
- Keep mountain biking in all open spaces. It is an activity many of us do frequently as our primary means of exercise.
- love to mountain bike in Waterdog
- WE love Twin Pines, it is close to the main roads close to Safeway, centrally located. Parking can be found.
- Education about these parks.... this is the first map i ever saw
- I suggest to prohibit biking in Waterdog trails in the winter or when it's wet. Tire tracks tear up the trails.
- Reference is to problems with biking in Belmont's open space. Need to limit biking or eliminate it entirely.
- Trails beyond Lake road are dangerous and not safe for kids
- See above. We don't use Belmont OS. There are far better options.
- trail markings are confusing and often missing in the waterdog open space
- san juan and waterdog-please leave it natural as is, that's the beauty (especially waterdog, please stop the political flyers being posted in plastic and completely duct taped to the gate and signs!)
- Cipriani lower fields are in disrepair. The grass is never mowed and biting insects attack kids at practices. Ppl constantly take their dogs off leash in the grassy park areas where it's not permitted.
- School fields are riddled with gopher holes. The mounds and holes are just asking for twisted in broken ankles.
- Ralston Ranch and Hidden Canyon Park have been undeveloped for too long! Would like to have parks there!
- undeveloped hidden canyon park should be developed into a pump track or other recreational amenity
- We love the multi-use open space areas, as they are great for the whole family (kids, bikes, dogs, etc.)!
- Sheep Camp trail, rate- unsatisfactory as we appreciate trails where we can bring our dog and ride our bicycles

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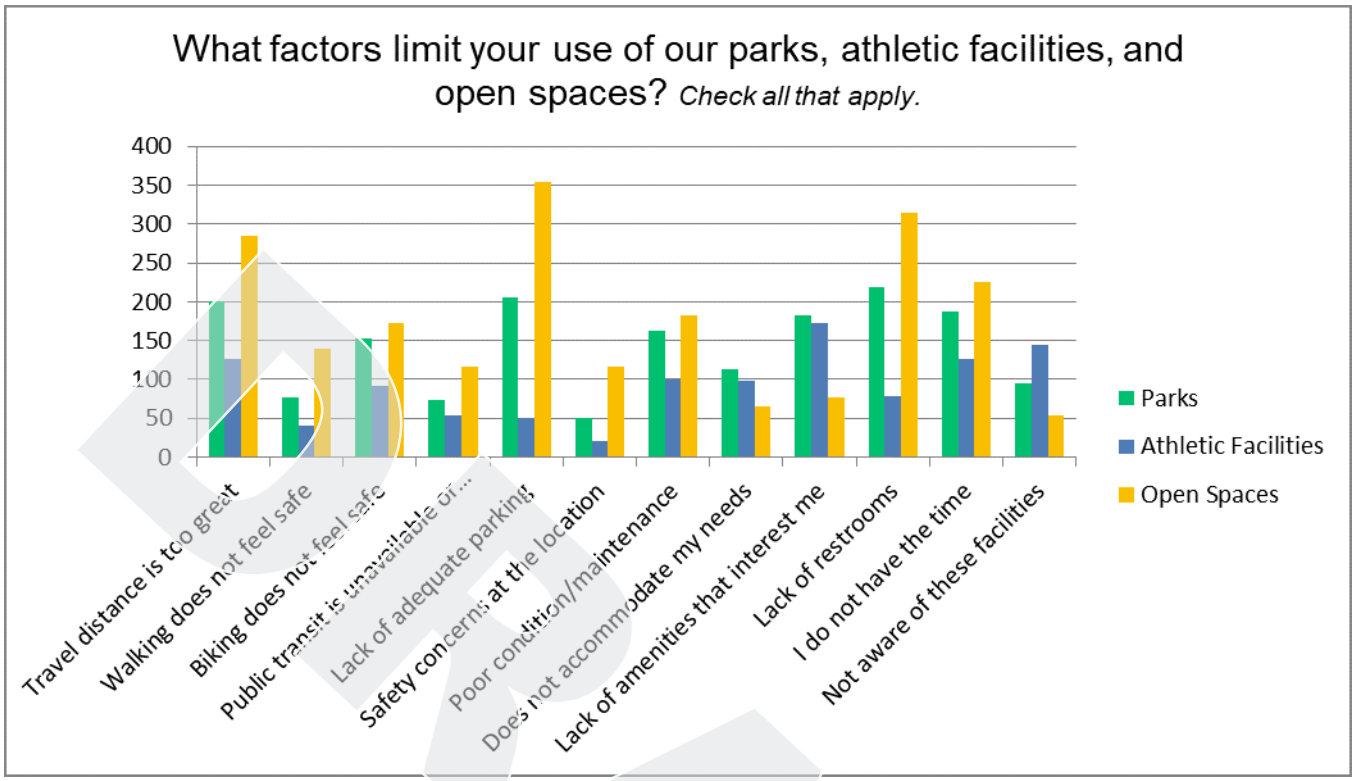
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 6. **WHAT FACTORS LIMIT YOUR USE OF OUR PARKS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACES?** CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

	PARK		ATHLETIC FACILITY		OPEN SPACE		
	Total	*Resident*	*Total*	*Resident*	*Total*	*Resident*	**Total**
Travel distance is too great	201	77	126	65	285	74	426
Walking does not feel safe	77	62	41	32	139	118	177
Biking does not feel safe	153	108	92	69	173	122	245
Public transit is unavailable or inconvenient	73	47	54	39	116	61	136
Lack of adequate parking	205	124	51	37	354	172	440
Safety concerns at the location	50	34	20	11	116	89	139
Poor condition/maintenance	163	132	100	72	183	128	315
Does not accommodate my needs	113	78	99	64	65	39	208
Lack of amenities that interest me	183	142	173	120	76	55	314
Lack of restrooms	219	164	78	63	314	189	398
I do not have the time	187	101	126	77	225	92	316
Not aware of these facilities	95	50	144	82	53	37	193
Other (please specify)							157
						Answered	**1575**
						Skipped	1231

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS



Factors that Limit Use of Parks, Athletic Facilities, and Open Spaces



ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 6. Other Responses

- Danger from bikes is my biggest concern and tend to go to parks where biking is not allowed
- unsafe road access to the parks - crossing busy streets,
- Tick infestation
- Nothing limits my use of the parks, everything in Belmont is close enough to ride a bike to.
- Bikes make it dangerous for walkers!
- Bikes not allowed at some open space areas - this is unfortunate as trails open to bikes get crowded.
- My only limitations is my time out of the office.
- enjoyment of nature is not possible due to bikers; biking is not compatible with nature hiking which is why it's not allowed anywhere else on the Peninsula
- A Belmont shuttle which goes around to various parks, open space, the library, the train station, and maybe even to downtown san carlos would be great.
- The roads around the parks should have more dedicated bike lanes that are safe for families and kids.
- Lack of benches, particularly for older residents.
- Too many people
- Cyclists and hikers should have separate trails at Waterdog. Hiking at Waterdog can be dangerous because of the cyclists
- I avoid on weekend 1. Many no mask bike riders 2. Disrespectful loud demanding bikers
- I primarily visit the open spaces to ride bikes with my friends and families. I also visit to walk my dogs.
- Nothing really limits me
- Lack of time is primary reason I can't use these facilities
- No factor limit my use. I go to Waterdog often.
- Wild animals scare me having younger kids around.
- Two many bikers on the path, which make me feel not safe.
- keeping open space open is key
- Poison Oak
- Trail user interaction
- Trails need repair/maintenance (and widening in some cases). More signage.
- Signage. Visible reminders a park is there.
- Afraid of fast driving bikes that don't warn you
- Nothing is currently limiting my use
- Water dog: No complaints! Safe, lovely
- Nothing limits my use of the Open Spaces, that is unless the rules change in regards to bicycles...
- I used to work in RW City, so that brought me to Waterdog. I live in SJ, so only visit Waterdog occasionally
- We would like to see more parks/open spaces with off-leash dog trails.
- Crowded with hikers so I try and go early.
- Nothing limits me from enjoying the spaces.
- If I didn't work full time, I would utilize the parks and open space 5-7 days a week
- Waterdog: Small trail system. More of an afterwork destination. Go elsewhere on weekends.
- The high number of people (but this is mostly a COVID reason)
- None of the above.
- Biking not permitted or lack of interesting riding trails
- None of these apply, i am satisfied with the level of attention the space preserve gets
- just not enough trails and access for cycling
- I'd be more likely to use the areas athletic facilities if there was a pool available
- Need more access for dogs
- The lack of respect the hikers have for bikers. I have been riding waterdog since 1992 when it was only a handful of trails. Waterdog trails were built by mountain bikers first. Hiking is great also but it seems like some of these hikers are very disrespectful and rude.
- The parks feel like a safe place to be when you're a biker or a walker.
- Not having access to biking trails
- We like parks much but Waterdog not safe any more
- Nine
- Hostility toward mountain biking and class 1 ebike
- you have completely skipped the elephant in the room which is dog friendly parks. There are extreme limitations on parks that will except dogs off leash - Cipriani is a barren wasteland but at least allows off leash when you can tolerate the burning sun without shelter, Barrett Park is perfect for those slivers of time when people are allowed to bring their dogs into the safety of the fenced in, green space but the times are way too limited and from what I've heard the future plans are to create a mini Cipriani that's basically a dog run and not a park that welcomes dogs.
- I do not make the time to visit these places. It is all my bad; nothing to do with the infrastructure.
- None
- NO Probems
- danger of mt. biking
- Nothing
- Having enough free time to get to the park :-)
- i got stung by a bee once
- my schedule

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

- I wish there was a local pool I could swim in that was outdoors. Due to Covid, none were available and there haven't been any updates about swimming pool availability to residents.

Question 6. Other Responses (con't)

- Would like to see designated directions on some trails for bike traffic and alternating use on weekend days bike only vs hike only. Some of the parks in Golden, Colorado had bikes only on even weekend days and hikers only on odd days, which helped prevent collisions and allow both types of trail user to utilize the space safely and to their own ability level.
- Have become very crowded during pandemic.
- None
- Bikes don't belong in any natural area! They destroy wildlife habitat!
- None of the above as I use our Parks and Open Spaces all the time.
- Not inclusive to cyclists - especially with kids. This is where we go for fun on bikes.
- UNDERDEVELOPED MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
- Large crowds of maskless hikers in waterdog on single track. Not a lot of space for either group (hikers/bikers) to get out of each other's way
- No factors
- I am only interested in mtn biking in the waterdog hidden canyon area
- COVID
- There are no factors that limit my use of the parks/athletic facilities/open spaces.
- Nothing limits my use of them really
- Happily use spaces when I have time
- Poison oak!
- Nothing
- Bikes are disallowed on most trails.
- Ticks, poison oak and heat in summer
- No limitations
- I very much enjoy the parks, especially mountain biking with my niece and nephew around Water Dog Open Space.
- Poison oak in water dog
- Why are all your choices asked in a negative tone?
- I feel like parks and open space is close, accessible and has adequate facilities for me.
- I have many parks and open spaces that are closer to my home, however waterdog, I will make a special trip to.
- Please keep mountain biking at Waterdog Park
- Too many Mountain Bikes. I am extremely concerned about the increasing amounts of e-bikes destroying the trails
- Nothing limits my use
- not limited at all
- None apply - not limited
- I have no issue with getting to Belmont's open spaces as I live between them and access is easy
- i don't live in belmont so i ride down from sf to waterdog to ride.
- None, I go to water dog lake park and other parks close by, daily
- I come to Waterdog for the singletrack mountain bike trails (I haven't visited the other parks)
- None apply.
- Weather conditions
- We Love wATER dOG pARK ...we hike and bike it ... love the trails and our dog Karma does as well :)
- public pool
- I have gone on my own and with a friend to take a walk and we always feel safe and enjoy our time outdoors.
- softball field at BSC is really under-maintained compared to the baseball field
- We need more tennis court.
- Granting reservations to sports teams during days & time appropriate for seniors without authorization and notice to immediate residents.
- I would love to see more safe biking areas available for younger children, particularly in the open spaces.
- Nothing. I am pleased with this great resource of me and my family.
- Dogs not allowed in many places. No public restrooms at school fields.
- do not feel I have any limitations
- Dangerous mountain bikers
- More than anything the open space at Hidden Canyon has been ruined by biking. This is a serious issue.
- Tennis courts ar Hallamark park are woefully need resurfacing and the fencing repaired.
- Congestion on Ralston near El Camino and near Notre Dame can be a huge deterrent depending on time of day
- Pets not allowed
- Off-leash dogs and dog poop in parks and school fields
- I enjoy the ooen space and do not feel limited
- I've not been going to Water Dog Lake and some of the other trails because there have been so many people there during the pandemic
- Don't feel limited in use!

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

- Poison ivy/oak
- Restrooms there but ICK or inoperable
- No limitations! I love our parks open for all activities, even those that I do not do such as biking
- The open spaces are wonderful for biking
- At times walking is scary becuz of mountain bikes on same paths.
- N/A for all
- baseball field availability

Question 6. Other Responses (con't)

- COVID quarantine
- I would walk the single paths below Hallmark but the bike riders go very fast and speed by me with little warning so I've given up walking those beautiful single paths.
- Inadequate playgrounds
- El Camino does not even have pedestrian for the most part, some parts where there is pedestrian, they are not walking friendly at all
- Mountain bikers make me afraid to hike the canyon trails. Maybe limit bikers to three days a week.
- I feel there are no limitations.
- my children are grown
- I would love to learn amount more parks for my kids that I don't know of, yet.
- Habits.
- I don't feel limited in my use of any spaces
- getting anywhere is not a problem
- As a person living with Crohn's Disease, I can't go too far anywhere without knowing for sure that there will be restrooms AND THAT THEY WILL BE UNLOCKED. Reliable restroom hours would be greatly appreciated.
- I'm looking for equestrian access
- Athletic facilities: unaware of how to schedule/reserve time for use
- Many of the Belmont school fields are in very poor shape (safety issues for those playing baseball/ soccer there). Not enough easy access picnic tables or garbage cans in our parks. Restrooms were not always supplied or open (pre-covid).
- No factors limit my families use of parks and open space
- I am responding on behalf of Serendipity School - otherwise I do not use Belmont facilities
- Too crowded during COVID with some people not wearing masks
- N/A
- People biking too fast and too close scare me as I walk Waterdog (southwest of the lake, near hidden canyon and San Carlos). Please don't allow electric bikes: it's scary enough as is...
- Can't bring my dog
- Mountain bikers in Open Space areas
- Playgrounds are very limited; would love a Magical Bridge style park
- No factors limit my use of parks. Dog poo all over waterdog open space is annoying but it does not limit my use
- not all have options for off-leash dogs
- N/A
- E-bikes cruising fast
- often crowded since Spring 2020.
- there are no factors limiting my use of any of the facilities i visit
- Too busy; overdeveloped; no hiking
- no factors limit my use
- Too crowded from visitors driving to venue instead of staying within walking distance of their own locations.
- Nothing limits my use of our parks, open space or athletic fields.
- Mountain biking in Waterdog has been getting pushed out of that area. As a resident I have regularly worked and maintained these trails. Most hiker and other people interaction have been positive, however some have had a position that bike riding doesn't belong in waterdog. This is not what I want my open spaces to turn into. We need to find a way that we can all enjoy the open space. If that means we make biking trails and hiking trails.
- Too many hikers to bike safely.
- Over zealous hikers stopping bikers and spreading misinformation
- Alexander Park tennis courts need refinishing.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 7. THE FOLLOWING AMENITIES OR USES WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE MY EXPERIENCE WITH PARKS IN BELMONT.

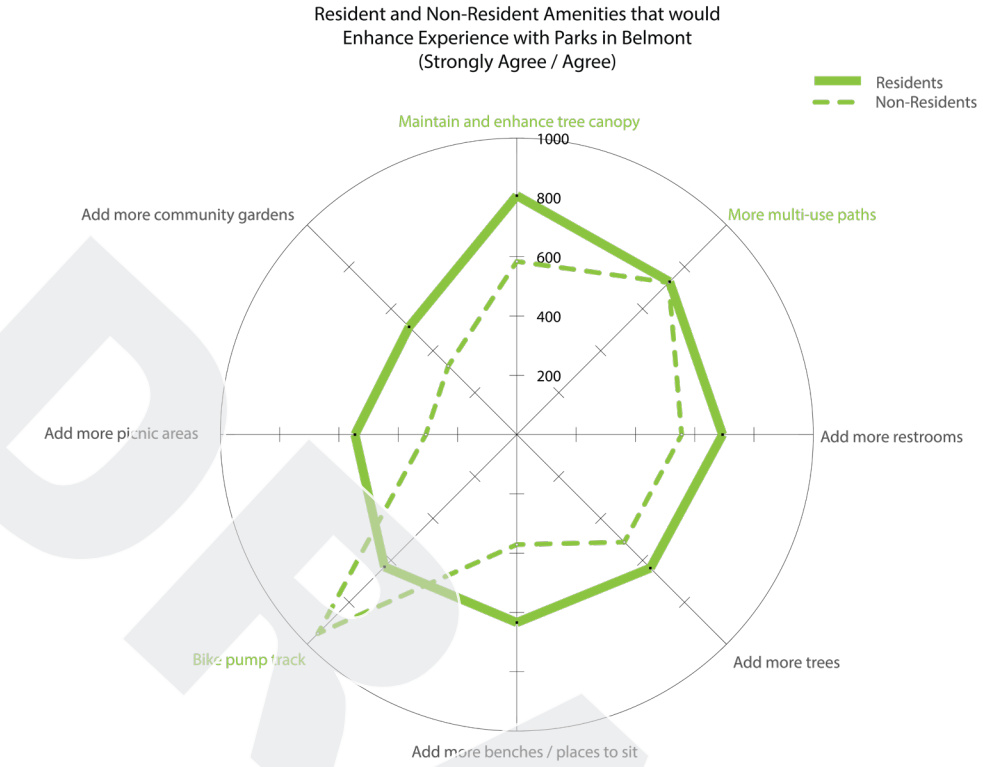
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	Total	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	**Total**
Access to WiFi	137	101	231	154	438	220	576	263	535	237	1917
Add more restrooms	308	197	994	497	230	117	65	33	469	199	2066
Add more benches and places to sit	218	162	826	472	272	134	64	25	606	231	1986
Add more shade	209	159	635	388	305	146	79	35	700	273	1928
Opportunities to purchase food or drinks	58	44	239	156	497	258	537	266	568	253	1899
Outdoor exercise stations	113	79	519	304	395	215	204	106	679	282	1910
Add More multi-use paths in parks	716	307	799	422	135	80	89	56	362	176	2101
Add more organized sports fields	127	94	350	228	323	184	149	81	893	362	1842
Spray (water) pad	137	104	356	237	269	137	174	93	924	391	1860
Add more quiet areas for connection to nature and relaxation	268	182	587	366	259	123	116	55	674	272	1904
An all-ability playground	203	140	463	287	173	98	91	47	897	377	1827
Skate park	383	170	520	291	183	107	188	134	661	294	1935
Bike pump track	1156	393	520	238	124	95	145	118	369	239	2314
Archery	190	102	433	220	264	156	215	146	795	351	1897
Add more tennis/ pickleball courts	227	157	498	327	253	129	131	71	789	305	1898
Add more basketball courts	123	85	419	259	265	156	141	79	888	378	1836
Volleyball courts	108	69	376	228	259	146	128	77	949	420	1820
Lacrosse fields	39	20	155	87	329	202	206	122	1062	492	1791
Public art displays	216	137	634	364	210	110	125	75	687	292	1872

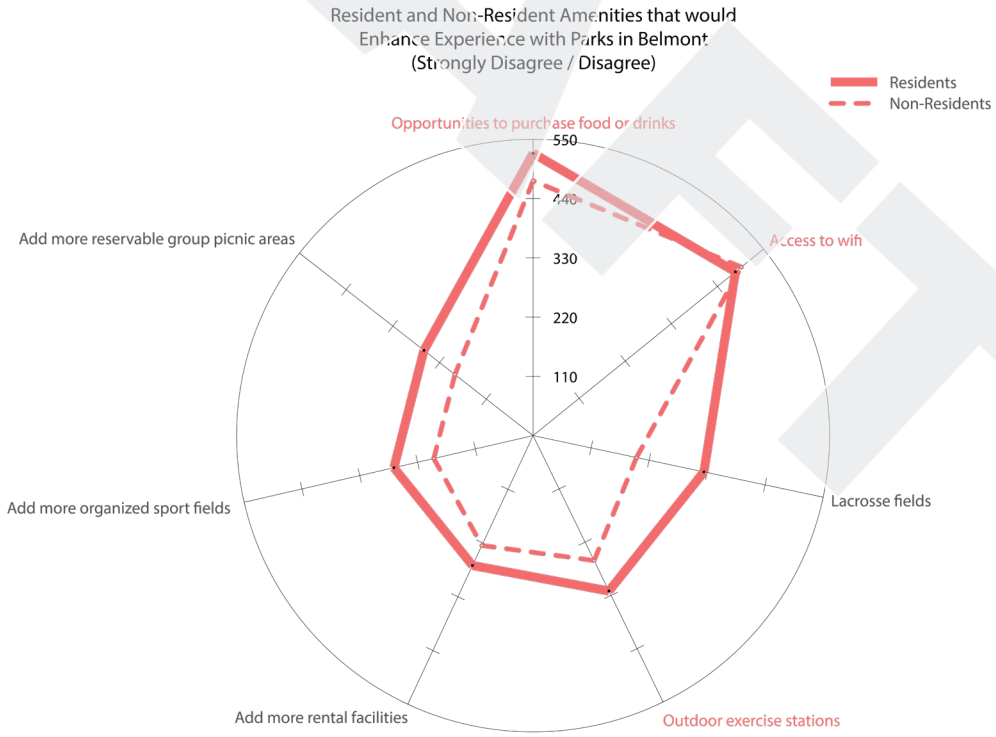
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

	STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO OPINION		
	Total	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	**Total**
Maintain and enhance tree canopy	537	326	909	480	71	38	40	20	430	166	1987
Aquatics	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Teen space	175	119	520	321	166	91	95	53	869	370	1825
Add more picnic areas	175	129	705	417	205	114	64	38	729	284	1878
Add more reservable group picnic areas	99	75	366	228	325	185	132	72	889	384	1811
Add more community gardens	256	174	610	340	188	108	66	36	753	317	1873
Add more trees	440	251	749	386	123	84	40	24	563	241	1915
Add more rental facilities for receptions/ special events	74	57	264	170	335	174	171	92	959	443	1803
Add wind breaks	130	100	393	263	266	125	102	53	932	402	1823
Aquatics	331	259	395	250	178	86	112	62	858	321	1874
Other (please specify)											165
										Answered	**2609**
										Skipped	197

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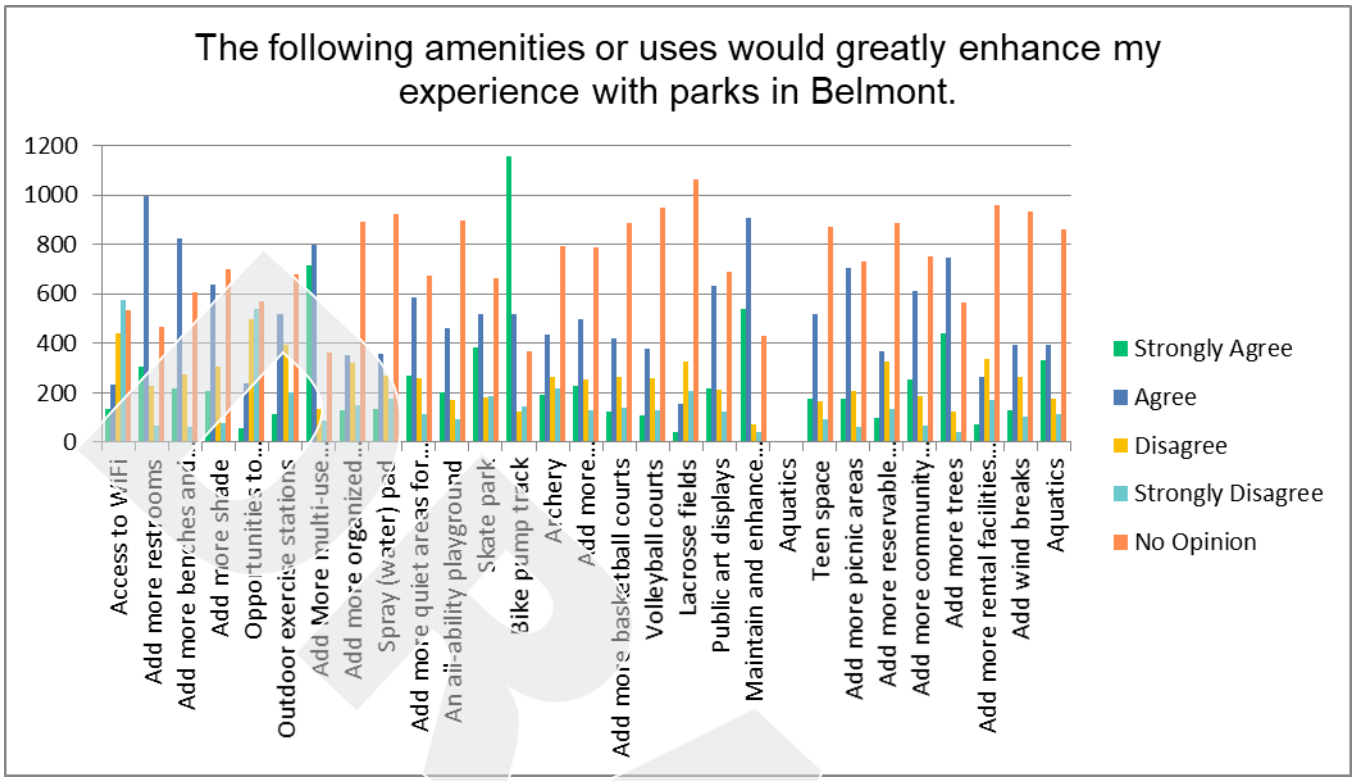
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS





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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS



Question 7. Other Responses

- Fewer Multi-use trails in Waterdog and more hiking only.
- Develop trail system behind Twin Pines Park; develop grass surface dog park like Skyline Park in Burlingame
- More bike trails
- Nothing, leave them as is.
- More dog parks
- no wonder your theme is “build” your backyard == we need to UNbuild the open space; reduce trails; keep bikes on fire roads only (it’s the standard)
- Need public pool
- Need a community lap pool
- community pool is needed
- More bike trails! Please!
- ice rink!!
- Ice rink for hockey
- Add more off-pavement bike trails
- More Mountain bike trails (fast growing sport in the USA)
- Add more garbage cans
- Large grassy dog park areas!!!!
- Dedicated mountain biking trails
- Bike-only trails - this is safer for everyone and would be unique
- Add more or even a mountain bike only trails
- build more legal mtb trails or even mtb only trails
- more bike trails
- better condition for athletic fields
- Mountain biking trails
- Build new mountain bike trails
- more bike trails
- Link bike paths
- Mountain bike trails
- Ice rink baby!
- Mountain bike opportunities
- trail maintenance in Waterdog to aid trail usage, better maps and trail signs
- create bike only trails!
- trails for dogs, educate park users about what you can expect from dog owners (voice command, no jumping)
- More Mountain bike trails
- Mountain bike specific trails would be nice, or at least trails where hikers would expect to encounter mountain bikers and not be startled or vocally complain about someone going by slowly at a reasonable distance.
- Ensure mountain biking opportunities

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 7. Other Responses (con't)

- Off leash dog areas
- recommend we remove not native trees that obstruct the view
- After school programs for schools/ field trips/Art centers/music/large fish ponds like Central Park
- Dog waste bags and bins at San Juan Canyon.
- More places to bike without fear of car obliteration.
- Add More places to mountain bike
- please consider adding a community pool as temps have risen so much over the years.
- hazardous fuel reduction is necessary.
- More multi use trails in the open space
- bike trails and bike lanes to and from
- More mountain biking access
- I am happy as they are
- A large space for RC hobbyists.
- Drinking Water
- When adding new facilities, please considerate not to put neighborhood residents in stress. There are too many bikers vehicles nowadays concentrate in some areas.
- Keep mountain biking options at waterdog
- More paths to run
- Please leave nature alone!
- Install more mats for the playground structure instead of wood chips
- Twin Pines has been ruined by both the South Rd unnecessary bike path & removal of trees
- More bike friendly and bike specific trails!
- More biking trails
- I can't answer most of these without knowing what location you are talking about!
- Mountain Bike Trail (Including Class 1 E-Bike)
- DOG FRIeNDLY!!!!!!
- Add more dog poop bags
- Maintain mountain bike access.
- Belmont 100% needs a skatepark
- Bike parks have been an amazing addition to family use of facilities in communities where they have been added. Top of my list.
- Calisthenics stations/equipment: pull up bars, dips
- Mountain bike trails
- Maintain Mountain Biking Access
- More mountain bike only trails (technical single track) give us our own trails
- More mountain bike access
- Disc Golf course pretty please
- specific biking and hiking trails. some trails are very steep to walk on
- Disc Golf
- Mountain bike trails
- Ice Skating
- Stop Getting rid of and adulterating our biking trails!! We have so little left to ride and this is the HOME of mountainbiking, and we drive it away!!
- More dedicated mountain bike trails!!
- Don't allow bicycles in any natural area; restrict them to paved roads.
- More mountain bike trails
- Add more Mountain Bike Specfic Trails to Waterdog.
- Expand Mountain biking trails
- More Mountain Biking space.
- A public pool would be nice
- Separate user groups on multi use trails in water dog - build more single user group trails for both groups, plant more trees
- Access for bikes in OSP
- Preserve and expand mountain bike trail networks
- Open spaces are excellent as is
- Off leash, fenced dog park area. Open all day. Within walking distance of all our apartment complexes with no lawns (western hills)
- Keep mountain biking in all open spaces. It is an activity many of us do frequently as our primary means of exercise.
- ice rink
- add more single tracks for mountain biking
- Mountain biking!
- Kid climbing walls
- I am very interested in new trails open to mountain bikes.
- Allow for more mountain bike enhancements to make the trails safer and more accessible to all users.
- Continue allowing mountain biking
- Maintain waterfog access w Bikes
- More single track for hiking and mountain biking
- More mountain bike loops if there is space at parks other than Waterdog
- outdoor music venues
- Often we have had to bring in more portable tables and chairs to the Redwood Grove to include all of our attending group.
- Pickleball badly needed!
- Aquatic is strongly needed!!!
- limit high-speed bike traffic and large groups of cyclists; protect trails from erosion and make bridges more foot-friendly

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 7. Other Responses (con't)

- With Regard to Open spaces (Waterdog): For the safety of all users more signage at strategic locations would be helpful to warn people to pay more attention. There are exposed areas and possible dangers and accidents that can be prevented with signage.
- I vote for a bike track to separate the bikes from the hikers at Waterdog.
- Access to athletic parks for ad hoc play (versus teams)
- Radically limit biking in Hidden Canyon and Waterdog Lake
- Indoor basketball courts would be great, either for walk-in use, rental, or league play.
- maintain mountain biking access
- More places to ride bikes
- belmont has few sidewalks in the hills: we are worried about the kids biking on the street without a designated lane
- Avoid costly and high-maintenance sporting facilities that are not used by a majority of public
- Belmont need a public pool for lane swimming
- Off-leash dog areas
- Please replace trees on properties that the city removes to update sidewalks and streets. We lost 5 oak trees on Ralston and we're told to replace them ourselves after you cut them down. Very unexceptable!!
- It's not a matter of more, it's a matter of improving what we have!
- Waterdog and San Juan Canyon are fantastic as is.
- pickleball courts
- Safe and official access to Belmont Creek in Twin Pines Park
- space for dogs offleash
- Mostly "no opinion" here because I think the spaces are already really great.
- baseball fields for open use (beyond little league) should be open to all and reservable for all
- I'd be interested in indoor aquatics, but it's too windy and cool for outdoor water activities.
- Please allow only walkers to use the single paths in Waterdog and Hidden Canyon and NOT ALLOW bikers to use those single paths.. People with disabilities such as hearing, walking and even having children should be limited to WALKERS.
- Costly to maintain
- Skating rink
- Ice rink
- Bike dirt jumps park, like one in Fosters city by shell beach that was recently closed, would've be awesome!
- Burton Park in San Carlos would be a strong guideline
- Unique nature based play areas. Like the wood stumps in twin pines.
- Parking for Waterdog
- Aquatics top priority
- For me, things seem ok as they are.
- Off leash dog areas
- Dog park with grass instead of dirt
- bocce ball court
- Upgrade the play structures in Twin Pines Park.
- A skate park, pump track and all abilities playground would be amazing! I want my middle schooler and his friends to have more outdoor activity options that they can easily travel to.
- more trash receptacles would benefit each place
- Add more bike trails
- Public swimming pool is sorely needed. We live in a cool location, so balance lovely shade trees with our need for winter sun. Also, Bocce courts should be a survey option!!!
- equestrian access
- more open space bike access
- More mountain bike trails.
- Upgrade Mcdougal softball fields
- bocce ball courts (belmont has promised these for years)
- pump track and/or skate park would be a great addition
- Repair/replace broken areas: swing hinges at Twin Pines, Dry rockbed at davey glen
- Frisbee Golf
- I would like to have a town swimming pool
- My family drives to other local towns for skate parks and pump tracks. Would be great to have them here in Belmont. Plus, we could do with more dog parks in Belmont. The closest one to us is Laurie Meadows (San Mateo).
- Community pool please
- Add more dog parks/off leash areas
- safe dedicated (not shared) bike trails
- Dog park areas - and ones that are open all day, year-round, with room to run
- Dedicated biking and walking trails

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 7. Other Responses (con't)

- More shade is needed in the dog park--not in the Open Space unless replacing dead trees, or whatever the natural setting was. A bike pump track is acceptable outside of open space areas or Twin Pines Park.
- don't want city pool.. continued availability of carlmont pool is sufficient. since roads in belmont are not great for kids to bike, need more opportunities for them to bike.
- I think we should keep bikes at waterdog
- Continue allowing mountain bikers to use Waterdog and Hidden Canyon- Strongly Agree
- Please enchance existing Mountain bike trails and keep Ebikes and motorized bikes out
- More dog friendly spaces!
- Having some mountain bike only single track at Waterdog and hidden canyon would be great
- A pump track must happen for Belmont. This will support out youths and give them a place to grow and realize that the community supports them.
- Bike only trails

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 8. THE FOLLOWING AMENITIES OR USES WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE MY EXPERIENCE WITH OPEN SPACE IN BELMONT.

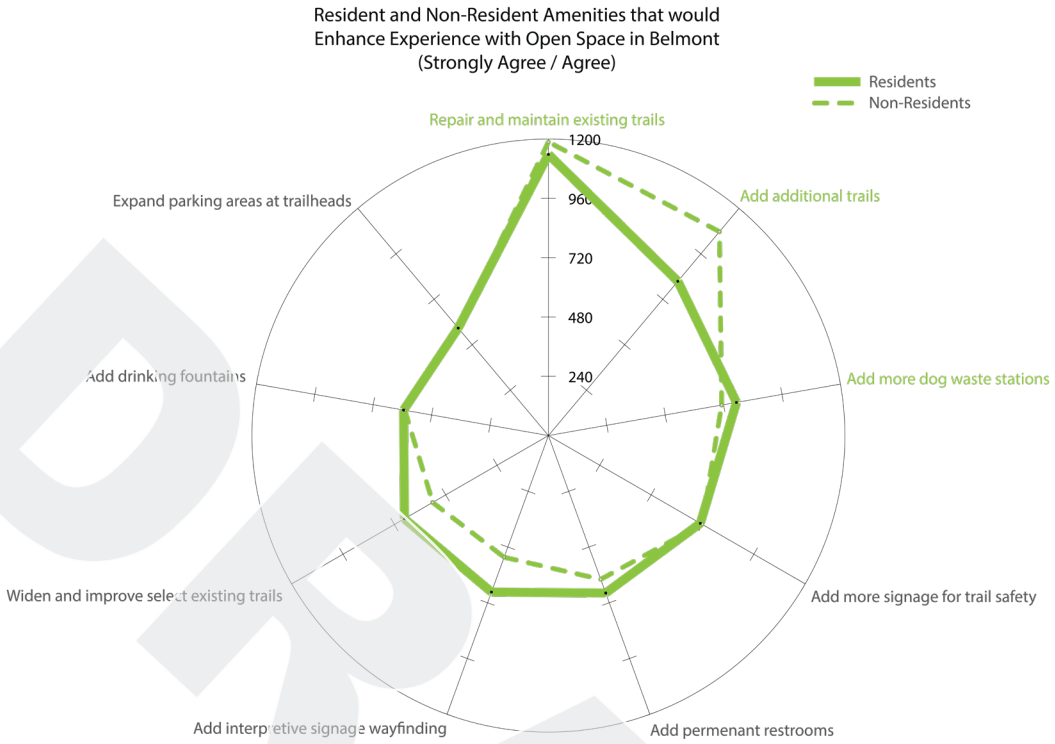
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	Total	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	**Total**
Add interpretive signage wayfinding signage (route maps)	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Add seating or view areas	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Reduce/limit number of trails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expand parking areas at trail heads	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Repair and maintain existing trails	1450	635	998	503	62	26	17	7	73	44	2600
Widen and improve select existing trails	582	300	696	373	523	214	337	125	266	134	2404
Reduce/limit number of trails	70	56	65	49	572	316	1473	563	169	121	2349
Designate certain trails for certain uses	292	185	505	287	507	210	949	357	186	114	2439
Add additional trails	1210	413	789	402	166	111	78	63	220	156	2463
Add security patrol, call boxes and/or trailhead lighting	185	129	562	310	479	217	268	115	708	298	2202
Add ADA compliant features	142	88	468	236	309	160	215	100	994	448	2128
Prioritize habitat protection	337	236	608	313	431	173	308	132	526	220	2210
Establish use policies (electric bikes, trail speeds, designated use hours, etc.)	329	243	590	301	524	200	723	280	238	120	2404

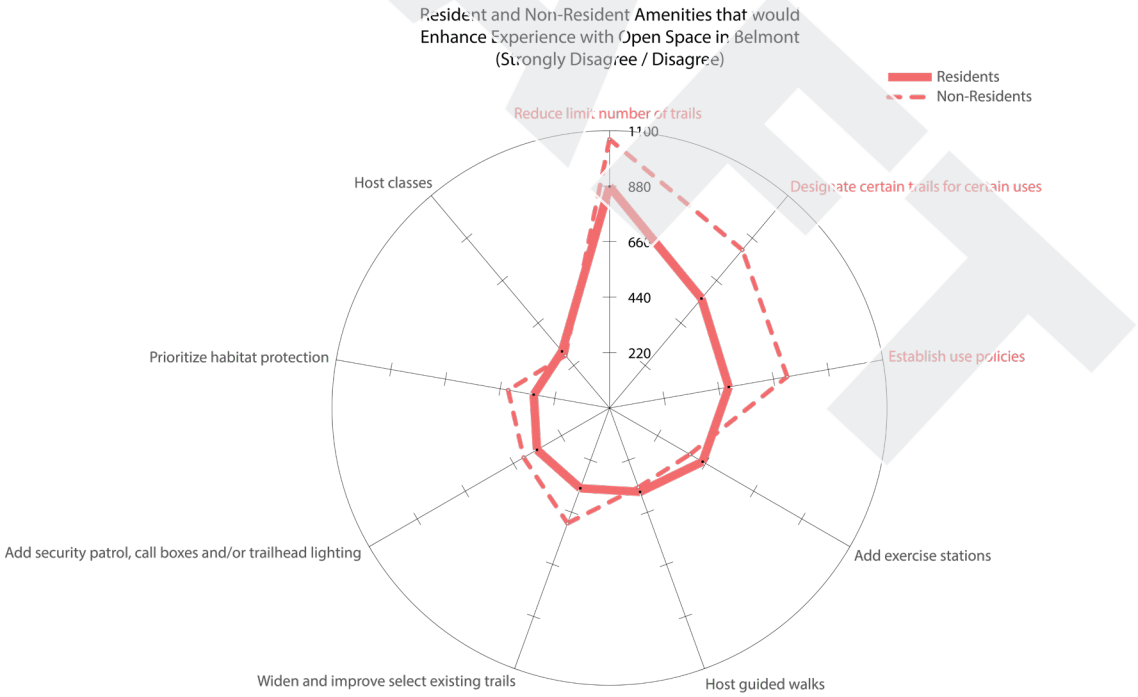
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

	STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO OPINION		
	Total	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	**Total**
Add bike repair stations	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Add more dog waste stations	420	232	1121	541	162	72	71	38	489	216	2263
Expand parking areas at trail heads	316	180	868	388	387	195	158	87	520	226	2249
Add permanent restrooms	347	200	997	478	272	135	119	69	510	207	2245
Add drinking fountains	298	172	930	423	307	176	114	60	548	230	2197
Add exercise stations	82	60	364	204	500	247	314	179	843	337	2103
Add bike repair stations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Add seating or view areas	188	133	770	442	284	125	132	67	754	280	2128
Host guided walks	89	66	337	214	413	217	288	137	952	392	2079
Add interpretive signage wayfinding signage (route maps)	294	192	940	482	210	100	108	50	592	222	2144
Add more signage for trail safety and etiquette	460	237	1038	473	226	119	102	57	442	198	2268
Host classes (e.g., yoga, plein air painting, junior rangers)	122	98	396	250	344	175	231	118	990	390	2083
Other (please specify)											188
										Answered	**2709**
										Skipped	97

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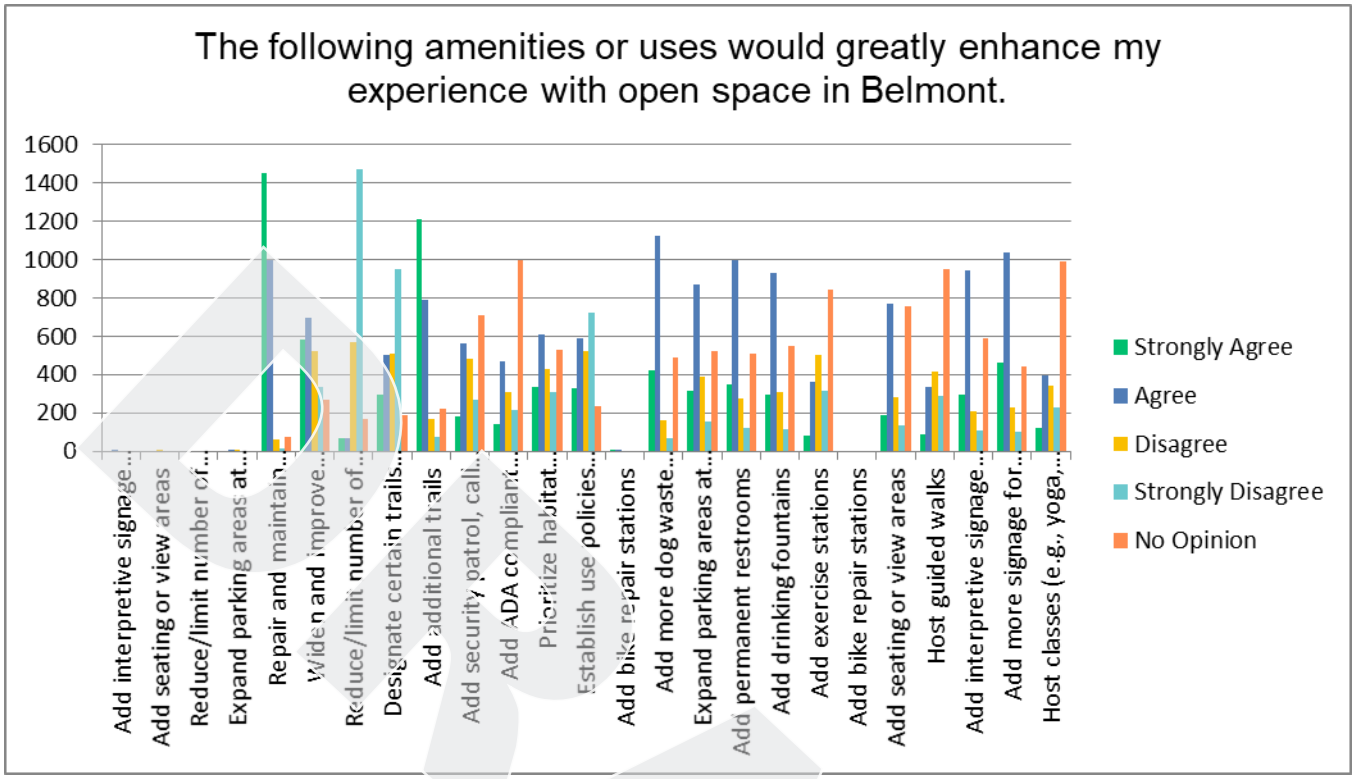
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS





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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS



Question 8. Other Responses

- Electric bike should be banned. They are mini motorcycles in disguise.
- I oppose closing waterdog to e-bikes
- The "use policies" question is too broad. I'd say no to ebikes, but I'd be against trail speeds (because what's fast on one trail is slow on another) and no to use hours, unless that's to ADD access
- There are plenty of hiker specific trails all over the Bay Area. MTB specific trails are needed!
- I hike and mountain bike and enjoy using the trails for both activities
- Over use by so many cars parked at Lake Road/Hallmark Drive
- Add an off leash dog trail or area.
- manage WD as an open space not as a sports facility; people need to get back to nature; a place to be quiet, enjoy the bird calls, be present
- Plant more trees if possible
- I'm happy with our multi use trails - I love the mountain bike use, maybe restrictions on especially bike use after heavy rains tho? to prevent erosion? Plus not keen on e-bikes, unless maybe for ADA use?
- Need public pool
- I would like to see some additional trails added to create nicer loops that my kids can ride on without doing the steepest climbs. We should do native plant restoration on the sides of some of the wider trails and make them narrower.
- Please don't limit mountain bike access. Make bells on bikes mandatory to encourage friendly trail sharing.
- For safety dog lease law enforcement, poison oak removal.
- Ban mountain bikes from narrow trails. This is an accident waiting to happen. Many times I have almost collided with a mountain biker. It is frightening and ruins the experience of enjoying Belmont's open space.
- Keep trails open to bikes
- mountain biking needs to be preserved in open space. It is all teens have to do here.
- More bike events!!!
- I am a huge advocate for directional mixed multi use trails. The new Cotoni Coast Dairy Project is a leader in this area.
- Please protect mountain bike trails
- More Mountain bike trails (fast growing sport in the USA)

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 8. Other Responses (con't)

- More people are moving to bicycles to reduce traffic and pollution. So we see more bike riders in the open spaces. Please encourage this.
- Use policies are already established at trailheads and while habitat does need to be protected, it should also be enjoyed by everyone. Would love to see more mountain-bike trails at Water Dog Park. This place has wonderful single-tracks for biking!
- Mountain biking originated in the Bay Area - please support it. Waterdog is unique and special for bikes - please keep it open.
- Having lived in multiple places around the country, parks which expand user trails but limit use to one method (bike only, hiker only, etc.) have more sustainable and enjoyable open areas. This allows more targeted maintenance to address use-specific issues and reduces unfavorable interactions between users. Infrastructure can also be targeted more efficiently to reduce cost.
- Keeping all trals open to mountain biking
- Maintain bike access
- More space for mountain biking would be excellent
- Do not limit use, ie. stop biking in Water Dog Park. Instead engage the bikers in helping with trail maintenance and education about trail etiquette.
- Dog stations so those people who pickup pet waste and leave it on the side of a trail for other users to step in...
- More mountain biking trails
- Please keep Waterdog Park open to mountain biking. It is a staple park for our local mtb community. The mountain biking community has also done a lot for the park with respect to trail upkeep and maintenance. It it one of the most engaging and fun parks in the area for this activity.
- continue to allow all mountain bikes
- allow bikes
- GGNRA type signs: horses have priority over hikers over bikers
- Please add bike specific/only trails with technical trail features
- allow more biking
- Please keep mountain biking allowed in Waterdog!
- I love mountain biking at Waterdog. Beautiful trails and friendly people.
- Improve and add trails (not necessarily widen) trails for mountain biking and hiking. Single Tracks are great.
- Signage on trails for directions and navigation
- Directional trails
- Allow mountain biking. Single direction trails or alternative days for bikes only.
- bike only trail!
- Maintain access to non electric bikes
- Mountain-bike specific trails - at least as many as hiker-only, and built specifically to be enjoyed by bike! (bermed turns, optional technical sections, etc.)
- Please do not attempt to segregate bikes from pedestrians, etiquette signage is more appropriate
- I very much like the multi-use aspect, with especially hikers and bikers interplay. The "tensions" are over-reported. Both as a hiker (with family) and as a biker, I almost always have positive interactions.
- Allow mountain bikes
- Increase mountain biking trails & promote user awareness.
- I feel strongly that we should continue to allow multi-use of open space trails including biking and dog walking.
- More mountain bike trails
- Protect mountain bike access to Waterdog park. Use restrictions advocated by a vocal minority does not represent the community.
- off leash dog areas like at Pulgas Trails
- More acces for people on bikes in open spaces and larger parks. Host guided bike rides.
- Allow safe mixed use of trails and do not prioritize one group over another.
- please consider adding a community pool as temps have risen so much over the years.
- Guided bike ride
- Ask hikers, joggers, and walkers not to wear headphones in both ears, as it's dangerous on a multi-use trail.
- add more mountain biking trails
- Dog walkers are not always respectful leaving their waste bag behind on trail. Also, it's disgusting that they are allowed in parks where people picnic and play on the lawn. Especially for children. Restrict dog access in family picnic/play areas.
- ADD MMANY MORE OFF LEASH DOG SITES!!
- Please keep Water Dog Lake Park as it is and open for mountain biking
- Keep water dog open to bikes!
- prioritize multi use trails, specifically for mountain bikers who are often under represented. Limit electric bike use to wide lanes and fire roads.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 8. Other Responses (con't)

- Biking has gotten out of hand. My use of parks during covid has increased & im there for r&r, not an EXTREME experience. Signage + bike patrols issuing citations for everyone coming into town (we are a destination) would help
- Bike access to more trails and parks
- no bikes on nature trails. bikes need to slow down.
- Mt bike access for 90% of trails.
- Keep mountain biking in Waterdog
- Add more Mountain Bike Trail (Including Class 1 E-Bike)
- Although I am a hiker, the bikers created the Waterdog trail system and have maintained many of the trails. Electric bikes are not destroying trails (they are electric assist just helping with the hills). They do not tear up trails. Designate one way trails (narrow too) for bikes as well as hikers. Don't limit bikes to wide trails (in general without the features they like). I have lived here for 35 years so I have watched the trails behind my house grow. Please also reclaim trails where people have moved fencing down and over the trail (into open space). This is especially true in the Belmont Heights area. Thank you
- Please make every attempt to keep the open space parks undeveloped and do habitat restoration of native plants. Walking only, please NO BIKES!! They are a threat to hikers and destroy trails and habitat
- Please build a skatepark
- If 'designate trails for certain uses' means 'designate the trails maintained by the mountain bike community as mountain bike primary, others welcome', that is ok. If 'hikers only', that is not OK.
- DOG FrIENDLY
- Please keep mountain biking access in Waterfog. It is perfect just as it is!
- Keep water dog as a bike friendly park. There are plenty of parks that are hiking only.
- None of the above as offerings are more than adequate. People take care of needs.
- Additional trail access for bicycles
- thank you for allowing mountain bikes, one thing I've seen work really well near my parents in MI is one directional trails - so hikers travel clockwise bikes travel counter-clockwise. This greatly mitigates trail conflicts & works really well on loop trails
- Alternating use periods for cyclists/mountain bikes should be implemented to better serve both hikers and cyclists, this would alleviate the concerns that both groups have in running into the other at high speeds, and help control erosion. For example odd days are cyclist allowed, even days are closed to cyclist.
- Establish more trails for cycling and hiking!
- Increase capacity for safe mountain biking, and better educating the locals about trail etiquette and maintaining a healthy relationship with hikers. One must be aware of the others existence and respect it.
- E-bikes should be banned from trails.
- Keep the trails open to everyone.
- maintain or expand bike access to trails. Consider means to improve the trail experience for all types of trail users
- Keep Water dog and Hidden Canyon Bike friendly! It's the best place. I love it so much.
- Strongly support mountain biking at Water Dog. This has been a wonderful activity for my family for years in a super safe and beautiful setting. IF we lost this there would be nowhere to go..
- All mountain biking and electric bikes
- More signage for trail safety is a great idea. I understand some people are uncomfortable with mountain bikes on the trails, but feel this is purely an education issue. I'm a mountain biker and am probably the most courteous person on the trails--everyone could be so.
- Off Road/Mt Biking Trails
- You may want to add mountain bike specific downhill trails that aren't used for hiking, but don't limit mountain bikes otherwise.
- Stop Ruining bike trails!!!!!! Not everything needs to be an ADA compliant road. Some people accept that fact.
- Add two trail systems, one for hikers and one for mountain bikers. (Mountain biking trails can be dual use.)
- Cipriani/Dog park are world famously known for the mountain biking trails, please add more it will enhance the Belmont economy !
- More mountain bike trails!!!
- Waterdog would benefit from seperating Hiking and Mountain biking on some of the narrower trails.
- more bike trails
- It is important to me that access remain available for all open space users including hikers, joggers, bikers, and dog owners.
- more mountain biking trails, please! (there is already a huge shortage in the bay area)

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 8. Other Responses (con't)

- Mountain biking is a key recreational activity for healthy exercise and should continue to thrive and expand in Water Dog.
- Ban e-bikes and actually enforce it
- leave the open space as natural as possible.
- Open spaces are excellent as is
- Keep mountain biking legal at water dog! It's a great park and an awesome resource for people getting into the sport!
- Create more bike and ebike trails
- Please allow biking but limit electric bike.
- Add more MTB trails
- Keep Waterdog open for Hikers and Mountain Bikers
- Keep mountain biking in all open spaces. It is an activity many of us do frequently as our primary means of exercise.
- keep trails as they are for mountain biking
- Please keep Water Dog open to all users including Mountain Biking!
- Keep open space free and unregulated.
- Add more bicycle trails - single or multi use for bicycles
- more mountain biking trial access
- Areas for bicycling with kids and friends especially mountain but road also
- Mountain biking skills and trail etiquette
- I feel strongly that trails should remain multi-use. Adding at least one long circuit that is dog-friendly for urban hiking. Such as making the Sheep camp trails open to dogs so hikers can get over to Canada Rd.
- Keep mountain biking on trails
- I am a mountain biker, BUT Mountain Bike/e-bikes utilization needs to be either eliminated or drastically policed. It is out of control!
- Belmont's embracing of Mountain biking is very special and is a great way to get the youth invested in protecting and enjoying nature.
- 'designate uses' might be 'designate direction' for things like finch which gets narrow but is fun in bother directions.
- Better control of loose dogs.
- Allow multi-use including mountain biking on trails.
- Since our preferred Redwood Grove at Twin Pines is so far from the parking lot...it would help the "aging Committee members" if a road could allow 'some cars' closer parking to unload/load the equipment for our big event.
- limit high-speed bike traffic and large groups of bikes
- As previously mentioned more signage would be helpful; in particular, a good example is the "three witches", three consecutive hills. Here there, is traffic coming up and down (bikers and hikers) and there is some exposure adding to the safety concern. So, signage at the base as well as the top of this section would remind users to pay attention and exercise safety.
- More bike lanes on Belmont roadways
- Keeping the poison oak in check is key to enjoying the open space. The trail crew has been doing a good job at it for my last several visits.
- I suggest to prohibit biking in Waterdog trails in the winter or when it's wet. Tire tracks tear up the trails.
- Most important would be to severely limit biking in hidden canyon and waterdog and other places inappropriate to biking
- More mountain bike only trails
- please maintain mountain bike access to waterdog park
- It is great to have access to great mountain biking trails at waterdog, please don't get rid of mtb access!
- More bike access
- I believe establishing use policies are important, but as presented in the examples it seems this is targeted the exclusion of bicycling activities
- We go to open space to see nature, animals, flowers, plants. Do NOT bring in distractions from nature or encouage more dogs. Nature education-docent led walks would be great.
- More bike paths / trails at parks and open spaces as well as connect them to non-park infrastructure (e.g., multiuse paths on the way to parks and open space to safely bike there).
- We need limits on biking. My dog got hit the other day by a mountain biker.
- This section sounds specifically geared towards improvements at the Water Dog Lake / Hidden Canyon Open Space. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has increased the use of this area significantly and people are making demands for improvements. This space is a jewel in the rough but let's not polish it to a luster - therein lies the beauty of this wonderful resource. It is by no means a pristine habitat ecologically but let's make an effort to not gussy it all up and disturb the wildlife that call it their home and make it an overly attractive destination that draws people from all around the bay area. BTW - the new signage is very nice so kudos there!Thanks!

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 8. Other Responses (con't)

- Again, I think the conditions & services are already really great - no improvements needed IMO.
- Add trash containers for dog waste or other trash
- Ban E-bikes in open space areas. Enforce park hours - no use after sunset.
- Remove invasive plants like ivy and oxalis that climb over existing native trees. Take out eucalyptus and replace with safer choices.
- Limit mountain bikers to three days a week.
- Weed control e.g. safely with goats
- enhance the wi-fi access so cell phones work
- Please don't restrict dogs from trails, like Sawyer Camp Trail does.
- multi use paths very hard for pedestrians - I feel like I'm always about to get run over. Also masking restrictions are not consistent and people dont' follow them.
- Particularly in open space, trail maintenance is essential. While the efforts by certain groups (biking) are very helpful, there are large areas of trail where vertical trails have allowed water runoff to severely rut the trail. I am all for volunteer efforts, and do want to participate myself, but some areas of the trail esp at water dog need to be re engineered, preferably with some professional advice
- Please do not restrict use to only walkers. That would be a terrible loss to our children who love to bike where they are safe from cars.
- Add more bike trails
- Guided walks are a great way to introduce the public to lesser known open spaces— learn to appreciate what we have
- Horse trails
- More open space for bikes
- Like the new trail signage in WD Open Space
- consider use hours / directions for multi-modes - walkers and cycling
- How has NorCal missed the memo on the importance of posting trail operation and etiquette signage - people can't know what they don't know - THIS BEFORE ALL ELSE PLS!
- multi-use trails have been successful for many years and should be kept that way
- "Exploration spaces" for kids would be great - kid-oriented trails with lots to learn about
- It would be nice to keep our open space open and available to all. I do not believe that all or most open space trails should be required to be ADA compliant. We DO need some trails that are accessible (in open space, recreational, and/ or parks) but not every trail, everywhere.
- The open space is a beautiful multi-use open space trail system, that should in my opinion continue to be multi-use for the entire community of hikers, bikers, dog walkers, and nature lovers. Of course we want to simultaneously protect habitat, but please note that our open space is designated as recreational open space. it is not a nature preserve and was intended for people to use it responsibly.
- Would love an off leash pet area in one of the open spaces!!!
- Please leave open space trails narrow and primitive. Narrow the wide trails to 2-3 feet when possible. This gives a more intimate and close experience with nature.
- All access for respectful mountain biking
- Stop e-bike use, limit number of bikes and their speed so I don't have to walk scared all the time
- Limit and enforce mountain bikes to selected trails
- I believe we should improve & add agenda specific (including hiking, dog walking...) trails but not widen existing. The current landscape of many of the trails are too restrictive in grade to reach a large population of hikers.
- Enforce lease law for dogs. Half of the dogs are off lease in Water Dog Lake Open Space
- How about enforce existing policies - no motorized vhicles, dogs on leash, pick up dog waste (curious dogs not mentioned in "policies" above)
- There are existing policies, so education around them is important. I wouldn't want to create additional restrictions.
- No E-bikes
- Trails are well maintained currently by an active group of volunteers(and perhaps others).
- bike speed limits are more appropriate than limiting ebikes.. it isn't the bike that speeds, it is the person riding it.. i ride a class 3 bike and i turn off the motor on mulit use trails.. as i get passed by cyclists on road bikes. i have one of those too.. i keep my speed down.
- Designate uphill/downhill designated trails when they are particularly steep/narrow/winding.
- Stop the gradual widening of narrow (singletrack) trails and the safety risk to hikers by either restricting their use to hikers only, as done in other open space/parks in the peninsula region, or, as a last resort, by adding regularly spaced step-out spots for hikers to allow bikes to safely pass, along with signs showing what is expected.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 8. Other Responses (con't)

- Open spaces should be "open" to everyone. Limiting their use - e.g. telling bikers they can only ride on certain trails at certain times is unfair. And I'm a hiker, not a biker.
- Prohibit bikes on narrow single track trails. Prohibit new trails made by bikers! Security patrol so rules are followed would be good but no lighting.
- Eliminate bikes from single track trails. Have monitors on trails to enforce rules. Currently night riders are on trails after sunset.
- More off leash dog accessible trails
- 1. More dog friendly and off leash spaces. 2. Please clean up Patricia Wharton Park. Much of the year, it has dead plants and lots of weeds!
- Take out informal bike paths and clean up trails, add trail signage, eliminate water pollution from bad maintenance activities by city
- No night bike riding on open space trails please. Homes feel very exposed when people are on the trails at night. We are supposed to because at sunset and we need signage that states that.
- Bike riding in Waterdog needs to be prioritized with the number of youths that ride there, and people that use the area (precovid) it has been primarily mountain bike riders, now we have in influx of people here we need to accommodate for all users by creating more bike specifications trails to unclog the congestion.
- The section pertaining to usage guidelines seems biased towards limiting bicycles, while there are as many, if not more disobedient hikers in open spaces. A mutually beneficial approach here would be preferred.
- To improve the multi-use nature of the open space, designated usage days could be an option' 'Beginner Bike Saturdays' (Promote bike use, restrict hikers), 'Strolling Sundays' (promote hiking, restrict bike use), 'Mellow Mondays' (restrict all usage to allow the nature to recuperate).
- would designate Waterdog as cycling-focused park and Edgewood/others as hiking-focused

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

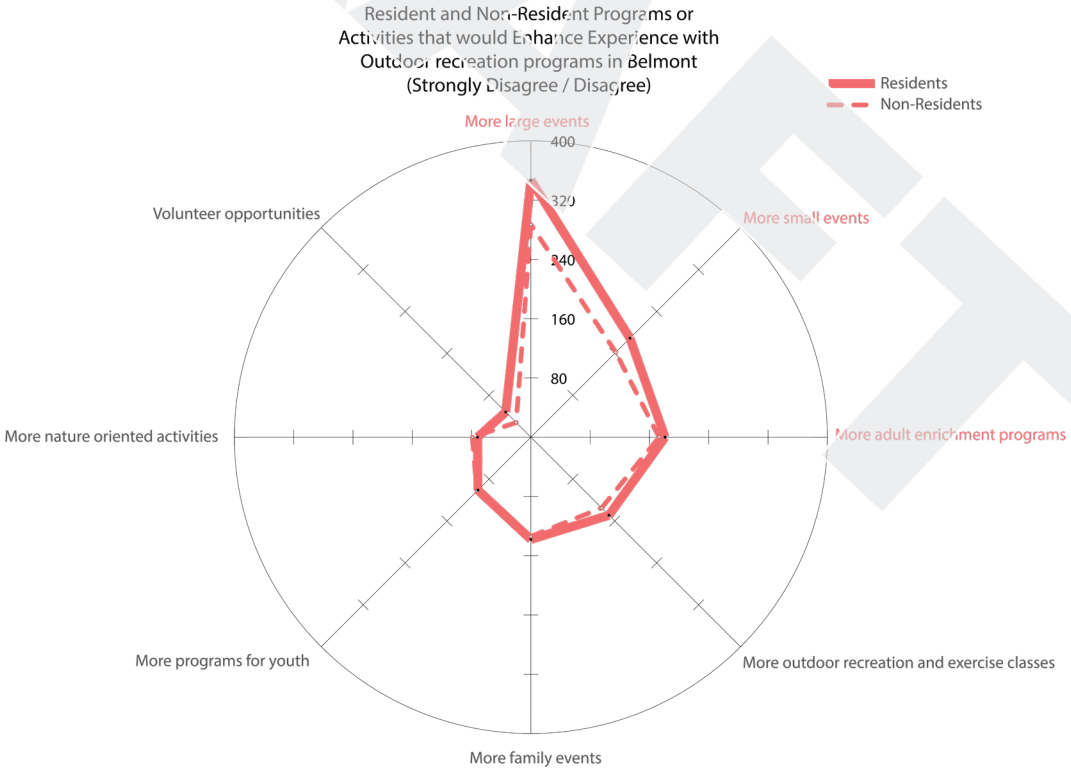
QUESTION 9. THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE MY EXPERIENCE WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN BELMONT.

	STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO OPINION		
	Total	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	*Total*	*Res.*	**Total**
More small events	102	80	451	294	254	137	105	52	1133	466	2045
More large events	67	52	228	157	408	224	242	123	1074	459	2019
More family events (nature walks, movie nights)	206	157	668	414	192	98	88	40	915	351	2069
More adult enrichment programs (plein air painting, lectures)	101	76	433	308	252	130	109	51	1121	464	2016
More programs for youth (sports camp, nature camp)	276	187	705	412	136	70	72	31	853	340	2042
More outdoor recreation and exercise classes (boot camp, yoga, etc.)	166	122	607	373	186	99	102	50	949	376	2010
Volunteer opportunities (trail work, restoration, etc.)	704	309	936	499	44	27	36	21	476	228	2196
More nature oriented activities	336	203	786	454	111	49	45	23	757	301	2035
More reservable group picnic areas	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
More outdoor rental facilities	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Other (please specify)											54
										Answered	**2306**
										Skipped	500

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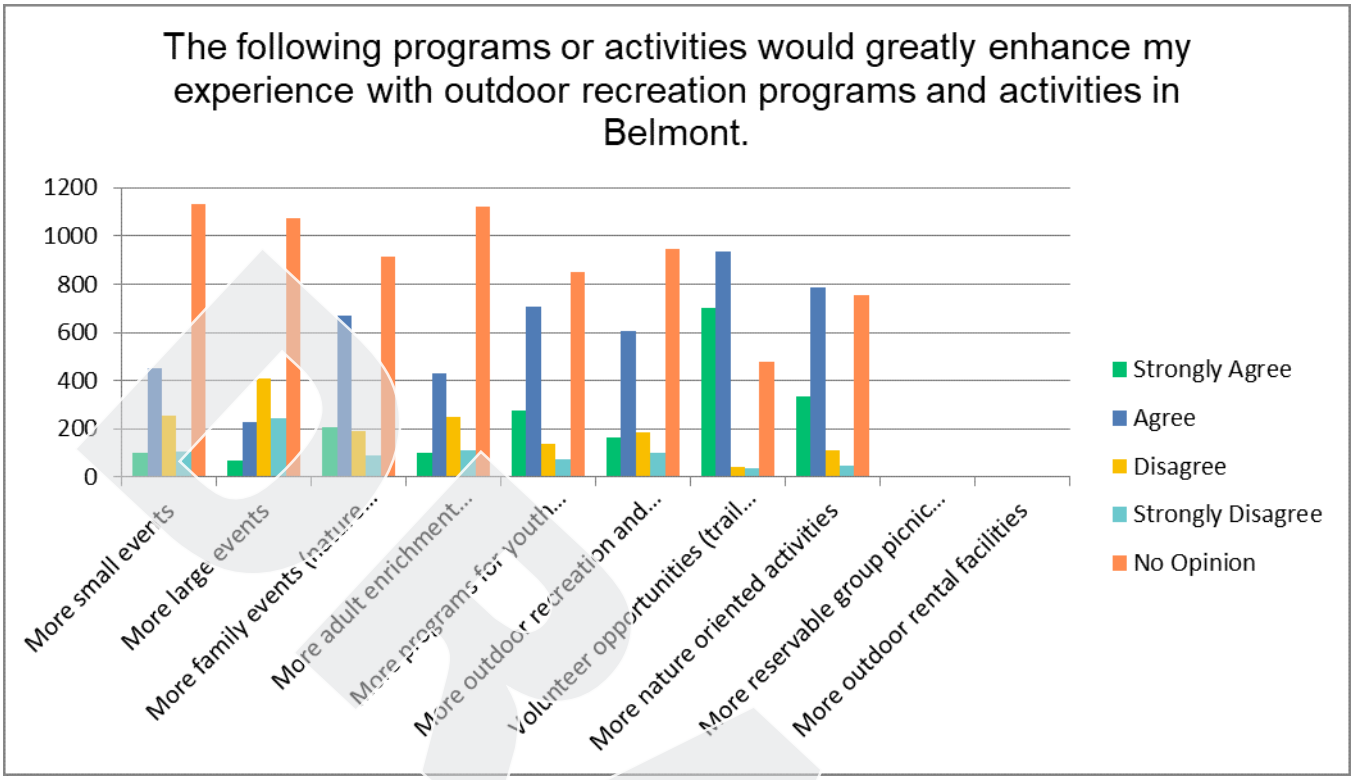
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS





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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS



Question 9. Other Responses

- Those "volunteers" were not doing maintenance. They modified trails to allow bikes to go faster. They also built illegal trails.
- Understanding the need for quiet activities, walking in nature, in our open spaces.
- how about environmental classes -- that introduce different ways of looking at our impacts to our world, environment, etc.
- Need a public pool
- More Mountain bike trails (fast growing sport in the USA)
- More mountain bike trails and multi use trails.
- I would love to volunteer to do trail work or even contribute to fund additional mountain biking trails at Water Dog.
- More Mountain biking event for all ages
- Please preserve Waterdog trails and add more trails for mountain biking where possible
- group biking
- More paths to ride bikes
- After school programs
- volunteer invasive plant removal projects
- More mountain biking options
- more single track mountain biking trails
- Local ecology walks/talks would be awesome, also encouragement and signage to leave no trace. Often I find garbage/trash that has blown onto trails, we are all responsible and we should all work to pick up and maintain these amazing public spaces which we all benefit from. I would love for there to be engagement and representation of community from all aspects and uses, including mountain biking!
- The parcours course recently removed from the path alongside Oracle was great. The fitness stations by Design Tech are awesome. Pp bring their stretch bands, rings, other gear to max out exercise possibilities
- More bicycle specific trails
- Difficult to answer questions without more specificity.
- already very busy don't add more. Make quiet for nature
- Mountain Biking events (Including Class 1 E-Bike)
- Skatepark!!!!!!!!
- Could also do alternating weeks of the month to provide for longer periods of acces/ closure
- Youth Mountain Biking classes

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 9. Other Responses

- I would love to help with trail work. We have amazing bike trails because bikers created them. It takes a biker to make a good bike trail. These trails also benefit hikers and walkers. It would be great to get involved.
- Guided mountain bike rides at Water Dog.
- As a 3X weekly mountain biker, I'd be happy to help with trail work
- Trail maintenance for mountainbiking
- Mountain biking trails!
- Habitat restoration (removal of non-native plants)
- teach kids to mountain bike
- Improve mountain biking trails and access
- More Mountain Biking Trails are needed.
- Open spaces are excellent as is
- It's pretty good as is. Maybe more access to e-bikes and mountain bikes.
- Mountain Biking Trail Association to Support the Parks and help fundraise
- Limit group events. They clog up trails.
- Keep mountain biking in all open spaces. It is an activity many of us do frequently as our primary means of exercise.
- Waterdog Open Space could be utilized better by the City with fun and educational activities.
- non-facebook information re volunteer opportunites
- More biking please!
- our family loves movie nights and Camp SOAR, more summer programs for teens/ middle schoolers would be great
- Aquatics
- Recognize the damage biking has done to open space
- Stop charging a fortune for teams to use a field
- Keep open spaces for nature only, not rec or activities. Yes more non-sporting activities in parks and sport fields for those who don't do sports. But not in open spaces
- Pickleball courts
- Food trucks or wine nights for adults
- I'm not very familiar with Belmont Parks and Rec programs/activities
- More advertisements, as I am not aware of these activities/programs
- Trail work not run or organized by biker groups.
- Civic group volunteers to Clean up trash in parks, trails and creeks
- Community Gardening
- Natural system stewardship science activities

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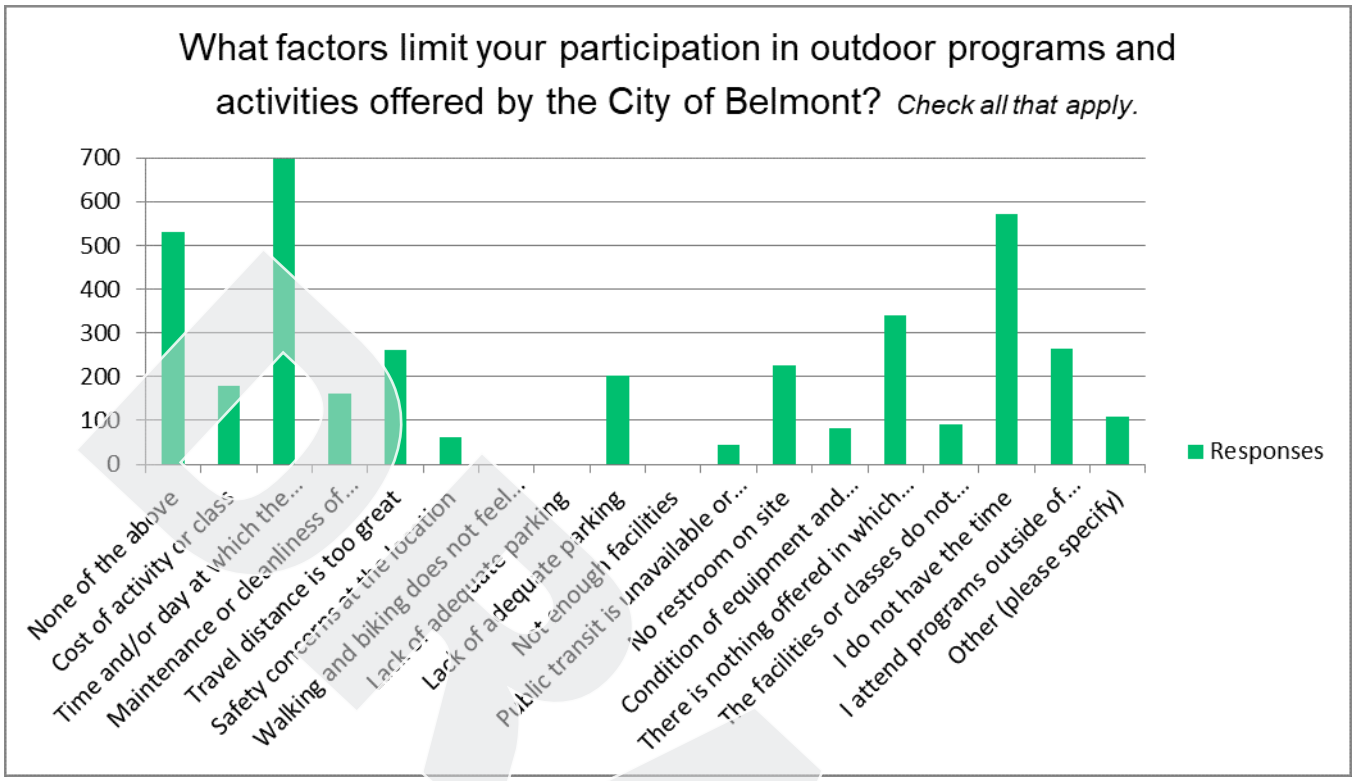
ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 10. **WHAT FACTORS LIMIT YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE CITY OF BELMONT?** CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

	Total	*Resident*	**Total**
None of the above	530	206	530
Cost of activity or class	180	118	180
Time and/or day at which the activity is offered or facility is open	696	453	696
Maintenance or cleanliness of location	161	115	161
Travel distance is too great	261	63	261
Safety concerns at the location	63	46	63
Walking and biking does not feel safe	0	0	0
Lack of adequate parking	0	0	0
Lack of adequate parking	203	106	203
Not enough facilities	0	0	0
Public transit is unavailable or inconvenient	44	17	44
No restroom on site	227	144	227
Condition of equipment and furnishings	83	66	83
There is nothing offered in which I am interested	341	230	341
The facilities or classes do not accommodate my needs	90	68	90
I do not have the time	572	312	572
I attend programs outside of Belmont	264	109	264
Other (please specify)	108	74	108
		Answered	**2159**
		Skipped	647

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS



Question 10. Other Responses

- Dangerous walking with bikers on same trail.
- I am not aware of many outdoor programs/activities offered
- Dangerous encounters with speeding bikers
- No
- greater variety of trails
- Not interested in organized activities.
- Hikers that go on trails not meant for hiking
- Vague rules about Ebikes
- Plenty of options already
- lack of places to lock bikes
- Nothing limits my use
- Don't know about the outdoor programs/activities.
- Increased crowding at waterdog
- I am a mtn biker. I ride in Waterdog to keep variety in my riding schedule
- Frankly, i just don't know about them!
- I am not limited to access currently
- Would love to see more trail maintenance to remove and repair ruts, improve trails for mountain bikes, more habitat protection with narrower trails and posted signs not to go off the trails.
- I don't know what programs are offered.
- Unsafe for kids to get there by themselves (by walking or biking across El Camino and/or Ralston)
- Areas for biking have become overcrowded with hikers and joggers who don't pay attention to others on the trail, making it unsafe for anyone on the trail.
- Would like access to the City Pool on Carlmont Campus or have City build another one at Barrett Comm. Ctr.
- I only use the open space for biking
- Water dog trails have gotten too crowded on weekends. Difficult to walk with bikes on narrow trails
- live in san francisco. takes time to get down there. We LOVE Waterdog park for hiking and mountain biking with the family.
- I can't bring my dog
- I wasn't really aware of the programs offered.
- I'm a water aerobics kind of person and yoga / sr classes all offered at 10-11 am so am working by then...
- ADA
- Dog access
- No access for bikes
- we go with family. we do not do programs.
- No skatepark
- Too many mountain bikers making hiking dangerous. Almost run over by the on multiple occasion.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 10. Other Responses (con't)

- Lack of internal motivation. Nothing about the infrastructure.
- I spend time enjoying nature, but I would be more present if there was a skateboarding space.
- Not really aware what programs and activities are available but at the same time I'm not seeking them either.
- I am often unaware of the offerings, mostly my own fault for not staying on top of the Parks & Rec calendar.
- not interested
- I don't really know where to find informatikn
- Signage are not very good
- I love mountain biking! Especially at Cipriani/dog parks!
- When I have a family, outdoor programs/ activities will be more relevant to me
- There is no Mountain Biking program
- No interest. I mountain bike and play organized soccer
- I use the outdoors to be alone not in groups.
- Lack of well built mountain bike trails
- Unaware of the programs
- Hostilities from hikers on multi-use trails - I no longer use Belmont parks during crowded hours because there are too many maskless groups with no awareness of others
- Need more mountain bike trails
- Hateful attitude towards cyclists and bikers
- Don't know about them
- My daughter is just old enough to join classes but have been hesitant due to covid
- Bikes are disallowed.
- lack of variety/quantity of open spaces
- Covid / family obligations
- facebook seems to be the only way to get info for trail maintenance
- Not my style
- Not really aware of the opportunities available
- Now that ZOOM is available I did enroll in "Loteria" game. Perhaps, I will enroll in an exercise class.
- swimming!
- Space availability
- The lack of available programs for youths in 2020 and 2021 (e.g. aquatics, holiday events, youth classes) has dramatically reduced my use of Belmont programming and I have had to look to other city parks and recs for options..
- Bikes whizz around blind curves often without warning or courtesy; large groups are especially rude and dangerous
- Dog waste is a real deterrent
- Pandemic
- I am not familiar with outdoor activities offered for adults by the city.
- Barrett is in need of a refresh--When? The field at Central needs to be leveled and the grass cut more frequently.
- Please put baby or any swings at College View and Twin Pines parks....pleaseeeeee
- Events fill up fast, can't join
- Need to keep nature preserve areas for hiking only and do not make trails for bikers or use these areas for activities that would damage trails and hurt wildlife
- I'm handicapped, so my enjoyment of the parks is limited, but my son and his family love the parks
- Traffic congestion along Ralston near El Camino and near Notre Dame can be a huge deterrent depending on time of day
- People trying to shut down my mountain bike trails
- Organized outdoor programs are not necessary for me
- Kid activities in neighborhood parks like nature ed, plants or creative arts
- Biking dangers.
- Additional advertising/promotion
- Don't know about them!
- Overcrowding of limited number of trails
- The activities are not well advertised
- Limited availability by either too few or not enough openings
- My age (86)
- as a senior with some stability issues i need to have a level environment with multiple locations with places to rest. most events are aimed at younger or wheelchair mentality. i am neither
- Not well enough informed of classes and quality
- I love Belmont and all that it offers.
- I'm unaware of what outdoor programs and activities are available and when.
- Not enough variety/options for my kids, more educational/STEAM type kids classes AFTER school, during summer.
- Not aware of these programs at all
- I don't know about them
- I am not quite aware of the currently available programs
- I do other volunteer work and do not always have time.
- Unaware of such programs

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 10. Other Responses (con't)

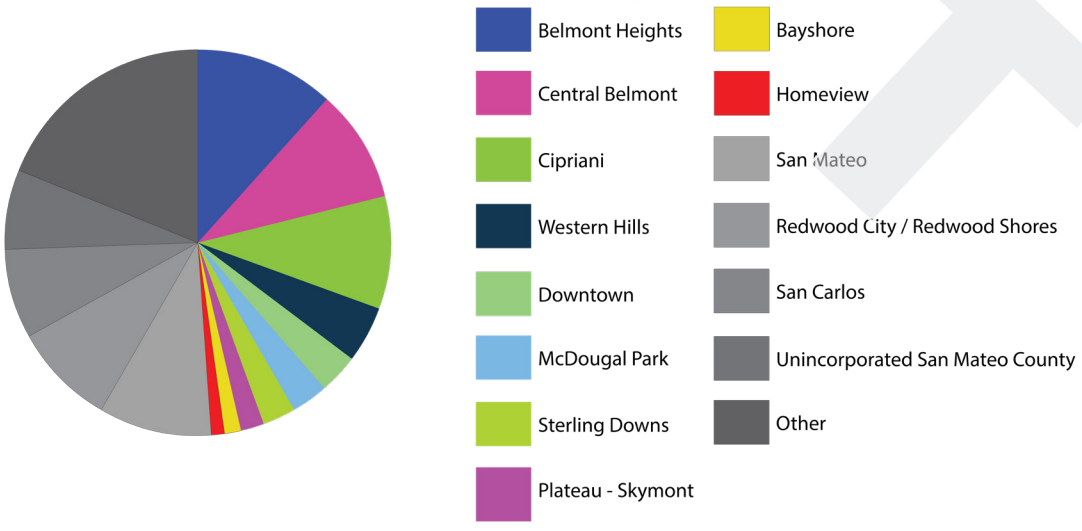
- Like to hike and bike with my own groups
- We forget to look at the class offerings because we are so busy with kids, school, etc.
- I do not like organized events, however, I frequently use the Water Dog trails for mountain biking
- Classes fill before I register
- I like ot get out and walk with friends - not participate in group activities
- I don't participate in group exercises due to Covid 19
- Awareness and ease of registration
- I don't feel safe hiking in the Waterdog Open Space with bikes zipping by on narrow trails. Please ban electric bikes.
- Covid
- my time, and my awareness
- Lack of awareness of programs
- I don't know what's offered
- Not aware of programs
- Not interested in organized activities
- 65+ older bicycle rides
- Too crowded

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

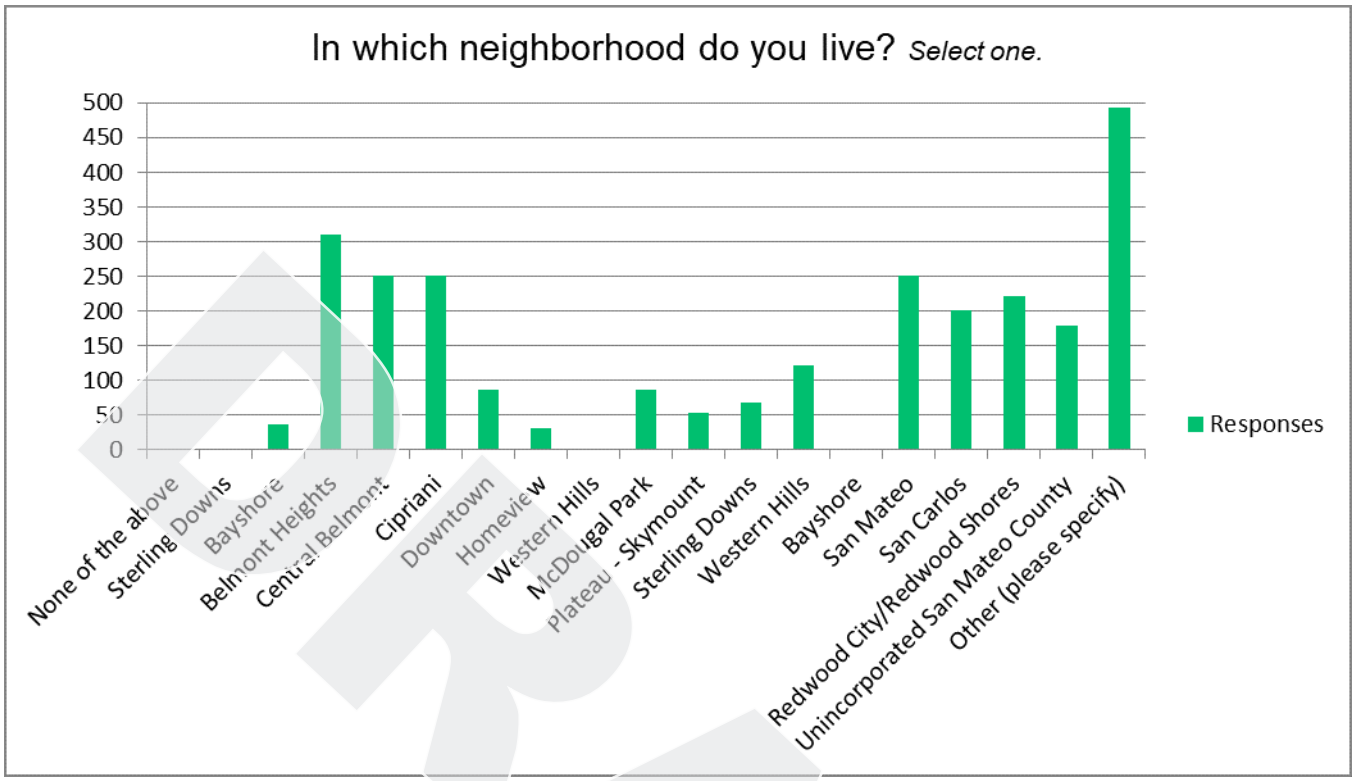
QUESTION 11. **IN WHICH NEIGHBORHOOD DO YOU LIVE?** SELECT ONE.

	Total	*Resident*	**Total**
None of the above	1	0	1
Sterling Downs	0	0	0
Bayshore	36	36	36
Belmont Heights	311	311	311
Central Belmont	252	252	252
Cipriani	252	252	252
Downtown	87	87	87
Homeview	31	31	31
Western Hills	0	0	0
McDougal Park	86	86	86
Plateau - Skymount	54	54	54
Sterling Downs	68	68	68
Western Hills	121	121	121
Bayshore	0	0	0
San Mateo	251	0	251
San Carlos	202	0	202
Redwood City/Redwood Shores	222	0	222
Unincorporated San Mateo County	179	0	179
Other (please specify)	493	0	493
		Answered	**2646**
		Skipped	160



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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS



Question 11. Other Responses

- Near Western Hills in San Carlos.
- Outside belmont
- not in the area
- San Jose
- Hayward
- Palo Alto
- Fairfax
- Mountain View
- Right on the border between San mateo and Belmont
- Los Altos
- South Lake Tahoe
- south bay
- Burlingame
- II
- Pacifica
- Millbrae
- San Jose
- I live in Pacifica but work in San Mateo
- Menlo Park
- San Jose
- Milpitas
- I do not live in this neighborhood, but drive from San Jose.
- SF
- Travel from Santa Cruz County
- Los Gatos
- Santa Clara
- Sunnyvale
- mountain view
- Pacifica
- Menlo Park
- Los Altos
- I don't live in San Mateo County
- Fremont
- N/a
- Los Altos Hills
- San Jose
- santa clara county
- Cambrian Park San Jose
- Sunnyvale
- South Bay
- Palo Alto
- Santa Clara County
- Mountain View
- Los Altos
- I work in the area
- South San Francisco
- Sunnyvale
- Hillsborough
- Sunnyvale

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 11. Other Responses (con't)

- Mountain View
- Santa Clara County
- Mountain View - friend in McDougal Park
- Menlo Park
- San Jose
- san jose
- san leandro
- Redwood ciry
- San Jose
- Alameda county
- mountain view
- Los Gatos
- Close to these
- Salinas
- San Francisco
- oakland
- Outside the county
- San Francisco
- Sunnyvale
- Sunnyvale
- Sunnyvale
- Los Gatos
- Hillsborough
- Los Altos
- San Bruno
- Santa Clara county
- San Francisco
- SSF
- Fremont
- Elsewhere
- Menlo Park
- Alameda County
- Santa Clara
- San Francisco
- Menlo park
- San Francisco
- Sunnyvale
- Santa Clara County
- San Jose but drive up to Belmont to mountain bike with friends.
- Los Altos
- SF
- Half moon bay
- Outside the county
- Palo alto
- San Jose
- San jose
- Oakland - Used to live in Western Hills
- San Jose
- Santa Clara
- Berkeley
- San Francisco (formerly San MateoBurlingame)
- CAMPBELL
- Santa Clara County
- Menlo Park
- Resident of San Mateo for 15 years, now live outside the county but still like to use the Waterdog area for biking.
- san francisco
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Visit Belmont primarily to enjoy open space
- Half Moon Bay
- Palo alto
- Alameda
- San Francisco
- San Francisco
- Burlingame
- Palo Alto
- Sunnyvale
- Saratoga
- San Jose
- Outside Belmont
- San Francisco
- Rose Garden, San Jose
- Los Altos
- Los Gatos
- Cupertino
- Pacifica
- Newark
- Drive up from Los Altos for Waterdog Open Space usage
- West San Jose
- San Jose
- San Jose
- Morgan Hill, but use the park after work
- San Jose
- Los Gatos
- San Jose
- Sunnyvale
- Neighboring town
- Pacifica
- Menlo Park
- San Jose
- San jose
- Pacifica
- outer area
- San Francisco
- San Francisco
- portola valley
- San jose

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 11. Other Responses (con't)

- San Bruno
- Danville
- Other
- Visit from other locations
- San Francisco
- Neighboring city
- Santa Clara
- mountain vierw
- San Jose
- SF
- San Francisco but I grew up in Redwood City/San Carlos
- San Francisco
- san leandro
- Hillsborough
- Pacifica
- Baywood Knolls San Mateo
- woodside
- Campbell
- Mountain View
- Union City
- San Jose
- San Mateo Highlands
- El Dorado Hills
- menlo park
- Campbell
- Menlo Park
- San Francisco
- San francisco
- San Francisco
- ssf
- Menlo park
- Los Gatos
- san francisco
- Mountain View
- Los Altos
- Hmb
- San bruno
- San Jose
- I lived in Central Belmont for some time, but currently live outside the area
- San Francisco
- Oakland
- Menlo Park
- san francisco
- Concord
- San Carlos
- South San Francisco
- Palo Alto
- Alameda
- San Mateo County
- Menlo park
- Menlo Park
- Not a resident
- Burlingame
- Hayward
- Sf
- Menlo Park
- San Francisco
- Mountain View
- Reno
- San Francisco
- San Francisco
- Oakland
- San Bruno
- sonoma county
- Menlo Park
- Other
- Palo Alto
- Mountain View
- Santa Clara
- massachusetts
- I live in East Palo Alto
- Foster City
- I live on Hillsdale blvd.
- Cupertino
- Parents live in Mcdougal Park and visit often.
- East bay
- Sonoma county
- Palo Alto
- Redwood City
- Cupertino
- Palo Alto
- Mountain view
- Sunnyvale
- San Francisco
- San Leandro
- Foster City
- Mill Valley
- Shoreview
- Palo Alto
- SF Bay area
- San Jose
- San Bruno
- San Francisco
- Silicon Valley
- Los Altos, Ca
- menlo park
- Cupertino
- San Bruno
- Redwood City

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 11. Other Responses (con't)

- Foster City
- San Jose
- Los Altos
- Formerly Redwood City, but now Pacifica
- Santa Clara
- Oakland
- Menlo Park
- South Bay
- Woodside
- San Francisco
- Portola Valley
- Sunnyvale
- Outside of town
- San Ramon
- Santa Clara
- Menlo Park
- San Carlos Border
- Fremont
- San Jose
- San Francisco
- Redwood city
- Palo Alto
- San Bruno
- Mountain View
- San Francisco
- Palo Alto
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- San Francisco
- El Cerrito, but I work on the Peninsula so I ride after work
- I live just over the hill in San Mateo at 37/38th and ride my bike to Waterdog many times a week/month.
- not in belmont
- Alameda County
- I live in Palo Alto and bike at waterdog
- Woodside
- Sunnyvale
- Hillsborough
- South san francisco
- Santa cruz
- Berkeley
- I live outside of city limits but often go there to meet friends etc.
- San Jose but work in the area
- Atherton
- Millbrae
- Palo alto
- Santa Cruz
- Santa Clara county
- Palo Alto
- Truckee
- San Jose
- Unincorporated Santa Cruz County
- Hillsborough
- Alameda county
- I love our of town but enjoy the park
- Palo alto
- Foster City
- Santa Clara
- Emerald Hills
- San Jose
- Half moon bay
- San Jose
- San Jose
- Santa clara
- San Francisco
- Burlingame
- Mountain view
- San jose
- Mountain View
- Parents live in Redwood City
- Hayward
- san rafael
- Burlingame
- Palo Alto
- Out of area.
- San Jose - I visit the open space areas of Belmont often
- Foster City
- San Francisco
- San Francisco
- Burlingame
- Sf
- Pacifica
- Alamo
- Pacifica
- East Palo alto
- South San Francisco
- Santa Clara County
- Menlo park
- San Bruno
- Palo Alto
- San Francisco
- Hillsborough
- Santa Clara
- PAlo alto
- San Francisco
- Foster Citu
- City of Oakland
- NDNU alumni

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 11. Other Responses (con't)

- San Bruno
- Half moon bay
- Sunnyvsle
- Los Altos
- Santa Clara
- South San Francisco
- Pacifica
- Pacifica
- Palo Alto
- Foster City
- Vallejo
- South Bay Area, but work/visit peninsula often
- Coast
- Millbrae
- Sunnyvale
- Fremont, but former Belmont resident
- Santa Clara county
- palo alto
- cupertino but have friends who live in Belmont, so can visit
- Marin county
- San Carlos
- los altos
- San Francisco
- Menlo Park
- Los Gatos
- San jose
- San Francisco
- Pacifica
- sf but discovered waterdog when living in 7
- Menlo Park
- East palo alto
- Sunnyvale
- San Leandro
- Santa clara
- San Francisco
- Foster City
- This question should not be included.. its basically saying if your not from the upper scale areas your opinion wont matter
- Menlo Park
- San Mateo
- Hayward, CA
- Burlingame
- Palo Alto
- Hillsborough
- Menlo Park
- Burlingame Ray Park

Question 11. Other Responses (con't)

- I live outside Belmont. But In-laws live there and friends who I do mountain biking with regularly and play in parks with the kids.
- Centro Chileno Lautaro has members throughout the bay area. It gathers at Twin Pines because it is a central point for everyone. It offers great September weather. It is close to the hi-ways and roads and allows our large group the opportunity to gather, easily meet and see each other. Close by it offers a playground for the little children. The bathrooms are visually within the area and there are further tables for those wanting more quiet and distancing. Twin Pines meets all of our criteria.
- Burlingame
- San Francisco
- Palo Alto
- Newark, CA
- San Francisco
- San Carlos
- San Mateo
- Burlingame
- Lafayette
- East Bay
- Menlo Park
- Menlo Park
- EPA
- San Francisco
- Live outside of Belmont
- Outside of Belmont
- I don't live in Belmont but visit to use the open spaces, particularly Waterdog
- Santa clara
- San Francisco
- Midtown Palo Alto
- Daly City
- San Francisco
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Mountain View
- Menlo Park
- Marin county
- Sf
- Alameda
- Menlo Park
- San francisco
- San Francisco
- Burlingame
- San Francisco
- Santa Clara country
- Alameda County

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 11. Other Responses (con't)

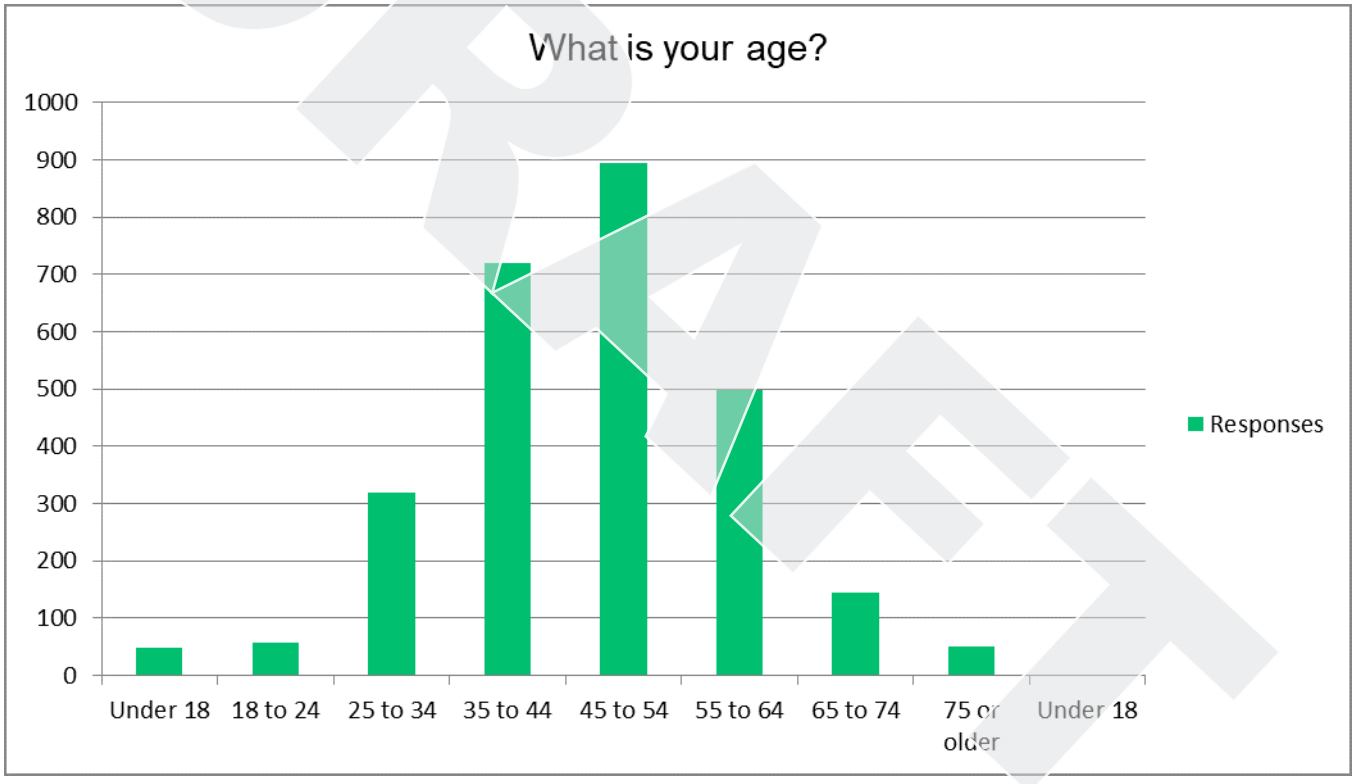
- Oakland
- Menlo Park
- Hillborough
- Santa clara county
- San JOse
- Menlo Park
- Belmont Shores
- San Bruno
- Plateau-Skymont - why isn't this listed??????
- Oak Dell
- San Juan Blvd
- is Plateau-Skymont considered an "other" neighborhood ??
- Plateau - Skymont (Why didn't you offer it as an option?????) Skymont isn't even included in your map - please don't forget we are a part of Belmont too!!!!
- Plateau-Skymont
- Mcdougle park and western hills
- Plateau-Skymont
- Marten Ave Top of Ralston.
- San Jose
- Plateau - skymont
- Oakland, CA
- SF
- Plateau Skymont? You missed this? ????
- yes
- SF
- Skymont
- Burlingame
- San Bruno
- Woodside
- Menlo Park
- San Carlos
- San Francisco
- san jose
- Santa Cruz
- Scotts Valley
- Plateau/Skymont
- Plateau-Skymount
- Outside area
- Woodside
- Sunnyvale
- Millbrae
- San Francisco
- Menlo Park
- Menlo Park
- San Jose
- Santa Clara
- Marin county
- Fremont, CA
- Plateau - Skymont? why is this missing from the picklist?
- Plateau Skymont
- Foster City
- San Francisco
- Plateau - Skymont
- SF, work in Belmont
- San francisco
- Lived in redwood city for 8 years but just moved south to san jose
- Plateau-Skymount
- Plateau Skymont
- San JOse
- Plateau - skymont
- 8 Plateau-Skymony
- I grew up and parents live in Belmont
- South San Francisco
- Menlo Park
- Daly city
- Plateau Skymont
- Mountainview
- Plateau skymont
- Berkeley CA

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 12. WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

	Total	*Resident*	**Total**
Under 18	49	18	49
18 to 24	57	32	57
25 to 34	320	108	320
35 to 44	719	346	719
45 to 54	895	414	895
55 to 64	498	235	498
65 to 74	145	92	145
75 or older	50	44	50
		Answered	**2733**
		Skipped	73

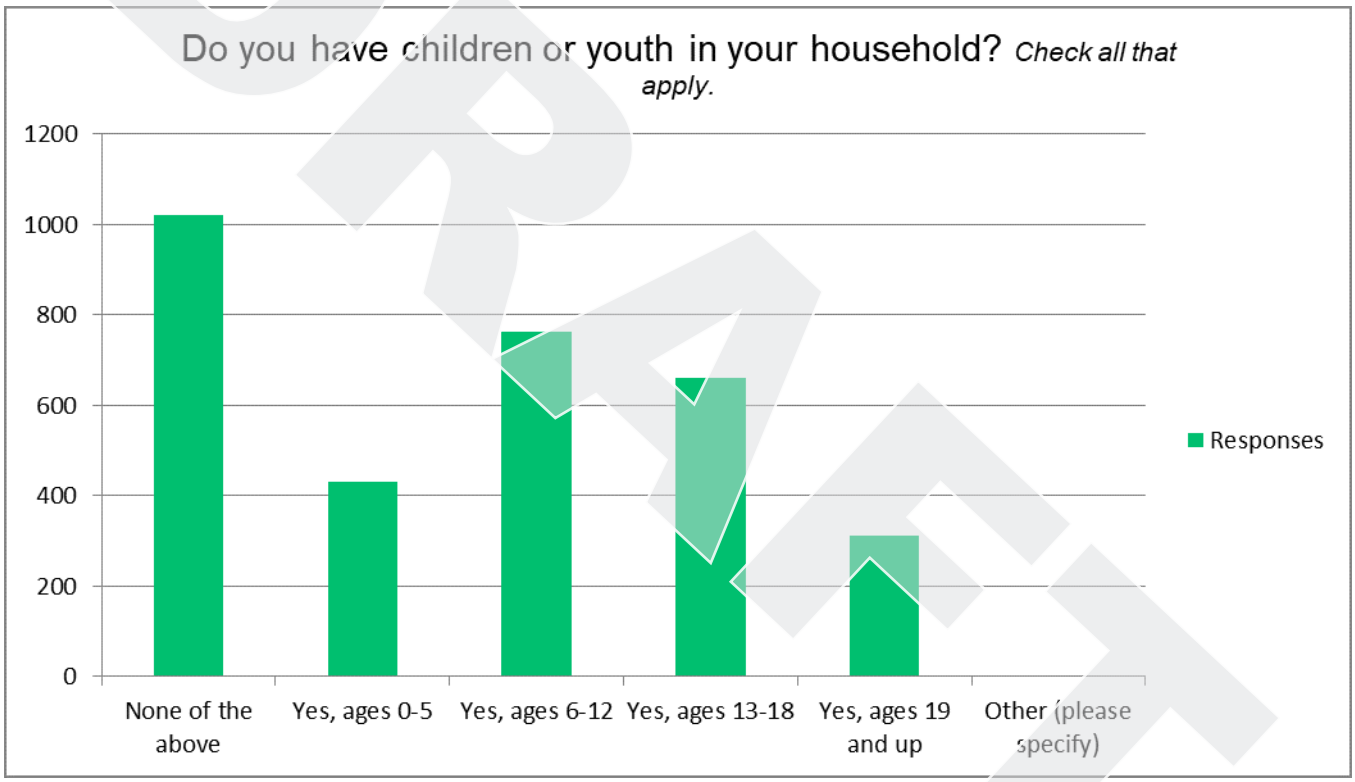


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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 13. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN OR YOUTH IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

	Total	*Resident*	**Total**
None of the above	1020	412	1020
Yes, ages 0-5	432	227	432
Yes, ages 6-12	763	422	763
Yes, ages 13-18	661	348	661
Yes, ages 19 and up	311	148	311
Other (please specify)	0	0	0
		Answered	**2711**
		Skipped	95

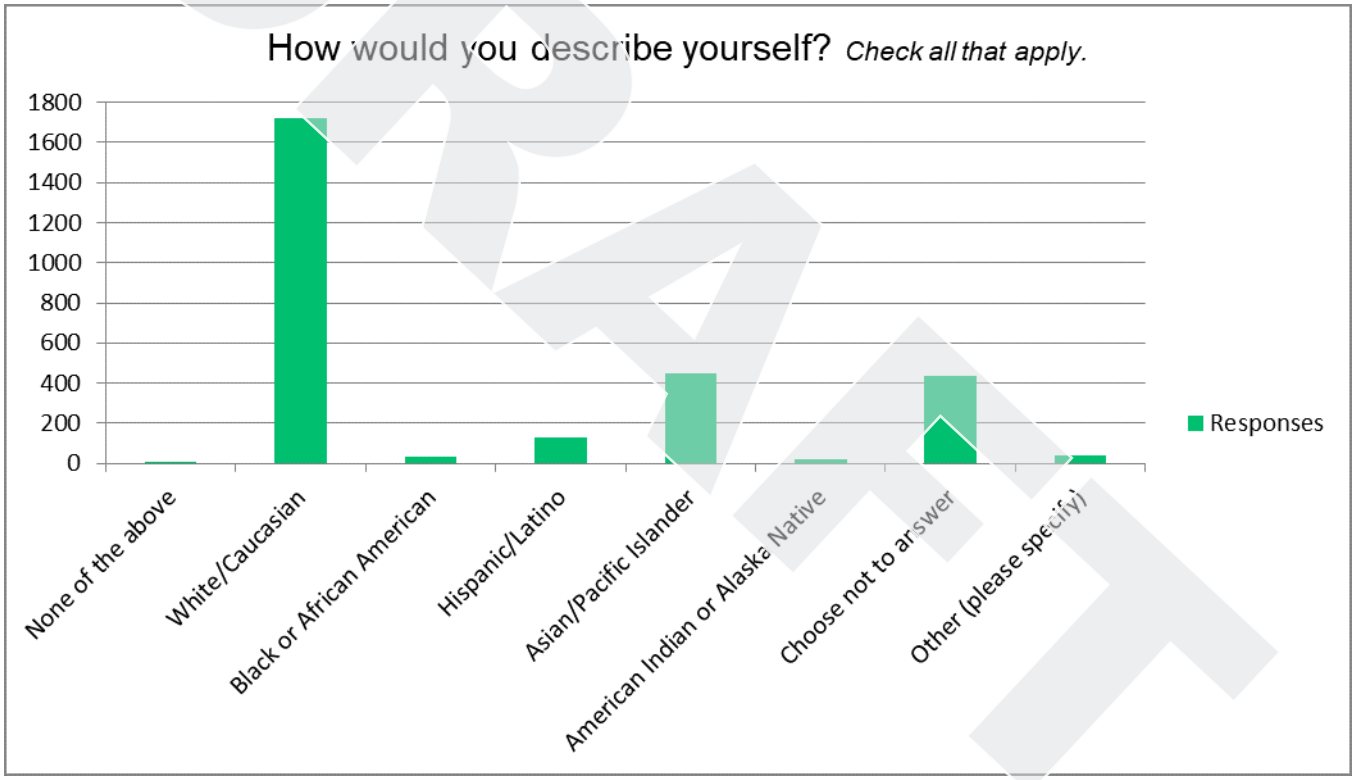


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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 14. **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?** CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

	Total	*Resident*	**Total**
None of the above	1	0	1
White/Caucasian	1721	807	1721
Black or African American	33	19	33
Hispanic/Latino	131	66	131
Asian/Pacific Islander	446	221	446
American Indian or Alaska Native	21	12	21
Choose not to answer	437	209	437
Other (please specify)	37	17	37
		Answered	**2670**
		Skipped	136



ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 14. Other Responses

- Persian
- half White half Indian Asian
- South Asian
- Hella Irish
- North African
- Multicultural
- Mixed between a lot of races
- American
- WE ARE ALL HUMAN
- Multi racial
- American
- Human
- Try
- Middle Eastern
- American Of Mexican Origin
- Middle Eastern
- Central Asian
- Filipino
- What does it matter?
- Scandinavian and German
- Middle Eastern
- O
- Latin and white
- Cuban, White, Polish Jewish
- I am an older person now, but still enjoy walking, participating with others and going outdoors.
- Asian Indian
- Indian
- American
- Mixed race
- Middle Eastern
- South Asian / Asian Indian
- American of Asian Descent
- Eurasian
- Why in the world would you ask my race? Seems very silly. Do you need my political affiliation, sexual orientation, and favorite movies too?
- brazillian
- Middle Eastern American
- Other

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ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 15. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE US TO KNOW ABOUT BELMONT'S PARKS?

- I love the parks. Especially twin pines and Water Dog.
- I used to use the neighborhood park at lot more with young children. After they left home, I prefer going to water dog.
- There is nothing in the survey regarding community gardens so I'm not sure why you are sending this to me.
- No tennis courts with lights
- Water dog lake should be left open to dogs and bikers!
- Three new rogue trails have been created by bikers at the parklet on the upper/Southern end of Hallmark Dr. damaging the hillside and causing erosion, just so that they can have quick access to the existing trail below. Consider adding a fence, down below and just above the existing trail, to block access to the trail from that site, but not to block the scenic view from the parklet benches.
- Community center seems pretty run down and not inviting.
- Hoping that some changes happen before my kids outgrow plans.
- N/a
- love waterdog open space for mountain biking, has been a staple of mine since starting to mountain bike 20 years ago, trails and hikers and mountain bikers all in harmony
- A pump track would be fantastic!
- Not enough athletic sports court (new Barrett will help). Need more basketball and tennis courts.
- I do not feel safe walking the trails at Water Dog lake, especially on weekends when there are so many bicyclists,
- I love mountain biking here. The most accessible biking trail in the peninsula.
- Keep them clean and safe, please
- When I first moved to Belmont in 2003 with a one and three-year-old I was disappointed in the playgrounds. Coming from Redwood City where there were many interesting options Belmont had nothing new or oriented to that young age.
- Doesn't feel like a place you can sit down and relax, enjoy the sun or outdoor air. I don't even remember there is a place to sit down in Barrette outdoor. Let's not emphasize on outdoor picnic or BBQ in the park, what about just for a group of retired neighbors to sit around chatting, playing chess, poker, what have you, so a gazebo may be nice, a water fountain nearby maybe nice, and make sure the bike path not to traverse the park, maybe limited to the perimeter for bike. And I could really use a swimming pool, either open the one in high school for residents, or create a facility like the one in Highland area of San Mateo.
- Why do we advertise Belmonts bike paths so people drive from distant area (example East Bay using gasoline=pollution) to use our trails?
- Thanks for having great clean parks to visit with my family.
- I love our parks and open spaces.
- I love them as they are, can see that water features etc would make more fun especially when hot. i traveled to san carlos and san mateo parks alot when the kids were younger for more features
- It would be great if kids and a family could safely ride bikes on dedicated bike paths from the waterfront to laurelwood and waterdog parks and past it to the connector to canada road and sawyer camp trail.
- Hallmark Park tennis courts are in dire need of surfacing (dangerous cracks caused by surrounding pine trees which should be removed). Also the playground at Hallmark Park is pretty sad and it would be great if it were replaced with a picnic area, pull up bars, and/or sand volleyball court and maybe a small section of turf. Is there potential for a public-private partnership to renovate the park?
- I see the neighboring parks with some amazing play structures and multiuse areas. (Like Bedsford park in San Mateo). Why don't we have a space like that in Belmont?
- Diversity is very important so any one of any age of any interest can enjoy the outdoors and have a place to enjoy life. Legal biking trails need to remain and expand to more parks Along with skate parks there should be an equivalent facility to bikes and there should be more skate parks and bike parks, period. You are excluding a large number of the community that have no place to go. Another one of my hobbies/interest is offroad RC racing. There should be at least 1 dirt track where hobbyists can go to enjoy driving and racing their cars. This is along the same lines as the skate park and bmx/mountain bike needs. These demographic groups have been ignored for the most part

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Please keep me posted on the plans for improvement of Belmont's parks.
- Note: I am a Mtn Biker. I have lived in several places with shared use hiking/biking trails; Water Dog struggles in this regard. We don't need to restrict trails to make them safe; just add rules of the road to make traffic predictable. Examples: specify traffic directions on certain days (e.g., trails are specified as downhill some days (MWF), then uphill others (S-T-Thu). Mark the trailheads accordingly (e.g., color codes) so hikers and bikers know which way bike traffic is going. Require bells on all bikes on all trails (city provides bells at every trailhead; bikers borrow and return as they go on and off trails - San Luis Obispo does this). Restrictions aren't what's needed; what's needed are clear, simple, easy rules to make movement predictable
- The vista point on Ralston near Christian dr needs repaving
- I do not support further changes to Twin Pines Park.
- Please keep Water Dog Open Space and Hidden Canyon Open Space open to bikers
- We use the Belmont parks and open spaces daily. We love walking the dog there or bringing her to the dog park for exercise. Water dog is an awesome place to hike together.
- Keep MTB in open spaces
- My family and I have been enjoying Water Dog for biking and hiking for many years. I try my best to be courteous, safe and friendly to others sharing the trails. Would be very sad to see it prohibit biking. It's one of the few nearby places that I enjoy with my family to get exercise and connect with nature.
- not many available at walking distance, specially on the hilly area of downtown. streets are very unsafe and kids can't play even outside the house. no side walks. not sure where the tax dollar is used in Belmont.
- Need trails paved for use with walkers or canes
- Bicyclists are generally very friendly to hikers, runners, walkers in WaterDog park.
- I love the parks I visit in Belmont and think ya'll are doing a great job. Also very glad to have an open space (Waterdog Lake) that's walking distance from my home.
- I would like to see more overhead lights in the areas of the parks where outdoor recreation is used. During the summer months when the weather is warmer. More people are walking around in the summertime due to our nice summer weather in the evenings.
- n/a
- Widening the trails so that runners do not have to dive into the poison oak and bushes to avoid bikers would be very nice.
- I love riding my bike there and I hope to continue to do so!
- I think Belmont Parks should remain multi-use spaces. Hikers, runners, bikes, and dogs should be allowed. Trail etiquette signs would help with this. Excluding bicyclists from trails is inequitable.
- I love them!
- Water Dog Park is one of the few remote biking locations that I am willing to drive some distance to access as it is such a good venue for mountain biking. Please don't take that away.
- Bike riding is an inclusive and therapeutic activity for people with disabilities such as my dad. Disallowing the use of bikes on trails would take away the one thing my dad can do that is active because he is disabled.
- My wife and I live in central Belmont and walk through Twin Pines park every week as we do loops through the neighborhood. We've enjoyed music and cultural festivals there over the years as well.
- Hallmark Park should have at least a porta potty. I used to include walk a around the tennis courts in my route but just got disgusted with human waste behind trees and bushes.
- The pandemic has been a challenging time for everyone. A mask mandate has been in place since last spring. I use a park or trail almost every day. I've seen hundreds of people with no mask because there's been zero enforcement.
- great place to visit
- Little or no management.
- Keep mountain biking
- Keep them clean and safe
- Tennis courts at Hallmark park need work. School fields used for youth sports are generally sub-par.
- Allow Mountainbiking in Waterdog park to continue
- I really look forward to taking my son to the pump track once its complete.
- Need more dog parks - especially wide open grassy areas for dogs to run.
- Too Little public art and every park doesn't need a sports field.
- Love the biking opportunities
- more BBQ areas

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Children play structures are not maintained well. Hallmark park play ground desperately needs to be upgraded/replaced!
- Belmont's park can be more natural than in many other places -- creeks, trees, etc. Let's embrace this, and let other areas build parks of grass expanses and highly build structures and landscapes.
- Another outdoor archery range in the Bay Area would be great! There's not much in the Bay Area and spread out too far from each other.
- Love how hikers and bikes can all get along .
- In general these are wonderful gems adding to the quality of living in our community. Some upgrades in infrastructure will have tremendously magnified positive improvement. I'm glad to see these under consideration and look forward to the implementation and enjoyment.
- Love the mountain biking trails at Waterdog!
- Bike trails
- Waterdog (and Carlmont Jumps) are the only places in Belmont and the surrounding communities where cyclists have access to local trails. It is a wonderful place for children to learn to ride and for an after-work fitness ride. Waterdog's trails were built by mountain bikers and the volunteer opportunities allowed us to give back to the community.
- Great job with Belmont Sports Complex. I was a Belmont AYSO coach and ref for a long time, then at Belmont United Soccer Club. Nice to have good fields.
- There needs to be areas designated to bikers and areas designated to hikers so that both groups can enjoy themselves peacefully
- Simplicity goes a long way and helps keep parks clean. In general, Belmont's parks add lots of value.
- I love mountain biking At waterdog
- Belmont is great for mountain biking ! Let's try to add more trails for multi use bike / walk / run
- Please consider a community pool. There are none that are open year-round for swim lessons, lap swim, or recreational swim in Belmont, San Carlos, or Redwood City.
- N/A
- Growing up mountain biking in waterdog park and Carlmont hills had an immense positive impact on my life.
- I don't use them as much any more with kids older / moved out. But was very pleased with the parks as is.
- I think parks are very important and am happy to see planning for the future.
- The playing fields at many / most of the Belmont locations are in dire need of repair and maintenance. With the exception of the new turf at BSC, almost all fields have a grade (uphill / downhill), have very inconsistent covering (spotty coverage of grass, holes around irrigation, and rodent damage), and are often closed during precipitation. I have coached youth soccer for years and have been disappointed by the condition of our fields and have even seen injuries due to the inconsistent coverage (ankle injuries, tripping, etc.). It is expensive to cover every field with turf. However, a couple additional fields should be covered with turf to provide better playing surfaces and alternatives to the BSC. Fields that are not covered with turf need to be re-graded, have new irrigation installed, and re-seeded.
- Love the parks!
- We love the parks! We need more bike Lanes connecting the parks.
- We are a biking family that is always looking for a safe space to ride bikes with our young child.
- The trail bikes make Waterdog lake a dangerous place to walk & enjoy.
- I love riding Waterdog with my kids! That is what brings us to Belmont.
- Love all the parks
- There are several I routinely pass without knowing they're there
- Keep the speeding bikes off the trails
- NA
- Keep it open to MTB use!
- Please open all bike trails to all bikes including classs 1 Ebikes
- bikes need to continue to have access to the park
- I care strongly about preserving biking access and dog access to Waterdog Park. Biking and hiking at Waterdog park are why I moved to Belmont and bought my first home there. It is the first place I want to take my foster kids to share my love of nature with them, and take my dogs. It is the crown jewel of Belmont because of its very open access and use policies. Restricting that will diminish its value to the community.
- Nice place to spend time
- Working well for us at this point. A bit of maintenance and signage and we're good. Don't screw it up.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Water dog is one of the best parks in all of Northern California.
- Keep access for cyclists / mountain bikers. We pay just as much in taxes as others and deserve equal access.
- Please do not reduce the use of cycling in Belmont. Waterdog is a nearby treasure that my family enjoys riding on.
- Please preserve the mountain bike
- Need to continue to allow bikes in parks!
- How Belmont will be inclusive of all visitors/ activities and not excluding specific activities (e.g. mountain bikers, eBikes)
- With the increased popularity of cycling and mountain biking more trails are needed. There is often a misunderstanding by hikers/ equestrians that mountain bikes just want to go fast - not true - want fun flowy trails with turns, not wide open straight down fire roads. Narrow trails increase safety by reducing speed.
- I really like mountain biking in water dog park
- Please do not restrict biking
- The remarkable bike and hiking trails are a great feature of town Additional entertainment and activities catering to the visitors seem to make sense
- Keep mountain bike trails open. Expand access
- Let's make them better
- Keep mountain biking trails
- We need skate parks and pump tracks.
- Convenient location! There should be SOME one way trails to lessen confrontations between bikes and peds.
- We simply do not visit parks that are not dog-friendly. We have worked very hard to train our pup to be social, loving and respond to our commands. We wish that more parks and trails were off-leash for dogs under voice-command.
- For bike use I recommend alternating days of access for different user groups, a bell box program, directional trails, or realignment of problematic trails.
- It would be nice to have a park similar to berresford or burton in our community. We have always gone to these parks due to the amenities and options.
- Please keep bike access at waterdog! We can and should get along, bowing to special interests on this is anti-inclusion
- Stop changing them, they are parks, leave them alone.
- I use the open space for mountain biking.
- If dog owners cannot make their dog's excrement vanish, they're banned. Make it so.
- Make sure they have dedicated people making sure they are kept clean.
- Please make it easier and safer to walk to the parks by adding sidewalks and crosswalks.
- There's overuse and not enough oversight. For example, I use hidden canyon park where dogs are not on a leash. I've seen people smoke marijuana late at night, seen used condoms etc. also, speed bumps are needed near the parking spot because people fly through. Too many bikers on the trails make it very difficult to have a peaceful hike on a weekend with young children.
- We walk Belmont parks basically daily one way or another. Especially love hiking and biking Waterdog and Sugarloaf.
- Mountain biking is important to all that access and maintain the trails in thebpark
- Need after school programs
- More access to trails for people on bikes, more connected routes
- It's the closest place for me to go out and ride my mountain bike outside of San Francisco!
- We fully enjoy the parks. Glad they are multi use.
- nothing
- Mostly well maintained, warn against people wanting to change too much or cater to access at the compromise of raw & natural spaces
- Bicycle access should be expanded
- Allow bikes on trails
- If you are going to cut down trees as you did in Hallmark Park last year, could you at least NOT do that just at bird nesting season. Aside from needlessly cutting down beautiful 30 plus year old trees (when just minor repair of the pathway would have solved the root invasion problem) we lost birds that were just nesting. Even birds in trees not directly cut abandoned their nest from the disruption going on around them.
- Waterdog and Hidden Valley are the reasons why we moved here (all the way from Singapore). We value the opportunities it brings to us as individuals, to our children, as a family, and for the community. It has been our haven and "playground" for many years already, ranging from running, hiking, to biking. We love it and take care of it every week!
- Too many dogs.
- Please keep open to mountain biking
- I enjoy mountain biking on the Waterdog trails, please keep those accessible to mountain biking!

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Please do not restrict biking at Waterdog park. It is an integral part of the community. There are pure hiking and running trails just across from it at Crystal springs
- We need more access bike-only trails.
- Water dog Park is great for Mountain Biking. Many of the trails were created and maintained by Mountain Bikers.
- Love biking and hiking there
- Myself and other mountain bikers are part of the reason why the Open Space around WaterDog Lake is so popular. I strongly object to efforts to restrict mountain biking and completely support improvements that benefit ALL trail users
- Most parks have chipped paint, wood splinters... It would be good to identify a number to call at all parks to clean this up.
- Access for all.
- It's wonderful Belmont allows mountain biking at Waterdog. I can't thank Belmont enough for allowing this activity.
- Not enough designated areas for off leash dog activities. Belmont NEEDS dog parks!
- Please keep singletrack singletrack! Mountain bikers need Water Dog and will volunteer to maintain it. If walkers complain, sell/require bells on mtbikes to give more warning when they're coming, like Mt Sutro has done.
- The open spaces are the best thing about living in Belmont for us, but their maintenance does seem neglected.
- Too many bikes
- I take my dog every day to Waterdog park on leash and we enjoy our hike and meeting other dog lovers and friends. Please keep this park open to all especially dog lovers and bikers.
- I love taking my dog on leash to water dog and hallmark, it's so quaint and a beautiful place to enjoy nature
- We love being able to ride our bikes through waterdog park and enjoy the trails, peacefulness, and scenery
- Please designate certain trails within Waterdog for biking. Please add signage that the parks an open space are closed from sunset to sunrise. Please add rattlesnake and mountain lion caution signs to the Hallmark Park area. Please have Belmont PD patrol the entrances to the park in the evenings. Do not add trail leading this will encourage people on trails in the evening time when they are closed.
- Some parks (Hallmark Park) need to be better maintained. Some sidewalks at the parks are uneven and could result in someone tripping and falling.
- Please save mountain biking on multi-use trails!
- More dog friendly off leash areas (with grass).
- I didn't know there were so many
- Mountain biking
- The Waterdog Lake area is becoming a "zoo". Too many bikers, riding in packs, loud and lack curtesy towards others...
- Dog parks are needed with shade and grass.
- Keep up the good work.
- Adding a flow trail for mountain biking would be very fun
- Please can a municipal indoor/outdoor pool (like in Europe) be considered for Barrett or elsewhere - Belmonters are either seniors or families basically. Year round aquaexercise for seniors can happen inside, like the Mills Pool. Outside is a lap/rec pool. Perfect world: a swim-thru section connecting both :)
- Please add more mountain biking trails. Also a pump track will help. At the moment there are very few mountain biking trails available and one has to drive great distances for access.
- Enjoy biking.
- They are a treasure - water fountains always appreciated, but often break down so something more "water bottle" oriented might be hardier option.
- Oppose creating attractions with regional draw
- Archery range
- more dog access
- Continue to allow mountain bikes access to Waterdog.
- Great system but the growth of mountain biking means that more trails and access need to be added
- Used more of them extensively when my child was young, and now less often — but still appreciate them.
- Parks very nice but busy. We like quiet and nature to teach children.
- General focus on improving fields (without potholes) and existing areas (e.g. resurfacing tennis courts or updating playgrounds where applicable) would be my suggested first step.
- Our kids love the parks
- Contract out services/maintenance like many other cities and SAVE money!
- Allow mountain biking

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Nothing but I would like to know... What will happen to Barrett?
- While we like twin pines And fox elementary, we sometimes find ourselves going more often to San Mateo parks, which have more amenities.
- BIKE RIDING IS POWERFULL GOOD FOR THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE AND THE ECONOMY AND LOCAL CITY AND STATE
- They're fun
- Barrett Park is under utilized by allowing individual artist to use an enormous amount of the public space. Also limiting the access of dog owners for off leash exercise and interaction and socialization is a real loss to the community
- We really enjoy the parks, it's well maintained, but it would be great to update the tan bark to something newer like rubber floors.
- it would be great to have a skateboard park in belmont.
- More skateparks please
- NA
- No skateparks or skate spaces is no bueno!

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- There are still so many I have yet to visit.
- I love mountain biking at Waterdog. It's such a great way for me to get outside with my friends and enjoy nature.
- They feel worn down compared to neighboring towns
  With exception of new at Fox & Cipriani
  Davey Glen needs shade
- Please do not restrict mountain bike access at Waterdog, thank you!
- keep mountain biking an option in waterdog!
- Bicycling and walking dogs is very important in nature
- I wish there was a public swimming pool open year-round for lap swimming and during warm weather for recreational swim for kids.
  Also, I wish that the Barrett playground had better shade for the summer (and a better wind break for the winter!)...that Park is nice during spring and fall but can be really cold/hot during winter/summer.
- Belmont parks are wonderful! I travel from Redwood city to use the parks!
- Needs bike/ skate park.
- I am strongly opposed to any project that allows mountain biking in natural areas.
  The truth is that mountain biking is an anti-environmental, destructive, industry supported, self-centered activity that creates destruction where it attempts to penetrate natural lands and the public trust. Unlike the misinformation from proponents of this invasion, it is clear to see this is an industry/ bike association/single-minded advocate agenda to penetrate public programs, buildings, and natural areas for self-centered gain, whether it be corporate sales, association control, or self-centered thrills, all with undue pressure/influence on local officials and at the expense of unique treasures like local parks and natural venues. It is a strategy that plays out across the nation, poisoned by the mantra of the privatized radical individual as opposed to the common good and public trust. These spaces are meant for all of the people, not the minority of a few to pursue restricted single-use narcissist adventure. Open space parklands remain places of reflection and undisturbed connections with nature, among the diverse animal and plant life, terrain, and peace those things create. Objective national research documents the destruction that mountain biking wreaks on the environment as well as on people who want to pursue passive recreation. Despite their false P.R. promotional distortions, mountain bikers are only interested in their constant self-indulgent thrills at the expense of nature and people. It is only about themselves and their addiction, not about others, animals, birds, plant life, the environment, nature or anything beyond their myopia. It is a pathetic mutation of what makes us truly human.
  You must confront this intrusion and deny any use of the park for mountain biking or similar restricted-use disruptive activity. Do you as a city want to turn every park into yet another industry-lobbied sports complex? Parks and natural environments are not gymnasiums, race tracks, sports complexes, or circus adventure rides, despite the propaganda from the industry and IMBA bike association partners, replete with their websites, consulting, and talking points, a 21st century snake-oil medicine show.
  Do you really want the invasion of this destructive, dangerous, and restricted self-centered activity for a few with its consequent documented national history of future expansion, destruction, and danger to people (with permanent injuries and lawsuits against the city), or do you value something more: a place of reflection and connection with nature, others, and oneself, giving us our full humanity, nature's gift to us all for generations past, present, and future?

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Water dog park is a great place to hike and mountain bike. Having mountain bike in WDP for over 25 years and helped build and maintain the trails both bikers and hikers can coexist
- Keep mountain bikes on trails at WDog.
- they are great!
- They are working fine. Dog waste is the only problem.
- Belmont open space trails are treasures by cyclists- please do not take access away. Cycling groups are historically some of the most active in maintaining trails and are happy to help their community find ways to exist with other use groups.
- Kids enjoy playgrounds but will be outgrowing soon.
- Mountain Biking needs to be allowed throughout Waterdog.
- N/A
- N/A
- Belmont could use more public tennis courts
- It's important to keep access to mountain biking
- N/a
- They are a gem. I was introduced to them by my Belmont resident friends, and the the Twin Pines park in particular is just such a cool place to poke around -- hiking and biking as well as picnicing.
- Patricia Wharton and Davey Glenn parks are a joke due to their layout and offerings. Even though these are small spaces, they could have offered better facilities/play structures.
- I'd like them to be open to all users - hikers, bikes, equestrians, whatever. The more diverse use the better.
- It is nice to have parks to walk, hike, bike, and enjoy nature. Allowing all the activities allows the community to exercise and enjoy nature:
- Don't disallow the bikers to enjoy your open space areas.
- Belmont has some nice parkland for a small city. It is one of the aspects I love most about the city.
- I love mountain biking at Waterdog...it's a recognized park for MTB enthusiasts
- Penalties for people who don't leash their dogs.
- Glad we have them!
- Great parks. I like the dog stations.
- I think Belmont could use park rangers and/or open space patrol.
- Keep WaterDog open and accessible for all. I often travel to Belmont for lunches and since my daughter lives there, take my mtn. bike!
- Please preserve multi use trails, maintain mountain bike access to single track and fireroads. Please create clear rules about e-bike use.
- Allow more mountain biking and electric bikes.
- Cycling is very important to me, sharing trails with hikers and walkers and others is very important to me.
- Keep Waterdog and other Belmont Parks open to bikes
- Building a pump track would be a huge asset to the community. Pumptracks offer kids of all ages safe spaces to practice their skills. A paved pumptracks is usable by bikes, skateboard s and scooters. See the new pumptracks in watsonville for inspiration
- These places are best for young children and family gatherings. Also runners and joggers.
- we need to preserve and take care of our parks.
- Please ban bicycles from all unpaved trails!
- Parks serve kids and adults but could do better for teens.
- Thank you for the gift of over 20 years of Moutain Biking at Waterdog. I also installed a Bench with your help to commerate my good biking friend who died too young at 50. We used to tide WaterDog 3 times a week together. Great memories.
- Please keep bike trails open
- The mountain bike access to Water Dog is both unique and needed. There are essentially no other areas nearby where mountain biking is legal on singletrack trails. It should be maintained. Thanks!
- Irrigation and drainage issues can limit use of park fields.
- The park systems have been my solace during this world pandemic! Please do not close the trails to cyclists. We put a lot of sweat and tears working on those trails at Waterdog. We are a very respectful group.
- They are a fantastic location to spend time with my young child and spouse. They have everything we need.
- We need more mountain bike access
- Waterdog and Laurelwood trails are terrific. Thank you for investing in those and keeping them open to mountain biking. It inspiring a new generation of young riders in addition to those of us who have been using them for decades
- Water Dog is the only local mountain biking option that doesn't create a lot of car pollution to get to.
- Bikers are tax payers and a group that places greathello importance on park access.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Would like to see some (lighted) pickleball courts. It's one of today's fastest growing sports for people of all ages.
- Limiting trail use to cyclists would be a huge mistake. Think of it this way, would you consider limiting trail use to walkers? What is the issue with cyclists?
- Hello. I am writing to ask you to PLEASE not cave into pressure by some groups to limit access to Waterdog and Hidden Canyon park to bikes. There are a ton of people, myself included, who use the parks on a very regular basis for exercise for myself and my teenage son. It has been a critical aspect of keeping our sanity during the pandemic, and one of my primary sources of exercise and keeping healthy. While there will always be a few people in any sport who may not have great etiquette, the VAST majority of mountain bikers are just people like me -- middle aged professionals -- who consider access to this park and it's singletrack trails to be a huge benefit to our mid peninsula community. I have actually seen more situations of groups of hikers who are walking 4-5 wide on the fire road and get annoyed when I ring my bell and ask them to go by, or who are wearing headphones and can't hear you coming up behind them, than I have seen mountain bikers being ""rude"" to hikers. Putting up additional signage to remind people to be courteous and adding speed limit signs are great ideas that have worked well at many other regional parks. But I've heard that there is a well organized set of individuals who are trying to position mountain bikers as a menace and that the best solution to a perceived problem is to shut trails down to our usage. I can't stress highly enough that I believe that is a horrible outcome. I use the trails myself, and I introduced my son who has Aspergers (ASD) to mountain biking on the trails. It would be a tragedy if we lost access to this local gem. I am happy to talk live any time, and if there is an in person or Zoom meeting to hear comments from the community, I would welcome the opportunity to attend and share my point of view. I know it is shared by many in the cycling community. Thank you for listening.
  Rene Larro
  rlarro@yahoo.com
  650.863.9405
- Anti-racist policy

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- I love riding mountain bikes at Belmont parks and would hate to see them go. I ride there anywhere from 5 to everyday if the week.
- Waterdog is an amazing asset. Mountain bikers from the entire peninsula love it. Please keep it open to mountain bikes.
- Water Dog Park is a blessing to have in our area. I am an avid hiker & mountain biker & use Water Dog frequently for both activities. Love the multi-use trails!
- Get ppl to leash and clean up after their dogs.
- We value the ability to take our dogs out to your parks as well as playing sports with friends.
- Nothing
- i love riding bikes and i want to keep being able to
- We moved here for the mountain biking
- I've been mountain biking in Belmonts parks for more than 20 years. This past year has seen an incredible increase in use and while that may be frustrating for some it would be difficult to argue that more people out enjoying nature in Belmont is a bad thing. In addition to the great physical and mental benefits it's without question that cycling also brings economic benefit to the community. From an environmental perspective there are countless scientific (not options) that have shown mountain biking to be no more impactful to the current status of the land than other activities.
- Waterdog is a great place for mountain biking. Mountain bikers must have continued access to all trails in waterdog
- Waterdog is a treasure. Keep it beautiful and open to hikers and bikes.
- mountain biking is huge here and we should make for features and designated mountain bike trails
- Great parks, well kept and great opportunity to sustainably develop well built mountain bike trails for many generations and economic benefits.
- Like to Mtn Bike Water dog

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Waterdog could be a better experience for everyone if the user groups were separated - bikers should be allowed to have more technical features and trails without the potential danger of coming around a downhill corner and into a group of people and hikers should be able to enjoy nature and feel safe without having to be aware of bikes. Multi use fire roads around the perimeter and equal numbers of group specific trails. Limiting the access of one just fosters resentment and solves nothing, fostering the separate desires of each group will make waterdog a better park and improve an already great place to spend an afternoon immeasurably
- Nice parks
- I go to Belmont & spend money in Belmont with friends specifically to mountain bike @ water dog. It's such a unique place on the peninsula
- N/A
- Waterdog is for biking! Don't let hikers take that away from us, it has been a biking spot for 30 years
- Let the bikes ride in water dog park. The people who are against it don't even visit water dog park.
- Waterdog is a great place to mountain bike and should continue to be available for bicycles
- Keep Mountain Bikers in Belmont! Keep the Belmont Mountain Biking reputation!
- Pump tracks are incredibly beneficial to youth development. They teach social skills, a love for exercise and keeping kids out of trouble. It did for a lot of my friends
- M
- Keep Trails open to bikes
- Love water dog for mountain biking. It is my only source of exercise 2-3 days a week and I frequent the park often
- Love to ride bicycle at waterdog Park area. Please don't close down trials for bike use.
- DO NOT CLOSE THE TRAIL FOR MOUNTAIN BIKING. This is not the right choice and will hurt the local businesses significantly
- Please keep the current multi-use purposes of trails and expand number of biking trails where possible.
- Please preserve Water Dog for mountain bikers.
- I love the Belmont Parks and Open Spaces and really enjoy mountain biking at Waterdog Park and have also supported trail restoration days there. I have also taken my youth biking program with youth from Siena Youth Center of Redwood City and they loved the park. It is one of the closest mountain biking parks to us so we very much appreciate it.
- Great trail network for mountain biking and ebikes. Live in San Jose and travel here to visit the park and support local restaurants post ride
- Water Dog and Twin Pines have helped get me through this pandemic. I ride my bike there, hike there, meet up with friends there. Thank you.
- Keep and enhance all cycling opportunities including mountain biking
- Keep Waterdog Park a park
- The mountain biking is excellent and the Bay Area has a long history in this sport, going back to the beginning of mountain biking itself.
- Really enjoy biking and walking
- I would love to see a pump track put into the flat space at the back of Carlmont. Our entire family absolutely loves being close to Waterdog and Carlmont for the biking. We ride our bikes thru there most days and the confidence I have seen from my girls thru biking is incredible.
- Water do park is a hidden gem for mountain biking. It is quite rare to find such good riding in a city.
- Twin Pines maintains a unique aura due it's tree canopy and creek system, a magical miniature escape right from down town. A near perfect blend.
- love the mountain biking comraderie at waterdog open space, hikers and mountain bikers share the space quite nicely
- Keep trails open to all uses
- Love mount biking there
- My wife and I really enjoy the mountain biking at Water dog.
- Mostly nicely kept
- Mountain biking is an important sport and part of our peninsula identify
- There needs to be more access mountain biking. Bike sales and purchases generate a lot of sales tax income. I don't like riding with the kids on multiple use trails and having to compete with hikers and horses. Biking deserves its own trail network and accessibility.
- Keep water dog a premier place for mountain biking.
- Love the bike trails! My kids love going out as a family and enjoying them
- Waterdog is such a great place to ride bikes for people of all ages. I enjoy riding there with my grandson.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Water Dog should be about inclusion to all users, not exclusive for those with agendas to keep users from Enjoying the open space. Water Dog is surrounded by housing and development. There's a Dam creating the lake. It's not a Nature Preserve, but a large park in the middle of a small city. To ban Mountain Biking due to preserving "nature" is not a valid position as it relates to all current human activity in and around Water Dog proximity.
- Coexist.
- The Waterdog trail system was a great place to mountain bike while I attended NDNU. It would be a shame to see the best mountain biking within rideable distance from the university taken away from the staff and faculty.
- Love Mountainbiking at Waterdog, the only park reachable by bike from RWS. Think current multi use should continue that everyone can enjoy this park respectfully to other activities
- I love the mountain biking in waterdog park. Its great to take kids into the outdoors.
- They are great
- Hand sanitizer stations would be great.
- Yes on skateparks and yes on pump tracks. Give the kids more outdoors options for creativity and exercise.
- When I lived in Belmont I rode my mtb at water dog at least 3 times a week. It's an important part of people's lives in Belmont and the Peninsula.
- Biking trails are necessary in these areas, it's a great way to encourage fitness and bring communities together
- They are great and access for all activities should be expanded so people have the ability to enjoy the resource as they would like.
- Alexander park used to be so beautiful. Now almost all of its trees have been removed. Also, we should consider putting in a dog park.
- Please keep water dog lake park open to mountain baking. There are many of us that enjoy a reasonable mellow ride in this park. We are not "crazies," just like to enjoy nature from a bike.
- Water dog is some of the best mountain trail system that is so close to home
- Mountain biking is an important part of my life and waterdog park is an amazing mountain biking location. I understand people are trying to remove my rights to access this park for mountain biking which is wrong. Mountain bikers deserve access to this park just same as walkers and hikers
- Water Dog park is the best mountain biking location in the entire Bay Area. I know of people traveling from hours away to enjoy it. The idea of removing mountain biking from this park should not be considered.
- Need more mountain bike trails- hugely popular, my entire family bikes and my grandkids and i learned to bike at waterdog park in belmont. Its great for family and community health!
- It's great to be able to bike to Waterdog and mountain bike with my 50+ year old friends and then bike home.
- Let people continue to enjoy Waterdog Park/Hidden Canyon with as few restrictions as possible. Allow mountain bikers, runners and hikers to enjoy it.
- Various improvements have been done over the years with landscaping, clean-ups, etc., but those are then not maintained and soon plants die, and improvements deteriorate. The City should also prioritize walking and biking which it has never done, so that people are generally outside more and interacting as a community.
- When we lived in Belmont they were wonderful resources for our family and (at the time) small child. I still enjoy visiting them periodically when we return to see friends, and overall they are still excellent.
- Needs to be updated with more grass areas that do not allow dogs.
- Please continue to allow all uses and increase general respect of all users for other users.
- Please do not reduce multi-use trail access particularly for cyclists. Trail maintenance, education, and etiquette guidance are ways for multi-activity users to coexist well and keep trails in good condition.
- Great mountain biking and hiking. Brings us there and we spend money in town
- Mountain bike trails are great. Thank you!
- I love the mountain bike trails at Water dog! Please do not take that away.
- expand mountain biking footprint
- Do not restrict mountain bike access. Keep mountain bike access as it is or expand access.
- Keep up the good work.
- Filling this out specifically to advocate for the preservation of Waterdog park to continue access for mtb'ers. It's one of the few local parks that allow riders. As such it's a jewel of a place to go-a closeby urban oasis for hikers and bikers. Not many cities can boast that.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Mountain biking is a feature of the parks
- I enjoy the multiple use of trails and the open trail policy
- I love water dog lake park for its mountain biking trails. Please continue to allow mountain bike access!
- I have enjoyed Waterdog for mountain biking for the past 25 years, it is my"happy place" and gives me energy!
- Water dog lake park should continue letting mountain bikers ride the trails, it's the best trail system around and a great workout for all and it's very easy to ride for all ages
- Please keep trails open to biking since water dog is one of the best areas in the Bay Area for riding
- I am thankful that Belmont offers a diversity of parks
- I use waterdog for mountain biking. It's a great place to ride. Multi use trails work when people respect each other and the venue.
- How can we expand biking opportunities?
- Belmont parks are good but need better maintenance
- rubberized pads instead of bark at twin pines, maybe incorporate natural features as part of playground like concrete hill slide with stairs by the creekside hill
- Please repave the Alexander and Hallmark Tennis courts. They are in disrepair
- Fire prevention: regular cleanup of dead trees and other fuel that can start fires.
- Keep it open and keep it for everyone to enjoy.
- We visit Twin Pines and Alexander the most and love those parks.
- The best way to stay updated on activities/events in the park.
- I would love to see more investment in parks for kids especially redoing barrett community center.
- The playground and tennis court at Hallmark park really need maintenance and upgrade.
- Tennis courts in Hallmark park need re-surfacing and overall improvement
- The tennis courts at Alexander Park are in shambles. They need to be redone ASAP. Look at the courts at Dolphin Park in Redwood City if you need an example of what a proper tennis court set up looks like.
- Add swimming and more tennis
- Please continue to support and enhance bike use.
- We love the parks. They are worth investment !
- I love the views.
- The newer playground equipment at Semeria, Davey Glen & O'Donnell is good. Keep it coming. New bathroom @ Alexander is much better.
- They are very much appreciated
- I used to use them when I lived in Belmont and I think they're great.
- Happy w/current level of communication; consider posting more to Nextdoor as well.
- I would love, love, love a bicycle pump track and designated mountain bike trails with features.
- Best things about Twin Pines for our dog outings are its natural undeveloped wooded areas (in back) and creek access. Over-developing with more facilities/amenities would likely bring rules/restrictions that ruin it for us.
- They are fantastic. Great resource for residents and welcoming to visitors.
- The field at Ralston should be regraded and reseeded or replaced with turf. Wind barriers would be great!!
- Y'all are doing a great job and I love the city's parks.
- Being able to walk from my home to playgrounds and open space areas is a big benefit of living in Belmont
- Try to keep the trees remaining in Twin Pines Park - I hated to see so many of them cut down for the bike path.
- I do occasionally enjoy the parks in Belmont, but live here because of the Multi-Use trails in the open space. I'm for any improvement to the outdoor recreation opportunities in Belmont, but believe that the recreation opportunities are limited to 'drive my kids to the park' in many instances. The rec facilities across Hwy 101 are difficult to get to on foot or via bicycle from across town, there are no dedicated, protected bike lanes or walking paths that allow for pedestrian or cyclist access to / from locations. For instance: Ralston Ave. is the only feasible corridor for east / west travel from Western Hills, Plateau Skymont / Belmont heights to downtown (Or east of 101 rec). Protected bike and pedestrian lanes would hugely enhance access and should be considered as vehicle vs pedestrian or cyclist fatalities continue to rise.
- Lovely. Bereford, Twin Pines, Waterdog.Perfect!
- It would be great to have a pool in Belmont! I have to join Bay Club or travel to San Mateo for public swimming most of the year.
- Hidden Canyon is a gem and should have options for bikers and hikers.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Belmont needs a good safe connection from upper Ralston (by Fox and Ralston Schools) to the rest of Belmont (Alameda, El Camino, 101). If there was a safe route for biking that connected all of Belmont it would greatly improve the use of Belmont Parks.
- Please replace trees that are removed. Since we came to Belmont in 2006, there have been 8 or 9 trees removed from Alexander Park and only 4 replanted.
- I enjoy riding my mountaing bike several times a year at Waterdog open space. I sometimes ride with my wife and children. Somethimes with a group of other advanced riders.
- Please put baby or swings in general at Twin Pines and College View parks...they were taken out and very much missed... also have bubble days and other days added... plant many more trees....also a map like on this survey - I did not know about many of these parks
- Keep them accessible to mountain bikers, please!
- The parks need a restroom especially for kids. Also, the play structures need much updating and the parks need an overhaul. It would be nice if parks can also have a space for kids to ride their bikes/scooters as well. In the summer it can be very hot, so it's important to provide shade. Additionally, it's important that dogs do not go where kids go as many owners do not pick up their dog poop....
- Keep access to bikes!
- Too many tall trees. They look and sound very dangerous during wind storm
- Soccer fields in schools like Central, Nesbit and Ralston are ankle breakers. Same with Barrett Community Center's field. It will be nice if they can be at least repaired or fixed to prevent accidents.
- I love Barrett and Twin Pines which I can walk to. Will Barrett still be remodeled?
- more music
- I enjoy the parks and open space as they are and don't see a big need for changes
- We really enjoy the parks. Please keep it up!
- The tan bark in the play structure areas should be replaced with a more rubbery surface. Kids are filthy after they play there.
- Waterdog and Hidden Canyon are very dangerous now due to inconsiderate mountain bikers
- I love the Organic Community Garden. It is a wonderful place which provides opportunity for social connection within the community and puts into practice the idea of environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- The fences at Fox are ridiculous. Please take them down.
- Waterdog is a terrific local resource for mountain biking for our children.
- Keep the trails open for hikers and bikers!
- Need better bigger playgrounds, like beresford park
- Not well known. Better use of space. More vegetation, and more benches.
- What the future plans are now for Barrett Community Center.
- We usually stick to parks around El Camino, otherwise we stay in Redwood Shores.
- I love running at water dog - it's been over crowded during Covid though and makes social distancing challenging.
- Who is charge? Needs more small local parks and playgrounds where adults can socialize and children play in their neighborhoods. How about tables with chess boards, no place for adults to meet in Ciprinani. It's necessary to have a dog to socialize with other adults
- The parks are so small that they aren't great for walking/running but even a simple loop makes it more enjoyable.
- I didn't realise the schools had public parks not about most of the other. Not sure if there is a section on the website describing them and their facilities.
- More multi-sport paths for bikes
- Please add aquatics like pools, water fountain, sprinklers, etc for kids.
- Repair Barrett!
- A lot of trees have been removed from Twin Pines Park. We require residents to do tree replacement, the City should be required to do the same.
- Need a skate park
- They are very beautiful
- Restricted dog offleash hours at Barret are a continuing frustration.
- love the ball fields
- More yoga in parks
- There are way more than I know about. Let people know what great parks we have!
- Love water dog for mountain biking
- I'd love for you to maintain or expand cycling access.
- Great and unique place e mountain biking
- None
- please maintain mountain bike access to waterdog park

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- Do not restrict mountain bikes!
- Best part about the parks + open spaces is the range of people who can use them, and the varienty of things for which they get used
- Mountain biking is good
- Keep access for mountain bikers!
- Limit use to sundown
- Parks are great but too geared to sports leagues. Kids who are more for arts and science have few opportunities.
- Keep mtb trails in water dog
- Mountain biking is destroying the trails.
- Parks are great and give communities a place to gather
- My wife children and I have been biking at Waterdog since 2000 when I lived on Tahoe Avenue in Belmont. I am disconcerted by the effort to shut down biking at the Waterdog trails. I have volunteered many many hours and donated close to $1000 for trail maintenance in the last 10 years. I believe that we should foster a multi use environment that's respectful of all users. I understand that hikers are often intimidated by bikers that maybe going too fast. The answer is not to shut down trails but to educate. We should put trail etiquette signs at the trailheads and critical downhill areas. We should work with Belmont are bike shops to influence riders. I for one am happy to volunteer and help lead these efforts. My email is given below.
- Mountain Biking in Water Dog is my favorite pastime. My time in the Bay Area would not be the same without it.
- Providing bike specific AND pedestrian specific singletrack is a plus. It helps all users and helps to avoid conflict.
- The condition of the bathrooms facilities (or lack thereof) making going to Belmont parks & playgrounds challenging. We usually go to San Carlos or San Mateo because their bathroom facilities are much newer and cleaner.
- Earlier mention that we have a lot of wonderful parks and need to maintain / make improvements to what we have. For the most part I believe this is the focus of Park & Rec maintenance staff currently.
- Larger play structures would be nice, especially at Barrett given the amount of use it gets.
- Please plant more trees. They cut noise from the rail tracks and Ralston corridor from traveling up and up and up. Provide shade and cool temperatures in the summer. Cut winds all year long. Definitely add more benches too!
- Twin Pines could use a little upkeep w/ foliage and trimming trees.
- Please add more playgrounds.
- Tennis court reservations are often unavailable, but go unused so courts are really available. Perhaps a small upfront payment would insure most use their reservation.
- We love the parks and would appreciate more and better tennis courts.
- I would love for a community garden or a rose garden. Wakefield park seems like the ideal park to transform into a specially park.
- Enjoy seeing the mixed use in our community - dance school, Chinese school, childcare, art studios - it really offers lots of different outlets for various needs and interests.
- Understand that mountain bikers are the primary users and resource to help build and maintain a vibrant open space and healthy community. Water dog is an amazing resource for hundreds of bikers from the entire peninsula who specifically come to Belmont to ride and spend money within the city.
- Enforce dog leash rules on Water Dog trail! Not safe
- Love the outdoor events at Twin Pines Park like concerts and movies and Earth Day
- Please resurface the tennis court at Hallmark Park. It has large cracks and raised surfaces. Someone, someday, is going to trip and break a bone on its current surface.
- I LOVE Belmont's parks & am super grateful for the parks & recs programming & facilities. I think the city does a great job maintaining diverse facilities and keeping them accessible to everyone.
- I would like to have interesting and newer playgrounds for kids.
- Field space use and reservations need to be transparent, there seems to be preferential treatment for certain sports / organizations
- My girls used to play softball at Barrett, McDougal, & BSC. Although BSC is an improvement, still in general, most other cities have better facilities for their girls. The same can be said for the soccer fields.
- more time needs to be spent by staff on maintenance and on-going upkeep

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- parks are all really small. no place to "picnic" while kids are playing. Better play structures for middle schoolers
- Doing a great job
- Better playground facilities would be ideal.
- Reserve land for ice rink
- The Barrett Community Center should be torn down and made into a new park with state of the art play structures. It is in the heart of our town and it is currently old and underutilized.
- Twin Pines can be creepy in the back area. Have seen some sketchy people. The play structure has terrible tanbark
- More police patrols
- There are only a few with playgrounds. Some of the playgrounds also need to be redone
- Belmont has excellent parks, and I think they are a huge part of what makes Belmont a great place to live. I would like to see the city acquire more land and use it to build more parks. Especially in areas like Sterling Downs, where I live, and there is so much concrete and traffic and less trees and open space than in other areas like Cipriani or the Western Hills. I would like to see the city keep cell phone towers and antennaes out of the parks, as I have seen this happen in other cities, like San Carlos, to the detriment of the aesthetics and safety of the park goers there. Along the water ways, in Twin Pines for instance, I would like to see invasive plants like ivy removed, where it can climb up trees like Buckeyes and cause damage to the tree.
- We always want more & improved parks.
- Don't overbuild Barrett when it is re-done. Open field areas are nice.
- I think the hidden canyon park that is now undeveloped would be a great place for families to picnic. Add some benches and leave the area open for the children to explore.
- Grateful for Parks & Rec employees!
- cleanliness is an issue
- Add more water features! We need places to cool off in the summer!
- We would really like a swimming facility. The whole family would use it.
- Pretty good the way they are. Spend the money elsewhere where it may be needed more.
- I'd like some wide open grassy areas to walk my dog. The biggest drawback about recreation in Belmont is that streets are poorly paved and sidewalks are limited, so we have to drive before we walk.
- Love them
- Belmont parks overall are great. Keep up the good work.
- A dog park in twin pins would be awesome
- There are too many baseball/softball fields in Belmont. Does every park have to have a baseball field to the detriment of other sports? The city could use a proper community pool (Carlmont High's is not truly accessible to the general public), more Soccer turf fields, Volleyball courts (beach and hardcourt), BMX pump track and a skate park.
- More paths / sidewalks to the parks and/ or open space would be nice. Cutting down on driving areas and making more walking/ biking spaces instead of car traffic.
- Crystal Springs CC Course isn't mentioned b/c it belongs to SF Watershed but I use it every single day and love it. It's a huge part of my life satisfaction.
- Belmont Parks and Rec does a great job maintaining our parks.
- Ralston field is a mess. I am afraid that kids will get hurt running on the field.
- I love to go there with others
- Mountain bike access is critical and needs to be expanded
- I love the Belmont parks! At different times and different stages in parenting, the parks maintained my sanity - giving my kids a terrific place to play /expend energy; a social outlet for me. I have literally spent thousands of hours at Alexander park, Barrett, Cipriani and the Belmont Library park over the last decade.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- As population density increases and our area is surrounded by large protected areas further west and south in the county, it is essential to have local outdoor options that are well developed. The parks and open spaces in Belmont are no longer virgin wilderness, nor should they be returned to that state. To minimize congestion on our crowded roads, we should have well developed local options for walking running biking and hiking to maximize the wonderful spaces that were set aside. I am concerned certain groups want to severely limit the activities of other groups. I don't think that would be equitable, especially for activities that might be "different" than one individual likes to pursue. The virtues of tolerance and respect would be admirable guiding principles for us all to keep in mind as we continue to improve our local resources and preserve for all and future generations.
- I mountain bike in water dog with my wife, children and friends 3 times per week. It's great!
- We use the current parks a LOT. For running, walking, dog walking, biking. The kids hang out at Barrett and Twin Pines a lot. We use the dog park at Cipriani. So we (multiple of us) use these multiple times per week (each). We like using these parks and consider them a significant asset to our home in Belmont. We would be upset if things changed which limited our use.
- Would like to see better weed control performed on the grass areas.
- They are awesome and super fun to bring my kids. You are doing great!
- Get rid of the illegal Soho Bike trail.
- Please make more trails accessible and make at least one park accessible to children with disabilities
- Hallmark park is so sad.. please upgrade it, tennis courts.
- Building community around our public parks is a great idea. Without a true downtown area, Belmont lacks the clear central destination that other Bay Area communities enjoy. Hoping the plans around El Camino will help change this vibe.
- Uses should remain open to all. Stop trying to add restrictions or designations.
- Keep Waterdog open for mountain biking.
- Baseball game facilities are superior to girls softball
- Please do not limit the very few mountain biking opportunities (Waterdog for example) in our city. I would really rather not burn fuel to drive to riding locations outside the area.
- A skate park and a pump track would be great for our older kids, we have plenty of playgrounds
- Please keep mountain biking at all available parks, including Waterdog
- I'm not very familiar with parks in Belmont. I tend to frequent parks that are within walking distance to my home in San Carlos
- N/A
- We love our parks and open spaces... it's one of the reasons we moved here
- We have plenty of sports fields and playgrounds for younger kids. We need more amenities like skate parks or pump tracks for middle school and high school kids.
- I think the parks are great. I take my kids three to four times a week to Central and McDougal Parks.
- We love the parks in Belmont! It's one of the reasons we've lived here for the last 12 years.
- They are underdeveloped.
- Please fix the asphalt trail to Hallmark park and the Cross Country Course. The tree roots have broken up the asphalt and it is an accident waiting to happen. This is a high traffic area with tennis courts, playground and many going to the cross country course.
- Dog friendly please!
- When are you bringing adult classes back. Maybe outdoor until we can be indoor again or by zoom like other gyms did.
- We have lots of tiny parks! It would be great to have a bigger multi-use park w/walking paths, seating areas and nice gardens/landscaping near a food area (like San Mateo's Central Park).
- It would be nice to have some grass and shade trees at the Cipriani Dog park
- Electric bikes should be allowed wherever bikes are allowed. The ADA allows for people with health issues to use an electric bike to exercise and get around
- I think Belmont has done a great job managing there Parks.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- We have two city parks that are undeveloped, and a great need for more park space. The space at the end of Carlmont Drive should be developed into something great for the city, such as a dog park which is much needed, or a community garden, or a bicycle feature such as a skills course or pump track. We love the parks in the city and know that cost is an issue for more parks. The carlmont drive location could be made into a fantastic amenity for the city for a relatively low cost if it is bicycle oriented. It would create a safe place for kids of all ages to hone their cycling skills.
- Swimming places!!!!
- Too many eucalyptus in Twin Pines - play areas should have artificial turf (grass dies too quickly)
- Parking needed everywhere
- I love the new BSC turf field and go there for workouts during the day on weekdays. Very quiet at that time of day and high quality turf that can be used year round. Thank you!!!
- I'd love a second dog park
- We need more fields, better quality fields, better playgrounds but get rid of the tanbark.
- They are great, but we need to stay on it and keep ahead of the curve by constantly improving and adding features.
- I love Belmont parks - you are doing a great job!!
- NA
- We use and like LauriWoods a lot. It is great for our grand children.
- Improve Ralston Middle school field to turf, multi purpose
- More shade trees please. And more areas to sit and relax outside.
- Please do not eliminate mountain biking use at waterdog
- A treasure, and increased use is a blessing, not a curse. Dialing up trail etiquette signage and advocacy will do a lot for perceive conflicts
- They allow our children space to move, interact with peers, and grow.
- It would be nice to have a perimeter walking track at each of the elementary schools. That would help alleviate pressure on the open spaces, as some folks prefer to walk around their community. Also, this would help with running club at each school site that would help students burn off much needed energy.
- I would like to attend more Council meetings. But a the same small handful of people complain at the Council meetings about bikers at Waterdog wastes a large amount of time in each meeting discouraging me to attend the meetings for other issues. Please find some way to limit their complaints.
- Generally very happy with the types and amounts of parks. Thanks!
- Belmont has such a wonderful small parks spread across our little town. Unfortunately there are none walkable from where I live and the closest ones do not have any parking available. TheNew park at Davie Glen is usually filled up with apartment residence in the parking places for that could be used for the park. Maybe some time restricted parking so that people who want to actually use the park and don't live within walking distance would be wonderful.
- We love them to death. Lets work to preserve and repair what we have.
- The updated Belmont sports complex has been great for multiple activities. Well done!
- I love the pocket park near my house. I walk there daily with my dog and appreciate the plantings (especially the cherry blossoms right now).
- Shade, fields and courts are important for the community
- I would love to see the bike pump track project resurrected. Our area needs it.
- Please put in a skatepark!!!
  Sports fields (especially Central Elementary) have lots of holes and need maintenance to prevent injuries. I marked yes, for more athletic fields, but perhaps we just need to improve and maintain the ones we have.
- The playgrounds in particular do feel up to today's standards -- we go to Palo Alto, San Mateo, and Los Gatos for playgrounds.
- Plant more tree and shrubs where appropriate. Do NOT remove Eucalyptus trees or other non-native trees if they are healthy. Plant more Sequoia sempervirens.
- It would be great to have a place for youth bicycling/ skateboarding to get them outside. A bike pump-track where we can teach children to ride in a safe environment would be a nice addition.
- Maintenance is poor- weeds everywhere, Benches are sparse and or facing the wrong way
- Continue to create, enhance and focus on multi-use trails
- Mixed use makes the most sense. Share all open space. Offer opportunities to earn a sticker for learning share the trail etiquette

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 15. Other Responses (con't)

- None
- Twin Pines is a real gem
- While I love how Belmont has preserved the natural surroundings and trails, the city really needs to update our playgrounds and community center. You can see how much they are aging. It would be great if the Barrett Community Center and Twin Pines Parks could be updated to accommodate both younger and older kids and have more water features. Redwood City and San Mateo have wonderful parks like Red Morton and Beresford Parks that accommodate kids of all ages and interests.
- We love mountain biking at Waterdog
- Belmont Sports Complex is a good facility that could be even better. We could expand its facilities and make it a really great youth sports complex for the city and the region. Most of the parks could be modernized and optimized to better use these great spaces and make them more appealing. With Notre Dame de Na Mur closing to undergrads, can we repurpose their facilities for the cut of belmont and its residents?
- .Water dog open space is fantastic for riding bikes with my teen daughter
- The regions open spaces and parks are a terrific resource. I use them daily to hike. Waterdog is one of my favorites; I've been going several times a week for almost 20 years. I love that it's quiet and in a "natural" state. And I love how polite and helpful the bikers are.
- Why did we add those exercise stations at Barrett? They might be in use by adults, but I've only ever seen kids play on them.
- Keep biking
- We enjoy the parks activities for kids (play structures) and for being welcoming places to meet with others.
- Please encourage SFPUC,SMCo Parks to allow dog walking and bicycle riding on Sheep Camp trail from St James rd all the way to Canada rd
- Make certain trails for bikes only, certain trails for hikers only and certain bike trails to be permanently single directional
- This is an amazing survey and full of great ideas. I am so glad you're spending the time to do these improvements.
- Would like to see Patricia Wharton Park maintained. It's usually filled with weeds an dead plants
- I would love to see the city plant more trees!
- Please work to increase the number of sports fields, and to also improve them.
- We love our Belmont parks and open space areas! Thank you for all you do!
- Appreciate freedom of mountain bikes and hiking at waterdog
- I'd love to keep Waterdog open for mountain bikes, maybe adding some bike only trails would help, and trail etiquette sessions for new mountain bikers to be respectful to hikers and other trail users in existing multi use trails.
- Belmont has some hidden bat area gems. Please keep open space as undeveloped as possible.
- I appreciate all the work that goes into trail maintenance.
- Please fix the water fountain for dogs at Semeria Park. Please add poop bags the Cipriani dog park.
- Tennis court access is so limited in our fair town, currently. It would be great if we had more options or the courts at NDNU were made available to the city. Alternatively, the courts at Alexander Park (which are great) could use wind shields and definitely are past due for refinishing.
- Love 'em

DRAFT

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 16. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE US TO KNOW ABOUT BELMONT'S OPEN SPACES?

- We hiked for the first time at Hidden Valley Park trails today and thought it would benefit from more signage. At several points we couldn't figure out where we were on the map we brought along.
- I love the Open Spaces
- Over the year, I can see gradual deterioration of water dog trails. Now the ruts and gravel surface replaced the top soil making it hard to walk. I believe much of the erosion is caused by mountain bikes as many other open spaces found out. I am sure it is not due to water related soil erosion as we have not had a good rain in years. We need to limit the number of mountain bikes using open space and designated the wide trails for them. The walking trails are too narrow for them and I have seen them widening the trails by riding on the vegetation. The number of bikers have also increased dramatically. Many of them dresses to kill in full armor outfit to protect themselves in case of a bad fall. I almost feel that I need to dress like them in case we have a collision. I had too many close calls. I hope you consider banning bikes on hiking trails and at the minimum limit them to certain day of the week or certain hours. I witnessed a hiker knocked down by a bike, he zipped away in no time before we got a good description of him. If the current trend continues, I may not be going back to water dog.
- Mountain bikers at water dog open space has made hiking and sharing the trail annoying and sometimes dangerous. Recommend disallow bikes on certain hike only trails.
- I enjoy living next to Water Dog. I hike there a lot. On the weekend, it is not safe to hike in Water Dog. There are too many bikers. My family would rather drive to open spaces in the surrounding community, hike there and eat dinner there before coming home. Lately because of the pandemic, there are a lot of bikers during weekdays also. It becomes a safety problem for me. I would like to see bikes restricted to riding on the wide trails and leave the narrow trails for hikers to walk slowly and appreciate the flora and fauna. Bikers go so fast that they can only focus on the trails or they might fall into the canyon. They go too fast to appreciate any scenery. It is a waste of scenery to have bikers going down the trails. My suggestion is to ban bikes from narrow trails.
- Riding my bike in the open space is safer than riding on the road. It has kept me healthy especially during the pandemic. Please don't take it away.
- My family really enjoys the open space for bike trail riding. This is a very good activity with proper social distancing and excercise.
- I would like to ban all bikes from Belmont Water Dog Hidden Canyon Open Space. Bikes are noisy and going too fast. They like to go off trails and gradually creating new trails and bypass. They have no respect and no appreciation for the environment. They treat the open space as their amusement park. They might have a lot of fun using the trails for free. The environmental damage they created will deprive future generations of Belmont residents from enjoying natural surrounding that is close to home. By the way, many of the bikers come from all over the bay area. Why should they be able to come and mess up our open space backyard?
- As a Mt Bike enthusiast I have helped maintain and build trails. And I am a responsible, courteous biker. Do not let the one bad apple spoil it for the responsible people.
- We are very fortunate to have access to trails so close to home that are available for: hiking, mountain biking and trail running.
- I oppose restrictions on all kinds off bikes in waterdog open space
- Keep them open to dogs on leash
- I learned to mountain bike at Waterdog Lake around five years ago. Having just turned 60, I fully appreciate biking in the open spaces.
- I feel sorry for the homeowners next to and within a block of Lake Rd on both sides of Hallmark Dr because of the massive increase of people using the open space for hiking and mountain biking. The narrow single-track trails should be for hikers only as the bikers are causing safety problems and environmental damage to the ecosystem. Belmont police should patrol the area, at least during the busy use times, and write citations to bikers for deviating off of the six multi-use trails onto the narrow trails that should only be used by hikers to enjoy the nature, quiet and solitude.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Open spaces promote the biodiversity of other species which makes the earth habitable for all life, most especially humans. Our open spaces are being destroyed at an alarming rate by humans transforming habitats for their own purposes, e.g., resource-extractive industry practices, like clear-cutting trees, drilling for oil and gas, and mining; real-estate development in places that have been off limits before; and overuse for recreation. Combined with Climate Change our natural and necessary open spaces are more threatened than ever, which means their protection through conservation should be prioritized. Our local open spaces should be managed first and foremost for conservation and recreation should managed around that goal.
- We are very fortunate to have access to trails so close to home that are available for hiking, mountain biking, and trail running.
- Maintain and continue mt. biking access
- We are very fortunate to have access to trails so close to home that are available for: hiking, mountain biking and trail running.
- We are very fortunate to have access so close to home to trails that vary from wide dirt roads to narrow technical single track that are available for hiking, mountain biking and trail running.
- I love biking in Water Dog! I can bike there from my home. It has been a saving grace for me during the pandemic. I always try to be courteous, watching my speed and yielding to hikers and never biking on wet trails. It is a special, singular space.
- Leave Waterdog as it is and don't limit it as there should be different activities allowed.
- N/a
- It would be helpful to mountain bikers to limit dog walking to the wider two-track trails, as not all dog walkers pick up after their pets, and even fewer adhere to leash rules. Both of these situations can create safety hazards, especially with more trail traffic. Horses leave the biggest messes that are absolutely no fun to ride through, but dogs are much more common. There are sadly few great sections of single track on the peninsula, but Waterdog has some for sure. I would love to see more support for our sport and would love official opportunities to help build and maintain trails for everyone to enjoy the outdoors safely and responsibly. Thanks!
- keep mountain biking allowed on the trails, genuine gem of the city of belmont, brings in lots of neighboring riders of the city and includes their stimulation of the local economy
- Please keep water dog open to mountain bikes!
- Bikes and walkers cannot share narrow trails. We have come close to being hit by speeding bikes at Hidden Canyon.
- I am a mountain bike user and appreciate that ALL users are welcome.
- We have no trails near our neighborhood.
- The answer to avoiding trail conflicts in this time of increased usage is education and encouragement, not restrictions. A great example is Fernandez Ranch, which has almost no rules, but terrific and cheerful co-existence between user groups. The mantra is "play nice".
- MTB in Waterdog is considered one of the best local resources for mountain biking. Please do no limit access.
- Can Belmont coordinate with the PUC, the City of San Mateo and others to create longer, contiguous open space or trails connecting many of the great open spaces that we have.
- Designate some trails to only-bikes or only-walkers. Widen trails that are used for both to allow safer simultaneous passage.
- Beautiful. Right now, good balance for hikers/bikers, etc. Lived next to Waterdog for 15 years and have not noticed environmental problems that a few, highly vocal citizens bring up. I do not mountain bike.
- I love mountain biking here. The most accessible biking trail in the peninsula.
- I travel to Belmont to ride at Dog Park. It's a lovely park that is well suited for exercise by mountain bike, and I would love to see that opportunity preserved. It draws my family down from Marin to visit Belmont and the peninsula. I think it's probably too small a park to rationalize eBike trails--the distances are so small they'll wind up doing hot laps around the park.
- I was born and raised in Belmont and have been visiting Belmont's open spaces for as long as I can remember. I have been riding the trails in these open spaces for nearly 30 years, and the condition has barely changes in that time. Hikers and cyclists can coexist on the trails, everyone just needs to remember to consider their neighbor.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Mountain bikers on hiking trails are a big danger and liability for the City of Belmont. It is not safe to bring little kids there. The bikers are going too fast around corners. I might have to stop going there and visit San Carlos and San Mateo parks and open spaces instead.
- Nature rules
- Waterdog is a convenient place to bring my young children for outdoor and environmental education without having to drive miles to national parks. Mountain bikes are disturbing the peaceful atmosphere. The bikers are speeding down hill making it a safety issue. Their rude behaviors are bad example for my kids.
- I hike and bike in Waterdog and San Juan weekly and love, love them. I am very concerned about a local group's push to limit biking. Many of us cyclists began to mountain bike due to our interest in nature and preservation so these are not at all mutually exclusive activities.
- I have seen the Water Dog Open Space degradated over the year by mountain bikes. They damaged vegetation along the trails. Seedlings of invasive species were brought to Water Dog because these mountain bikers come from all over the Bay Area. I would like to see mountain bikes banned from our trails. Additionally the bikers are very rude and they ride too fast. It is a matter of time before I get hit by a speeding bike.
- Why are mountain bikes allowed on all the trails instead of just the wide trails? Hikers are getting run over on the narrow trails and it is very dangerous because bikers jump and speed so we have to jump out of the way. Also, the hiking trails are damaged by the bikes and need lots of repair.
- Do not block bicycle access. It is healthy both for the individual and the environment.
- I am very sad to see the destruction and damage to our open spaces in Belmont, and to our wildlife due to mountain biking activities and lack of respect for nature and anyone who's not on a bike. What is it going to take for the city of Belmont to prioritize protecting its open spaces and citizens over whatever it is that it is getting in return for allowing the mountain bikers to do as they wish with our trails and open spaces?
- Road erosion in Waterdog Lake, with more and more trees that used to hold the road together fell down, what are we going to do about it? I wonder if biking there is to be blamed. Can we plan new trees to replace the fallen ones?
- Keep mountain biking at Waterdog.
- Try to keep natural quiet for residents use and for safe walking.
- Please continue allowing mountain bike access in all the outdoor spaces. We need safe and local spaces to exercise. more restrictions should be placed on horses - and they should have to pick up after themselves similarly to dogs.
- I love the fact there is a having and bike trail right in our backyard. I bring my family on hikes and come across all sorts of plants and animals. I bike the waterdog trails and have brought my small dog to the lake. Its a great place and I would not change much about it. Its 5 min away from busy life but once you come in it feels like its miles from anything.
- We especially enjoy biking & hiking on the trails.
- too many bikes on narrow trails. too many unleashed dogs in open spaces/trails.
- On a biweekly basis, I hop on my mountain bike and ride over to Waterdog to enjoy the miles of incredible shared open space trails. Recently, I've gone with my 10 year old son and 12 year old daughter and they both, especially the former, love it. It's one of the few activities they enjoy involving the outdoors besides organized sports (which are severely limited at the moment due to Covid). And as you can imagine, any hour spent away from their devices is an hour towards good mental health and fitness. When I ride, I always carry a bell and "ding" it when I come around corners or hear people in the distance. That said, I ALWAYS yield to pedestrians and exchange pleasant greetings when we meet each other on the trails. Waterdog is one of the few places in public these days where I am reminded of the vibrant community we have here in Belmont. I have of course noticed that during the pandemic, the trails have become more congested than before, but almost everyone I see is cordial and friendly. I'm sure there are aggressive bike riders who may give a bad impression to a vocal minority. That said, I've personally run into more issues with off-leash dogs and bags of poop than I have seen involving riders. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. Encourage riders to use bells. Put up signs on riding/hiking etiquette Please do not takeaway this passion of mine and my kids. We love to hike, fish and bike at Waterdog. It would be a shame to lose the ability to enjoy the trails on our bikes.
- Waterdog is one of the best local Mountain Bike areas on the Peninsula.
- I don't like the mountain bikers speeding down water dog
- The last 20 years has had a devastating impact on the condition of the Waterdog/Hidden Canyon open space -- increased trails, destruction of riparian areas and habitat, dramatic reduction in tree cannopy, wildlife reduction ... if we do not implement measures to not only stop, but REVERSE, this destruction we will not give our children the same beautiful open space we inherited ... I'm ashamed that our generation made the world a worse place -- this same destruction we are doing in Belmont is being done on a global level ... everyone has their own excuse why they are destroying the earth and environment. This is our opportunity to reverse the destruction of WD/HC.
- Please separate bikes from hikers - it is scary and dangerous to have them on the same paths like at Waterdog.
- I thoroughly disagree with the ongoing initiative to remove mountain biking from the open spaces.
- Again, i love them. love their wildness. love running there, love that my kids and friends can bike there.
- My 12 and 14-year-old kids love to ride bikes at waterdog park. They have worked with us to rebuild bridges and to improve drainage on the trails. The outdoor community around the park has been a great outlet and source of inspiration for them, even during covid. It has taught them about service and community.
- Open spaces need benches and restrooms, but too much development destroys the character and beauty of open space. I prefer open space to parks and athletic spaces, mostly because age. But we need all options to be inclusive.
- This is one of the few areas to slow biking in all of the bay area. Please do not reduce bike access
- Having access to Water Dog for MTB use has been an excellent outlet for me to destress during the pandemic. I love being able to ride so close to my house.
- Regulations on mountain bike speed while maintaining current access
- Belmont's open spaces are a treasure on the peninsula. They should be managed for the enjoyment of all users and unfortunately there are MTBers who do not practice good trail etiquette and this affects the experience of other users. I, as a MTBer myself would prefer some management of the trails (even/odd days, limited trail access) to a ban on bikes there as it is the only weekday place to ride on the peninsula.
- Waterdog open space is the crown jewel! My wife and I were just talking about how amazing it is to be able to walk from our house with our kids (and dog) and be able to access trails. There are very few places on the peninsula where this is feasible so Belmont should invest in keeping the Waterdog trail system and hillsides well-preserved for future hikers/runners/bikers.
- DO not allow bike pump!!!
- I enjoy hiking, biking, and walking my dog in the open space.
- Our entire family absolutely loves mountain biking and hiking in Belmont's open spaces. It was one of the attractions for us to choose moving to Belmont.
- Hidden Canyon/Waterdog open space has been a successful multi-use trail system for over 30 years. The trails are maintained in large part by mountain biking groups who put in hundreds of hours of labor per year, fixing bridges, repairing trail damage, and drainage/erosion management. The result is a vibrant multi-use trail system that draws people from Belmont and beyond. Please keep up this good work.
- Essential, increase please
- We should be able to let mountain bikers use the open spaces.
- They should remain a place for ALL to enjoy outdoor activity -- not just a select few. This includes biking, hiking, trail running, whatever the folks in the community enjoy.
- Multi use is critical!! My friends and colleagues come from afar to mountain bike Waterdog with me and then eat and drink and be merry in local establishments.
- Please don't ban MTB.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Waterdog needs to seriously combat the over use of mountain bikers. They come from outside our city because it is one of the few places that allows them to get away with the destruction and dangers the present. I urge you to please change the rules that will deter these people from destroying our natural environment. The bikers add illegal trails and scare the daylights out of hikers. I look forward to the days when my family and I can safely hike through Waterdog without fear of injury.
- See above
- The combination use of Waterdog trails for hikers and bikers is VERY dangerous. I have almost been hit numerous times by mountain bikers who are riding fast around corners on narrow trails. Frankly, I am amazed I haven't been hit yet.
- I would like to preserve mountain biking use in our open spaces. It is a wonderful option for people and can be done in concert with hikers.
- We really enjoy mountain biking at Water Dog Open Space with family and friends. It is a short ride from our house, so we don't have to get in the car to get there to enjoy the beautiful trails around the lake and beyond!
- I mountain bike regularly at Hidden Canyon and Waterdog Park - LOVE IT.
- Bikers are too aggressive and riding too fast. I almost got run over several time. They should be prohibited from open space.
- Bicyclists are generally very friendly to hikers, runners, walkers in WaterDog park.
- Make open space safe for hiking and nature walk.
- Members of the ROMP mountain bike community (led by Dave and Becky Orr, Berry Stevens) hand-built a significant number of the Water Dog Lake Open Space trails during the period of 2001 -2004 with the understanding that these multi-use trails would be permanent features of the preserve. The City of Belmont needs to honor that commitment, as hundreds of volunteer hours (if not more) removed old trash and debris, along with poison oak from what was an informal trash dump. Policy enforcement, NOT exclusion needs to be embraced.
- Parks are great way to get kids of the cell phone and into nature. The only way I can get my nephews out is on a mountain bike. The more trails, the better for our community. Bike safe trails should be a priority for the kids.
- People off trail a lot destroying natural habitat. Bikers do not yield to walkers they yell coming thru as they barrel downhill on very narrow trails. Leaving you to jump in the brush. Many times there are 4or more in a row. Often i have gone for some peace and quiet only to have a walker or biker playing loud music with no earphones. Its a hot mess of stuff on weekends and evenings. Everyone does whatever they want
- I would like to keep the open space trails we have today open to dogs and bikes.
- Keep mountain biking access open and allow to continue to use single tracks
- Love the area where I live, but would like to see less traffic in my area due to Hallmark Park close by and Water Dog Trail. Not sure if we could ever build a parking facility for people to park and then walk to their destinations.
- Waterdog is a great space for everyone to enjoy (hikers, bikers, etc) and I think with proper trail maintenance and education to those using this space we all can continue to use it together
- I love biking and bike with family every month. But some areas of Waterdog trail is too narrow and full of blind corners. Some (not all) mountain bikers chase a fast speed, now making the waterdog no longer safe for Pet, children, and local family walk.
- Save the mountain bike trails!
- The mountain biking is really great, and I hope to have this activity continued.
- Waterdog is one of the premiere mountain bike riding destinations in the Peninsula. I would love to see these riding areas preserved. As user base has increased, adding multi direction trails and signage could be key.
- I think Belmont's Open Spaces should remain multi-use spaces. Hikers, runners, bikes, and dogs should be allowed. Trail etiquette signs would help with this. Excluding bicyclists from trails is inequitable. Can't we all learn to use the space together?
- If you have volunteer opportunities I'd love to help out!
- There are many parks for walking a group sports but few for real trail riding. Let's Make Water Dog a excellent place to ride instead of taking the one place we have away.
- The opportunity to be able to mountain bike in water dog is a really amazing resource. A lot of people value it, use it responsibly for that purpose and love that it is so close to their neighborhoods.
- Would love to see more MTB legal trails!

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Bike riding is an inclusive and therapeutic activity for people with disabilities such as my dad. Disallowing the use of bikes on trails would take away the one thing my dad can do that is active because he is disabled.
- Waterdog & Hidden Canyon Open Spaces have been a godsend for me during the pandemic. I mountain bike there every week, and it is for me a 'moving meditation'. I take friends hiking there as well--it's a tremendous local amenity.
- Keep Waterdog open to mountain biking
- Open spaces like Water Dog in Belmont have been an amazing part of my life. Having a area near my house to progress my biking skills with my Dad and younger brother was amazing.
- Having regular and fairly easy access to parks and open spaces has been a privilege during this unprecedented and challenging time. The facilities have been heavily used by local residents and tax payers as well as a lot of people from outside the area. I've been a resident and tax payer in the area for more than 20 years. While it's important we welcome visitors when and where we can, my experience is that the City government seems to work very hard trying to accommodate the needs and wishes of people who either don't live in the area or don't pay taxes (or both), frequently to the detriment of residents and tax payers. I hope this plan reflects the long-term needs of those who live here and pay the taxes that make it all work.
- Please keep them quiet and relating to nature. Please do not allow any sport activities within open space. Keep the atmosphere serene for the sake of animals and humans. Where else can one go to expect such solitude?
- Belmont currently provides fantastic mountain bike trails for the community. Many of these trails would not exist without the active participation of the mountain bike community. Please keep the trails open to mountain bikes in the Waterdog open space area.
- the more opportunitiea people can have to apend more of their lives outdoors, the better our society is.
- I have lived in Belmont since I was 5 years old (25 now). I became interested in mountain biking at a very young age, and having access to the wonderful trails in the Waterdog Lake area helped spark this interest into a life-long passion for mountain biking, outdoor recreation, hiking, and in general, appreciation for nature. I think it is very important to preserve access to this unique and amazing trail system for all uses (biking, hiking, etc.) for generations to come.
- As a mountain biker and trail runner, these open spaces are awesome!
- How you work with privately owned open space that is adjacent/borders public space but users do not know that and end up causing damage (bike riders)?
- I'd like to see the trails remain open to mountain bikes (non-electric). Belmont has beautiful open spaces and it's a pleasure to enjoy them, even from as far away as Menlo Park.
- Waterdog is the only place in Belmont and the surrounding communities where cyclists have access to local trails. In particular, it is a great location for singletrack, technical trails. It is a wonderful place for children to learn to ride and for an after-work fitness ride.
- I am both a hiker and easy-level/intermediate mountain biker. At Waterdog though, I am primarily a hiker although I have biked there too. Please do not limit or prohibit mountain biking at Waterdog. All the bikers I've countered for over 3 years now are polite, show etiquette, they will wait for me when I'm hiking. We can all co-exist and have fun at Waterdog. And especially for youth, the only other mountain biking option would mean driving which young people may not be old enough to drive yet or may not have a car. It is such a healthy sport that builds character and perseverance. I would be willing to contribute to a Waterdog fund if meant mountain biking could stay exactly as it is. I would be willing to go do trail maintenance if that meant it could stay as is. California was the birth place of mountain biking but more and more, it seems people who don't understand the sport are turning against it. We can't let that happen.
- Please continue to permit Mtn biking in Waterdog. There should be equity foe all parties who use the park. Think outside of the box. If there is a concern, have alternate day use. Eliminating bike use would not be fair.
- Waterdog's rustic qualities are wonderful!
- Walking should be acomodated.restrict by cycles out of area users.
- Bike riding should continue to be allowed along with dogs.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- The mountain biking in Waterdog is super fun but could definitely use some work to make it safe for everyone that uses the trail system. Organizing and rallying the community for volunteer days to improve conditions would be awesome.
- Access to trail systems for mountain bikers is an essential component of maintaining interest in the outdoors in our area. Please don't further limit access to trails for cyclists, it's already difficult to find places close to home to enjoy our sport and passion
- Keep it wilderness. No facilities like skate parks, bike bump tracks, etc. Allow official trails only. Reserve certain trails for walking only. Ban motorized vehicles. Adequately fund and staff for vigilant maintenance. Enforce regulations.
- more access for bikers on trails
- Allow us to continue mountain biking in Waterdog
- Water Dog should ban all biking. Most of the bikers are from out of our area and are a menace on the trails.
- It is a great place to go for a bike ride and due to the variety of trails and option I can vary my ride based on time and energy.
- I feel very strongly that outside interest groups (i.e. the Sierra Club) have no business in telling county residents how they should engage in healthy outdoor exercise (i.e. biking) in county parks. It's absolutely hypocritical that they bemoan the lack of interest in younger people in the outdoors, then actively work to block young people from engaging in outdoor sports like mountain biking.
- Remove bikes from the open spaces. they destroy trails and cause trip hazards that could result in the city being sued.
- Segregate areas for peaceful hiking from mountain biking.
- As an older biker I try to be an ambassador for mountain bikers. I do wish more trail were open to those of us who just want to view the trail just as the hikers are able. Bikers feel penalized because we are allowed to ride certain areas.
- Waterdog is a great place for Mountain Biking, and it would be a shame if access was reduced.
- Please keep Water dog open to biking. Water dog is a legacy park for biking and should not be reclassified.
- I frequent Waterdog twice weekly to mountain bike. I have done volunteer work on these trails. I am a safe, courteous rider who yields to hikers/runners and other trail users. Most mountain bikers do the same. There will always be some bad apples but this also includes hikers and runners who have headphones on and do not hear the bikers who are using their voices loudly to let them know we are coming up on them. So if they are startled that is because they have earphones in. Also, a lot of runners/hikers have their dogs off leash which also is dangerous to cyclists. So I understand trail conflicts but we can all do a better job at making the trails safer. It is not just mountain bikers that can create tension out there. I love this area to bike in. I do what I can to help maintain these trails. It helps decrease my stress and gives me a chance to connect with nature. Please do not close these trails to cyclists. If anything, I would prefer that we all come together to work on strategies to mitigate trail conflicts instead of just closing it to a segment of the population. Thank you!
- More BBQ areas
- Great place to go riding. Have taken my 2 year old daughter to ride on the flat dirt area before trail. She loves it. Great place to relax
- Water Dog park is a gem; When moved here in 2014 didn't know about it, but has been my go to when I want to get a quick bike ride in. No need to jump in the car and add traffic and pollution.
- Mountain Biking is a family sport that promotes a healthy lifestyle. It brings revenue to the city.
- more single track mountain bike trails
- These are a rare resource. First, please protect them. Second, please make room for bicycling -- this is the future.
- I do not think mountain bike use in Water Dog Lake open space should be restricted or limited. Also, open spaces should be for recreation, not just "contemplation" of nature. Let's move away from the old, exclusive way of thinking about our community, and welcome people from all backgrounds to use our parks and open spaces.
- Biking at Water Dog Lake is a great afterwork ride on the way home. If I could afford to buy a house adjacent to it I would.
- I have travelled to Waterdog Lake specifically for mountain biking with friends living in Belmont for years, both while living in San Mateo County and living elsewhere in the bay area. I hope that it's excellent multi-use trail system continues to be a safe place to hike and mountain bike for residents and visitors alike, as it's location provides easy access for those living on the eastern side of the hills of the peninsula.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- I have been riding my mountain bike at Waterdog for over 10 years and really enjoy the trails it has to offer.
- Waterdog is incredible! It's key to my mental health to have somewhere to bike and be forced to fully embrace the present moment. It's my meditation!
- Please keep Waterdog open for mountain biking :)
- These are a major factor in why we love living in Belmont so much. Our open spaces are truly essential to our community and sprit and need to remain open to all including bicycles. As we have seen during the pandemic- these areas offer true natural outdoor refuge under local control. Maintaining the open spaces I believe is of utmost importance to the future health and well being of our community.
- Love riding Waterdog. Please do not greatly restrict cycling there.
- My family use waterdog for biking and as part of my commute. If biking were limited it would lose my support.
- Keep the mountain biking trails!!
- I love the open spaces! Keep them open and awesome! I also love mountain biking in the open spaces.
- Belmont is a great place to enjoy the outdoors. Keeping trail access available for ALL trail users is the only way to provide a chance for everyone to enjoy them. Furthermore, expanding trails and the existing trail network would alleviate crowding and provide volunteer opportunies for those looking to serve.
- I have enjoyed mountain biking at Belmont's Water Dog Open Space for many years. It is the closest Open Space to where I reside and has some of the best legitimate single-track trails in the Bay Area. As a female mountain biker, I have found most hikers and mountain bikers there to be very friendly and encouraging. I always try to be very courteous to hikers, watch my speed, and give them the right of way. Water Dog is where I can get away and enjoy nature and the peace and quiet while getting exercise 2-3 times a week. It would be extremely upsetting if trails were not open to bikes. Please keep them multi-use.
- What trails there are and what they're like
- Having access to mountain biking in Belmont has given my teenage son and his friends a healthy outlet to exercise, be in nature, and improve their riding skills. They have proper trail etiquette and yield to hikers (and horses, elsewhere.) They are respectful of the trails and the people who use them. It is because of local accessible trails like these in Belmont, that these teenage boys are growing up healthy and having fun, (I.e. not needing to turn to drugs or other illegal things.) Instead, they have been able to acquire and hone skills and an activity (mountain biking), that they will take with them to college and through life! Please keep these trails open to mtn biking to give our youth (and adults) a healthy outlet.
- Access to open space within city limits is very important and not every city has it so I believe that access to locations like Waterdog for everyone is critical.
- Waterdog Park has been singly responsible for fostering my kids love of mountain biking. Due to its proximity we are able to ride there frequently. My hog school kids and their friends who also ride there recently organized a bike donation for distribution to underprivileged children of San Mateo County. They have learned comprehensive bike repair and building as a result of their passion for riding. They have gained independence by learning to ride to and from Waterdog end ride responsibility without parental supervision. They have learned to appreciate nature and litter management on trails. The reason I mention all of this is it's all traceable back to Waterdog Park and the passion and life lessons it's fostered
- Waterdog park is a really amazing place to ride and I feel it is very important to keep it open for bikers and add more trail signage so that speed limits and trail usage is understood better.
- Waterdog park is a great resource for mountain biking
- I volunteer with a local high school mountain bike team, and kids having access to local trails they can ride their bikes to is critical in times like this with COVID and way too much screen time etc. Please add more trails with mountain bike access and continue to maintain the waterdog trails with volunteer trailwork so the kids have local places they can engage with and volunteer at that is connected to something they care about.
- Waterdog is special for mountain bikes - unique even. Please keep it open for mountain bikes. Harness the energy of the local mountain bike community - we will help to build and maintain trails, clean the open space, etc.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Water Dog lake is why I took this survey - to express my strong support for it to remain open for mountain biking. In addition to being good for hiking, it is a great place for both mountain biking and trail running. The Carlmont track and cross country teams train there regularly whether as a team or individuals, and I think it is a big part of their success.
- Water dog park should be enjoyed by all: walkers, runners and mountain bikers.
- Maintain multi-use access and activities to best meet the needs of the whole local and greater communities. Belmont offers unique outdoor spaces around SF Bay that many people enjoy in a variety of ways, and that are readily accessible before and after work on weekdays in addition to weekends.
- Even though I live in San Jose, I work in San Mateo and found Waterdog Lake Open Space as a convenient place to get in a quick ride on my mountain bike before work. I've also encountered many teenagers from the local area who tell me they ride at Waterdog Lake Open Space because it allows them to mountain bike without the need to have their parents drive them to the mountains.
- The trails are well used by students getting into mountain biking and practicing for races. Please don't take this space away from them. This is one place they can get to without needing parents to drive them.
- The mountain biking resource that is Waterdog dog is of immense value to the cycling community. Have been enjoying for 20 years and the benefits to my health and happiness are immense. There is no other mtb trails system nearby.
- Access for all to Open Spaces critical. Mountain biking community is under-served in Peninsula, yet is fastest growing segment of Open Space use
- More mountain biking access please not less
- I like the biking trails.
- Waterdog is the only place in Belmont and San Mateo County where cyclist have access to local trails. It is a wonderful place for children to learn to ride their bikes and for an after-work fitness ride. Waterdog's trail were built by mountain bikers and the volunteer opportunities allows us to give back to community.
- There needs to be areas designated to bikers and areas designated to hikers so that both groups can enjoy themselves peacefully
- I am firmly in support of mountain bike access at Water Dog Open Space. Reducing trails and limiting access is not the answer; building multi-use climbing trails and responsibly-built single-use descending trails is a great path forward for this particular area. I would also like to see more trail stewardship in Water Dog, as many of the trails are rutted and in need of repair. Volunteering events and paid professional stewardship are top of mind for me.
- Love the bike trails and riders should be encouraged to follow trail entiquete
- Open spaces need to be open to all users. That includes hikers/walkers, equestrian, and bikers.
- Waterdog is the only place in Belmont and San Mateo County where cyclist have access to local trails. It is a wonderful place for children to learn to ride their bikes and for an after-work fitness ride. Waterdog's trail were built by mountain bikers and the volunteer opportunities allows us to give back to community.
- I strongly oppose limiting mountain biking in any form - walker/hiker complaints can be handled with awareness campaigns that target everyone. As a mountain biker, I sometimes also encounter disrespectful mountain bikers - but also disrespectful hikers, dog wakers, joggers, etc. But that is a minority, and we, the decent majority, can influence and educate those less mindful of their surroundings without municipal bureaucracy.
- Belmont's open spaces are truly their strong point. I grew up riding bikes in the various open spaces along the peninsula and was formed by the passionate group of riders I met through the trail systems. When Passion Trail Bikes used to host trail maintenance days, I learned how to effectively perform trail maintenance to make enjoyable bike trails that were sustainable in the local environment. I believe the open spaces can be improved by incorporating more single use trails to improve biker and hiker enjoyment while sustaining the local ecosystem. One form of enjoyment doesn't have a larger impact that the other, simply different impacts. Single use trails allow more targeted approaches to trail creation, maintenance, and use which improves everyone's satisfaction. It also gives the community a greater say in their own interests, and potentially brings in more volunteers. Not every trail needs to be rideable by everyone, having a variety of trail types and difficulties reduces negative interactions and leaves everyone with a more satisfying experience.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- people who come here to ride mountain bike trails also stop and eat and drink nearby after riding.
- I love mountain biking At waterdog
- LOVE Waterdog
- My sons, friends, family and I use Waterdog Lake Park for regular mountain biking, and have for years. I also use the trails for hiking and walking with my dog. I understand that there is a movement to remove biking from this open space. This is where my sons grew up biking with their friends, and where I learned to bike with my son and his bike team. These kids still frequent the park for training, and can ride there from their homes. If access is denied, where will the kids go biking, especially the younger ones who cannot drive? What will they do with their time when they are bored, and usually decide to take to the trails? Should they sit inside and play video games instead? Or hang out and get high behind grocery stores? Remember who uses those trails, and how they use them, and what will happen to those groups of people when the trails are taken away. Is this really better for the community?
- Belmont has a strong and growing mountain bike community and we are lucky to be one of the few cities that allow younger kids to enjoy nature by riding bikes. Middle school and high school students are not likely to use these trails on their own unless they are into mountain biking and this should be encouraged in the city.
- Waterdog is a great park for mountain biking with friends and family while enjoying nature and still being close to everything. All open spaces should allow bikes on all paths.
- Please maintain bike access at Water Dog
- I love mt. biking at Waterdog park. Over the years I have volunteered to help maintain and helped to build the new trail around the lake. I hope you maintain mt. biking access to the park as it is one of my favorite places to ride.
- They are great, and a light touch would be better. Trails are extensive enough, not looking to the city to drive increased usage or increase amenities.
- Open spaces are critical for cycling. Having local open spaces that kids can get to without parents being required to drive is so important for kids to get outside and have fun. Limiting open space or trails would be a major negative in my eyes.
- I really enjoy mountain biking in Waterdog Open Space and would be very disappointed to see changes made that preclude me from that enjoyment.
- Our family loves mountain biking at Water Dog. It's a wonderful community and affords a unique option for us to ride as a family. It's very important for our kids and our own recreational welfare and enjoyment of nature near our home.
- Waterdog is one of the few places to go mountain biking. It would be great to expand the trails for that purpose, as there aren't many places available to mountain biking in the bay area.
- In Waterdog Open there has been destruction of parts of singletrack trails. I am unsure of whether it was a poorly guided initiative by the city or one by someone trying to illegally modify the trails on their own accord but it has ultimately worsened the trail system. An example of this is on upper creek trail in hidden valley where one part of a fork in the trail was destroyed and the consequent rubble left the remaining lower fork dangerously narrow. It isn't unfortunate to see the quality of these trails ruined for no apparent reason
- One of my favorite things to do from home is to ride my bike to Waterdog for mountain biking. Belmont has a unique resource at Waterdog that provides an outlet for a quick trail ride from home and that does not require a car trip for many users. I do this alone and with my entire family a couple times per week. There is a strong community of mountain bikers in Belmont and the surrounding area who treasure this accessible and amazing resource.
- Please preserve Waterdog trails and add more trails for mountain biking where possible
- Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that habitates there has adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed. During COVID-19 the demand for trails increased significantly and they have become more crowded and there is a clear demand for more trails. I am glad that more people are going outdoors which is amazing for public health. Informing people who may not have gone outdoors as much prior to COVID-19 about trail etiquette may be good.
- Plans to increase open space

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Keep waterdog open to all users! Expand access as much as possible.
- These are such an amazing public resource for multi-use activities, please do not add any new restrictions on how these spaces can be used!
- The multi-use access is great. I take full advantage of Water Dog Park, walking with our dog, hiking, trail running and mountain biking. It would be a shame to limit use and access due to the voice of a small vocal group.
- I love WaterDog. The Trail Stewards have done an unbelievable job creating and maintaining the trails for mountain bikers. Without their work over the last 10-20 years, we would not be blessed with such an incredible local/ close/ fun/ accessible resource to mountain bike locally. Truly a gem, and so lucky our community has it.
- How mountain bikers have been dedicated for trail building and maintenance at Water Dog Park. The volunteers have spent significant time.
- My family has lived in Belmont for over 50 years. My kids and I love to bike and hike the Waterdog Open Space. Please keep all the trails in the Waterdog Open Space accessible to mountain biking. Thank You!
- More trails for ALL user groups, multi use trails.
- Please maintain multiuse trails for biking/Mtn Biking
- Love the open space. Love that we can bike but we need more green bike Lanes in Belmont
- We are a biking family that is always looking for a safe space to ride bikes with our young child.
- Waterdog is a treasure and I love it for hiking AND biking!
- I enjoy biking the trails at WaterDog weekly. Belmont is unique among Peninsula cities with the amount of well maintained trails for riding.
- Biking is very important
- please keep open space open to all and promote proper trail adequate to all
- I am adamantly against a "controlled burn" of the open space.
- Multi-use pathways and/or calendar day-specific use would help mitigate trail conflicts.
- these are vital to the community and why I enjoy Belmont, these spaces should be kept open to all activities and not limited to select users.
- More bike trails are needed.
- Keep mtb trails open
- The bike trails are an amazing place for people to socialize while getting healthy exercise. Save them:)
- Belmont has the best mountain biking trails around
- Please keep Waterdog Park open to mountain bikes.
- Would love louder announcement of waterdog maintenance volunteer opportunities
- The trail network for mountain biking is great, but I think it may be time to have designated directional trails. I.e downhill only trails. Lots of other areas I cycle have these rules. Simple signage helps. As well as signs to remind others to keep their ears open for oncoming cyclists. It's a group effort to keep everyone safe and keep these spaces open to ALL who enjoy them.
- Waterdog Park is a gem for mountain biking and should continue to be. Additional signage for trail etiquette could help with reminding people how to use trails politely, but, in my many, many visits there, both for cycling and hiking, I have never felt unsafe.
- Mountain biking on singletrack trails in Waterdog Is spectacular. It should be welcomed and expanded for kids and adults. Too many people drive long distances to mountain biking trails, limiting access to the sport. Waterdog is a gem for mountain-biking Belmont residents and everyone in the Bay.
- Water dog is a gem for Bay Area mountain bikers. I use to live right near the park and loved riding and hiking in there. I still enjoy visiting from SF.
- Reducing biking access will lead to riders poaching trails and increased conflicts with hikers. Increase access for all trailer users is the best option. They're plenty of hike-only trails throughout the Bay Area. Multiuse trails must remain available.
- Please keep tails open for mountain bikers. Mountain bikers as a whole are very keen on trail etiquette, safety, community, and respecting nature.
- Waterdog is SUCH a gem on the peninsula, it would be a shame to limit its offerings
- Keep them open for bikes!
- continue to allow mountain bikes in the open space, it's one of the few places available in the area
- Variety of activities means it is inclusive
- My entire family of 4 loves to bike at Waterdog. We really encourage you to consider enhancing the biking opportunities in this open space for bikers of all ages. A rolling park / pump track area with picnic tables at the base has been a valuable asset in many other communities for kids and adults of all ages.
- Please open all trails to all bikes including class 1 Ebikes
- bikes need to continue to have access to the park

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Some of the best biking is at Waterdog Lake. It is a treasure and I hope it will not be taken away. There are few other good biking trails that don't require a drive.
- I love Waterdog Park and the current freedom for all users to enjoy it.
- I love water dog park, I run there all the time, I appreciate the lack of restrictions that lets everyone enjoy the park, I've never had bad experiences with any of the different users
- Safer bike routes to Belmont parks and open space would be great. Especially the corridor between the bike bridge to Twin Pines Park. I have been hit by a car while riding my bike across Old County Road at Masonic and I have seen others get hit at the same intersection. Crossing El Camino on a bike or on foot is downright dangerous and scary. Light up cross walks when you push the walk button would be a HUGE safety improvement for relatively little cost.
- This is the one place that I can come and connect with nature on my bike. This has helped me improve my fitness and recuperate with my spinal injury and asthma. Please don't take it away.
- We enjoy biking Water Dog :-)
- Maintaining bike access at Water Dog is essential! It's the reason I still come back to visit Belmont, to ride with friends and family at Water Dog and then visit the tavern afterwards for lunch!
- Waterdog park should remain open to bikes
- Love using the space for mountain biking
- Working well for us.
- Water dog is great! It doesn't need to change, just needs to be maintained. I am always respectful on my mountain bike and hiking with my dog. We have never had or seen an issue I'm in the last 4 years.
- Please continue to allow biking on the trails in Waterdog park so everyone can enjoy the area in multiple ways. I find the cyclists to be courteous, cautious, and respectful of the hikers on the trails.
- keep them open. water dog is one of the few places with decent mountain biking trails around the peninsula.
- Please continue to allow mountain bike access as well as improve trails. If possible expand trails for all of us to use.
- I bike frequently at Water Dog and find it to be an incredibly valuable resource. I find that trail users of all types (hikers, runners, bikers) get along well. One recommendation to consider would be use of bells on bikes. I ride with a bell on my bike and I get lots of thank yous from other trail users. We could consider having "loaner" bells at the trailheads that riders without bells could attach to their bikes. San Luis Obispo County has done something along these lines: https://www.cccmb.org/bells4bikes
- Belmont maintains some of the very few parks and open spaces that allow cycling. Cyclists helped build and maintain many of the trails in the parks they have access to (example: Lake Loop at Waterdog), and are an important asset to parks systems.
- I would like to see more Mountain Biking trails
- Need to continue to allow bikes in open spaces
- Increase opportunities for mountain biking
- We love mountain biking! Ketchum, Idaho is a great case study for excellent management of multi-use trails to benefit all.
- Waterdog park as a mountain biking venue is one of the best places on the Peninsula, I have considered moving my family to Belmont just for this reason. Please do not limit or restrict mountain biking in Waterdog Park in favor of other so-called "more compatible" activities, since that is just a subjective point of view. Instead, focus on making it a place where all families can do all sorts of activities with a minimum of conflict.
- Please keep Waterdog available as a biking area.
- water dog is a treasure. please preserve access for mountain biking
- Thank you for providing great outdoor spaces! Given the strong increase in mountain bike participation over the last few years, I suggest we add additional trails in the Open Spaces so we avoid user conflicts. Simply banning bikes will not solve the issue of insufficient space.
- There is an organized group trying to use this survey to get you to limit mountain bike access to the open space. you should not consider the survey a 'vote' no matter how many of the same sort of comments you get it should be considered on the merits. One great insight is worth more than a thousand terrible ones
- How will Belmont make the parks and trails open to all visitors.
- Having trails that allow mountain bike access is attractive and brings me to Belmont regularly to ride my bike.
- Have loved cycling in WaterDog park for years, it is a rare gem and access to all users should be protected!
- Keep Mountain Bike access open

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Preserve the open space. There's is plenty of room for everyone and all activities.
- Keep them open to bicyclists.
- I'd like to maintain cycling access to Waterdog Lake - it is one of the very few areas where mountain biking is allowed.
- Water Dog park is one of the only places I can mountain bike and take my dog - many of the places in Palo Alto do not allow animals and are too far to travel. In the pandemic, mountain biking is crucial for my mental and physical health as my preferred sport - please keep Water Dog bike and dog friendly!
- The water dog mountain biking community (eg trailkeepers) is a great group.
- I really enjoy the open spaces! I wish some of the bicyclists would not go so fast, but overall I feel safe. Most of them are very responsible.
- I LOVE the bike trails
- Maintain biking access to waterdog park, one of the best in the peninsula.
- Please keep mountain biking access open!
- Our entire family loves to mountain bike at Waterdog open space. It is such a wonderful asset for Belmont. The space is well used and maintained. It is our favorite part of Belmont!
- Water Dog is a gem! Love the multi-use trails for hiking, dog walking, and especially mountain biking.
- I strongly support multi-use in the open spaces. This includes cycling and hiking together. I'm sure each group can find people misbehaving in other groups, but as someone who regularly does both activities (as many do), I am really against outright limits/restrictions rather than encouraging good behavior during shared use.
- The hikers have a problem with mountain bikers in Belmont more than anywhere else. No reason why they cant share the trails just like every city in California does.
- Please do not ban mountain biking at Waterdog. This has been a great place for me and my kids to enjoy biking together safely. Thank you.
- Please keep Waterdog open to mountain bikes.
- Having Waterdog as a local, ride from the house, mountain bike option is a unique and amazing option that adds housing value and supports local bike shops.
- It would be a shame to exclude mountain bikes from waterdog because of a few bad interactions. Whenever I ride there I see ten friendly encounters for every bad one and that is much better than it was 10 years ago when I lived closer and rode there more often.
- I appreciate the multi-use trails you've made available to the community. As a result I and many of my friends visit local restaurants and small businesses.
- Please do not restrict biking at waterdog
- All trails should be multiuse. If crowding becomes a factor, allow mtn biking on odd or even days (as is done on some other high traffic trails).
- Please allow use of electric bicycles as OPDMD (Other Personal Disability Mobility Device) on all trails.
- How can we build/access/advocate for more mountain bike trails?
- Waterdog is the only place in Belmont and the surrounding communities where cyclist have access to local trails. It is a wonderful place for children to learn to ride and for an after-work fitness ride. Waterdog's trail were built by mountain bikers and the volunteer opportunities allows us to give back to community.
- Keep mountain bike trails open. Expand access
- Waterdog is an amazing local trail network that has provided hundreds of hours of use for myself, friends and family. When there, I typically purchase goods from local Belmont shops. I'm a biker and hiker and am upset to hear about the initiative to limit biking there. Trail etiquitte is the best cure for these backlashes, everyone needs to be aware that bikers are present. If the trail network was expanded to the other side of 280 (where the cross country course is) there wouldn't be as much congestion in Waterdog.
- Keep OS open to all ages and activities, post trail etiquette signage. Perhaps recommend limited group sizes? As a mountain biker who frequently visits Waterdog and San Juan OSPs, large groups of hikers or e-bikers can be annoying. If I could, I would revise trail etiquette to recommend small groups of no more than 6 individuals. Large groups of hikers and e-bikers seem to cause the most trail blockage and stoppages. Groups of hikers block the trail and large groups of e-bikers force you to stop and pull over to let them pass. Same could be said for large groups of analog mountain bikers, I suppose!
- The mountain biking at Waterdog is what brings me to Belmont. I like grabbing lunch there afterwards.
- Save the environment

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- I'm against turning Waterdog into a Preserve which would limit access and activities in the open space.
- Please preserve mountain bike access in Waterdog
- Through the pandemic, mountain biking has been a saving grace for my family. We would love to have more opportunities for riding mountain trails
- More trails for hiking, biking, and allow dogs on leash. Shaded trails are good. All ability trails. Not generally in favor of ebikes, except on one way/ wider trails
- Keep mountain biking trails
- The mountain biking paths are quite high quality and I feel very fortunate to have such good mountain biking paths so close to my home (2 miles)
- We need more dedicated bike trails.
- Mountain Biking is not a CRIME
- Belmont is a great place to live due to access to trails and nature for both myself and my family. If mountain biking were limited I would 100% consider moving out of Belmont.
- Maintaining trail access for all kinds of users is important. Waterdog is a widely enjoyed mountain biking spot for users of all skill levels. Safe trail usage does not need to exclude any type of usage, it requires communication and understanding amongst all users.
- They need better parking lots with restrooms
- Some of the trails used in multiple ways (Bike, Run, Hike, Horses) could be time-shared (eg. even/odd days of the month) if there is too much conflict. I don't think that needs to be for all trails, just those that see a lot of multi-use. Other ways to mitigate conflict are: single-direction trails, required use of bells on bikes. Some or all of these measures can be applied with sufficient forethought on the impact to the user's enjoyment.
  Trail design and maintenance is critical for the environment as well as our enjoyment. There are groups that specialize in this and should be consulted (eg. Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz have a great reputation for creating both hiking and biking trails in the bay area).
- I really appreciate the effort to send the survey out and capture the community's feedback! Thanks all.
- There are municipalities all across the US (and world) that very successfully manage/operate mutli-use trail systems in open space areas with little to no user conflicts. I would hope that Belmont in the heart of Silicon Valley could also be a leading example of a modern approach to multi-user trails. There's no reason to reinvent the wheel here - simply copy the strategies and tactics from some of the best managed trail system municipalities in the country.
- We love to bike with our dog in Waterdog Lake Park -- It is fantastic. The recent trail work is marvelous and we would love to support it in any way we can.
- Please maintain bike access in Belmont's open spaces.
- Waterdog is a a great outdoor space for all sorts of activities - please keep it open to all. and a bike pump track would be a super addition.
- Waterdog shall remain open to bikes!
- The main exercise my 11 year old and I got during Covid was mountain biking and Water Dog is a favorite.
- Belmont's mountain biking trails bring me so much joy and help me stay fit. The canyon is so beautiful and challenging. When I ride I always use a bell so that hikers hear me coming... Hikers often thank me for the bell. Requiring bell use could be one way to ensure bikers and hikers can use the trails safely together.
- Waterdog played a part in my learning to mountain bike, and it's a great place for riders, new and experienced, to enjoy nature together and share memorable experiences
- I visit Waterdog to mountain bike. It's some of the best urban-adjacent mountain biking on the peninsula, and it would be a tremendous loss if mountain bike access were restricted or revoked.
- Waterdog Park should remain open to mountain bikers. it was our go-to site when I was teaching my son MTB riding skills. User conflict on the trails and high usage can be mitigated. Measures could include: alternating days of access for different user groups, a bell box program, directional trails, or realignment of problematic trails.
- Please keep these open to mountain bikes and dogs. We can all coexist!
- Please keep bike access at waterdog! We can and should get along, bowing to special interests on this is anti-inclusion
- Please keep Waterdog open to bikes. I've been riding it for the past 20 years and it's a special place. Put effort into a respectful riding outreach program if necessary, but please don't ban bikes. It provides a unique and accessible location for easy access to outdoor exercise.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Please keep waterdog accessible to bikes. Limiting e-bikes is probably a good idea.
- Stop Villainizing cycling from the complaints of a few people who don't understand.
- Biking and hiking at Waterdog openspace is very nice. The trails are well maintained and welcoming for all.
- Please keep open spaces open to Mountain bikes
- Love Waterdown open space. Mountain biking is great, fantastic trail network and overall very nice people I have encountered there. Also hike and walk the dog in many trails there. A fantastic mixed use park that is close to home and fun.
- Water Dog open space is a critical part of my weekly routine. I ride my bike there at least once a week and would be very sad to lose the fitness / de-stress / nature viewing it is has to offer. Please keep these trails open for multi-use.
- Water dog park is a fantastic gem. My family and I have ridden bikes and hiked there for 20 yeast. Fantastic!
- Fantastic mountain biking opportunities right in our backyard.
- I believe the trails should remain multi use trails and be able to have pets(dogs) with you on the trails. I've been on the trails at Belmonts open spaces for almost a year. There has been zero issues with dogs and mountain bikers. I know we can all coexist like we have been.
- The community of mountain bikers has created a space where folks can gather, get exercise, reduce work stress and find nature. More of these opportunities would be welcome, especially for the youth although at age 49 I value riding trails at the top.
- Please keep Belmont's open space available for dog walking and biking. That and the quality of schools are the main reasons we moved to Belmont 7 years ago.
- Please keep trails open for mountain biking
- I think there should be better signage to limit/ advise electric mountain bike speeds, and limit all activities that may damage dirt roads after a rain.
- It is critical to keep open spaces open and not limit their use to certain activities.
- Biking and hiking at Waterdog is my primary use of open space in Belmont
- Waterdog should remain available to all bikers, hikers and walkers. They all cohabitate just fine now. None of these three groups seem to have a detrimental effect on the open space. All should be able to enjoy it.
- Please retain equal access for all users, hikers and bikers alike.
- Preserving mountain biking access is extremely important to me
- Don't let greedy developers take over
- Please maintain bike access on the trails.
- Would like to maintain shared trail use. Has been a great integral local trail system for mountain biking and would be disappointed if that were lost.
- Our open spaces are too crowded with mixed use visitors – especially on weekends. Allowing our citizens to ride bikes in our open spaces creates safety, noise and privacy issues that require supervision, policing. Riding bikes also can cause environmental degradation. All of these negatives come with costs to our city, including maintenance, habitat restoration and surveillance. We have a finite amount of money to spend on the needs of our residents. Adding these costs will definitely require additional city funds. Where will we get these additional funds? If we cannot find additional funds what city expenditure are we willing to trade off for the right to ride a bike in our open space? Speeding down a mountain side is definitely not the best or safest way to enjoy nature. Speeding bike riders are not compatible with families walking along a trail. Mixing these two groups will only lead to dangerous accidents and possible injuries. Given these issues, I do not see any benefit of allowing people to continue to bike in our open spaces. Additionally, I do not understand why we are allowing people from outside our city to bike in our open space without charging an access fee to cover the costs of the above problems that occur. Finally, I don't understand why we would need lighted trail heads. I don't agree with this, since people should only be allowed to walk or hike on a trail during daylight hours. One should carry a flash light if one expects to be out during nighttime hours or might get lost and need lighting to find their way.
- Please keep the trails as multi use. It should continue to be shared so everyone has access for recreation and for emotional well being. No one should be excluded.
- My family loves Water Dog. We enjoy walking, biking and walking our dogs. Please don't limit access to anyone.
- Maintain multiuse

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- use water dog often and appreciate the ability to hike, bike and run with our dog
- I'd like to be able to continue to mountain bike in Waterdog park.
- Need Art
- Waterdog Lake, Hidden Canyon & San Juan Canyon are fabulous multi-use resources. Do not be swayed by the activists who want to limit access to trails by mountain-bikers, the very people who established and maintain these trails.
- More bike trails!
- More access to trails for people on bikes, more connected routes
- We believe that the Belmont Open Spaces should remain open to all patrons including bikers and dog walkers. Residents should not be limited in their enjoyment of nature.
- Please do not consider restricting usage at waterdog lake.
- Waterdog Lake is a wonderful and unique open space. I love it just the way it is!
- Love it as is
- Enjoy mountain biking and hiking and the friendly atmosphere.
- Open space needs to stay open to everyone.
- Keep Waterdog open for Mt. Biking!
- Mostly well maintained, warn against people wanting to change too much or cater to access at the compromise of raw & natural spaces
- I often feel that Water Dog Lake Park and other open spaces in Belmont are designed for the enjoyment of people who live near there, but not for those of us who live in lower Belmont. Part of the reason is that Ralston Avenue is the only way to get there. It's just not easy or safe to bike from lower Belmont to upper Belmont, and parking near the entrances is a pain, otherwise our family might make outings to Belmont's open spaces more often!
- Mountain Biking is very important at Water Dog. There is abundant support to do trail work under supervision and management by the city.
- preserve waterdog for mt bikers it is well known and respected I have been riding there for past twenty years and hiking for past 40 years
- I use WaterDog open space to walk my dogs, to hike, and my kids ride their bikes there. We all enjoy it immensely and have never had any problems with the mountain bikers on the trails. In fact, they are often extremely polite and cautious.
- As a former Boy Scout, an Eagle Scout & leader, we have coordinated several Eagle projects at Water Dog Park to improve the trails for multi-use hiking and mountain biking throughout the years. Waterdog has been one of the view parks in Northern Silicon Valley where trails allow and encourage outdoor exercise, Mtn biking, trailing running and are well maintained. It would be unconscionable and detrimental to the community around Belmont and the valley to limit the use of this park and restrict the Mtn biking that the community has embraced over 3 decades.
- Let's stop the anti biking rhetoric. You will always have bikers and it's fun. Instead of creating animosity, why not simply designate right of way to bikers on certain downhill tracks. Easy. Bike braking bumps aren't destroying the world so everyone should calm down instead of creating issues that aren't there.
- Waterdog should stay open for everyone
- Bicycle access should be expanded
- I learned to ride a proper mountain bike at Waterdog. The trails are so accessible, and I don't even need to drive to get there, that is unheard of. Waterdog is the only place in Belmont and San Mateo County where cyclists have access to local trails. It is a wonderful place for children to learn to ride their bikes and for an after-work fitness ride. Waterdog's trails were built by mountain bikers and the volunteer opportunities allows us to give back to community.
- The multi trail use at Waterdog is awesome, so great to see the kind sharing of space between hikers, bicyclers, joggers...
- Allow bikes on trails
- Waterdog has been hugely successful and is widely used because it welcomes all trail users. Limiting access to any group would be very disappointing.
- please keep waterdog open to mountain bikers. I've been enjoying the trails for 27 years and have helped maintain them.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Open spaces need to be protected and preserved with respect for the natural ecology. Without such protection, the canyons and open spaces will not be able to support the plants and wildlife that are critcal for their survival. Cutting trees, carving illegal and too numerous trails, running over wildlife and building thrill seeking slaloms for speed by bikers is destroying our beautiful canyon. There is also the safety issue for those hikers who have to jump off the trail to avoid speeding bikers. We need to stop this destruciton before it is too late. Walking and hiking are great forms of recreation too and do not do the type of damage the bikers are doing in the name of recreation.
- The mountain biking community treats waterdog with respect and the utmost care. it is unfair for a group to trry to take away decades of involvement in the area just because they began to hike and find it inconvenient for them. For any locals, these trails have been a common meeting place for mountain bikers all around the area and it would be a shame to let a group dictate the culture of the area.
- Keep waterdog open for biking and hiking. It's a great space and enjoyed by many.
- These are the only trails available to cyclists in Belmont and San Mateo County, which makes them a precious resource to the community, including anyone who enjoys riding a bike.
- More bike specific trails
- Belmont open spaces and the opportunity to trail run and bike in them are one of the primary reasons we moved to Belmont. There is a strong local community of dedicated trail users on foot and on wheels that cares about multi-use access and thoughtfully developed tails. They are an underutilized resource for the town and if encouraged by an updated master plan, would be significant stewards of the open spaces.
- I grew up riding water dog lake with friends for 15 years about 15 years ago. I sometimes make it down there to enjoy the scenery and trails I rode as teen. I love water dog trails! I rode amateur cross-country mountain biking back in the day and attribute that to be able to train and develop in the water dog open space
- Waterdog open space is a local jewel to escape into a natural environment. Historically, it has been a multi-use destination. Over the last couple of decades, the mountain bike community has organized in cooperation with the city to build and repair trails. These trails have been used by runners, dog walkers, walkers, and cyclists. A small minority has built unapproved trails. These trails are poorly constructed and encourage erosion and trail user conflict. In my opinion, they should be retired. Furthermore, the advent of e-bikes has complicated user conflicts and erosion. Given their power and speed, e-bikes should not be allowed in the open space. Overall, though, the multi-use nature of the trails works well and should continue into the future.
- Please keep trails open for mountain bikes
- Please continue to allow mountain biking at Water Dog. I have been biking there for 20 years, always respected the multi use trails, and have never had anything but positive interactions with other trail users (hikers, bikers, everyone).
- We enjoy the Belmont Open Spaces. The mix use trails can be challenging at times. It would be great to have dedicated trails for bikes, hikers etc.
- Please keep Water Dog and other Open Spaces multi-use. Its the best bonding moments and time I have with my children in the immediate area. Thank you
- Make sure you give the bikers access to good trails. I am a hiker and don't mind the bikers if they have a bell so I know they are coming. Some parts of the trails are too narrow for a hiker and biker to pass without great care. Bikers usually yield to hikers but the trails should either accommodate both or maybe have a single use bike trails separate from hiker trails.
- Water Dog Lake park is the best mountain biking on the peninsula, and it's readily accessible by transit + bike unlike most mountain biking trails which require long drives up to Skyline boulevard.
- I want to know that mountain biking is welcome and encouraged within the community.
- I think the Open Spaces are a key area for Mountain bikes, hikers, and runners on the Peninsula. In my experience, which includes numerous runs in the Waterdog Lake area, the three groups have been respectful of each other, and protective of nature.
- Maintain mountain biking trails at Waterdog
- Bike access to trails if very important for the residents and users of the park. The recent push to get bikes banned is distressing and will greatly reduce the appeal of living in the area and this park in general. There are plenty of spaces where bikes arent allowed, lets keep some areas where it is.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Mountain biking trails at Water Dog are an important community asset, not only for Belmont residents but for residents of the larger area. They also bring business to Belmont shops and restaurants.
- Bikers helped build the trails in Waterdog and are an active user group which needs to be supported.
- Water Dog is an incredible location for mountain biking, a sport that is increasingly being limited in the Bay Area. We should help to preserve the sport by keeping water dog open space bike friendly.
- Looking towards the future, more people will be needing space to for recreation. I believe a combination of growing, maintaining existing, and/or creating new facilities will be the key to having a place for everyone to do what they love and are passionate about.
- Bikes are already banned from so many trails in the Bay Area. If we could raise awareness about better trail etiquette for both bikers and hikers/ joggers, we could share multi-use trails more safely.
- They have become dangerous with speeding and reckless mountain bikers. The bikers have "cleared" trails and cut down tree branches. They should have their own designated spaces where families, hikers and walkers will not be disturbed.
- I use Belmont open spaces mostly for trail running. Open space trails are very convenient for this. Keep up the good work.
- I have been proud to volunteer to maintain and build trails at water dog park, as a mountain biker and hiker, I feel strongly that these trails are best kept multi-use; there is simply no other trail system most of us can ride to on our bikes for mountain biking; and mountain biker stewardship is one of the primary reasons this space has been so well maintained and successful.
- Waterdog has been a tremendous help physically and emotionally, specially during the pandemic. I love riding my bike here and have started bringing my 2 girls to ride their bikes here as well. It's a treasure to the community
- Love mountain biking there. Would be great to have mountain bike specific trails to avoid conflicts with hikers.
- Waterdog is the only place in Belmont and San Mateo County where cyclist have access to local trails. It is a wonderful place for children to learn to ride their bikes and an after-work fitness ride. Waterdog's trail were built by mountain bikers and volunteer opportunities allows us to give back to community.
- I greatly appreciate the opportunity to take my dog on hikes with me in Waterdog OS. The Peninsula has few such places compared to many other counties around the Bay Area. This is a huge benefit to me for continuing to live in this town after having raised my two children here.
- I enjoy mountain biking at Water dog park. It's a great place to connect with nature and get exercise while ride a bicycle. Please do not limit access to Waterdog park for mountain bikers. Please keep water dog park open so all can use it for exercise and recreation.
- Please keep Belmont Open Space's open for mountain bikers! We love mountain biking there.
- Use of the trails at Waterdog for mountain biking is something that should be maintained. This offers a great way for people like myself to exercise in the middle of the day, taking a break from work and getting a nice outdoor experience so close to the office. I think etiquette is key, bikers, hikers, walkers, etc. can all use trails equally and share such great spaces.
- Great space - need to have more volunteer days to do trail Maintenance - we use to help thru bike shop in Belmont.
- Keep forever, expand, control, maintain
- I love the ability to Mountain Bike at Waterdog
- Myself and other mountain bikers are part of the reason why the Open Space around WaterDog Lake is so popular. I strongly object to efforts to restrict mountain biking and completely support improvements that benefit ALL trail users.
- I have been mountain biking at Waterdog Open Space for 15 years. It is my primary form of exercise and stress relief. The location of the park allows for me to ride there every week. Other mountain biking locations are distant drives away. Waterdog is a key destination for many local mountain bikers. I typically see 3 to 5 bikers on the trails whenever I ride. We need to preserve the ability to ride mountain bikes at Waterdog Open Space for this active community. I am concerned about the health of the plants at Waterdog. I have seen the terrain drying out over the last 10 years. Oaks are dying and the brush is tinder dry. Please establish a plan to reduce the fire hazard in the space. I am very willing to assist in working on trail repair or vegetation management. Happy to help!!

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Don't close Waterdog to mountain biking!
- We need mountain biking access, though courtesy signs for etiquette would be welcome.
- Preserve - enhance access to mountain bikes, gravel bikes please
- Water Dog Open Space is a fantastic place to take my family for mtn biking and we love taking our dog there for hikes and swims.
- I have run, hiked with my dogs, mountain biked at water dog for last 15 years and it's a gem to our community to have this open for multi use
- keep mountain biking in hidden canyon please
- Please keep WaterDog open to multi use.
- Belmont open spaces is probably one of the last places in this entire area we can ride our mountain bikes on dirt. Please support this sport.
- Access for all.
- Waterdog is a terrific and well respected multi-use activity that works well for all users.
- Water Dog Lake Park is a great place to safely mountain bike.
- Please don't restrict mountain biking at Water Dog park. Also consider class 1 e-bike usage if they're currently not allowed.
- I strongly oppose any efforts to limit bike access to Waterdog Open Space.
- The mountain biking is fantastic, I use it every week, and was a decisive reason I moved to the area 10 years ago.
- Please don't limit the mountain biking trails. They are popular because they are terrific!
- It's amazing that a small city like Belmont has such great Open Space areas!
- I have been mountain biking at Water Dog for over a decade. It's such a joy and privilege to be able to bike from my house to the trails. All the other options involve driving 30 minutes or more each way. Thanks for maintaining this excellent resource.
- Love the mountain biking at Water Dog. Please preserver and expand options to ride bikes on the trails.
- Our entire family loves mountain biking and hiking at waterdog
- Please keep open space trails multi use
- Bikes should be limited to Wide fire trails and excluded from narrow trails.
- Belmont Open Spaces need to be appreciated and preserved for future generations. Currently, they are being severely eroded by too much mountain biking traffic.
- More trail running amenities. Trail running is very unique in this area and it would be great to foster the community In Waterdog
- Open spaces need to include designated areas for off leash dog parks
- Water Dog Lake park is one of the best mountain biking locations in the SF Bay Area, please do not change it. I go there every week.
- I live in Belmont Heights near Hallmark Park and the open space here (including waterdog lake) is a huge bonus to living here. Every day I go hiking on the trails here with my dog and it is just a really special place to have right in your backyard. What makes it not special are mountain bikers who zip and zoom up and down the trails and do not get off to walk when there are hikers. I have had to jump out of the way with my dog and my toddler to not get run over. I think we need clear signs that limit mountain bikers on the trails, and definitely not widening the john brooks trail. that goes right behind many houses in the belmont heights area and is better suited to hikers enjoying the views. Whatever you plan to do please do not make a bike pump course or anything to attract more mountain bikers to the waterdog lake area. It's a fragile ecosystem and bikers are just not very careful with their surroundings. A better place for a bike course would be at a sports center, not in our fragile open space area!
- Just discovered them biking retrains and they are wonderful.
- I am in favor of a halt to trail development at Waterdog. Maintain existing trails, and prevent creation of new ones. Rules of the road signage would be helpful. I am also supportive of "feet only" hours when hikers don't have to watch for bikes. I am strongly against restricting cycling to wide trails. Mountain bikers build most of the single track, and have as much right to use as anyone. Teach courtesy and responsibility first.
- There is a lot of frustration among residents in our neighborhood with mountain bikers who visit the water dog and hidden canyon open spaces but ride at dangerous speeds and do not give right of way to hikers, often on electric bikes (ie motorized vehicles)
- Too many bikes
- I love the open space preserves and using the trails for cycling. I've used them many times
- I am extremely disappointed that adding items to the open space is MUCH more prevalent in your survey than is maintaining and improving the natural habitat and beauty of these spaces.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- I believe it is very important to preserve open space in its natural state so that EVERYONE can enjoy the beauty of Belmont and appreciate our community and nature together.
- Again please keep Waterdog park open and same for the Hallmark cross country. Everyone runs these trails including me and I enjoy meeting my running friends and enjoy the beautiful well kept space. Let's keep the space open for the community to enjoy in its natural state.
- I mountain bike in Waterdog every day. its an amazing mountain biking location!
- Please create a master trail map. I would utilize belmonts parks and open spaces more often if I had maps (preferably online and in apps like AllTrails) and knew where to go
- Please designate certain trails within Waterdog for biking. Please add signage that the parks an open space are closed from sunset to sunrise. Please add rattlesnake and mountain lion caution signs to the Hallmark Park area. Please have Belmont PD patrol the entrances to the park in the evenings. Do not add trail leading this will encourage people on trails in the evening time when they are closed.
- Prohibit bikes on Waterdog Lake Open Space hiking trails. Bikers present a risk of bodily injury or death to hikers on the narrow hiking trails in that open space.
- Please keep allowing mountain biking at Waterdog. The vast majority of us follow the rules and are courteous to other trail users.
- Support biking on Waterdog trails
- I love mountain biking at Water Dog and generally find my fellow bikers are respectful of hikers and nature and am a big proponent of multi use trails.
- There are too many bike riders on narrow trails in the open space. I have almost been run over several times by bike riders going fast. The narrow trails are not suitable for both hikers and bike riders.
- Please save mountain biking on multi-use trails!
- Mountain bikes are sometimes an issue on narrow trails so some strategies to allow for both biking and hiking would be welcome (like designated trails)
- I didn't know about San Juan
- Save mountain biking trails and access
- I would like mountain bike access for my children and myself at waterdog. To take that away would be a shame.
- I love and have been mountain biking in Water dog park for years. It is very unique in offering such wonderful trails open to biking right in our backyard. Love sharing with all (hiking, groups, biking, etc.)!
- Waterdog is a great hiking and biking trail. Please keep it that way. We need more multi use trails not less. Please do not reduce the number of mountain biking trails.
- Keep cycling open to all users and groups
- Waterdog Park and open space is very well kept.
- Waterdog Mountain Biking is accessible, fun and enjoyable.
- Multi-use trails are the way.
- Keep access for bikes and please do not remove trail features or widen trails
- Please curtail mountain biking. It should've been regulated earlier. The hills behind CHS w/jumps & bumps is awesome for them. Courtesy levels are pretty low elsewhere.
- The entire purpose of Water dog is bicycling. Is it a GREAT local resource to improve ones gravel and mountain biking climbing and descending skills on. Do NOT let the crazy NIMBY haters-of-everyone steal that.
- Please add more mountain biking trails. Also a pump track will help. At the moment there are very few mountain biking trails available and one has to drive great distances for access.
- I'm not a trail biker but they need more than simply access to broad open flat trails - could more trails be created to give THEM that range of challenges that are part of their sport and a smaller set dedicated to hikers as the riding groups have been so active in maintaining the trails?
- I love Belomont open spaces because it is a great place to go on bike rides with my family. Belmont open spaces is great because it is open to bikers and walkers, and should stay that way. San Carlos or redwood city does not have many places to go biking and if you close down biking in Belmont open spaces there won't be any close places to bike at. It is really important to keep biking open to all.
- Oppose creating attractions with regional draw

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- The shared use of Waterdog has been a great example of a community sharing its resources. Opening up more shared outdoor space will ensure a distribution of use as opposed to closing places for single use which would put undo stress on other locations. City's, humans and nature thrive with caring diversity and teaching younger generations that respect for environment while using it is how we thrive and thus we can all share its resources and protect them as opposed to limiting them and teaching that caring for nature means being kept out. We should all be a part of it and care for it.
- Make additional Mt Bike trails to separate bikes from hikers on SOME sections
- Continue to let us mountain bike at waterdog please.
- Waterdog is a great park and wonderful place to Mountain Bike
- more dog acess
- Belmont Open Spaces are an excellent place to promote health and wellness in our communities. We have to do our part to keep our communities healthy by having easy access to parks and open spaces. We should not discriminate on what activities are accessible.
- There is a rising popularity in mountain bikes and this is a good opportunity to draw people in to parks
- Please add more mountain bike access
- Waterdog has been my backyard for nearly 40 years.. The increased bike traffic, particularly groups of bikers, has detracted from my enjoyment of it.
- I love the bike trails at water dog.
- As a daily hiker, I have stopped going to Belmont's open spaces because of overcrowding and bikes. I now go to Edgewood Park, Windy Hill, Montera Mountain, Purissima, and other open spaces which are much better and safer. It's a shame to see what has happened to Belmont's open spaces over the last two decades.
- Save mountain miking. So many trails for hiking and equestrian.
- Don't break something that's working. The open space is great and works. Keep up with maintenance of bridges but that's about it. No need to change, redirect, restrict or (shudder) remove any trails. I □□ Belmont OS.
- I've stopped goi g to water dog to hike the canyon because of the issue of bikers on the trail being too reckless.
- Too busy and activities. Sad to see damage of nature.
- Bikers are ruining Water Dog Lake and the surrounding paths in Belmont Heights. I would strongly like to see their number and use of those spaces and trails reduced or banned. Preferably banned. I don't mind outside residents to use our parks and trails, but the bikes must be stopped in ruining once was a peaceful, safe place to hike with children and animals.
- REMOVE BIKES FROM SENSITIVE TRAILS. The only trail safe for biking is Lake Road. Bikes should be banned from all other trails for safety to both hikers and the hillsides. Cyclists are damaging the environment and pushing hikers off the trail.
- Bike access enhances the outdoor experience
- The trails are amazing and best when shared by all who love them!
- It is pertinent that mountain bikers restrain access to Water Dog Open Space. It is a great sport that provides recreational experiences that are enjoyed by many people, for which the extent is only increasing. On the whole, mountain bikers are very considerate to hikers so it would be very disappointing if a small group of anti biker advocates paints an inaccurate image of us in an attempt to limit access. As in your mission statement, access should only be widened and not narrowed in order to provide access to the greatest number of people across different backgrounds.
- We have lived in Belmont Heights for 35 years. The primary reason we purchased our home was the natural beauty and serenity of the open space surrounding us. The trails offer a sense of peace, and the ability to appreciate and enjoy nature's gift of an undisturbed natural habitat that protects our wildlife and vegetation.
  To incorporate and encourage mass public foot or bike traffic into our open spaces would destroy the rare beauty and serenity that helps define the City of Belmont. Bikers have already damaged and modified our trails without permission, and present safety hazards for trail walkers.
- I have been enjoying mountain biking in water dog park and open space for years and now enjoy it with my kids. I am very appreciative of the trail system and respect it's mixed use needs. Thank you for maintaining it and keeping it mixed use.
- Keep Mountain Biking alive!
- I use the open spaces on a regular basis. It's close to my work and regularly access Waterdog for lunchtime rides as well as cutting through on my commute home.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Should be open for all uses
- Keep Mountain Bike Trail (Including Class 1 E-Bike) access at Waterdog! Please expand the access as well.
- I primarily go to Watertdog because I can cycle and walk my dogs there.
- The John brooks trail sits behind my back yard. I rarely use any of the water dog trails. They do not feel safe with the proliferation of mountain bikers who often have no regard for walkers or runners. I love to walk in the neighborhood on the streets, at the.xcountry trail or to drive yo sawyer camp. But sadly water dog trails just do not feel like a good option. I am also greatly concerned about the destruction of the natural habitat caused by these cyclists.
- More bike friendly trails and access.
- Please reclaim areas that have recently been fenced off that belong to the City. People are trying to make their yards bigger....this is illegal!
- Waterdog Open Space is an outstanding open space for multi-use. Mountain biking there is such an amazing space to use.
- STEWARTSHIP LIKE TRAILWORKERS,COM AT WILDER RANCH IN SANTA CRUZ,CA
- What are the plans for keeping this as natural as possible? Multi use trails are NOT safe and 40 years of trying to make this work has been a failure with cyclists continually speeding, making illegal trails and hitting hikers and equestrians
- Offers an exceptional opportunity for off road cycling.
- Please put a skatepark keep kids out of trouble
- Skate parks
- The Belmont Open Spaces set a high quality example of welcoming users of multiple types (e.g. MTB, hikers) which others should aspire.
- more dog friendly
- Keep access open for us responsible mountain bikers who also volunteer time to care for the trails
- Love the open spaces, however, there are way too many mountain bikers who have come too close to hikers. Please BAN the mountain bikers from using the trails.
- Please limit the mountain biking at hidden valley and water dog and the area near water dog from Geraldine and village dr. it's quite dangerous for hikers. Enhancing the park facilities would be great as well. San Carlos parks have a lot more features (water pad). A swimming facility would be great as well!
- Water Dog is great just as it is. There is no need to make extensive changes there, except maybe to manage the poison oak in certain sections. I have been mountain biking there for over 20 years and am truly grateful to have it so close to home. I would love to participate in some trail maintenance opportunities for the park.
- More trails for hiking
- Thanks for the survey. I'm a hiker, trail runner, dog walker, and mountain biker. I filled out this survey with mountain biking Waterdog in mind. It seems lately, after over 20 years of riding Waterdog, that hikers are upset and seem to feel that we are unwelcome pests. There has been increased trail use with COVID of course, and an increase in the popularity of mountain biking. I'm hopeful that we can all work together to share these great trails. I've heard there is a vocal group that would like to ban mountain biking within the park. I hope this isn't true and that you all understand that these trails can easily be shared and loved. Thanks!
- Need to maintain mountain biking access. Need to restrict e-bike use.
- NA
- Keep the open spaces - they are the best thing about Belmont
- Mountain biking at Waterdog with my son has been a profound experience. It has provided an activity that bonds us, something that he can improve at and be proud of, and gets us doing something intensely physical and skilful in nature. It is the antidote to screens.
- Preserve all forms of activity, including biking and skating.
- Water Dog has always been bike friendly. That's where my kids learned to mountain bike too. A vocal minority should not change what has always worked fine.
- Same for Open Spaces
- I enjoy mountain biking at waterdog and fully support that we maintain access to mountain bikers along with hikers. I do not agree with reducing access to mountain bikers, because many people will ride even if it's prohibited and that would cause more tension between mountain bikers and other park users.
- Please keep these spaces open for bike usage. They are a true gem and rarity on the peninsula.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Thank you for allowing mountain bike access! Keep working with the mountain bike community to keep access open to all.
- We adore Water Dog park. My son rides there with his friends at least 3x a week. It has been a gift to have such an amazing resource for his friends and him for outdoor exercise within riding distance from our house.
- Keep waterdog open space open to mountain biking
- The trails are great. Would love to see more, and more time spent building new ones!
- Please do NOT block mountain bike access to this park, this is a popular destination for mountain bikers. Mountain bikes do not damage or harm the park any more than hikers or dog walkers
- Cycling in Waterdog is a great pleasure, and one of the limited spaces available to cyclists within short drive of San Francisco.
- Continue to allow bike access in Water Dog Lake Park and open Space, and in The Hidden Canyon Park!
- Bicycling and walking dogs is very important in nature
- water dog is an excellent resource as it is. I would not change a thing. The mountain biking folks have done a LOT to make the space better.
- I have been mountain bike riding in the Waterdog Lake Open Space since the 1990's. Back then there were far fewer trails to ride as there are now. Over the years, trails have been added and maintained by mountain bikers. So when I hear of opposition to mountain bikers riding in Waterdog, it disappoints and concerns me. Mountain bikers should be credited with some of the trail expansion and maintenance over the past few decades. I am not blind to the fact that there are some mountain bikers that ride with excessive speed and poor etiquette. I have also witnessed hikers and dog walkers that are guilty of poor etiquette as well. But in all my years riding and hiking in Waterdog, those folks are in the minority. Yet it appears they have the loudest voices. I think we all just need to get along, take a deep breath and remind ourselves of the beauty we have access to at Waterdog Lake Open Space.
- I was directed to this survey because apparently there is a small but very vocal anti-recreation group lobbying to limit access to open spaces by restricting bikes. Whether or not this is true, I'm hear to say how much I enjoy having these trails to hike and ride right in my backyard. I would also like to reiterate the PROS Guiding Principles of "equitable access" and "inclusion" and a reminder that people lobbying for restrictions go against those principles. Thanks!
- Please keep waterdog fully open to cyclists. It is one of the few local opportunities for mountain biking.
- Biking on the trails is one of the best parts of the open space.
- Biking is my daily exercises there after work for my coworkers and friebds. Please don't take it away. We have been courtesy to all hikers and trail users.
- I go to Waterdog Lake at least once a week -- love it!
- Open spaces should be available for mixed use. Waterdog park especially is a fantastic park for both biking and hiking and walking. Widening trails and increasing signage and safety information would be beneficial to everyone who frequents the park and would make the space safer and enjoyable for everyone.
- I love to mountain bike on your trails
- Access to mountain biking in waterdog is a tremendous benefit to everyone who lives from RWC to San Mateo - it's the only place like it and the only place many people can get to routinely. Really enjoy and appreciate the effort that goes in to providing such a luxury!
- Ensure an inclusive environment for all outdoor enthusiasts i.e. continue to allow mountain biking at Waterdog Open Space. We can all get along and respect each other's activity.
- Mountain biking deserves to have access to the fun trails in your area
- Please continue access to mountain biking at Waterdog!
- Please keep the open spaces open to biked and dogs
- Keep single track at waterdog open to mountain biking please
- Having Waterdog as an area close to home to introduce kids to mountain biking is invaluable
- Waterdog lake is spectacular, providing a place to mountain bike so close to home adds excellent value to the area, I would pay a day use fee or annual usage pass to keep the mountain bike trails open at water dog lake.
- Please keep open for mt bikes

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- I am strongly opposed to any project that allows mountain biking in natural areas.
  The truth is that mountain biking is an anti-environmental, destructive, industry supported, self-centered activity that creates destruction where it attempts to penetrate natural lands and the public trust. Unlike the misinformation from proponents of this invasion, it is clear to see this is an industry/bike association/single-minded advocate agenda to penetrate public programs, buildings, and natural areas for self-centered gain, whether it be corporate sales, association control, or self-centered thrills, all with undue pressure/influence on local officials and at the expense of unique treasures like local parks and natural venues. It is a strategy that plays out across the nation, poisoned by the mantra of the privatized radical individual as opposed to the common good and public trust. These spaces are meant for all of the people, not the minority of a few to pursue restricted single-use narcissist adventure. Open space parklands remain places of reflection and undisturbed connections with nature, among the diverse animal and plant life, terrain, and peace those things create. Objective national research documents the destruction that mountain biking wreaks on the environment as well as on people who want to pursue passive recreation. Despite their false P.R. promotional distortions, mountain bikers are only interested in their constant self-indulgent thrills at the expense of nature and people. It is only about themselves and their addiction, not about others, animals, birds, plant life, the environment, nature or anything beyond their myopia. It is a pathetic mutation of what makes us truly human.
  You must confront this intrusion and deny any use of the park for mountain biking or similar restricted-use disruptive activity. Do you as a city want to turn every park into yet another industry-lobbied sports complex? Parks and natural environments are not gymnasiums, race tracks, sports complexes, or circus adventure rides, despite the propaganda from the industry and IMBA bike association partners, replete with their websites, consulting, and talking points, a 21st century snake-oil medicine show.
  Do you really want the invasion of this destructive, dangerous, and restricted self-centered activity for a few with its consequent documented national history of future expansion, destruction, and danger to people (with permanent injuries and lawsuits against the city), or do you value something more: a place of reflection and connection with nature, others, and oneself, giving us our full humanity, nature's gift to us all for generations past, present, and future?
- More trails for mountain biking at water dog please!
- Waterdog Lake is a beautiful preserve. I'm an old, slow biker, and I love to ride from Crestview down to Alameda Las Pulgas through the park on the fire road. Please don't take that route away from us.
- thank you for allowing bikes. I loved helping build the lake loop in 2010. Though I didn't love all the poison oak I came home with!!! It's fun to see it being used as intended.
- Keep mountain bikes on trails at WDog.
- Waterdog and Hidden Canyon are full-on gems for mountain biking in the area. With some routine trail maintenance the area could be an amazing and sustainably built which may help address all the concerns that are being brought up around that recently. The mountain biking scene is known for being very interested in volunteering for trail building and maintenance (see santacruztrails.org) , but with little to none of these opportunities in Belmont Open Spaces where cycling is permitted, this creates much more of a cost/overhead to the parks department to do so and blame on the cyclists themselves.
- Keep them open to multi-use
- I currently live in Seattle and am planning a move to the bay area for a new job (we are still house hunting), and my wife and I were specifically hoping to be close to Belmont since it seems like a great neighborhood for our family, and because I love to mountain bike and I heard Water Dog park is a great place to enjoy the outdoors on a bike. I am also unable to walk for long distances on uneven ground due to knee troubles so a mountain bike is the only way I can really enjoy the outdoors. I was really sad to hear that the community is considering banning mountain bikes please reconsider banning what many people find as an important part of their life and ability to enjoy time outside in nature!
- Our family enjoy the hiking and biking trails.
- They are great as is. Dog waste is the only real problem
- Belmont open space trails are treasures by cyclists- please do not take access away. Cycling groups are historically some of the most active in maintaining trails and are happy to help their community find ways to exist with other use groups.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Bike access at Waterdog should continue... There are far more parks in the area that prohibit biking (Pulgas, Edgewood, etc) than allow it... Waterdog is special and the access should be preserved.
- Multi-use trails that allow my kids and I to mountain bike, hike. Hiking and biking with parents. Kids are progressing with bicycle skills and translating to everyday use.
- Keep Mountain Biking alive and well in Waterdog
- I love Belmont open spaces and would love to see more trails for hiking and mountain biking use! Thank you!
- Mountain biking in an incredibly sacred aspect of Belmont's overall culture, and remains an excellent form of exercise, connection with nature, and social activity that has transformed my life, as well as that of countless others. Limiting it or abolishing it entirely will simply bring many of your park and open space goers elsewhere, negatively impacting not only your reputation but also local economy. Further, mountain bikers have been responsible for much of the maintenance of their own trail systems, so why not let them continue a harmless act of community betterment?
- Belmont has amazing places to bikes and really helps the Belmont library with book-a-bike!
- I have been a home owner in Belmont for 31 years and have been an avid mountain bike rider and a Waterdog trail maintenance and trail creator with local bicycle stores for these 31 years. As a Waterdog mountain biker I have volunteered dozens of hours to park and trail maintenance.
- It's important to keep access to mountain biking
- Water dog is great for mountain biking and Carlmont is great for dirt jumping (on bikes). Kids and I love having access to those activities
- N/a
- I use Waterdog as a place I can ride my bike to keep up my cardiovascular health as I am unable to run so biking is less impactful on my body. I am in my 60's and enjoy riding my bike at Waterdog.
- Keep to trails open and accessible to everyone, except ebike riders.
- I love the biking availability in water dog and surrounding open spaces
- Allow bike access!!!
- With local friends, mtn biking in Waterdog has been the highlight of my year. It is challenging! Great for learning skills, fun, and small and accessible. I know of nowhere else in the Peninsula with it's varied and interesting terrain. I've learned a lot here and enjoy every visit. I do limit my visits to weekdays to avoid tthe higher use times. I've been impressed that most folk are courteous and happy! I have many fun places to hike, but none approaching anything like Waterdog for mountain biking. If you don't bike here, you may not realize what an incredible place this is for us.
- It needs more Mountain Bike Specific trails made for and by with input from mountain bikers. Skills development areas as well
- Please continue to allow full access to mountain bike riders in open space areas such Waterdog Lake Open Space. It is an amazing resource to have both an excellent hiking, biking and family friend space in the heart of the SF Bay Area. To lose its mixed use would be a terrible shame.
- With all that open space, we should add a mix use a disc golf course that shares space with the hiking/biking trails. Also, we should not limit the trail use further, especially at Water Dog. I have a back injury that prevents me from walking/running/hiking but I am still able to get exercise by riding my bike. Those trails (with their elevation) are very important to my physical health.
- Bike trails in Waterdog are amazing and have been well maintained by bikers for years, removing access to them would be a giant mistake.
- Waterdog is a vital multi-use open space that is enjoyed by mountain bikers, hikers, dog walkers and runners. We must keep this open space open to all.
- It is nice having multi-use trails for everyone to enjoy.
- Don't disallow the bikers to enjoy your open space areas
- Mounting Biking at water dog is a great asset and should be expanded.
- Please allow us to continue mountain biking at Waterdog, it has the best trails in the area and the community is great.
- Open spaces are for all people. Let's keep the trails open to all forms of recreation so that we can enjoy the outdoors as a community not as adversaries.
- Biking and hiking waterdog with my family has been a welcome respite during these particularly tough times recently.
- We visit Water Dog Lake all the time and feel very lucky to have this open space to enjoy and appreciate nature.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- It's so nice to have Waterdog nearby for mountain biking!
- Please keep access to all, and do not limit trail use.
- More trails needed.
- I mountain bike and I hike extensively on all trails in Belmont. This activity on these trails is the most important aspect of my personal health. I will be happy to volunteer to help preserve the trails for both activities.
- Beautiful trails that have been a so popular to mountain bikers for years. Easy to access for the local bike enthusiasts. Keep it open for people who enjoy the sport and healthy lifestyle by riding in open spaces.
- They are a treasure, between Water Dog Open Space and San Juan, the habitat seems to be thriving (aside from draught), and I think it is due to the sheer size. Can we talk to SF Water to remove fences to allow even better wildlife passage?
- Bicycle and running trails are super important and encourage outdoor exercise
- Please continue to support multi-use trails at all open spaces. Please also support eBike access. This helps the aging mountain bike community and as long as they obey speed limits should not be considered different than conventional bikes. Thank you
- Waterdog is a treasure for multi-use. The mountain bike community has had a great relationship with the city and community. Don't let a small vocal minority wreck it.
- we LOVE mountain biking here. please keep it open to us!
- I am in support of mountain biking at Waterdog. It is a valuable resource to provide access to mountain biking close to to where people live
- Penalties for people who don't leash their dogs.
- Waterdog is a great and safe place to mountain bike where I typically see families mountain biking together. Most fellow mountain bikers I cross paths with are friendly and courteous to other mountain bikers and hikers. We always give hikers the right of way. I've never seen any mountain bikers going unsafe speeds, especially since we know that it's a popular park for bikers and hikers at all times.
- I love mountain biking with my dad at Waterdog. Its an incredible space to get exercise and with so many limited options for mountain biking within city limits it makes this park truly unique. Please don't limit access!
- Glad we have them!
- The ability to ride my bike in Waterdog is one of the best parts about living in Belmont!
- Waterdog and Hidden Canyon are the best bike trail open spaces on the peninsula. They truly are amazing and world class trails. Please keep them the way they are.
- Strongly support mountain biking at Water Dog. This has been a wonderful activity for my family for years in a super safe and beautiful setting. IF we lost this there would be nowhere to go.
- As an avid hiker, jogger, and mountain biker, I've really enjoyed utilizing Belmont Parks and also open spaces such as Water Dog. Open spaces is one of the main reasons I moved into the area a couple years ago, and has absolutely been a god-send during the pandemic for me and my twin boys. I know there has been some brewing debate over whether to keep them multi-use or not, and I can say that this is critical to me. I hike/jog about 50% of the time, bike the other 50% of the time. In terms of trail etiquette, I've had run in's hiker to hiker as much as I've had biker to hiker, and even biker to biker. (Note: I've also been harassed twice by hikers while riding my bike!) My point is, it's mutual and we're all in this together. Volume is up bc of the pandemic, and I can only imagine nerves are frayed and people are bumping into each other more now (hopefully, we get back to a normal soon!). I think more posted signs with positive reminders of common courtesy, to mask up when around or approaching others, and just common sense rules of engagement would honestly go a long way! This, vs unilateral or one-sided decisions with long-term negative ramifications pitting one group vs another. I'd be willing to volunteer to man educational booths at the trail heads as well! Thank you!
- I think Belmont could use park rangers and/or open space patrol.
- keep access open to biking in waterdog. limit access to ebikes on all off-pavement areas.
- Keep and expand human powered mountain bike access
  Prohibit e-bikes on all singletrack trails and on most dirt trails
- Enjoy mt biking at Water Dog
- Family interest is high to support a bicycle pump track

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Waterdog Park is one of the very few mixed use open spaces available on the east side of 280 on the Penninsula, which allows mountain biking. This is an activity enjoyed on an inter-generational basis and is especially important for youth in the area that otherwise would be unable to get to more distant trails for biking. In my experience the trails are shared with other users courteously, and the mountain biking community has historically invested countless volunteer hours in creating and maintaining trails in the Waterdog open space. It is a unique gem on the peninsula for riders to enjoy mixed use trails with other members of the outdoor community.
- I as a minority love going to the park and feel even safer when I see young kids riding their bikes their.
- Belmont needs to expand its open space trail system making it accessible to bikes and hikers. A good way to create harmony between uses is designate trails one way and put up signage as a reminder to be courteous.
- Our whole family enjoys use of the open space, particularly the hiking and mountain biking at Water Dog. It's a great neighborhood amenity and one that should be open to all uses.
- I've been grateful to mountain bike in Waterdog for a number of years. It's a treasure for those "of a certain age" who now need E bikes, and can find few places on the peninsula where they are allowed. Please keep Waterdog Park E Mountain Bike accessable.
- Allow more mountain biking and electric bikes.
- Continued access to mountain biking is very important to me. I think that mountain bikers have been generally very involved in trail creation at Waterdog. I would be willing to help with trail maintenance, brainstorming about appropriate signage, etc.
- I love being able to mountain bike. Taking that away would severely impact my opinion of my city and home. There seem to be a few angry non-athletic types that are hell-bent on ruining life for the rest of us. Please don't take away an activity that my family is passionate about.
- Mountain bikers built and maintain those trails. Please don't limit them to hikers. We have always coexisted just fine. If necessary, we can make bike-only or hiker only sections of trails (there are spots we ride that they cannot walk).
- Waterdog is a great place to mountain bike and there aren't enough such areas in the Bay Area. It's okay to make trails one way if that makes folks feel safer.
- I would like you to know that inside Water Dog Open Space, there are premier mountain biking trails that have been shared with hikers for over 20 years. Trails such as Rambler, Elevator, Chaparral, John Brooks, etc. These trails should be kept as combined hiking, running, and mountain biking trails.
- Mountain biking needs to stay open at Waterdog. This is a great local resource and people have been riding there for many years. You would need to drive a long distance to mountain bike somewhere else.
- Water Dog and Hidden Canyon owe their origins to mountain bikers. Crowds during pandemic have made things a bit tighter with hikers. Pandemic will end. Biking's impact on mental health is huge and has driven bike industry shortages during the pandemic. We should be looking for ways to accommodate bikes and facilitate smoother hiker encounters rather than baning.
- Please keep Waterdog open to recreational use for hiking, running, and mountain biking. It is one of the few places to easily access mtn biking without a car. It's a gem for car-free, teenagers, etc.
- Please keep Waterdog open to all trail users please!
- We should be able to keep mt biking and trail usage for multi use as long as we maintain and care for them. Most mt bikers I've met are courteous and use proper trail etiquette. We can be a community policing/enforcing community in Water Dog.
- The park is an extremely valuable resource for the cycling community with very few local trails open to bicycles. Its a place where people can recreate safely after work on well designed trailed trails. There is also very little confrontation with other users because the trails aren't particularly dangerous or high speed and it is very easy to share the trail with others.
- Please distinguish between the various classes of E bikes when defining policies, class 1 E bikes should not be treated the same as class 2 and 3
- Please maintain access to mountain bikes! In face potentially expand the number of trails for mountain bikers.
- Cycling is very important to me, sharing trails with hikers and walkers and others is very important to me.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Water dog Park is a refuge from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives. Please maintain equal access for all existing trail users- hikers, jogger, mountain bikers, dog walkers. It is important to be inclusive, and have trails open to all.
- Cycling on the trails is a very important activity for many people. When I bike at Waterdog, I see lots of people showing up after work with their bikes to enjoy the trails, which is made easier by the proximity of their residences to Waterdog.
- Keep Waterdog and other Belmont Parks open to bikes
- Less adulteration of biking trails. you already force us to a 15mph speed limit and now you want to rip out anything that not flat or wheelchairr accessable.
- Please don't band mountain bikes. Its a large friendly community. Mountain biking communities and organization help build many trails, even hiker only trails.
- Please let mountain bikers be part of the priority when planning access and maintenance
- Mountain Biking at Waterdog is an essential activity
- Please keep open spaces all inclusive. Recreation and exercise of all types is extremely important. Waterdog is one of the few places to quickly get a mountain bike ride in near me, a vocal minority should not dictate access to an area that has been key to my health for so many years.
- Please do not close open spaces to mountain bikes. This would be a huge disservice to a large community. Instead I would focus on educating all trail users on etiquette, invest in smart trail design and increase volunteer opportunities for trail maintenance
- This is where my kids learned to ride mountain bikes, I hope this uniquely accessible land remains accessible to families on bikes.
- Keep WaterDog open for mountain biking. It's one of the major benefits of Belmont and a great location for outdoor biking close to home with no car travel required to get there.
- Ciprian/Dog parks are my favorite places to mountain bike. I also love the natural habitats. I wish there are more bike specific trails. The natural wildlife should not be disturbed by large gatherings or construction.
- Waterdog is a gem for bicycling.
- Keep Waterdog open to bikers
- Please don't limit or restrict mountain biking in Belmont.
- Waterdog is a gem and haven for mountain biking.
- Keep bicycle access at Waterdog trails!
- Please ban bicycles from all unpaved trails!
- They are for everyone, and I fully support MTB activities in those spaces.
- Trail conflict can be reduced with education so one side does not feel they own a space over another e.g mountain biker over hiker or vice Vera
- Let's keep trails for mountain biking - great way for kids to get moving and be outside. Waterdog is a gem of a park that is unique in urban settings
- Please keep Waterdog open space open to Mountain bikes. Mountin biking is a popular way of experiencing the bay area parks and open spaces. There a many Mountain bikers of all ages in the community and Water dog is a cherished park for us.
- Waterdog is valuable venue for mountain biking for older riders such as myself (56yo) due to proximity and to avoid driving to other peninsula preserved

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Waterdog is a gem. It is essential to keep the open space accessible for multi-use including mountain biking!
- Bike trails are great
- We appreciate single track riding in Waterdog Lake Open Space.
- Mountain biking is an essential activity to many of our families here in Belmont. It's crucial we continue to build and grow with our neighbors this active lifestyle of mountain biking.
- Same as above :)
- Belmont's Open Spaces are very rare and special to me because of their mountain biking trails. That is how I unwind, spend time with my young son, and spend time with friends and family. There are no other mountain biking options that I can ride my bike to.
- Open spaces like Waterdog should not be turned into a Nature Preserve and take certain activities away.
- The mountain bike trail access at Waterdog lake was one of the deciding factors when deciding to purchase a home in the area. It is important that we keep this trail open to all users!

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- It is important that we keep trails open to biking. It brings people from all over the peninsula to our town and helps businesses thrive in the local community. Whether it's to purchase bike related products, a meal and beverage after the ride or just running some errands in the neighborhood, mountain bikers contribute to the local community.
- Bikes make the open space a more friendly and lively environment. The more bikes the better!!
- I ride my bike about once a month in Waterdog. I ride there from Mountain View. I'm a strong proponent to keep Waterdog open to bikes, as it is one of the few areas where bike riding in an open space is permitted. I'm a strong believer in multi-use open space recreation, which mean walking, hiking, biking,... can all co-exist next to each other. However, each group should follow behavior etiquette rules, e.g. as a bike rider I'm always extra courteous to hikers. However, I also experienced that not all bike riders are like this, so there is need for education. As well as education for hikers, as I experienced very often that despite several announcement calls of me about to pass, hikers either move to the wrong side of the path, not move at all, or occupy the whole path. We all want to enjoy the open spaces, which means each side needs to stick to behavior rules, and respect each other.
- Please keep them multi-use (ie. allow MTB) and also allowing eBikes. Posting trail sharing etiquette signs will help but there's no need to ban MTB or try to turn Water Dog into something it never was (ie. some kind of nature preserve).
- Open Spaces/Parks should be inclusive of all levels of ability and all types of sports/activities/ exercise. Biking is a form of exercise for many people in our area and we need to maintain muti-use trails and respect different forms of exercise.
- I absolutely love Waterdog for hiking, trail running, and biking.
- We need mountain bike access
- Waterdog, Hidden Valley, and San Juan Canyon are all tremendous gems for the Belmont and surrounding communities. They allow for easy access to nature for exercise, reflection and provide an opportunity for us to introduce our children to nature and to outdoor exercise such as hiking and biking. It is wonderful that these areas are accessible to all trail users. My children love biking and hiking in Waterdog and it is great to have a safe, car-free area for them to ride and walk.
- The fact that hikers and bikers can share and get along.
- Please keep trails open to all users. My whole family enjoys Belmont's Open Spaces whether it's on foot or on 2 wheels. As one of the last places on the peninsula open to bicycles, it is up to Belmont to set an example of how multiuse trails can be a valuable asset to the community.
- The allowance of mountain bikes on this trail makes this open space treasured and a source of pride. To limit or eliminate bikes on trails due to a small number of users, relative to bike riding users would be grossly unfair and counterbalance the true user majority voice.
- Waterdog is one of the best Mountain Biking locations in the Mid Peninsula region.
- Please don't ban mountain bikes in any of the open spaces, especially Waterdog and San Juan Canyon.
- Please do not restrict Mountain Bike access in Belmont. Mountain biking is already over regulated on the peninsula and Belmont is a gem/privilege that we don't take for granted. Let's work together to maintain the land and keep the trails safe so that ALL trail users can enjoy the trail space.
- Please keep them Open to all multiuse activities, unlike Foothills park in Los Altos.
- My Family, Friends and I have been riding bikes at Waterdog and hidden canyon for a decade. It is a wonderful frail system that should stay open and friendly to mountain biking as there are very few locations like it.
- Multi use is important.
- Please don't ban biking, I love biking in Belmont. It has been a godsend during COVID
- Please preserve mountain bike access at Waterdog. Also engage mtb community to assist with trail maintenance. Ok to ban ebikes, or limit their use to specific trails.
- Mostly use Waterdog for family exercise with our dog and mountain biking. Enhancing this area for these activities are most important to us.
- Water dog park and the open space surrounding it is a piece of mounting biking history and brings the community together. Our local mountain bikers are very respectful of the land and maintain it better than any organized trail crew could. This park is known throughout the country for its mountain biking and must be protected.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- If you want to be inclusive, you need to allow mountain bike access. For whatever reason, there is a small but vocal group of people who seem to think mountain biking isn't a valid form of recreation, but we could not disagree more.
- Mountain biking in Water Dog Park is awesome! Let's keep it open for mountain bikes.
- Please don't restrict bike access to waterdog. There are very few nearby trails open to bikes.
- Water Dog is ideally situated to continue to offer some of the best mountain biking trails in the region. Mountain biking is a healthy form of exercise and should continue to thrive and expand in Water Dog.
- Leave Waterdog open to mountain biking. Maybe designate mtb specific trails and directions.
- Mountain biking in Water Dog lake park is my favorite use of the open space in Belmont.
- Belmont open spaces are important to local mountain bikers. Mountain biking needs an appropriate setting. Other activities that can occur anywhere/everywhere should not take priority over activities like mountain biking that need certain conditions. Please keep the cycling community in mind.
- I ride these too on my mountain bike that i recently got and am trying to improve there I don't go to any other places so I'm praying it doesn't get destroyed.
- There should be no changes to mountain bike use in Water Dog. It is a good mix today, and I use it for biking as well as hiking and see no issues with mixed use.
- Ppl to leash and clean up after their dogs.
- We mountain bike at Waterdog and more guidance would be nice. If we could have select trails where hikers yield to mountain bikers and also max speeds that would increase safety a lot. Community build days would also allow hikers and bikers to work together to maintain trails, taking some effort off of the city and park to do so.
- Please don't restrict bone access to waterdog. It's a great park and such a great place to ride. I have never had any issues there or seen any bad interactions between bikers and hikers.
- Keep Waterdog open to biking!!!!
- I really enjoy meeting with friends in the summer evenings to bike at Waterdog and then have dinner after in Belmont
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Do not limit mountain biking from Waterdog open space. There are very limited places for mountain bikers and this community should allow for different outdoor activities and not limit to only a few.
- Bikes are needed and the majority of people upswing open space are riding bikes
- Continue mountain bike access at waterdog
- I have health limitations and am unable to go on extended hikes. I am able to bicycle as long as I can use my electric assist bicycle. I hope to continue to ride at Water Dog and not have Belmont close it to me.
- Please don't restrict access for bikers! Biking is the one thing that has kept me (and many others) sane during the pandemic. Please maintain trail access for all users.
- Please keep this open to cyclists. Waterdog is an amazing place to ride and closing it to cyclists would crush so many people.
- More bike trails, or bike specific trails
- Mountain biking in Waterdog is a great location and form of exercise.
- I enjoy hiking and Mountain Biking at Waterdog mostly.
- Rumor is a group is trying to eliminate mountain biking in water dog. I've been a regular biker there since the early 90's it would be a shame to loose access to this wonderful place.
- Needs more mountain bike trails built by professionals.
- Keep Water Dog open for mountain biking!
- The mountain bike trails are very important to me both as a cyclist and hiker. I think keeping multi user access to the water dog trails is very important
- Water dog is a great resource for everyone. There is no reason to change current rules. Trails should CONTINUE to get shared by all.
- keep open, NO DEVELOPEMENT. You keep widening the trails for the bikers, you are turning nature trails into streets, Turn the open space into nature preserves.
- Nice open space
- It's my understanding the vast majority of trails in the water dog open space preserve were created by cyclists so it's frustrating to hear residence with more money are trying to curtail the use of these trails to cyclist. I'm disappointing the Belmont would entertain such a ridiculous Idea

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- I moved to Belmont because of the biking trails and it saddens me to see the hostility prevalent recently. I think the additional pressure of the pandemic has added to the numbers of users and we could all do a better job of being nicer to each other. I have a bell and I slow down for hiking groups and still get uncomfortable comments. On top of that, trails are getting wider and less fun. I think we could improve the situation for everyone by separating the user groups and allowing volunteers from each user group to take a larger role in trail maintenance and stewardship
- Please do not limit mountain bike access to Waterdog Open Space. Mountain bikers are great stewards and spend lots of time maintaining local trails.
- N/A
- Opportunities to recreate in open spaces is very important. Trail access must be equitable for different user groups including mountain biking.
- Mt bike riders have only one accessible place to ride in the mid peninsula, Waterdog/John Brooks. For years we have enjoyed this space without conflict, and have worked to maintain trails. During the pandemic, the use by hikers has increased resulting in some conflict, and apparently, a well funded group lobbying to prohibit mt biking. I urge the planning committee not to give in to this group and consider the long history of use and stewardship by mt bike riders
- We need to keep Waterdog as multi-use including cycling. It is the mountain bikers who volunteer and work on the trails, not the hikers.
- I recently discovered the sport of mountain biking and it is an amazing way to connect with the city as well as nature. I wish there were more opportunities to help trail building!
- Do not restrict mountain biking
- Please keep mountain bike access!!!!! It is a healthy option fort people if all ages!!!!
- Please respect the history of trails in waterdog/ hidden canyon areas that were created by mtn bikers with layout help from park rangers. Keep these trails open for mtn biking with no restrictions
- Keep water dog lake park bike trails
- Limiting mountain biking is a mistake. Mountain biking brings sustainable revenue and access to a significant number of Trail Stewards to assist in sustainable maintenance of trail systems.
- Waterdog is for biking! Don't let hikers take that away from us, it has been a biking spot for 30 years
- Please keep mouNtain bike acccess to water dog
- Mountain biking in water dog open space is a great way to get together with friends. Really glad it's so accessible from neighborhoods and workplaces in the peninsula.
- Maintain access to open spaces for mountain bikes! Safe, healthy exercise!
- Keep mountain biking at waterdog please
- Add more trail systems for bikers. Keep Waterdog park open for mountain biking and multi-use (walking, running, dog walking)
- I think mountain biking is a great sport that gets people of all ages out in nature and exercising. The sport is growing fast and is great for the community. Not just for health but and for the town economy. Lost of people visiting spending money
- Great local mountain bike area, good stress reliever for me after work
- N/A
- Waterdog needs to stay open to mountain bikers.
- Please keep mountain biking a part of Water Dog. There are so few accessible mountain bike parks in the Bay Area and this one is a rare gem.
- I love mountain biking!
- Please keep open to mountain biking.
- Keep mountain biking at waterdog, it's a gem!
- Water dog rocks! I have been riding Waterdogs trails on my mountain bike with friends and family for 15 years and enjoy that it is so close
- Multi use open spaces for hiking, walking, running, mountain biking, etc. are perfect.
- Mountain biking in Belmont open spaces is one of my favorite things to and that is one reason I live as close to Belmont as I can
- We love to Mountain Bike through Waterdog. It's just around the corner and a unique open space in the city.
- Belmont is best known for its mountain biking so why ban it?
- Mountain biking trails are amazing and I use them all the time and donate money and volunteer hours for their maintenance
- Keep it open to bikes including ebikes please! But ok having a speed limit if pedestrians feel unsafe.
- Watedog park is one of the few area available to ride mountain bikes (ebike and anonlogy) in Belmont only have had positive interaction with other hikers and bikes using the trails

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Most mountain bikers are hikers too, and we want to share these parks/open spaces! We always try to follow good trail etiquette and I've never had any issues with other Trail users. There are only so many parks and open spaces available for mountain bikes, it's important to protect ongoing access!
- Have more trails to mountain biking, it's a great sport, my son lost 15 pounds by doing mountain biking and he loves it.
- Reference the Mid-Pen policy for e-Bikes & people with mobility disability. Maybe have a small laminated placard (like handicap placards for vehicles) which can be attached to the handlebar of the e-Bike.
- I love the mountain bike trails.
- Great place to ride mountain in the middle of an urban area. It is a gem for trails and riding.
- Water dog is an amazing space for recreation. As an avid trail runner, hiker, and mountain biker, I appreciate it's proximity to my house - I can run and bike from my front door! I am in strong support of keeping water dog available to multi-use, it's an important asset to our community, and it drives people local businesses in the area as a result of it being a mid-week destination for trail runners, hikers, and mountain bikers
- Keep trails open to bikes
- Set the paths as one direction, like demo or skegs- it will keep riders and bikers safer using the trails together
- We need to keep these open to all activities. Recent limitation on biking and ebiking is excluding a large segment of Belmont residents. Open spaces should be accessible to all residents and all activities
- As part of the plan, I'd like to request that mountain bikers retain access, particularly at Water Dog. It's a beautiful area and provides mountain bike riders with a great way to get exercise and enjoy nature.
- I primarily use Belmont's open spaces while biking on the Peninsula. They're a treasured space and I value the ability to bike through open spaces like Waterdog. I believe we can both maintain access to Waterdog but also preserve its natural character.
- Please keep trails open to mountain bikes
- do not close the trail for mountain biking. this is discriminatory for people who live far from other available trails.
- Please keep the current multi-use purposes of trails and expand number of biking trails where possible.
- The effort to limit or bar mountain bikers from Waterdog Park is incredibly unfair to those of us who are responsible and considerate riders, and who enjoy and respect the beauty of the open space. I have been visiting the park and riding the trails since the early 90's. It is especially unfair to consider limiting access given that many of the trails were built by mountain bikers. Without them, the park trail system would not be what it is today. Perhaps the key is education and posting of "rules" that many long time riders are very familiar with — yielding or slowing for hikers, yielding to uphill riders, not riding in wet conditions, etc. We should all be able to share the trail system and do it in a way that is safe and enjoyable for everyone.
- Please keep access open to mountain bikes!
- Keep open to all users (walkers, dogs, cyclists, hikers, etc).
- More mountain biking trails would be nice.
- My whole family loves mountain biking at Waterdog! Fun spot... thanks!
- Strongly feel that bicycles should have more access to open space areas. During the pandemic there has been an increase in bicycle and this will continue in the future I believe.
- Keep building more trails for the youth they truly love getting out there.
- One of few places in the Bay Area that has easy access to mountain bike trails without long drive into the mountains. More communities should expand biking in these city parks for this reason and makes Belmont an area I would like to live in. Reduction of mountain bike access in Belmont parks would limit accessibility to those who do not have means (car/bike rack/etc) or time to go to more remote trail networks.
- I love being able to step into nature so easily!
- Keep and enhance all cycling opportunities including mountain biking
- Waterdog is a gem of an open space and to be able to ride my bike to mountain biking trails like these is a big joy in my life of fitness.
- Keeping trails open for hikers mountain bikers and pets is very important
- Waterdog is an absolute gem, including for gravel and mountain bike use. If anything, it would be great to further expand the number of trails for bike access.
- love Waterdog for mountain biking. Wish the Cross Country Trail was open to bikes.
- Keep Waterdog open to mountain biking and multi-use

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Water dog is truly a gem for the mountain bike community.
- Keep bikes alive
- Keep the mountain biking!
- Consider a Mountain Bike Steward program for open space to help educate and teach proper trail etiquette.
- Keep bike access to trails in waterdog park!!
- Waterdog park is one of the best mountain biking/running trail network around. Please keep biking available
- Really enjoy biking running and walking at Hallmark and Waterdog
- Love mountain biking at Waterdog. Please limit electric bikes.
- Love MTB at waterdog!
- We should allow for all activities for hiking biking and walkers. We all deserve an outdoor space!!!
- Water Dog is where I first learned to mountain bike, and how I made new friends in the area. I'm thankful that the city keeps this space open to bikes, and am happy to be a part of the volunteer maintenance group to help maintain the trails for all users.
- I would love to see an increase in Mtn bike trails throughout the open space. There are so many Mtn bikers and not enough space. All of our friends are into it and we have friends that come from miles around to ride with us. I think it's a great opportunity to drive business in Belmont, similar to Santa Cruz
- Biking in Waterdog is one of the great trails in the Bay Area. Please keep this open to all! Bikers and hikers together make it a great open space
- Waterdog is a gem amongst the peninsula, especially for it's unique accessibility to all groups from small children in strollers (lake road) to mountain bikes. This inclusivity is amazing.
- Keep Waterdog Open for Hikers and Mountain bikers. We've been riding, coexisting, and showing respect to each other for over 10 years.
- We love Waterdog! Keep it open for hiking and biking.
- love the mountain biking comraderie at waterdog open space, hikers and mountain bikers share the space quite nicely
- Mountain biking trails are popular and most bikers are considerate of hikers and walkers. More singletrack trails will help ease the traffic on more popular hiking/walking trails.
- Keep waterdog accessible to biking. It is just as important as walking.
- Biking at water dog has saved my sanity. As a new mother I was so grateful to have a place to mountain bike so close to home where I could exercise without spending hours apart from my baby driving to skyline. It has need a great place to walk after work and introduce my child to hiking and biking. It is something so special and unique (first drove from sf to bike back when I lived there) that not many communities have. With so many other hiking and jogging options I hope this park stays bike friendly.
- More information about mountain biking trails
- Do not limit trail use
- I only discovered Waterdog during the COVID shelter-at-home orders last year, and I am so thankful that this place exists. I have taken my family there for biking many times and it has helped to keep my family both physically and mentally healthy during this pandemic. In addition, when we visit Waterdog we also stop at the nearby Carlmont Village shopping area for lunch and coffee and I have started shopping at Belmont Bikes. Keeping Waterdog accessible to bikers and hikers helps Belmont's economy. With the pandemic, there are many new users to the open space and they need to be educated on proper trail etiquette, posted signs and outreach will help to keep it enjoyable for both experienced users of Waterdog as well newcomers to the benefits of Waterdog.
- Keep it accessible to everyone
- They are open to all people . Close enough to take my family on hikes and bike riding. And how to appreciate nature
- Please retain mountain biking use at Water Dog, it's the only area close to me that I frequent often.
- My wife and I really enjoy the mountain biking at Waterdog.
- It would be great to see expanded access to mountain biking and more mountain biking trails in Belmont's open spaces as that is our family's primary activity, and the primary use activity for many families that we know.
- Preserve multi-use trails
  Require all mountain bikes to use a bell on handlebars to announce their approach
  Ban e-bikes - too dangerous. No different than "lite" motorcycle

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Belmont Open Space has been a gem of a spot for access to mountain biking. As an avid mountain biker and a lover of the outdoors, I expect the trails to be remain as multi-use for all to enjoy. Mountain biking is not a crime. It is merely another form of outdoor activity.
- world class mountain biking. point of city pride
- Though many of the trails were built by and maintained by mountain bikers, Waterdog Lake is one of the few open spaces in the area where all trail users are welcome. We should resist the urge to limit use, however motor vehicles do not belong on the trails (E-Bikes). The trails are well built for 25-30 lb bikes, but not for 50-60 lb motorized vehicles.
- Keep access to mountain bikes. Engage the Mt. Bike community to build trails.
- Keep Waterdog available to mountain bikers. Do your share to provide space for riders. There are so many places for hikers already. We can all coexist easily.
- I'm a hiker, trail runner, dog walker, dad, and mountain biker. I've been doing all of these activities at waterdog for 20 years. Myself, and countless other mountain bikers have spent many hours working on these trails, going back to Passion Trail Bike days long ago.
  I feel like lately, perhaps with the increase in users since COVID, and the increase in the popularity of mountain biking, that people are angry every time they see a bike on the trail. I'm polite, and always yield to hikers. Many of these individuals are new to the outdoors and are unfamiliar with mountain bikes.
  Please don't let these people try to limit or end our use on bikes. Waterdog is one of the only areas around that allows bikes.
  Thank you for listening and thank you for the survey!
- I strongly support the use of bikes at Waterdog Park. My experiences with shared use on the trails has been positive.
- Water Dog / Hidden Canyon is one of the great peninsula MTB resources. There are very few local MTB trails anywhere on the peninsula that offer the same level of mountain biking challenge.
- Expand mountain biking access
- It's known in the peninsula as a mountain bike destination with friendly locals. Mountain bikers are known to be very active in maintaining the trails and keeping it beautiful
- Waterdog is a treasure and the mountain biking community gives back a great deal to maintaining the trails here. I take my family mountain biking here all the time and it's perfect for them.
- Mountain biking could be easily expanded and many volunteers/collectives would assemble to help.
- The open spaces are an amazing asset for all local residents to get out enjoy and the outdoors and some exercise. I have been mountain biking at the trails at waterdog park for 15 years and appreciate having this amazing space in my backyard. I find riders to be very thoughtful , respectively sharing the trails with all users. I have heard recently that a small group wants to restrict or completely prohibit mountain biking at water dog - that would be a mistake and unfair to a group that has been a good steward of the open space..
- Keep mountain biking in all open spaces. It is an activity many of us do frequently as our primary means of exercise.
- It is a great resource for mountain bikers, and I hope it stays that way. I am willing to help with maintenance, and I always make an effort to be considerate to hikers so we can all enjoy the space.
- For 25 years I have been riding mountain bikes in the Waterdog Open space preserve(back when the lake had waterdogs in it). I have spent days building permitted trails and have many riding friends who have done the same. It is the best urban mountain biking trails in the bay area located in our backyards. It makes me sad to think some would to take these trails, a lot of them built and maintained by many bikers, away from us. It also is a destination place. bringing many to support local restaurants down the street, not to mention our new bike shop "Belmont Bikes" which has made Carlmont shopping center a destination center itself. With the disappearance of local ice rinks, I do not believe we need to narrow our choices of recreation. There are many of us, why can we keep our choices of recreation open.
- Please do not close trails to mountain bikes.
- It's special because it is a multi-use open space. My family and I hike and bike there often.
- I love that I can walk and mountain bike right from my house and get peace and quiet, nature, exercise and a challenging ride. I see people using the trails for many different reasons and respecting each other and getting along.
- Waterdog Open Space is a valuable resource for me for after work bike rides.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- There needs to be more access mountain biking. Bike sales and purchases generate a lot of sales tax income. I don't like riding with the kids on multiple use trails and having to compete with hikers and horses. Biking deserves its own trail network and accessibility.
- Leave trails open for multi use!
- Have really enjoyed mountain biking at Waterdog with friends and would like to continue to come to Waterdog in the future.
- Please keep all bike trails and add more if possible. We need more trails to enjoy the outdoors and be respectful and responsible with nature
- Many Respectful Mountain Bikers visit Water Dog and spend time and money at Belmont due to the trails. Please do not limit Mountain Biking at Water Dog.
- Please preserve mountain biking at Waterdog Lake Park, it is one of the few easily accessible trail networks in the area for locals and its generally well maintained by volunteers
- Keep and maintain the mountain biking trails!
- I ride mountain bikes with my two sons multiple times a week at Waterdog. I work in San Carlos. My two sons go to school in Belmont. It is a fantastic open space that is close to home and work.
- Waterdog is a local treasure that has allowed me to get at least 5 non-active people out on mountain bikes and become nature people.
- Keep mountain biking at water dog
- Waterdog open space is a hidden gem! I often visit to bike and hike the trials either with friends or family (I live in Foster City). The trials must remain open to all.
- We love mountain biking here. Everyone enjoys nature a different way. For us it's biking. Don't take away my nature time.
- please keep Water Dog open to mountain biking
- Please keep them open to mountain bikes, it is one of the few places left to ride in the area.
- I've been riding my mountain bike at waterdog for about 5 years now. It's a great form of exercise and my friends and I are very respectful of all other hikers and bikers. In my opinion the bikers actually outnumber the hikers by a great margin and I think it's ridiculous that this small group of individuals think they have the right to close down the parks to all mountain biking. I see mountain bikers of all ages enjoying the trails and I hope to still be riding there for years to come!
- Waterdog is an amazing place. I use it once a week for a mountain bike ride with friends and it a highlight of my week.
- Mountain biking at waterdog is so much fun!!!
- Allowing mountain bikers at Waterdog is beneficial for the broader community. Mountain bikers maintain trails and look out for people/animals/nature in distress. Mountain biking promotes health and well being, and is a positive experience for young people. Without activities like mountain biking young people turn to crime, drugs and antisocial behavior.
- Please keep mountain biking open in belmont open spaces
- I wish there was more mountain biking allowed.
- I mostly use Waterdog to mountain bike and walk my dog. I would like to see the dog leash requirement a actively enforced. I would estimate that 4 out of 5 people with dogs on the trail have their dog off leash. At minimum signs should be posted that dogs must be on leash.
- Water dog is one of the best mountain biking trail systems on this side of the peninsula. It offers a rare opportunity for hikers and bikers to recreate in nature so close to an urban area. The outdoor recreation use here needs to be preserved so many can enjoy the wonderful trails.
- I'd like to advocate for safe mtn biking.
- Before taking drastic measures to appease minor, yet vocal, opposition to shared trail use, please consider small measures to increase awareness and respect amongst trail users. The term "stewardship" is a good one that the trail community has been using more regularly in the area. Trail users are, in general, all out for the same reason, and with respect and awareness trails can be enjoyably used by all.
- Try are great
- These are the only local mountain bike trails. Please do not take them away.
- The open space areas of Belmont are what makes Belmont such a great and unique place to live. Being able to run/walk/bike to one of the opens spaces is a great way to get outside, exercise, and spend time with the family. I don't understand the constant chatter about bikers/hikers not getting along. I'm out there as a runner, hiker, and biker...and I've never experienced any hostilities from either side in my 16 years of living here. It really baffles me. Most times is actually quite the opposite with everyone being polite and friendly to one another.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- I strongly support cycling at WaterDog. For the past 12 years I have frequented those trails with friends and family on our bikes for both fun and exercise. It's a great spot to ride to and enjoy the trails from the house without having to drive. I encourage the commitment to cycling at WaterDog and would love to see Belmont embrace an already strong base of cyclists in the area who enjoy this space.
- I mountain bike at Waterdog a few times a week and appreciate that I can get there from my home in San Carlos without having to drive! My son also learned how to mountain bike at Waterdog, as it has a wide range of trails for both beginners and seasoned riders, so it is a good place to learn and to improve! I love it and have been going there regularly for the past 15 years!
- Please maintain bicycle access to Waterdog Lake Open Space.
- We need more access for bicycling. More trails, and pumptracks. There are so few places to ride trails that everyone has to go to the same trails. More trails that are close to residential areas so people dont have to drive to the trail head. Please dont take away biking access from any open space. Open more trails please.
- Access for mountain biking is very important to me. I have lived here for 19 years and this has always been a safe and accessible recreation for me and my family. Please do not ban mountain biking at Waterdog. This has been a peaceful coexistence of hikers and bikers and everyone who enjoys the open space. I hope we can find a way to preserve access for everyone.
- As a family, we very much appreciate Waterdog and the biking/hiking available there. Thank you!
- Keep the legendary Waterdog open to mountain bikes. Perhaps not e-bikes though.
- Keep em open
- Biking trails are necessary in these areas, it's a great way to encourage fitness and bring communities together
- Waterdog is the best for biking! So grateful to have a biking spot so close to home.
- Mountain biking access is critical. Currently mountain biking in Waterdog area is a fantastic experience, which I have used for years. I have friends who live in Belmont and we all enjoy it. Restricting access due to a loud minority pushing an agenda would be a true disservice to your constituents.
- I'd love to see mountain biking eliminated at waterdog. I hate watching our trails keep being rutted by bikers in the rain muds.
- Continue to allow use by bikers, hikers and runners. Limit dogs
- keep open spaces open to mountain bikes
- Please keep water dog park open to bikes and prioritize trail maintenance and etiquette for all user types rather than closing anything down
- Please allow and expand mountain biking at water dog! Some hiking only trails combined with some biking only trails could work well.
- Waterdog is a special place for mountain bikers and families. Many places in the bay area have open space that safely and sensibly share the trails for riders, hikers, families.
- Water Dog Open Space is a wonderful place for mountain biking, one of the few on this side of the mountains, an even on the peninsula. It has the potential to be a wonderful mixed use area for everyone.
- I would really advocate for keeping mountain biking at Waterdog, it's great to have a local park where we can do this activity. (I"m a middle aged woman, and yes, I mountain bike too)
- The trails take continuous maintenance to prevent erosion and maintain rideability
- Mountain bikers are a vital part of the northern California outdoor community, and Belmont open spaces are a great opportunity for mountain bikers to access and enjoy nature.
- Mountain biking is Belmont's biggest draw for me. I usually get food at a local restaurant after rides.
- I love Waterdog for not only hiking/dog walking but mountain biking. I am disappointed to hear there is a vocal minority out there that is opposed to mountain biking/multiuse of this beautiful area. Unfortunately, having roots in the north bay this is not a new phenomenon to me but I guess I naively expected better from my peninsula neighbors. Please do not bow to these elitists.
- They are fantastic and let people enjoy them with as few restrictions as possible.
- Mountain bikers are respectful of the space. Please oh please don't limit our access. I beg of you.
- Waterdog has always been taken care of, and loved by mountain bikers. It needs to remain open for mountain bikers. More places to ride means less crowded trails, trails in better shape, and more opportunities.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Waterdog Canyon is an amazing resource and an absolutely beautiful place to escape the noise of hectic Bay Area life. I feel like the trails are well-maintained, though there may be too many - its quite the maze. Trail signage is not clear, and does not include a "You are here" indication. These trails should remain multi-use! There are so little biking trails, or trails that allow dogs - these activities need to remain accessible to residents.
- Please preserve, maintain and improve the mountain and road bike access to open spaces. The cycling community is a large part of the soul of the Penninsula.
- I've been My biking in Belmont open spaces for over 20 years and would hate to see this right be taken away
- due to the pandemic Waterdog is one of the places where I can easily maintain my mental health by MTbiking around. I'll be happy to help in maintain and restore the trails
- Waterdog Park is a relatively hidden gem and a wonderful resource for trail biking that was riding distance from our home in Belmont (unlike most places that are still legal to ride), and an easy ride from parking at shopping areas. The trails are a great place for riders of all ages to learn to love mountain biking without the risk and difficulty of the bigger places that still allow bikes, such as Corte Madera (aka Skeggs). When we lived there I, like many other cyclists, helped build and maintain those trails. There are so few places left to ride a bike in the woods in the Bay Area, particularly for relative novices or younger riders, and it would be an immense tragedy to close them to the cycling community, who care as deeply about experiencing nature as those who prefer to enjoy the trails on foot.
- Need to forbid mountain bikes as they are greatly damaging the trails and are very dangerous to hikers, especially the electric bikes. Way way too many bikers that do not live in Belmont are frequently coming to waterdog to bike. Most are going too fast and do not watch out for kids or hikers.
- I mt bike in Waterdog often as it's one of a few trails that is close to home (<20 min drive), but is one of the more enjoyable technical trails. A lot of inner city trails are dumbed down, i.e. Arastradero is paved now. There's no other nearby trails that offer similar experience to really being out in the mountains. It's easily accessible after work. I like going on Mondays when Off the Grid is scheduled. When I ride, I use a bell, Timber bell to be exact. This constantly alerts others that I am coming around the corner. I don't try to ride to set KOMs. I'm cautious about other trail users. My experience is riders hear the bell with no problem, even as they approach at speed. Hikers on the other hand, act like they don't hear it. They act surprised like they didn't see me, but they do, and they still don't get out of the way. I'm polite to stop and let them pass. I understand where they're coming from. There are other riders that are pure dicks who just want to ride for speed. But there are also ignorant hikers who aren't considerate to move out of the middle when others (riders or hikers) want to pass. I'm for signage to emphasize sharing the trails and proper etiquette. I'm also for promoting bells for all users. It would be nice to have 1 or 2 downhill designated trails for both hikers and riders to avoid approaching traffic. I think this may help all have fun. And if they're having fun, maybe they'll consider pitching in to maintain the trails like some MTBers do. I don't see hikers pitching in.
- Having Waterdog trails built for multiuse over the past few decades has been a wonderful use of this space. I mtn bike for over 30 yrs, so I love having trails.
- Local MTB access is crucial! It is one of the greatest amenities of Belmont's park/open space system.
- Would ask not to remove mountain bike access. There are so few legal trails and with the sport's growth in popularity and helping people to get outdoors and exercise, removing access would not be a good answer. Would suggest for multi-use setting up days for different activities. For example, odd days are for hiking and foot traffic, even days for bikes.
- We love open spaces. Spaces that are open to all uses.
- We have plenty of accessible preserve space in the region. I want to see Belmont continue to use Waterdog and its associated areas for outdoor recreation, particularly biking.
- Bike trails are great
- Mtn. Biking should be open to trails in Water Dog open space. Do not limit or ban biking.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Please do not reduce multi-use trail access particularly for cyclists. Trail maintenance, education, and etiquette guidance are ways for multi-activity users to coexist well and keep trails in good condition.
- Keep mountain biking
- Keep bicycle access in all parks
- Maintain bike access at waterdog
- Mountain bike trails are great. Thank you!
- Belmont Open Spaces must be designated as an Open Preserve.
- All trails currently open to mountain biking need to remain that way. We bought a home in Belmont for access to these mountain biking trails
- There's no perfect world for anyone, we all want to enjoy the open space and may do so through different activities. Mutual respect and helpful resources to facilitate everyone's enjoyment seem the best way to address concerns from distinct groups
- nothing, i love you guys man
- Do not make rules about open space access that are more restrictive than current. A vocal minority does not represent the current users.
- Water Dog is one of the nicest Mountain Biking areas on the peninsula, especially mid-peninsula. I've been riding at Water Dog Park for 10+ years and have never encountered an issue with other riders or with hikers. Both coexist very well. It would be an absolute tragedy if mountain biking was to banned. I see all ages and ethnicities riding the park.
- My primary use of Belmont's open spaces is to mountain bike and is the sole reason I visit Belmont. While I am in town I purchase fuel, shop, and visit restaurants.
- I want to encourage the continued shared use of open spaces allowing cyclists, hikers, e-bikers and others to coexist as they have for the 15 years I've lived in Belmont. Bikers at Waterdog have organized and have helped maintain trails for over a decade. New generations of kids growing up in Belmont love to cycle and are taught to be respectful of others. Allegations of conflict/accidents with hikers or environmental degradation aren't based on facts. Helping everyone coexist by creating etiquette guidelines and signage and encouraging bells on bikes, discouraging headphones on everyone, etc. could be helpful, but after riding for 15 years I feel confident in my many interactions that we are all able to share our resources happily.
- Keep them open for bikes
- It is critical to maintain unrestricted mountain bike access to Waterdog Park. It's one of the few excellent areas to ride on the Peninsula.
- Waterdog is a premier biking location in the area and it is critical to a bunch of us to keep it open to biking. I wear a bell on my bike and am always courteous to pedestrians. Please keep biking options open on trails.
- Please continue to embrace mountain biking it is the beat way to get the youth invested in preserving and loving nature while involved in an exciting activity
- Mountain bike advocates built the trails in Waterdog and should not be restricted.
- I really enjoy mountain biking in the open space on the weekends. It's one of my favorite things about living here. As a father of 3 it's an amazing amenity for our family.
- Please continue to provide trail access for mountain bikes. Trail access is very difficult to come by in the Bay area without having to drive a car to it. Cyclists can ride to Waterdog Park from their homes and ride trails. This is better for our society's collective carbon footprint.
- Mountain bike trails and access are very important to the community - I have ridden at Waterdog as a youth as mountain biking started in the 1980's - this is an important open space that is important to the community and a mountain biking community that maintains trails the park and other members equally.
- belmont was an amazing place to come mountain bike after school growing up. i'll never forget the bonding my father and i were able to have on easily accessible trails. one of the benches now resides in his name, and i come back now and again to visit him and remember. if you were to remove mountain biking from this place, i would loose a part of my family
- Waterdog Park was instrumental in the development of my love of mountain biking and building a strong community of bike friends.
- Keep mixed use! Do not restrict bikes.
- As I age my ability to enjoy the outdoors becomes more limited. In particular, I cannot walk for more than about a mile... but I can ride a mountain bike a much further distance and this allows me to continue to enjoy the outdoors. I'm very much opposed to limiting access to mountain bikes because it limits my ability to enjoy the outdoors.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- I've been riding Belmont's open spaces for the past 20+ years. It is an amazing place in my back yard. Please do not change that.
- Wonderful
- We LOVE biking the trails in Waterdog.
- Rare to find this in the bay and in particular, so amongst the neighborhood
- The open spaces are an excellent way to be in nature and to exercise either through mountain biking, running, or hiking. There's plenty of space for all and they NO impact on the environment.
- I love the open spaces and get most of my weekly exercise and some of the family exercise there too. The number of loose dogs in Waterdog is a concern though, many owners have them off-leash on the trails, scaring wildlife, causing near encounters with bikers and scare kids that might not be comfortable with large loose dogs up close.
- We love mountain biking at Water Dog! It is where my son learned to ride trails. It is a treasure and it's shared use should be preserved.
- Keep the bureaucrats out of the park
- Its extremely important to keep access to a wide variety of uses. Limiting our Open space to fit the needs of a minority of users will hurt our community.
- Waterdog Lake is my favorite place to mountain bike, locally. It's amazing. Hours and hours of volunteer work have made the place a wonderful (MULTI-USE) playground.
- I like to ride my bike at Waterdog Park frequently.
- Please keep water dog open to all users who use it right now. Bikers, Hikers, Dogs, etc. Improve it, do not go backwards.
- Mountain biking saved my mental health. Please keep water dog open for bikers
- Keep Waterdog accessible to bikers!
- Expand into more spaces if possible and connect them
- Mountain biking is a huge economic boost. Please take advantage of its massive growth over the last few years and it's huge potential.
- Love mountain biking at waterdog, it is the only reason I go! Best place to do it. Please continue and expand use
- I love water dog lake park for its mountain bike trail! It is the only place I can ride after work and is a wonderful place to ride. I've only had positive interactions with other trail users and would love to keep that access or even expand it!
- Love to hike and bike in water dog park. It is great to have such a nice open space so close to home.
- I have built trails and mountain biked Waterdog for the last 20 years. Waterdog is an important mountain biking destination and most of the trails exist because of the hard work the mountain biking community put in there. I do hope that this plan will continue to allow access to this great local resource to the mountain biking community.
- Please keep Waterdog open space open for bikers. It's is a place my family and friends use for exercise and learning the sport of biking. The trails are challenging and a great learning environment.
- Leave for the mountain bike riders.
- Waterdog Openspace is one of the best opportunities for outdoor recreation on the peninsula, and since the recent resurgence of volunteerism (and Belmont Parks collaboration with volunteer groups) it's gotten even better. For all the negativity I've heard in the townhalls and public meetings I've never had an _actual_ negative experience while recreating in the park (aside from the occasional Poison Oak rash). This space is well loved by residents and visitors alike and should continue to be an example of open space land stewardship to the whole bay area.
- Hikers sometimes walk in very large groups
- Waterdog is a gem
- Keep mountian bike access at water dog
- Water dog lake park should continue letting mountain bikers ride the trails, it's the best trail system around and a great workout for all and it's very easy to ride for all ages
- Keep cycling in Waterdog open. it's fun and accessible for those of us on the Peninsula and in Belmont.
- Walkers and mountain bikers have been coexisting and sharing trails in Waterdog park for many, many years. I strongly support continued shared use of all trails in Waterdog.
- I love Waterdog! I am a mountain biker and I have taught other women how to mountain bike at Waterdog. It's fun, easy to get to, beautiful, challenging, safe, friendly --- I just love it.
- Bicyclists are committed to maintaining and improving trails
- I am thankful these spaces remain protected and will not be developed into more housing
- Really enjoy the Waterdog trails, Hallmark cross country course
- It's important to maintain equitable access for mountain biking in Waterdog Park

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- I love mountain biking at water dog. We selected our home to be within riding distance to the park. Never had an issue with people walking or walking myself. Please don't ban.
- I love mountain biking at Waterdog. Please continue to allow mountain biking.
- My main reason for visiting Belmont is to mountain bike at Waterdog. It's extremely valuable to have great trail access in such an accessible location. I regularly visit by myself, with other friends and with my family.
- mountain bikers are generally courteous - and great citizens of the park and open space- maintaining trails etc
- mountain Biking in open space is very important to me.
- What are plans to expand biking opportunities?
- Please keep mountain biking.
- Please keep WaterDog open to Mountain bikes, thank you!
- We love what we have. We want to keep multi-use trails multi-use and inclusive. There are a few bad apples out there who make it their mission who if they had it their way would want it only for Belmont residence and not make it multi-use or severely limit the multi-use aspect to the point it would add no benefit for those other multi-use groups.
- Open spaces are one of the reasons we chose to live in Belmont. Waterdog and San Juan are fantastic multi use spaces that we use every day for dog walking, biking and hiking and the space is unique and should be preserved for use for everyone and for all activities
- I've been responsibly riding my mountain bike in Belmont Canyon for 15+ years. I ride the trails 1-2x/week. I've never once witnessed any bad behavior from anyone, quite frankly. I'd be happy to testify on this point at any open public hearing.
- I taught my two daughters to ride their bikes at Waterdog. They love riding on the trails. They love to do "bikenics" where we ride and then picnic.
- Mountain biking is a key activity that needs to be preserved.
- Are you going to add any new trails for riding and hiking at Water Dog Park?
- For the past 20+ years I have enjoyed the open space in Belmont. Specifically Water Dog and I continue to travel 40+ minutes to go there and spend time Mountain biking and going to parks with family and friends.
- 'Love waterdog' is great outreach
- It would be really great if we could have something like the Pulgas Open Air Reserve where a portion of the trails are open for dogs to be off-leash.
- Water Dog Lake trails are great for walking but don't like all the bicyclists as a safety issue.
- Few parks in the Bay Area offer a large, open area for an organized group such as ours.
- A couple friends have asked me to speak out to continue allowing bikes at Waterdog. I think mixed use is OK but more signs about etiquette and trail speed would help.
- The best way to stay updated on activities/ events in the open spaces?
- We love the open spaces. They are worth investment!
- More trails would help disperse trail users.
- More mountain bike areas please.
- Dog waste receptacles are much needed for Open spaces where dogs are allowed with weekly pick-up of waste.
- Great places
- They should be protected from erosion by constant creation of accessory roads for bike riders
- Why did you let these trails become almost impossible to hike on? With proper maintenance and usage these parks could be beautiful.
- I don't go too often but I love and strongly support mountain biking in Water Dog. I am sad to see gradual erosion over the sixteen years that I've been visiting the park... I'd support the city putting a bit more resources into repair and maintenance of the trails.
- Ongoing developments at Waterdog.
- More signage and safety precautions would be helpful as preventive measures. As I stated, "Three Witches" is a section of concern as well as other areas with exposure. The reason for my concern is that while people seem more aware on the trails now (an improvement), there still are people that don't pay attention. I continue to use a Bell and yell "heads up" when I approach blind areas, while people thank me for the warning, I do notice people who wear earbuds and are still not paying attention. Luckily my antennas are always on high alert and I anticipate issues out of concern for my safety and others. However, I think it's inevitable that if this is not addressed there could be some serious injuries.
- How do I learn more about plans for the donated land within Upper Lock and Belmont Canyon Rd? Is this being considered for an Open Space?

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Same as above but even more so: better left alone in natural (rugged) state like its been forever than developed with facilities that bring increased regulation and encroachment.
- I strongly support mountain bike access in Belmont's open spaces. Waterdog Park is a great place for weekday riding in the Bay Area.
- Special resource that are vital for residents and local community.
- Bike lanes need to be improved along Ralston and parts of alameda. It is dangerous riding along Ralston to get to the bay trail or to the middle school.
- We love Waterdog but the bikes can be a nuisance for hikers. Would LOVE a pool and indoor basketball court at the new Barrett Rec Center!
- I also really appreciate the city's open spaces - they are incredible and were a huge factor in me moving here. I most often hike, run, walk my dog, and ride my bike in Waterdog/ Hidden Canyon. I believe expanded signage would go a long way in making the spaces more enjoyable for more people. I also advocate a restriction against any sort of motorized bikes (including e-bikes) in the spaces. Lastly, I would like to see extended use hours for the open spaces. I would enjoy being able to have a picnic dinner with the sunset from the top of Waterdog.
- Being able to walk from my home to playgrounds and open space areas is a big benefit of living in Belmont
- I would like it if there could be set hours for hikers and other hours for bikers on the Waterdog-Hidden Canyon trails, or have differentiated trails. The trails are so narrow and winding that it is hard for hikers to step aside to let bikers go by, even though the bikers have been very courteous and alert.
- People are and have always been friendly on the trails and I'd like to keep that atmosphere above all else.
- Belmont's open spaces are small and surrounded on all sides by development. There are dedicated, large nature preserves within minutes of either of the open spaces. Trail users of all types have gotten along on the trails here for 20+ years without incident and households / families rely on having a safe place within riding / walking distance where they can be in nature getting some exercise. There are plenty of opportunities to expand the trail systems at both parks to accommodate more users while keeping the 'wild' flavor of the parks that make them so fun and popular. The primary thing diminishing my enjoyment of the open spaces is the small group of activist agitators who have made turning the open spaces into hiker-only nature walks their cause. Whatever happens with the PROS plan, I hope that the City will finally clarify the future of the trails system so that we can either rest easy and continue enjoying the parks, or move.
- Belmont needs more bike lanes on roads connecting our parks.
- Belmont needs a good safe connection from upper Ralston (by Fox and Ralston Schools) to the rest of Belmont (Alameda, El Camino, 101). If there was a safe route for biking that connected all of Belmont it would greatly improve the use of Open Spaces.
- I'm tired of the complaining from the same 3 people about mountain bikes in Water Dog. My condolences to city staff and commissioners, that you have to listen to them all the time! I have been hiking in Waterdog weekly for 14 years and have had 1000 positive interactions with bikers and maybe 1 negative one. Bikes are not the scourge that these people seem to think. Please keep Waterdog open to bikers.
- I would like to know that Belmont values MTB recreaction and will keep the trails open.
- Please keep them safe and cared for... have and hold clean up days for the community - we will get out there and at the end serve ice cream ot something...
- Same as above
- Please keep trails open to bikes. My main usage is biking, the trails are great for it, I worry this will limit access to trails on bike.
- Not enough space. Looks crowded at time. Full of wood chips. Which could give a splinter
- Water dog is by far the best mountain biking experience available without using a car to haul my bike somewhere
- I love that dogs are allowed at Water Dog, thank you. I would be interested in volunteering to help with that space.
- My husband and I use open space trails 1-3 per week. Current signage needs immediate attention due to either missing or unreadable signage. We are often letting other hikers know where to go since trails aren't clearly marked. Along with trail markers, trail area maps in key places would also be helpful to navigate.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Concern over the health of Water Dog Lake . It seems to continually draining water yet it was used as a water source for a fire in the San Juan Canyon in 2020. I have been unsuccessful in finding out any information on the Lake. Thanks
- I suggest to prohibit biking in Waterdog trails in the winter or when it's wet. Tire tracks tear up the trails.
- I bike waterdog several times a week. I love it there!
- We LOVE the open spaces. Please do not develop them with artificial structures and continue to preserve nature.
- Trails are in terrible condition due to neglect and biker activity. Not safe hiking in Water Dog.
- fix/upgrade existing open spaces, especially Hallmark park.
- San Juan canyon trails have been over used and not well maintained- and people keep making new ones. Please let nature and animals live here- we've already had to deal with the new construction of houses - and have significant decrease in animals and foliage over the past 5 years. It's very sad. In addition, fire departments are using sugarloaf mountain as training and absolutely demolished the trails last summer. I know that's not Belmont open space but it connects to it and is same canyon.
- We are appreciative of the many trails and options in Waterdog.
- Bicycles are dangerous to us. I can't afford to get hit. Jumping out of their way is also risky. Motorized bicycles should be banned obviously; they travel faster and are heavier. Ideally bicycles would be banned on certain days so we could walk safely.
- Please, please, please. Leave the open trails as they are. Do not change anything. Let us all share them! Mountain bikers, people who go for a walk, to exercise and to be by themselves. Stop bugging bikers. We should be all nice to them and to each other and share all the roads
- Obviously, my central concern is with the damage done by biking in the last two years. It is severe at Hidden Canyon/Waterdog and the park and rec people refuse to recognize this. We have attempted to make our concerns known to NO avail. Instead, the city has over-accommodated bikers. Please leave nature preserves for walkers who do not damage the area or wildlife. No other municipality allows such destructive use on their nature trails. Many hikers have stopped walking in the Western Hills area because of the bikers, including myself and I live on Carlmont Drive! Most bikers also come from outside the community and don't care what they are doing to the trails and wildlife, or what they do to the general feeling of peaceful and sustainable open space, which has been impacted negatively by their presence. Open space in the Western Hills has thus become inhospitable to hikers. It is important to note that the bikers are almost exclusively male, between 20-40, which is a very small, select group that leaves everyone else out. Yet still Belmont parks & rec caters to bikers more than other users of these trails by making it easier for bikers to park, clean themselves and their bikes, and so forth. Bikers also often ride in packs, which is even worse on the trails than single riding, and their yells and general clamor destroys the peaceful ambience of natural spaces, not to mention making the trails dangerous for walkers. I watch big trucks with multiple bikes in them, as well as groups of bikers, go up and down Carlmont Drive all day long on their way to and from the Hidden Canyon area. Bikers run on and over large rock outcrops destroying them, they've made the meadow into a sand trap gutted with erosion and wheel tracks, they create an unfriendly environment for wildlife, which has caused wildlife to leave the area, and they create deep ruts in trails that make it hard for walkers to navigate. I've also seen bikers spraying pesticides on poison oak along the trails. I've watched as bikers do "pump track" exercises in the open meadow (in groups); I've even seen them bring into the meadow pump track ramps to use for this purpose. And yet walkers' concerns about these issues have been completely ignored by parks and rec over the past two years. Indeed, we have even had a serious problem with bikers at night in the hills at Hidden Canyon. Police have been called many times but nothing is done. The biking situation has become outrageous and even tragic for the natural environment. Many of us feel that our environment has been badly treated and our concerns about this are not only unheard by Belmont city government but actively thwarted. At Hidden Canyon the parking lot is widened for the big trucks the bikers drive in, a bike cleaning apparatus is erected, and an ugly outhouse is stationed at the trailhead for bikers who assemble there in large groups--groups composed of all men of a certain age. Early evening at Hidden Canyon often finds women hikers having to walk through a crowd of men stripping themselves of their sweaty clothes after biking as they gather in

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

pseudo parties around their trucks. Meanwhile, there has been no attempt at rejuvenation of Hidden Canyon's ruined areas. Whose open space is this?
- More trails would be nice
- Water Dog park is an excellent place for hikers and bicyclists. Trail etiquette signage would help both users be more considerate to the other.
- Please preserve, and ensure accessibility.
- Need to keep Waterdog park open to mountain bikers and invest in maintenance.
- Are there nature talks for all ages!
- They are hidden gems. Need better signage (there was none in San Juan). Good thing I printed out a map before I left home, but I still wasn't quite sure if I was going the right way.
- Waterdog and Hidden Canyon are one of the few local open space where locals can mountain bike. Mtn bikers and hikers can co-exist and I have always found the interaction friendly between the two. Please keep these open spaces open to biking.
- I love Belmont for its trees and open spaces - keep them!
- They should stay based in nature and not be expanded into big attractions with a lot going on all the time. Being so close to nature is incredible and should be treasured.
- More multi-sport paths for bikes
- They are great
- They provide a wonderful resource for my kids and I to mountain bike. Unfortunately there are few legal options for narrow trail riding in the Bay Area. It's nice to have these so close by and accessible to everyone. It would be a loss to the bay area if cyclists were excluded from even more of our open space.
- I like the suggestion of guided hikes/interpretive hikes. Need to do a better job in marketing the open spaces. So many people not even aware it's there.
- Access to excellent mountain bike trails is so essential for promoting personal and famil health and wellness, while also promoting community and environment-preservering transportation.
- Need more bike trails
- The mountain bike trails need more work
- The trail bikes are out of control(dangerous) At Water Dog Lake there are too many off leash dogs(sorry)
- Keep bike access to Waterdog
- more signage on trails, more permanent restrooms
- Please continue to allow biking access to Waterdog.
- please continue to allow mountain biking in water dog park. it is the only good place to ride this side of skyline rd.
- Should accommodate all users. Should increase trails to accommodate increased usage. It is a false choice that we can have recreation or nature but not both.
- Please do not remove mountain bike access to Waterdog. Absolutely the wrong decision and would severely limit close mountain bike access.
- Kicking mountain bikers out of Belmonts open spaces will merely encourage illegal trails, as well as alienating a large user class who frequently performs maintenance on said trails.
- Bike trails bring more business to the area.
- Waterdog is the only place I can ride my mountain bike without having to drive. It's one of my favorite things to do after work.
- Improve mountain biking trails and access.
- Please keep open for biking! It is an important part of our lives for so many of us.. Thank you!
- Please keep Waterdog bike accessible.
- I'd like for you to maintain or expand cycling access.
- Mountain biking is a wonderful, healthy, fun way to get outside and enjoy nature. Mountain bikes and bikers can coexist wonderfully with hikers etc. on mixed use trails.
- Waterdog open space preserve trails are fantastic. There are no other trails like them that are so easy to reach. I used them when I worked in San Mateo county - I was able to bike to them from work. I still visit them regularly from San Francisco. They are well built, interesting, and pack a great ride into a small distance. Signage could be improved - they are a little confusing at first.
- I love being able to make a quick escape and go for a quick mountain bike ride in Water Dog
- Water Dog is the rare open space where cyclists can actually ride their bikes to and from the trail head, it's a unique gem and should be open to all users to enjoy safely and responsibly.
- Keep trails open to mountain bikes! Mountain biking is not a crime!
- As a mountain biker Belmont's got one of the few mountain bike accessible outdoor spaces that doesn't require many hours of driving. It'd be a huge loss losing that.
- Please keep mountain bike access!
- Please keep the trails open for mountain biking at water dog
- Do not restrict mountain bikes!

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Add bike only directional trails
- Accessibility for bikes and mountain bikes
- I love biking through Belmont's open spaces.
- I enjoy occasional trips to Waterdog to go mountain bike riding. It is a fantastic area for riding. Maintaining and even expanding access for mountain biking is a good goal to have.
- Best part about the parks + open spaces is the range of people who can use them, and the varienty of things for which they get used
- Biking is an important community activity
- Bicycling at Waterdog is a great local resource for the surrounding communities. I believe with the proper park support and signage that bicycling at Waterdog can be safe and respectful to all user groups.
- Please maintain full bike access to Waterdog
- Please keep things bike friendly.
- Please do not remove mountain bike access to Waterdog! We can all share the trails and get along.
- Waterdog is a wonderful place, and I think with proper etiquette we can all share the trails. I would love the opportunity to give back to the place I enjoy by volunteering for trail work days.
- We frequently use the open spaces that are available for cycling that's separate from traffic and have had nothing but polite and respectful interactions with other hikers and wildlife. Would greatly appreciate keeping this space available for current and future generations of cyclists.
- These are unique biking trials in the Bay Area that make weekday rides accessible without having to travel all the way to state parks. It'd also be useful to have designated trail directions, or alternating biking/hiking only days.
- I love the open spaces especially the opportunity's for getting out and exercising via mountain bike riding! I would love to see more trails!
- Keep water dog open to mountain bikes
- I ride the trails here regularly from my home. It would be a huge loss to not have trails which can be accessed by bicycle.
- Please keep open spaces available for mountain bike use
- It is extremely important to me that Waterdog Park is not closed to mountain bikers. Waterdog is one of the only mountain biking locations on the northern peninsula, and if bikers are not allowed there it will no longer be possible for me to exercise before or after work. Riding at Waterdog is a cherished and treasured activity for me and I love having the ability to mountain bike close to my home.
- Keep access for mountain bikers!
- Limit use to sundown.
  Provide trails for mountain bikes riders
  Widen trails
- We need more active bicyclist, mountain biker trails. Mountain biking is quickly growing and the community needs more places to ride.
- We moved here for the open spaces for kids but are disappointed in the condition. Bikers make trails unsafe for kids, environment is damaged so the only lesson we teach the kids is how humans are thoughtlessly hurting the earth.
- Improved bike access (for ebikes and regular bikes) to and in the open spaces would be fantastic!
- Keep mtb trails in water dog
- Mountain biking is fantastic, not many towns have similar trails in close proximity.
- Bike access on trails is an amazing resource, restricting this would be a serious loss for the peninsula. Waterdog is the reason I visit Belmont.
- Do not close waterdog trails to biking! Designate them as mixed use.
- Please do not remove access for bikes. It is a great way for people to exercise while spending time with friends and family. Many of us use timber bells which switch on and off to let people know of their presence on the trail. This isn't to get the right away, but to make everyone feel safe. Knowing someone is coming your direction far ahead of time helps everyone have a safe experience out there. I wouldn't even want e-bikes banned since i see many people in their 50s and 60s on them having a blast. They are not blowing past people being unsafe. e-bikes allows them to make the climbs they can't otherwise. This also allows them to spend time with grand kids and younger family members while bonding in a hobby/sport they enjoy
- Keep access open for all activities. I may not bike but I want bikes to be able to use open spaces.
- Belmont's Waterdog Lake park is a gem for the Peninsula. Keep trail access open to all users, including bikes.
- Expanding multi-use access would encourage more people to get out into nature, thereby fostering better health, a better sense of community and more appreciation for nature within Belmont.
- Please keep Waterdog open to mountain biking and preserver the single track trails.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Mountain Biking in Water Dog and Laurelwood is something I cannot live without.
- I've always felt that different trail users (hike, runner, cyclist) get along very well in Waterdog. I don't always have the same experience in other locations. I think users really value what Waterdog Open Space provides.
- Being able to take kids to ride mountain bikes at Waterdog has been super rewarding for both myself and seeing the kids grow. I'd be very sad to see this option removed and one avenue for teens to get out disappear.
- The Open Spaces are a wonderful treasure. They provide excellent opportunity to get close to nature right in an urban backyard. In the many years I've been visiting the Belmont Open Spaces I've encountered nothing but pleasure and fulfillment, both in terms of my ability to enjoy the space and my interactions with other users. Other than keeping up with maintenance (and adding a trail here and there) I wouldn't change anything. Even the "unofficial" trails are excellent and I wouldn't remove them. When making decisions please keep in mind these are city Open Space, not a Wilderness Preserves.
- I love Waterdog, but I no longer walk or run there because I'm startled by too many mountain bikers. If there some trails that were exclusively for hikers, that might be helpful.
- See note in "other" for number 8.
- More trails would be great. And more trail signs/ maps around hidden canyon and water dog lake.
- Love Waterdog for mtb
- There are many open spaces in the Peninsula where bikes are not allowed. Waterdog and San Juan Canyon offer some of the best single track biking in the Bay Area and I hope The city of Belmont will keep them as multi-use. Thanks.
- Please plant or preserve trees and bushes. They cut noise. Provide shade and cool temperatures in the summer. Cut winds all year long. Definitely add more benches too!
- I love running to San Juan Canyon and Waterdog.
- Open space for bikers and dogs is very valuable for me and my family
- Our family mountain bikes in Waterdog every week and it is one of our favorite things to do on our neighborhood. Please keep open spaces open to mountain biking!!
- I really love mountain biking and hiking at Waterdog park, and think it's a great place for both, and it shouldn't get closed to biking. I'm also excited for the possibility of a pump track!! It would be a good opportunity for younger kids to develop their skills, and fun for older kids and adults.
- It is important to my family that open space trails remain multi-use. We have hikers, bikers and joggers in our household.
- Keep it available for mountain biking. Put up signs warning new users that some trails are moderately diificuly
- The City has done an excellent job keeping mountain biking open in city open space. Keep up the good work.
- Animal waste is an on-going issue
- I've used Water Dog Park to mountain bike before and after work for years. It is an escape for me and I have only ever had positive experiences with other trail users. I have been told that a small minority of trail users are trying to use this process to eliminate bicycle use on the singletrack at Water Dog. I love these trails. Please do not take these experiences away from people like me in order to serve a vocal minority. Different user groups can and do share trails in peace, as they have for the last 20+ years at Water Dog.
- I LOVE Water Dog lake - this is a gem of a park. I heard that some people want to prevent mountain biking and would be sad if that was restricted. While our family doesn't mountain bike there, we hike there a lot and truly don't mind sharing the trails. Our neighbors mountain bike here frequently & would hate to see them restricted from it. Our experience has been that most trail users are respectful & courteous.
- I would prefer open spaces to have restrooms.
- I've lived in Belmont for 50+ years. I've been going to Waterdog since before the city even paid any attention to the area. Do not take away the ability to ride mountain bikes at Waterdog! It's wonderful exercise and I have been riding there for years. The amount of hikers there will decrease as the pandemic goes away. Bikers and hikers can get along.
- Volunteer opportunities for maintenance and improvement.
- Please
  Keep the cross country trail open, maintained, and no dog/bike(s).
- Keeping them open and accessible to mountain biking is a great activity for the family.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Please close illegal trails, ban bikes from narrow single trails, invest in native plant, education and species protections,
- Enjoy the cycling on the fire road and trails in Waterdog. Seems to be a lot of families enjoying the activity and looking forward to taking my girls with me when they are a little older.
- Didn't even know there was so much open space. Would be great to get a trail map via email or in mail
- They are treasures that should be available to many user groups. Exclusion of classes should not be a priority. Belmont residents are lucky to have these areas.
- Doing a great job
- We love waterdog and have recently discovered hidden canyon after 10 years in Belmont.
- They are beautiful and we are lucky to have them for both biking and hiking.
- Water Dog is great resource that brings me to Belmont to mountain bike and patronize local businesses. Please do not limit mountain bike access to Water Dog.
- Regulate Waterdog trails for no ebikes!
- More police patrol
- Bikes in open space must be restricted to certain trails or times
- It would be nice to put more trail maps and signage on the trails for navigation
- I would like them to be fortified against wildfire through innovative approaches like controlled burns.
- Love them, continue to encourage bikers & hikers to co-exist together.
- More areas for leashed dogs
- Please maintain the level of offroad cycling options within the Belmont open spaces like Waterdog. This is one of the great things about Belmont that other cities don't have.
- I'm worried that the activities that are important to me (e.g. mountain biking) will no longer be allowed because of a very small yet very vocal group of people.
- I love the open spaces and always think we should have more.
- I don't think the trails should be designated for use as either walking or scootering (children) or mountain biking.
- Do not add restrictions.
- cleanliness is an issue
- Waterdog Open Space is a tremendous resource and widely used. Please allocate sufficient resources to better maintain it, please enforce dog poop rules, and please continue to allow mountain biking.
- Please keep open space
- I LOVE the open spaces in Belmont!
- Pretty good the way they are. Spend the money elsewhere where it may be needed more.
- Water Dog Lake is awesome! Please restore and update the trail signage, especially the mountain lion safety signs and the trail name signs. Also, please add signage to unlabeled secondary trails. Thanks!
- General guidelines
- Love them; wish bikes were more controlled
- Belmont has a great open space area's that should be shared by all. There should be a little give and take.
- It needs to be protected and left alone. There is little sacred living space left for the animals.
- Hallmark Trail/Cross Country: can not be lost, closed or sold for housing. Stunning area for our community to enjoy.
- Maintain bike access. It's nice to have a place to ride offroad without cars
- Our Open Spaces are the jewels in Belmonts Crown. Expanding/maintaining and improving them would be a benefit to the community.
- Same as #15
- Please keep Water Dog as perfect as it is. Please do not add a skateboarding ramps or anything else that will ruin it. It is perfect as is. Please keep the CSM space above Belmont Heights just the way it is.
- Waterdog Lake is an amazing open space used extensively by a wide mix of people. Mountain biking is one of the important activities that the open space hosts. While there have been complaints by a few specific people about biking, the vast majority people easily share the trails, follow trail etiquette and are polite, friendly and respectful of people enjoying mixed use trails. Please do not let a few unhappy people take away an unique and wonderful recreational resource. More etiquette signage and even some activity specific trail restrictions could alleviate conflict. Thank you Belmont!
- multi use paths very hard for pedestrians - I feel like I'm always about to get run over. Also masking restrictions are not consistent and people dont' follow them.
- I am very concerned that a small group of outspoken protagonists are trying to eliminate mountain biking from water dog area.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Great to have nice nature close by.
- Open Space needs to be available for all users.
- Desperately need more trails, dedicated use to prevent conflict between bikes and hikers.
- Mountain bike access is critical and needs to be expanded
- I love Waterdog and Sugarloaf/San Juan Canyon. It can be challenging, because all of the trails have intermittently become impacted over the last few years, but I strongly believe that restricting/ limiting trail use is the wrong approach.
- More bike specific trails.
- I mountain bike in water dog with my wife, children and friends 3 times per week. It's great!
- Mostly just parking. But that's a tough one to fix.
- Our (I live in Belmont) Open space is a gem for me personally. I can walk my dog there, I can ride my bike there, I can invite my friends there for a group hike. Lots of way for me to utilize.
- We LOVE Waterdog. Please don't take away the joy of riding the trails. My kids ride daily. This has benefited them tremendously during the pandemic.
- I love taking my children bike riding at water dog park it is great exercise and so much safer than riding on asphalt or dealing with autos
- Please keep open for biking
- It's the reason why I moved my family to be near Sugarloaf.
- Waterdog is a fantastic mtn. biking spot! Please help keep it open to bikes, if we need more rules, so be it! I would strongly urge you to ban ebikes.
- They are great the way they are. They are a unique treasure on the peninsula.
- Please preserve trail access at Waterdog for biking.
- Please keep Water Dog trails open for bicycling.
- The water dog park is unique in its quality of mountain biking trails. Expanding the network would be great.
- In general, I think the open spaces are great. Easy to visit, limited crowds, nature-focused. I don't want to lose the "get away" aspect of them.
- One of the best things about belmont is biking at water dog. It's one of the few activities I can still do that doesn't aggravate my knees.
- love trail running, hiking with kids and biking!
- I appreciate Water Dog being one of the FEW mountain biking areas in the Bay Area that allow dogs. My pup loves it!
- LOVE Waterdog park, wouldlove it if had WIFI Coverage or at least cell service in the park, for emergency usage, and to listen to music/ podcasts while walking. Also please weed the poison oak more please. More love to the Cross Country trail behind the HallMark park would be awesome too - it's neglected .
- Please keep mountain bike access open!
- Mountain biking has been a part of the open space for this long without issue, is unjust the opinion of a select few threaten to close the only reason why I would visit Belmont.
- Waterdog Park is a wonderful resource and a great example of a successful and sustainable multi-use trail system. Perfect spot to introduce young people to mountain biking and a love of the outdoors!
- Uses should remain open to all. Stop trying to add restrictions or designations.
- it's great for mountain biking for all age groups
- Need more mountain bike trails
- Open space and trail access for multiple user groups (running, biking, hiking, walking, etc) is paramount. Adding directional or biking only trails could greatly improve the ability of the open space areas to accommodate a diverse and growing user group and minimize trail conflicts. Enhancing the frequency of trail work days and working to improve and restore habitat along trails allows multiple benefits for the community and ecosystem.
- I love that I can go to a spot that is close by to enjoy nature and to exercise outdoors. Trail Running, Hiking, and Biking.
- This is a vital resource for the rapidly growing local community of cyclists. More and more people are picking up biking, and this is great for public health and community resilience. The open spaces are great for this! Please don't enact changes that take this away or decrease the benefit of the open spaces for cyclists.
- More open space for bikes
- I appreciate having an option to mountain bike within the 280 corridor.
- appreciate the multi use and natural feel
- Please don't let a vocal minority of trail users drive policy for all residents.
- Waterdog has a great trail network that is easy to access and convenient for most. Let's keep the trails open for all!
- Like to see continued access for Mountain biking in waterdog park.
- Appreciate the trail connections from sheep camp trail; I ride from Canada entrance

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

- We enjoy mountain biking there and want to keep it open for all users
- Please keep mountain biking at all available parks, including Waterdog
- I am so grateful that the city of Belmont has been working closely with the Waterdog Trailkeepers to keep Waterdog safe for all participants alike, environmentally focused, and welcoming.
- Waterdog has a great and storied mountain biking history. It is a valuable resource to the community. Please preserve this resource and outlet for teens and community members.
- Please keep open to cycling.
- WaterDog park is an absolute treasure. I appreciate that it is a mountain biking mecca. If i felt safer hiking those trails on foot I would do it more often, but dealing with bikes can be stressful. Is there any tracking of accident locations and causes? Perhaps some specific danger spots could be addressed. Some parts of the trail could be widened to allow for peaceful coexistence.
- There is not enough open space in teh bay area. With it's limited quantity it needs to be made accessible for all users in a way that reduces trail conflict.
- How did we completely miss the mark on trail use signage?
- Waterdog park is the perfect place for kids to ride mountain bikes. My children often demand to go to Waterdog to ride bikes as it is safe, fun, and well scaled to riders, walkers, and hikers of all skill levels. I strongly endorse multiuser access for all human powered activities, biking and hiking both.
- Keep Waterdog open to mountain bikes like it is today
- I love the Belmont Open Spaces. The trails are wide and excellent. And I've enjoyed the lower density the times I've visited. I travel from San Carlos to visit Belmont's open spaces as they are far superior than those in San Carlos.
- I have been using Water Dog/Hidden Valley for years to trail run, walk and exercise my dog - it is the closest open space to my house. Bikes have never been a problem in the past, however, since Covid, this has been a serious issue. The number of mtn bikers has increased 10x and many do not follow the park rules. I have been nearly taken out multiple times as they exceed safe speeds on steep and narrow trails. They are also the least likely to follow social distancing or wear a mask.
- I've been riding my mtn bike at Waterdog for 30 years and it's a great local area for the community. Love the trail systems and they could be expanded.
- I primarily visit Waterdog to ride my bike and always really enjoy it. It's unique to most open space on the peninsula because of the way its surrounded by development on the ridgelines. Being so accessible to so many people makes it a real treasure. The challenge seems to be how encourage all people who want to experience the park to share it with one another.
- We love Waterdog and it's bike/hiking trails
- Mountain biking and bird watching in waterdog lake park is amazing. I love this little oasis.
- Waterdog Open Space is a fantastic multi-use recreation area that supports a broad group of enthusiasts. In particular, the opportunity to get kids on bikes and off the roads (which have gotten more and more dangerous over time) is essential. There simply are not enough areas they can ride, particularly for those who aren't old enough to drive. Riding bikes at Waterdog is a very important part of my family's exercise and bonding routine and has been for well over a decade.
- I love the multi-use trails at Waterdog. Please maintain access for biking.
- the trails are doing well thanks to volunteer efforts from mountain biking groups and it it vital that multi-use access be preserved to keep this going
- I support keeping the trails open to hikers, bikers, dog walkers - basically everyone. The trails have been multi-use for decades, and the system is working well.
- I use Waterdog for Mountain Biking several times a week. I'd like the city to help maintain the trails but overall I think the conflicts are minimal and can be managed to allow all users to enjoy the park.
- Belmont's parks, water dog lake specifically is what got me into mountain biking 6 years ago. The skills I learned over years of hard work turned me into the cyclist I am today. This year, I traveled to Germany to race cross country mountain bike. I was the only American, racing against people from all over Europe, including the world champion and multiple national champions from all over Europe. I wouldn't be the cyclist I am today if it wasn't for waterdog.
- They are underdeveloped. Opportunity to optimize the resource for all to enjoy.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Love the mountain biking at Waterdog. Have been helping trail maintenance, and hope the trail stay open for mountain biking. Would be acceptable with me to prohibit bikes with motors if that helps with avoiding issues. I will get an electric bike someday, but think they and non-ebikes are not the same.
- keep them well maintained and open to everyone.
- Love the new trail marking signs!
- Please protect. Very disappointed and disturbing to see what bike riders and electric bikes, night riders and what some have done to the trails.I see groups of the bicycle community coming out of the trails with shovels and saws who are making their own trails and tearing out plants and trees to carve out new trails destroying the walking trails and open space.
- Love them!
- Pls widen trails and remove poison oak. I'd use the trails a lot more with my dog if not so much poison oak right at the edge of narrow trails.
- Please reduce the yellow jacket population with environmentally safe traps, in the early spring
- I've lived in Belmont for 35 years and very much enjoy the Multi use open space that Belmont has. My entire family enjoys biking and hiking in these open spaces. My hope is they remain multi use.
- Would like to know of any development proposals in these areas, especially San Juan Canyon where there are still numerous privately owned lots.
- The open space in Belmont is amazing and our family is there all the time. continuing the multi-use nature of these trails is the highest priority for us, as we hike there, walk the dog there, and ride our bikes there. We moved to Belmont because of the multi-use trails. We can all get along and the entire community should benefit from this great asset.
- Is there a chance of keeping cyclists off the Lake Loop Trail?
- Both bikes and walkers should be able to use the open space
- I love to bike, hike, dog walk and run at Waterdog, Hidden Canyon and San Juan open spaces. Let's keep those trails open to all users that use them respectively and follow the rules, which is the vast majority of the users. One or two new, well built and designed trails in WDLP for mixed use would really be nice!
- Please keep them open for leashed dogs
- Belmont really lacks bigger open spaces compared to neighboring cities.
- They are great, but we need to stay on it and keep ahead of the curve by constantly improving and adding features.
- I think generally they are working very well.
- Trail use is perfect as is, a vocal minority is the source of complaints. We do not need more rules and regulation.
- Waterdog Park has been an excellent example of a multi-use park, that accommodates bikers, hikers, dog walkers, etc. for years. The local mountain bike community has been a huge advocate and steward of Waterdog and has helped develop the trail system there. As past residents of Belmont, now San Carlos, Waterdog has always been our "backyard" mountain bike ride and should continue to be for years to come.
- There is a limited number of parks that allow mountain biking. Building on this activity in Water Dog could increase the city appeal to many visitors.
- Love the bike trails in water dog! It's nice that they are accessible without having to drive 20+ minutes up to skyline. Also great that you can ride from house to trail. Having more options like this and more trails would be amazing for the community and kids. As parent's not having to worry about them riding on busy streets would be great!
- Specifically, there are people who want to limit the ability to ride mt. bikes at Waterdog. The misinformation surrounding "mt. biking destroys natural habitat" is disturbing. Waterdog is a mt. bikers gem in the middle of the massive suburban expanse that is Silicon Valley. If restricted in any way, Waterdog should be made a mt. biker-only park as there are PLENTY of other places nearby where bikes are not allowed at all. Best option is to keep is shared use and not to impose other restrictions on bikers there.
- I want you to consider that we are doing a 15 year forward-looking exercise here during a pandemic where our Open Spaces are seeing (I suspect) all time high usage areas. I don't want high traffic to turn into reduced access in response to high trail traffic.
- The open space area's should be for all to enjoy not just a specific group.
- Twin Pines is great
- Please continue mixed use for all Open Spaces. We hike with our dog and also mountain bike, and would love to be able to continue to do both.
- Add Cross Country Trail into Belmont's care

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Limit bicycle use on the trails or widen them. The current trails are too narrow for bicycles and make it dangerous for walkers and runners.
- Please do not eliminate mountain biking use at waterdog
- Increased use is a blessing, not a curse. Dialing up trail etiquette signage and advocacy will do a lot for perceive conflicts
- They were a significant factor in our decision to move to Belmont. I would not like them limited.
- Keep open and maintain
- Water dog is a treasure for mountain biking and it's history should be celebrated. Expansion of this city asset is highly encouraged.
- Trail signs
- The sharing of narrow trails with bikes and hikers is totally unsafe. If is hasn't already happened, someone will be killed or seriously injured because the trails are too narrow to accommodate bikes and hikers. On the wide main trails, bikes are often going 20 to 30 mph downhill. Whether on narrow or wide trials going too fast is common and dangerous. thank you for sponsoring this survey
- Belmont Open spaces should be available to all mountain bikers and hikers. It is a way for many families to get out and exercise, as well as keep student's out of trouble.
- I want to make sure EVERYONE has the ability to use the parks. I know there is a group of retired people who are actively trying to ban bikers from the open spaces. That is exactly what we should not be doing. Encourage safe considerate joint usage.
- Please give more recognition to all the volunteer groups that maintain Waterdog and let the public know how these volunteer groups use the park.
- I bike and hike in Waterdog, being able to go there by bike rather than having to drive is a real Godsend. It has been especially important during lockdown. Thanks for your work on these open spaces.
- I think we should designate Waterdog and Hidden Canyon as cycling-focused open space. We already have so many hiking-only spaces (Big Canyon, Cross Country Course, Edgewood, Huddard, the list goes on) yet cyclists have no designated open spaces for cycling. This is not fair. If the hikers don't want to share with cyclists - fine - then let's designate some trails for cyclists only. This would include most the single track at WD. Hikers can keep to Lake Road and Lake Loop.
- Waterdog is great for mountain biking. many of the trails have been improved the last few years by volunteers from MTB community. Waterdog is not a "natural" environment as some like to think. It needs management to help resolve issues of erosion and fire danger due to unnatural thick brush. Waterdog is one of the only close biking areas on the peninsula. Hundreds of bikers per week access it by riding to it locally. Many teens use this area for biking, who would not be interested in just hiking there. Don't give in to the selfish neighbors who want Waterdog all to themselves without bikes. The biking community has a lot of potential to make Waterdog better for all. The new trail signs are a great start. I use a bike bell and other users really thank me for it. I would suggest setting up some " borrow a bell" stations at entrances for MTBers. This could be a good Eagle Scout project or other youth driven project. Much of the erosion prone areas have been like that for 30 plus years. Not caused recently by bikes. Waterdog could be the crown jewel of Belmont if it's us embraced as the awesome biking resource it is.
- Limit bikes to be used only on large fire road trails.
- Belmont open spaces and parks are one of the main reasons this area is so great! I love the volunteer opportunities to maintain the trails (walking & bike trails)
- I mostly walk & hike, but Belmont needs to adapt its parks and open space to offer more unique activities, and less of the common ones we can do anywhere.
- Waterdog has been a blessing as my son and I have gotten into mountain biking and found it to be an amazing community in a time needed especially for my son.
- I wish you could remedy the damage done by bikes to hiking trails (ruts, etc.)
- Keep Waterdog open to mountainbiking. And keep the trails as they are with challenges to tide on.
- Being able to mountain bike at Waterdog is amazingly special and unique. A true gem
- It's scary to hike on trails because of danger of getting hit by speeding bikes, trails are really rutted and trashed from so many bikes

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Having safe, legal places to let my dog run off-leash are very important to me. One of the things my dog and I miss most is having mountain bike trails we can enjoy together; we used to live in Bend, OR where dogs are allowed on most all trails. Barrett Community Center and Cipriani park are great, but expanding off leash access at Waterdog/Hidden Canyon would be awesome, and a perfect place to have off leash areas.
- Dangerous to hike on trails because of speeding bikers, there are to many trails for small amount of area, wildlife is being decimated by biking
- Mountain biking is an essential use of Water Dog park and should continue to be allowed without restriction.
- Convenient and generally well maintained. Only issue is the conflict between mountain bikers and hikers/walkers on narrow trails. Very difficult to pass or be passed when the poison oak is in full bloom (so to speak), as you can't really step off the trail. Plus, mountain bikers often seem to feel they have the right of way, which I don't believe they do.
- I love to mountain bike at water dog! So thankful this is in my back yard.
- Love cycling! Love to walk dog
- The parks are crowded since COVID. We need more trails and cycling-specific trails, to spread out the people better.
- The parks & open space is for all, not the few, particularly those that make websites to promote hate or sabotage the trails with derbies in the name of their view. It is irresponsible not to plan for increased usage stemming from the increased housing developments over the last many years. Pls More Trees & More Trails.
- So grateful for Waterdog!
- People running dogs off leash, like at Water Dog, make me less likely to visit
- Should remain multi use areas for all to enjoy (bikers, hikers, dog walkers-if they can follow the rules, etc). Should prioritize & enforce existing policies rather than create more (dogs on leash, no electric vehicles, pick up after your dog). Should add new trails or at least leave in place existing trails rather than block them as has recently taken place. Forcing the same, or more trail users (as has been the case during Covid) onto fewer trails does not improve safety.
- There is a clear miscommunication between cyclists and hikers using the open spaces, and a method needs to be used to please both parties; something that preserves bikers' access to all single track but also satisfies hikers' complaints of trail erosion and damage.
- The most important thing you can do for the future is to provide, maintain and increase your trails and open space areas. They will be used (walking, jogging, biking) by more of the population over time.
- Continue to improve the trails against water erosion, they get better every year. Additional trails 1-2 designated for bikes only would be great.
- Erosion prevention and control needs to be better addressed
- The parking and pedestrian situation needs to be improved at the Hallmark Drive water dog trail head. Very dangerous to both Hallmark area residents and visitors.
- We love mountain biking at Waterdog, bought our first home because of the location. Thank you for maintaining the trails, please don't widen them or make them easier for riders. I hope E-bikes can be banned.
- I would like to see trails remain multi-use and signage / education on trail etiquette. I would also love to see more multi-use trails and more organized trail maintenance activities. My family and I get a lot of pleasure, fitness and stress relief from hiking and biking in Belmont Open Spaces. I know there is a lot of controversy about biking vs. hiking. It would be very sad to see biking eliminated from the Open Spaces. Recent issues are due to increased crowds and education. Thanks very much!
- Keep them open to mountain bikes. Consider directional trails.
- Continue to create, enhance and focus on multi-use trails
- I love riding my bike on challenging trails.
- Keep them open and available for all to use
- Why renavatiuons are being made to trails that benefit hikers more than bikers
- My family loves Belmont Parks and the winding city streets, but they are not safe places for my children to ride bicycles, so we travel to other cities for them. They have ridden pump tracks before, and would absolutely love to have one closer than Santa Cruz.
- Thanks for setting up the survey for us to provide feedback! :) Here's my opinion as someone who lives in Hillsdale but come to Waterdog weekly for hiking and mountain biking:

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

1. Trail use is likely going to increase year over year. It's more realistic to think about how to accommodate growing number of visitors. Making trails more restrictive is only counterproductive.
2. Some trails are too rutty because of rainfall, corrosion, and footprints/wheelprints. There are existing solutions applied at other open spaces to alleviate corrosion. Example: upper Elevator trail in Hidden Canyon could use some maintenance.
3. Some trails are too narrow or "blind" for hikers and bikes.
4. Trail signage and trail etiquette are very necessary to educate and guide all users of the open spaces. As a hiker and mountain biker I can see why it's annoying if someone "speeds" on the trails. It's like drivers who speed too. Simple gestures like slowing down when passing and trail bell can make passing more friendly.

- Please persevere these spaces and make sure we protect our environment.
- Would love more trails and signs in the rugged areas.
- We need to keep the Water Dog Lake park open as it provides multi use space (biking, hiking. jogging, running, dog walking, relaxation, etc)
- A bike pump track would be a great addition. Living in Cipriani there is no safe place for kids to ride a bicycle nearby. Waterdog should remain a multi use park. This is a great resource for all users. More trails would be good and I am sure that mountain biking community would be willing to volunteer for trail building
- San Juan canyon open space presents a great opportunity to polish a local gem and get the most out of the space.
- Would be nice to develop a hiking/biking trail on the Cranfield easement, in conjunction with San Carlos.
- I know mountain biking has become a bit of a controversial topic. I understand it has some downsides such as trail wear, and safety concerns for hikers. If there is consideration about banning mountain biking, I would love if some middle ground could be found, perhaps removing biking from some trails, while labeling others as bike only, or hike with the knowledge that bikers may come. I think information about trail etiquette as well as volunteer events to help maintain the trails could really help educated mountain bikers on both respect for the trails and respect for other users. I know somethings may seem obvious, but if we don't take the time to educate users, we can't expect them to know everything. Educating others is part of being a good steward of the activity you participate in.
- Having recently moved from out of state, one of the reasons where my partner and I chose our home was it's proximity to Waterdog Open Space. We both love hiking, running and cycling in Waterdog. It is such a great space and a jewel that most cities wish they had. That being said, there is a lot of discussion about banning bike from the park. We think there is room for everyone to co-exist within the park. As someone who runs almost as much as rides in Waterdog, I feel there needs to be more awareness and education about trail etiquette from all users of the space. I really don't think banning one group will solve anything and could potentially cause more issues of illegal trail building & poaching. That would be the worst thing for Waterdog as it would create more erosion and damage to the amazing open space. Please don't let a small group of people dictate and close this wonderful space off to cyclists.
- The trail keepers and volunteers are doing a great job at Waterdog! Thanks.
- Please do not take biking away from Waterdog based on the opinion of a few.
- I consider an Open Space to be similar to a National Wilderness area, that is, no motorized vehicles (including electric bikes), very limited amenities, focused on preservation of the natural environment. This is different from a National Park.
- If the balance of Waterdog trails for bikes and hikers needs to be further addressed, it's likely due to the large increase in traffic of both since 2020. I highly recommend doing a free or "encouraged donation" reservation process, and occasionally do an enforcement. The Tamarancho trail park in Marin County does something similar and it's worked well.
- the open spaces are wonderful.. and so improved since i moved here 30 years ago. i really appreciate the mountain bike community for their upkeep of the trails.. i remember when it was challenging to hike.. i got lost a few times because the trails weren't well marked. i also feel safer walking around on the ""single track"" since there are more people around with the bikers...

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- The trails around Waterdog Lake are an incredible resource for Belmont and the neighboring cities. When my wife and I were looking to move to the area 11 years ago, access to this open space and trail network for riding mountain bikes was high on the priority list. As our family grew to include 2 young boys, we enjoy using this park as a family on and off the bike. What would make Belmont even better is if they had an all ages / abilities bike park like the new Ramsay Park pump track that just opened up in Watsonville. Thank you for your time and consideration!
- They're great. Been mountain biking here since 1998 and in some ways has saved my life.
- Water Dog is by far the most accessible place on the Peninsula for singletrack mountain biking. It is used by high school teams and adult riders for exercise, exposure to nature, and for enjoying an activity that promotes health and getting outside! The complaints about biking at WD by a vocal minority can easily be addressed through signage, education, and smart trail design and maintenance- even something as simple as designating trail directionality, or promoting the use of bells on bikes. These have been implemented successfully in communities across the country!
- The 15 year Master Plan seems like a great time for prioritizing habitat preservation, trail quality and safety for the enjoyment of visitors. To do so will take more active management and money than in the past.
- The regions open spaces and parks are a terrific resource. I use them daily to hike. Waterdog is one of my favorites; I've been going several times a week for almost 20 years. I love that it's quiet and in a "natural" state. And I love how polite and helpful the bikers are.
- I have been biking here for my whole life and I know that there is a big movement to ban bikes from trails. Bikers have been the people that mostly maintain the trails and keep them in good condition. Please don't ban bikes here.
- Is there too much use of the waterdog bike trails? I'm honestly not sure if mountain bikes are pushing out vegetation in the area. The other is the drainage along the side of the fire road in waterdog seems to be getting deeper every year. Is that expected?
- Important to alot. Creates a community
- Please don't cave to the vocal anti-bike minority. the trails are for everyone and the space is plenty big to accommodate all. And why prevent night riding??? just let people ride, the more they ride at night the less they will ride during the day when hikers/walkers abound.
- The hiking trails and all of waterdog lake area are one of belmont's most unique and welcoming features.
- Really appreciate an open space for biking that is close to where I live and doesn't require driving,
- I feel that the nature, wildlife and humans have been threatened by bikers and made the open space very unsafe. They race by with disregard to wildlife and humans. They have carved out many trails and made some existing ones unsafe by wearing them down and making them slippery. I no longer feel safe bringing my grandkids on the trails as I did with my own children. I have almost been hit several times by bikers in the last twelve months,
- I like biking in them
- Bikers have caused the trails in Water Dog to be unsafe. The use of bikes has threatened wildlife. Bikes should be banned from the Open Space. The trails are no longer a place where a individual can take a peaceful walk or hike. Many people including the elderly and parents with small children now avoid the Open Space as it has been over run by disrespecting bikers.
- None
- I love biking on water dog's trails with my brother
- We love them. We use them 3-4 times per week.
- Absolutely love biking, running and hiking with my dog. And I would love to help with trail maintenance. I
- Waterdog is excellent for mountain biking (and hiking). Please keep it multi use.
- Parking and traffic at Waterdog Lake entrances on weekends is out of control during peak times. Interferes with nearby residents.
- At Water dog and surrounding trails there has been a plethora of new E-bike riders and the trails are not safe enough to allow them to use. My main concerns are with their speed and etiquette. they do not slow down for other trail users and often cause more damage to the trail systems due to most E-bikes ranging from 50-80lbs where most normal mountain bikes max out at 30lbs.
- I would love to see the city plant more trees!
- I love Belmont Open Spaces!
- The open spaces are regional assets that deserve care appropriate for their incredible value.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 16. Other Responses (con't)

- Mtn bikes should only be allowed on wider trails, not narrow hiking trails due to hiker and biker safety. Illegal trails such as "Labor of Love" trails built by thrill seeking bikers should be closed because they are too narrow for hikers and bikers to share safely.
- By encouraging folks outside of Belmont to hike our trails we have severely increased the number of people who are accessing the trails and it has caused an issue in our neighborhood with parking, trash, safety and people abusing the trails. Please put up signs that the trails are closed from sunset to sunrise. There's also crime and drugs at the bottom of sheep camp trail. Which starts starts in Belmont. Please monitor Waterdog, CSM cross country trail and Sheep Camp more. Putting up dog stations, trash cans and new signage and leaving up the old signage and not taking it down is making the neighborhood look junky and less desirable. There should be more signage that goes out to the open space in the Belmont Heights area that warns of rattlesnakes and mountain lions. During Covid so many kids just running off trails and into the bushes and someone's going to get her at some point.
- Please keep the Open Spaces as multi-purpose recreational areas that are currently being used as.
- Please do not limit, ban or restrict the use of bikes in Waterdog Park. One of the reasons we moved to Belmont was to be close to Waterdog for mountain biking.
- We appreciate both hiking and biking in the open space areas. We have been able to safely do both for the last three decades, and are strongly against those who wish to limit access to others.
- It's wonderful for mt bikes it one of our only places to enjoy close by
- Keep Waterdog open to bikes and support the needs of mountain bike riders in Waterdog. Create more bike specific trails and pump track.
- I'd love to see the steep trails on the belmont side of laurelwood worked on a bit to be easier to go up and down. Also I'd walk to it if we didn't have the bizarre custom of blocking sidewalks by parking on them. It sucks.
- It seems that the past year has been very hard on the trail systems at the open spaces. Lots of wear and tear from increased use, both hiker and cyclist, and lack of trail maintenance shows. The trails need a major refresh to remain safe for all users.
- The Belmont parks are a huge part of my children's lives and I would like to see the open space, trails, and bike access to see continued investment.
- Belmont's Open Spaces are a jewel, and Waterdog and it's multi-use nature (biking, hiking, etc...) was one of the main reasons I decided to settle in the area. I would really like to see Waterdog's multi-use nature maintained.
- Designated use trails and more trails to ensure that there are enough for everyone would go a long way to allowing me to use the trails I used to love so much before the pandemic made them unsafe due to increased use.
- Really appreciate the work done recently at Waterdog/Hidden Canyon; have been mountain biking here for 13 years and appreciate the city's recent improvements
- There are Belmont residents who harass bikers and spread misinformation about the effects of biking on the environment and are working to ban bikes from water dog lake.
- I would recommend we designate Waterdog as a cycling-focused park and keep the trails narrow and somewhat primitive. Hikers can recreate at one of the many no-bikes regional parks (Edgewood, Cross Country Course, Big Canyon, etc). Cyclists have limited open space choices and and inadequate recreational resources for their needs
- Arbitrarily limiting access to Waterdog to a specific group based on fear and prejudice is really lame. I am deeply disappointed with these residents who, instead of offering a real solution to the problems we face, want to take the ball and go home. There is much more that we could do to improve relations between all users, including posting reminders to yield to other users (bikes yield to runners/hikers) and reminders to hike on the right. I've been riding/running/hiking in Waterdog since 1991 and have never seen more angry and entitled Karens walking around the space as I have seen lately. They don't wear masks, are standing in the middle of the trail, and scream at cyclists to "slow down" regardless of our pace. They are looking for a confrontation to justify their anger and entitlement and shouldn't be accommodated.
- Love 'em

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 17. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE US TO KNOW ABOUT BELMONT'S OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS (THIS INCLUDES YOUTH SPORTS, OUTDOOR EXERCISE, ETC)?

- Lacking compared to neighboring towns of San Carlos and San Mateo
- N/a
- no opinion
- While I glance at the park and rec activity guide (now that my sons are adults), I am not aware of outdoor programs for adults.
- You have programs for seniors and youths, but nothing for working professionals. The hours the programs offer are in the working hours, and there is nothing of interest to the working professionals. I understand it could be difficult to find qualified instructors or facilitators for the programs, but I haven't seen any public call of recruitments either.
- Great for recreational sports fields!
- Keep doing what you are doing. I love the updates you made to the Softball / Soccer Fields at the Sports Complex.
- Please add more pickleball courts with lights that are open all day and in the evening
- You need to create SAFE bicycle lanes in Belmont that are not shared with a traffic lane (as in downtown Belmont). You need a protected bike lane west of Cipriani on Ralston where cars are going 40+ mph and there is no shoulder. Ralston Middle School kids would be able to safely ride to school, and the general public would not be taking our lives in our hands any time we wanted to go for a recreational ride. San Carlos, Foster City, and San Mateo have managed to increase their bicycle safety routes; why not Belmont!?
- Yeah, Sports complex is great now - more turf would be good!
- Oitdoor lap swimming pool.
- I grew up with a neighborhood pool where a kid could get a membership for the summer and go play all summer. Having only Carlmont's pool available during work days for 2 or 3 hours isn't very useful for the community and it is expensive!
- With the exception of Belmont Sports Complex, our fields are often in poor shape. More maintenance needs to be performed to keep them up.
- Is the track at Carlmont HS open to the public?
- pricey for the tax paying residents. $5 price difference between resident and non-resident pricing. the barrett community centre building is fall apart. again don't see the tax dollar being used
- I do not participate too much in recreation programs due to my work schedule. But I like the idea of outdoor tour guides maybe on the weekends at some of our beautiful open spaces. Maybe a volunteer program to clean up and plant native gardens in some areas of Belmont. Also bring back the music groups in Twin Pines park for Sunday's. Maybe more events at Twin Pines park would be nice.
- n/a
- I think it's great!
- Bike riding is an inclusive and therapeutic activity for people with disabilities such as my dad. Disallowing the use of bikes on trails would take away the one thing my dad can do that is active because he is disabled.
- All sports activities should be included in these locations.
- I think it is important that you not exclude people. Belmont has done an amazing job of balancing biking and hiking. That should be celebrated - there are room for improvements, but please don't over regulate. Biking is booming and Belmont can lead the way on sharing off-road access.
- My son would love to participate in kids' cycling classes at the pump track once it's complete.
- Allow classes to use space for free if they are free classes.
- We enjoy these programs with all ages and members of our family and look forward to more.
- It's been many years since I've participated in outdoor programs, but I believe there's value in these programs. I believe a community trail crew/maintenance team would be popular and allow people to build what they want out of their outdoor experience.
- Expand class offerings for youth and adults. Also, there doesn't seem to be much of anything for tweens (10-13).
- Youth mountain bike teams are in cities all around California and are a great way for kids to get involved and get outside. I wish Belmont had one when I was in middle school or high school so I could have improved my skills. The trails of Belmont make many people great riders and I myself just recently competed in a national championship for mountain biking and it all started on Belmont trails.
- We would love to see access to public swimming.
- N/A

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 17. Other Responses (con't)

- Our kids love these and want more opportunities to participate
- Need more opportunities for youth to engage with our community.
- You should put up a banner before summer camp enrollment opens up, to drive web traffic.
- The National Interscholastic Cycling League is a fantastic youth sports opportunity for nearby students, who could train at Waterdog.
- NA
- bikes need to continue to have access to the park
- More outdoor education opportunities for youth would be great.
- No opinion
- These can change the feel and crowding of a natural area like Waterdog. It would be a negative for me and my family.
- no need for these. there are plenty of other options in the area
- Please keep trails maintained and do not restrict usage access
- I'd like to know when outdoor rec program will include mountain biking classes through the Belmont parks and rec. Thx!
- Keep mountain bike trails open. Expand access
- Make more of it!
- Keep mountain biking trails
- Where are the mountain bike classes?
- I would like to know that cycling access to open space remains a priority within San Mateo and I would like you to know that other forms of recreation can coexist with cyclists.
- Waterdog lake presents an important opportunity for the youth of this community to engage in fun outdoor activities, such as mountain biking. Restricting access to waterdog lake for this activity would force us to drive further away to places like San Jose. There are not many places that provide this opportunity mid peninsula.
- Biking and hiking at Waterdog is my primary use of open space in Belmont
- Need more activities for the middle aged and elders
- More programs
- N/A
- nothing
- Exercise isn't just physical..it is mental. Having a free Waterdog park to be able to ride a bike with my kids or go for a run on extensively well maintained trails that our own scouts have volunteered countless hours from Troop 42 and other troops in the area would not just be sad and disappointing, it would be selfish, self-serving, limiting and frankly, criminal on the level of those few who are selfishly trying to shut down this popular mountain biking and exercising Mecca...one of the very few, well maintained ones left in Silicon Valley.
- Waterdog is the only place in Belmont and San Mateo County where cyclist have access to local trails. It is a wonderful place for children to learn to ride their bikes and for an after-work fitness ride. Waterdog's trail were built by mountain bikers and the volunteer opportunities allows us to give back to community.
- Allow bikes on trails
- Please more youth programs!
- We don't use these.
- please consider adding a community pool as temps have risen so much over the years.
- Permanent Outdoor Pickleball Courts
- Needs to include lap swimming access for the community, and reliable access to tennis courts - the only City-only court I know of is the single courts at Alexander and Hallmark Parks. Would like to know the official status of Carlmont courts - are they a community resource? same with their pool. These are the major swim and tennis resources available. After the JCC left Belmont in the early 2000's, these kinds of resources were never replaced.
- These are always at weird times that don't accommodate parents that work. Please have some classes that start after work ends.
- Teach people to value health and nature and their responsibility to protect and support nature for a healthy and sustainable environment to be enjoyed by many future generations.
- Thank you for the abundant access to parks
- Keep the spaces open for all. It's a beautiful way for our community to stay together.
- Expand youth activities
- Local parks and open space should be open and inclusive to all. Excluding certain groups is not fair.
- More mind/body offerings like yoga & Tai chi in the evening. We are on the Silicon Wheel hamster wheel & business hours are impossible to join anything
- Oppose creating activities with regional draw
- Belmont Sports Complex has been a treasured gem for my son to use and us parents to watch. We're lucky to have it.
- You do a great job of management of the parks and open space

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 17. Other Responses (con't)

- Build some tennis courts and fix the ones up off of Hallmark. Please do NOT make the tennis courts as duel use with pickleball courts they are two incompatible activities.
- Nothing
- The brsll program is outstanding. We need to have the Nesbit baseball field upgraded. We also need a community swimming pool.
- LET US EXPAND THE PROGRAMS
- Skate parks
- N/a
- NA
- We need a real youth center with an indoor basketball court. There is no reason you can't put one at the BSC.
- The youth needs skate parks or skate spaces
- Will try some classes
- Bicycling and walking dogs is very important in nature
- Mountain biking uses
- I am strongly opposed to any project that allows mountain biking in natural areas. The truth is that mountain biking is an anti-environmental, destructive, industry supported, self-centered activity that creates destruction where it attempts to penetrate natural lands and the public trust. Unlike the misinformation from proponents of this invasion, it is clear to see this is an industry/bike association/single-minded advocate agenda to penetrate public programs, buildings, and natural areas for self-centered gain, whether it be corporate sales, association control, or self-centered thrills, all with undue pressure/influence on local officials and at the expense of unique treasures like local parks and natural venues. It is a strategy that plays out across the nation, poisoned by the mantra of the privatized radical individual as opposed to the common good and public trust. These spaces are meant for all of the people, not the minority of a few to pursue restricted single-use narcissist adventure. Open space parklands remain places of reflection and undisturbed connections with nature, among the diverse animal and plant life, terrain, and peace those things create. Objective national research documents the destruction that mountain biking wreaks on the environment as well as on people who want to pursue passive recreation. Despite their false P.R. promotional distortions, mountain bikers are only interested in their constant self-indulgent thrills at the expense of nature and people. It is only about themselves and their addiction, not about others, animals, birds, plant life, the environment, nature or anything beyond their myopia. It is a pathetic mutation of what makes us truly human.
  You must confront this intrusion and deny any use of the park for mountain biking or similar restricted-use disruptive activity. Do you as a city want to turn every park into yet another industry-lobbied sports complex? Parks and natural environments are not gymnasiums, race tracks, sports complexes, or circus adventure rides, despite the propaganda from the industry and IMBA bike association partners, replete with their websites, consulting, and talking points, a 21st century snake-oil medicine show.
  Do you really want the invasion of this destructive, dangerous, and restricted self-centered activity for a few with its consequent documented national history of future expansion, destruction, and danger to people (with permanent injuries and lawsuits against the city), or do you value something more: a place of reflection and connection with nature, others, and oneself, giving us our full humanity, nature's gift to us all for generations past, present, and future?
- N/a
- N/A
- N/a
- N/A
- Belmont needs a public aquatics center at Barrett.
- The parks have great potential for making better mountain bike trails. If somehow some of the trails can be connected and more mantained, that would bring a lot of people to the parks.
- Mountain biking with my kids at water dog is a fantastic way to get outdoors without traveling too far.
- I think it is very good to our youth out into nature, especially kids from families where that activity is not assured.
- Great options and facilities for team sports.
- I recommend sending more information about the programs
- Penalties for people who don't leash their dogs.
- Didn't know we had that!
- Is there a site that I can refer to that has a list of opportunities? I'm aware of youth sports with my kids, but less so with outdoor programs.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 17. Other Responses (con't)

- Belmont is severely lacking in adequate sports facilities compared to anywhere else in the Bay Area. The grass fields are mostly terrible and even dangerous to play sports on. I do prefer grass fields over artificial although realize artificial is easier all round
- Allow more mountain biking and electric bikes.
- Ice Skating should be encouraged to return to Belmont.
- Best those programs are held at recreation centers and park areas with dedicated trails for walking and play. The wildlife in open spaces can be dangerous due to predators such as mountain lions and rattlesnakes and those animals should also be protected from curious children and dangerous of construction.
- Same as above.
- Belmont should start a youth Mountain Bike weekly ride in Waterdog Open Space/Hidden Canyon trailhead.
- Please keep parks open to multiuse activities.
- Would love to have the opportunity to do educational hikes with naturalists, mycologists, historians, etc.
- Increase number of program. Have trained volunteer leading the program.
- n/a
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Do not capture economic growth of mountain biking.
- N/A
- More bike lanes and implementation of safety expert recommendations for Ralston Ave
- I've been hiking and mountain biking in Hidden Canyon/Water dog for 25 years. It has been my primary exercise destination during that time.
- Please prioritize mountain bike access to trails
- Make it all inclusive for ALL people.
- Do not close the trails for mountain biking. My kids love biking around here and need the space for outdoor experiences.
- Keep and enhance all cycling opportunities including mountain biking
- HS Mtn bike teams?
- Keep area open to all uses
- Mountain biking
- The new turf at the recreational center makes it one of the best fields in the area
- A skate park would be greatly appreciated by the kids as well as parents.
- Many of the Mountain Biking Community welcome the opportunity and are involved in maintaining the trails at Water Dog.
- in keeping with the master plan's stated goal of equity and inclusion, mountain bikes should be allowed on all recreational multi-use trails.
- They are great
- Important to keep mountain biking access to waterdog park
- Build a paved pump track or 3!
- It would be interesting to attend a small yoga class at an open space
- Mountain bike youth camps please!!!
- Having a youth mtn bike club / team that is city sponsored would be wonderful & a great way to educate youth on bike safety/etiquette
- na
- I have not partipated in any of the programs
- N/A
- I cannot comment on this
- What are plans to expand biking opportunities?
- more open swim times in summer
- Maybe update the summer concert series at Twin Pines to attract younger participants.
- Please build Pickleball courts... it is the fastest growing sport in America. Foster city did an amazing job!
- The best way to stay updated on activities/events for the ORP.
- The tennis courts at Hallmark Park need to be resurfaced and skirted around to prevent debris getting into the courts.
- More facilities and classes for sports and recreations would be great!
- what is timing of expanding Belmont's outdoor recreation programs again?
- Not interested.
- More mountain bike programs please.
- New turf field @ BSC is great. Would be nice if Belmont United could use the area outside of the baseball fence for practices when baseball is there/ not there. It's been empty many times I've been there & BU is playing on sloped, crappy fields.
- Ongoing updates about development at Barrett and master plan. Activity guide was important part of our yearly planning; looking forward activities resuming and there being enough space.
- I would also like to add, Belmont should offer a First Aid class. Maybe they already do?
- There should be a focus on mountain biking.
- More yoga and Zumba classes on weekends and late afternoons.

DRAFT

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

- **Question 17. Other Responses (con't)**
- We don't use these programs
- I'd like to hear more about the cities programs. The things that are available are not necessarily on our radar or we're not subscribed to the correct places to see them.
- Some fields should have soccer nets available outside of organized team sports. All nets locked up otherwise.
- Belmont needs a good safe connection from upper Ralston (by Fox and Ralston Schools) to the rest of Belmont (Alameda, El Camino, 101). If there was a safe route for biking that connected all of Belmont it would greatly improve the utilization of Recreation Programs
- Not much for teens to do in Belmont. Once they age out of AYSO and Little League, then what? Need sports activities for the non-varsity kids. A skate park would be fantastic.
- Nothing at this time. Thank you.
- Have reasonable fees or if a resident free - use our tax dollars for our community ….have bands in the summer again, and offer classes on the green grass areas if not inside.
- Dedicated outdoor spaces for exercises. Nature.
- I wish Belmont has a swimming pool and a athletic facility like Highland Rec Center in San Mateo.
- Nice job on belmont sports complex
- All of the Park and Rec activities (especially the exercise classes) are offered during the day when people are working or in the evening. Please offer more adult and senior classes on the weekend (and not limited to early morning).
- It would be great to have a nice recreation center like the PJCC in Foster City, something that can work for everyone. Low cost!!!!!!!!
- More would be nice
- Facilities outdated and not very inviting. Would hesitate to leave children there for an activity.
- Mountain bike lessons for families. This is becoming a popular sport for families and need more training.
- We love Belmont United.
- A running track would be great. Carlmont HS has a track but it is very unclear if/ when that is available for public use so even clarifying that would be helpful.
- I don't participate in rec programs.
- The parking lot is challenging at Barrett. Tough getting in and out for vehicles and pedestrians.
- Bie and skate parks.
- I do not use these services
- More dancing classes and yoga classes
- Aquatics programs would be a huge addition for our family. Right now we have to go to the highlands pool in San Mateo.
- More publicity would help.
- You should not be charging money to use fields that sit empty most of the time. We want to play soccer at lunch on weekdays, but instead we stay inside.
- None
- organized activities aren't for me, but not opposed to them unless they substantially detract from everyone else's ability to bike, play, walk, etc.
- So much emphasis on sports leagues and not enough about learning and creating in the outdoors.
- More programs for youth are helpful. Homework club and after-school hangouts help keep the community out there and interacting with each other
- It would be great for Belmont to add a skatepark and bicycle pump track.
- I love them. I love biking in Belmont.
- Waterdog lake needs permanent restrooms at both ends.
- For years when our kids were little and played competitive sports we pushed for turf fields so way to go on finally getting some of these in place! The Sports Complex looks great and I only wish my kids could've used these but happy for those who can.
- A pool would be a fantastic addition for Belmont. Hopefully this is still in the works for the Barrett update.
- Add more tennis and running programs. Think of road bike programs too. Huge road bike community here in a Belmont (always escaping to Woodside or Hillsborough...)
- We very much appreciate these programs and use them extensively. Thank you for offering them.
- Would like to encourage more outdoor sports for youth
- Would like to know what programs are available in a timely manner.
- Would like swimming, tennis courts, kids after school activities
- Love camp soar.
- Adding swimming for kids and families. Classes, camps, recreational, family splash times, etc....
- N/A
- We need pickleball courts!!!

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 17. Other Responses (con't)

- Many of the youth activities are much more expensive than surrounding communities (for example, the Redwood City soccer program is half the price, which is why we chose it, despite being a Belmont resident)
- Our teen LOVED the hiking club program run by Brandon. More of those types of programs please. Broken into age groups
- I think the Outdoor Recreation Programs are very high quality, thank you.
- Not really interested in these.
- Youth sports are so important and offering them at the rec level is essential. thank you for offering them!
- Please offer more swimming options in Belmont. We need our kids to be water-safe. Please open up swim lessons for kids!
- Pretty good the way they are. Spend the money elsewhere where it may be needed more.
- Any possibility of a community pool at Barrett?
- We love Camp SOAR and hope it comes back for Summer 2021! Also, we'd love to see more all-sports or multi-sports classes so our kids can experience a lot of different sports and figure out what they like and don't like.
- Free events and general guidelines
- ice skating rink would be so great
- More adult outdoor classes please.
- A swimming pool/aquatics would be a wonderful addition.
- -I wish that we had a community pool that was more accessible to kids (Carlmont pool has very limited hours for free swim and is overcrowded by campers when it is open). -I want to reiterate my sentiment that the trails should be open to all (even e-bikes).
- We used to use these, mostly at Barrett, but as the kids get older less. Still we know a lot of people who use these. They are important.
- More aquatics programs for kids - after school and on weekends, summer time camps. More STEAM/educational programs.
- community pool would be great
- Construct Bocce ball courts as the City has promised!!
- It would be nice to see more outdoor recreation programs for tweens and teens
- I am not aware of any such program. I've lived here for two years and have not seen any information on any programs.
- N/A
- My son is in BRSLL so we've practiced at Nesbit and Ralston. I'd love to see the city have a better plan for Barrett Community center.
- Underdeveloped. The Belmont Sports Complex in general could be further developed for more fields and parking.
- More things for youth or ways to get to know others your age.
- Bring some classes back.
- I'm sure you know this... it is always hard to find fields/spaces to play sports.
- I believe a community pool like the one in Highland center would help the community
- Swimming pools needed
- BRSLL and local AYSO are great but our kids no longer playing organized sports. Fully support these programs, though and want there to be plenty of fields for the next generations.
- I haven't seen much of what's on offer, more publicity or signage would be a good idea.
- Good job balancing needs between sports and individual users!
- NA
- Do you have mountain biking camps for kids? Most outdoor programming seems to be for team-based skill sports, as opposed to mountain biking, or endurace-based sports which a) can be a lifelong sport (unlike most team sports), and b) can instill in kids a deep love of outdoors, hopefully leading to children with a passion for sustainability and stewardship of our precious outdoors and habitats.
- Keep funding to insure that our youth have a place to learn and enjoy
- More drop in adult exercise classes would be great! We need a community pool.
- Please do not eliminate mountain biking use at waterdog
- Needs by far the most focus is the poor condition of fields and recreation facilities at the schools. In general, they are poorly maintained. This is by far where resources should be directed. The grass fields are okay a few months a year only. The outdoor basketball courts are antiquated.
- Better restrooms at fields. Swimming pool.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Question 17. Other Responses (con't)

- The city of San Francisco just partnered with Outward bound to run a ropes course. We have one in our backyard and it would be nice if our community is able to use this resource. Perhaps, we can also partner with Outward bound to make this community connections.
- More basketball courts please
- A pump track would be great for young kids starting to ride.
- Keep up the good work!
- So many of the recreation programs for individuals who are older than 55 are offered during the day. Many individuals who are over 55 are still working and would still like to take part in the recreation programs that park and rec's offers.
- You guys do a great job!
- Would be nice if the lake were stalked with fish occasionally for kids to experience fishing.
- The top youth sports priorities for our family are softball and swimming.
- We love movie nights!
- I started working with groups to improve youth sport fields when my kids were 6 & 4. They are now 21 & 19 & just last year the sports complex got turfed. This took WAY TOO LONG! Too much bureaucracy! Prioritize these projects and get them done!
- It is very important to maintain an adequate budget for future maintenance of our facilities, including buildings, structures, play equipment, lighting, etc. And do not forget to increase City maintenance staff as you add facilities to the Department. This includes park landscape maintenance staffing, equipment and supplies.
- I love the idea of more outdoor exercise, also would love to see a large community garden where we can teach children (and adults) the how to grow food, the importance of eating local, importance of pollinators, birds, etc.
- NA
- I would really love to see swimming classes and a pool, either to be able to use the high school pool, or build one at Barrett or wherever else there is space.
- None
- It would be great if Belmont offered more programs so we don't have to go to other cities for tennis or soccer camps or dance lessons!
- Yoga sounds nice
- Mountain biking at waterdog is big
- None
- Teen activities
- love the youth programs, especially dance for my daughters
- Love 'em

DRAFT

FOCUS GROUPS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Youth & Teen Focus Meeting

June 3, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

What Are We Doing Today?

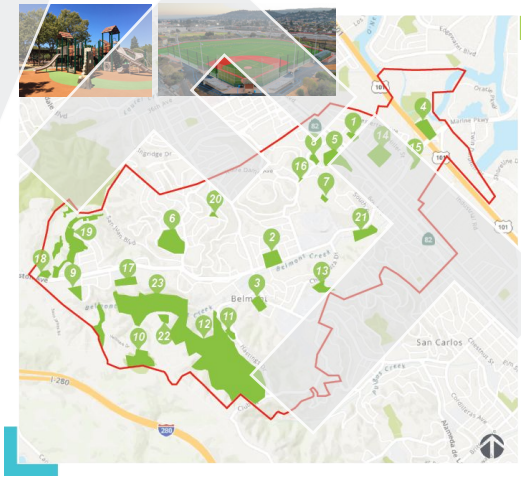
- Overview of Project Efforts to Date
- Discussion:
  - Existing Likes
  - Existing Challenges
  - Potential Improvements

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BELMONT PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

OUR PLAN EVENTS RESOURCES CONTACT





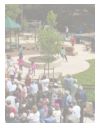
PARKS & FACILITIES

- 16 developed parks
- 11 athletic fields
- 300+ acres of open space
- Recent improvements:

1. Alexander Park
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22. Wakefield Park
23. Waterdog Lake

FOCUS GROUPS

PURPOSE

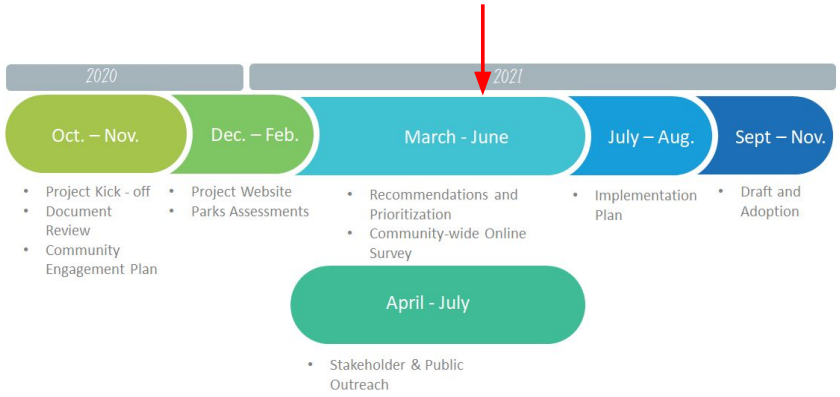




Set the **framework** for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's parks and open space system and related recreational programming for a **15 year horizon**.

MASTER PLAN GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
- Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position or physical/cognitive ability
- Offer services and activities across a range of **interests, abilities, and ages**
- Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience** and sustainability
- Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
- Advances **community health and well-being**
- Foster a sense of **community** and encourage **social interaction**
- Are **well maintained** and actively managed over time
- Can **adapt** to changing conditions and needs
- Utilize **transparent community process** to inform decisions

TIMELINE



EXISTING SITE ASSESSMENT

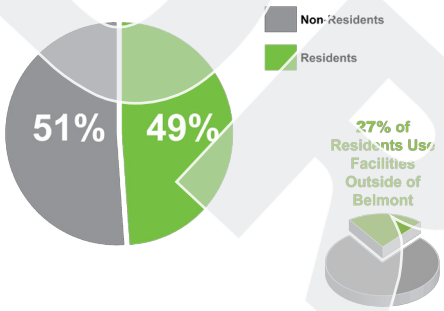


FOCUS GROUPS

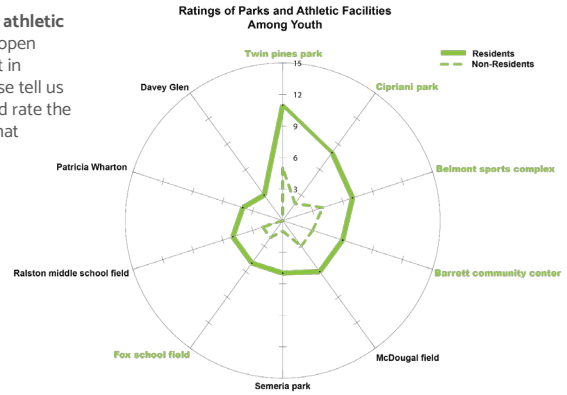
SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

2800+ Responses (2% under 18)

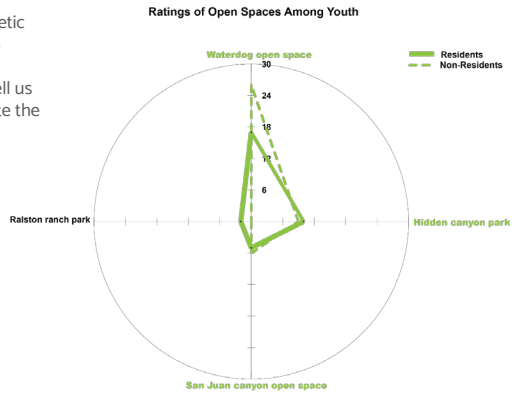




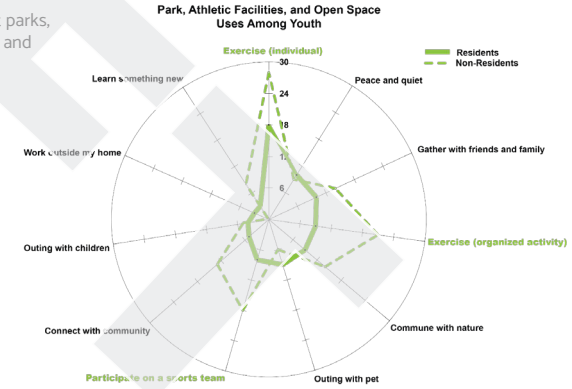
Question #5
For the **parks, athletic facilities** and open space you visit in Belmont, please tell us how you would rate the condition of that space?



Question #5
For the parks, athletic facilities and **open space** you visit in Belmont, please tell us how you would rate the condition of that space?



Question #3
Why do you visit parks, athletic facilities and open spaces?



FOCUS GROUPS

EXISTING LIKES & CHALLENGES



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



THANK YOU

info@belmontprosplan.com

FOCUS GROUPS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

District Focus Meeting

June 4, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

What Are We Doing Today?

- Overview of Project Efforts to Date
- Discussion:

Current Joint Use

- Who is using what and where
- Any issues with continuing joint use
- Any unmet needs

Potential Joint Use

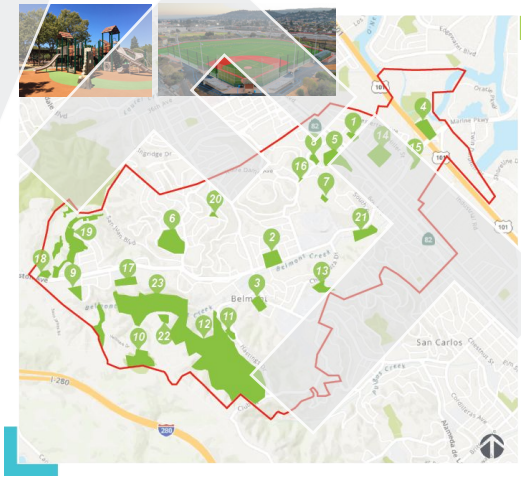
- Additional recreation needs
- Other joint use opportunities

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BELMONT PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

OUR PLAN EVENTS RESOURCES CONTACT





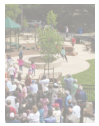
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FOCUS GROUPS

PURPOSE

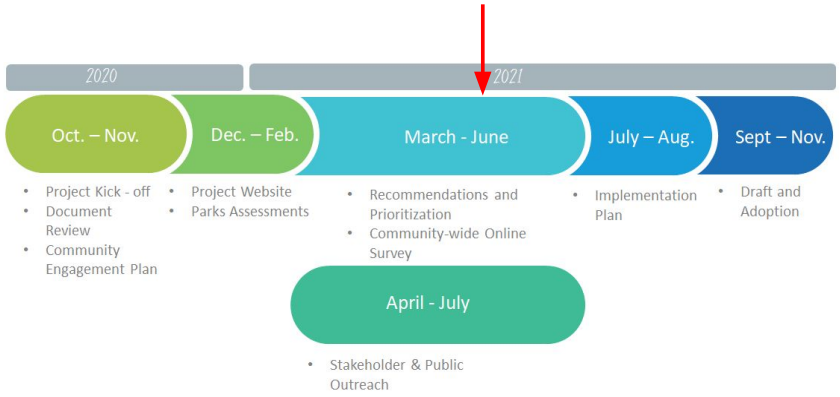




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TIMELINE

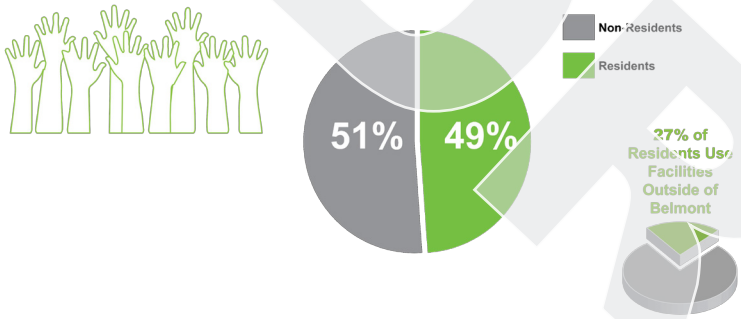


EXISTING SITE ASSESSMENT

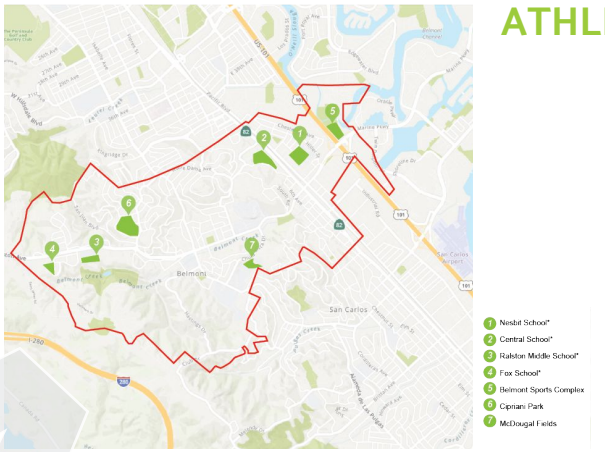


FOCUS GROUPS

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS



ATHLETIC FIELDS



What Are We Doing Today?

Current Joint Use

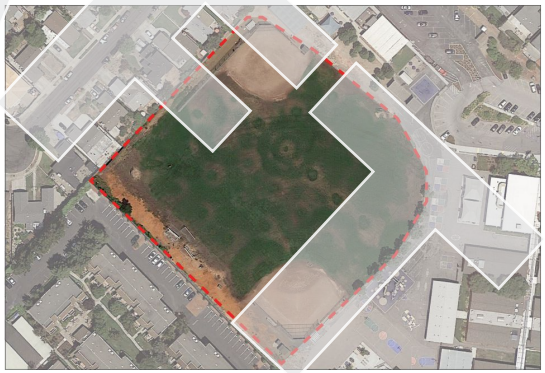
- Who is using what and where
- Any issues with continuing joint use
- Any unmet needs

Potential Joint Use

- Additional recreation needs
- Other joint use opportunities

NESBIT SCHOOL

Joint Use Agreement



FOCUS GROUPS

CENTRAL SCHOOL



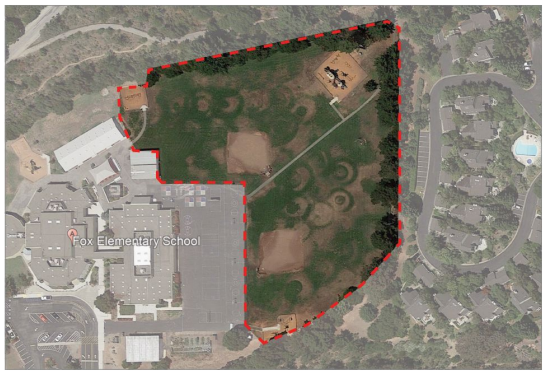
Joint Use Agreement

RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



Joint Use Agreement

FOX SCHOOL



Joint Use Agreement

BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX



FOCUS GROUPS

CIPRIANI PARK



McDOUGAL FIELDS



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS








THANK YOU

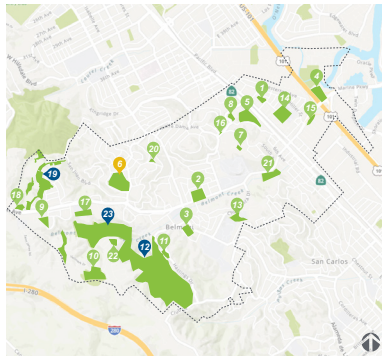
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FOCUS GROUPS - BOARDS FOR SENIORS + DOG OWNERS

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF **YOUR PARKS?**



BELMONT PARKS & FACILITIES MAP



1 Alexander Park	13 McDougal Park
2 Barrett Community Center	14 Nesbit School*
3 Belameda Park	15 O'Donnell Park
4 Belmont Sports Complex	16 Patricia Wharton Park
5 Central School*	17 Ralston Middle School*
6 Cipriani Park / **Dog Park**	18 Ralston Ranch Park
7 College View Park	19 San Juan Canyon
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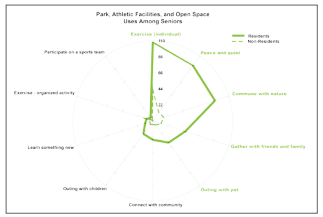
Dog Park
Park
Open Space

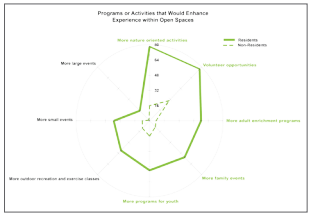
GATES +ASSOCIATES LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING · URBAN DESIGN

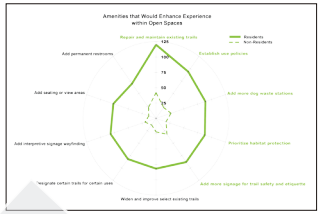
LET'S BUILD OUR BACKYARD
PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
BELMONT, CALIFORNIA

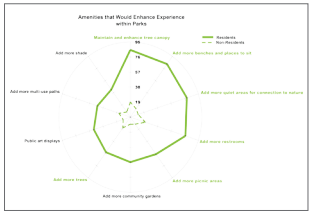
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF **YOUR PARKS?**

SURVEY SAYS...

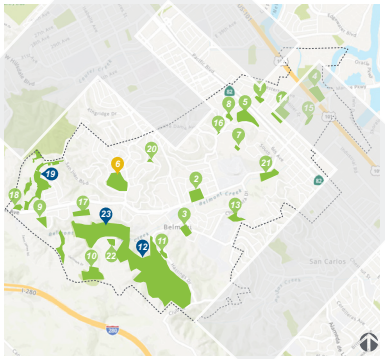








BELMONT PARKS & FACILITIES MAP



1 Alexander Park	13 McDougal Park
2 Barrett Community Center	14 Nesbit School*
3 Belameda Park	15 O'Donnell Park
4 Belmont Sports Complex	16 Patricia Wharton Park
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Dog Park
Park
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GATES +ASSOCIATES LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAND PLANNING · URBAN DESIGN

LET'S BUILD OUR BACKYARD
PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
BELMONT, CALIFORNIA

FOCUS GROUPS - BOARDS FOR SENIORS + DOG OWNERS

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO **ADD** YOUR PARKS?


AGILITY FEATURES


DOG WASH

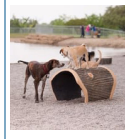

WATER FEATURE


LEASH HOLDER


SYNTHETIC TURF AREA


MORE DOG WASTE STATIONS


SHADED SEATING

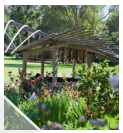

LOG TUNNEL

OTHER IDEAS?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO **ADD** YOUR PARKS?


MORE RESTROOMS


MORE PUBLIC ART

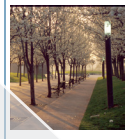

COMMUNITY GARDENS


MORE SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING


MORE EXERCISE STATIONS


MORE DOG WASTE STATIONS


MORE TRAILS / MULTI-USE PATHS


MORE TREES

OTHER IDEAS?

DRAFT

FOCUS GROUPS - BOARDS FOR SENIORS + DOG OWNERS

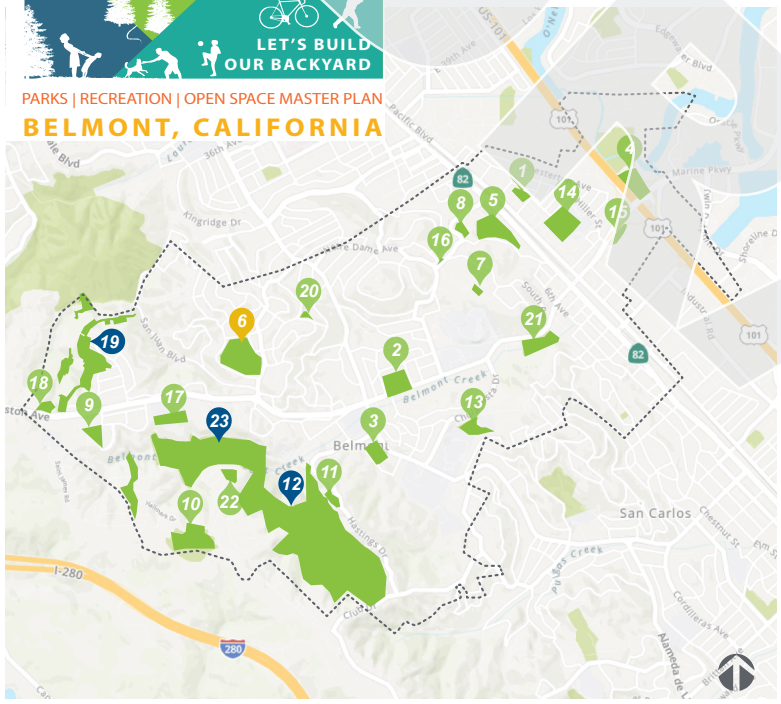
PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE **MASTER PLAN**

LET'S BUILD OUR BACKYARD

BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

PARKS | RECREATION | OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

BELMONT, CALIFORNIA



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GATES +ASSOCIATES
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAND PLANNING · URBAN DESIGN

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN **MASTER PLAN**

WE HAVE BIG GOALS FOR OUR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN AND NEED YOUR INPUT







COMING THIS FALL...

DRAFT MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

FOCUS GROUPS

ALWAYS ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON OUR PR WEBSITE

SCAN ME

BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

GUIDING PRINCIPALS

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Foster a sense of community and encourage social interaction
Are well maintained and actively managed over time
Can adapt to changing conditions and needs
Utilize transparent community process to inform decisions

GATES +ASSOCIATES
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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FOCUS GROUPS - BOARDS FOR SENIORS + DOG OWNERS

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF **YOUR PARKS?**





WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO **ADD** YOUR PARKS?

AMENITIES


DOG WASH


FOUNTAIN


PERIMETER FENCING


SHADED SEATING

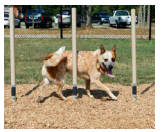

WATER PLAY


VARIETY OF SEATING OPTIONS

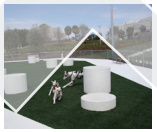
AGILITY FEATURES


JUMPING FEATURES

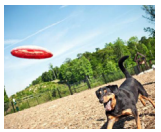

NATURAL OBSTACLES


WEAVE

SURFACING


SYNTHETIC TURF


DECOMPOSED GRANITE


WOOD CHIPS

OTHER IDEAS?

FOCUS GROUPS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Youth Sports Focus Meeting

June 24, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

What Are We Doing Today?

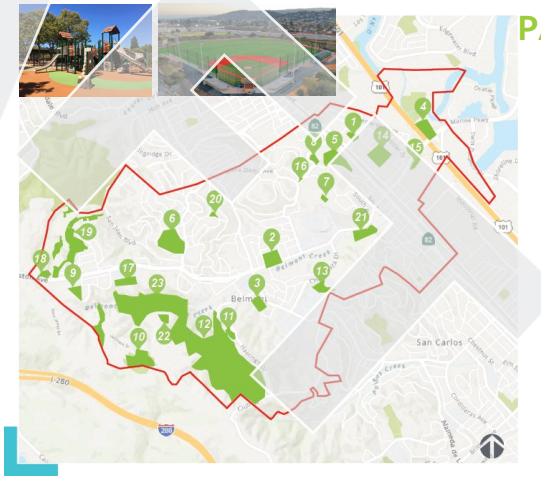
- Overview of Project Efforts to Date
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belmontprosplan.com

BELMONT PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

OUR PLAN EVENTS RESOURCES CONTACT





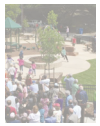
PARKS & FACILITIES

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- 300+ acres of open space
- Recent improvements:

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FOCUS GROUPS

PURPOSE

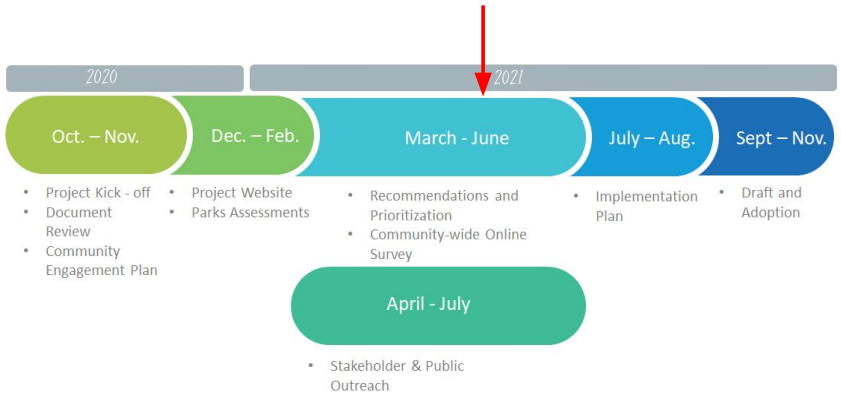




Set the **framework** for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's parks and open space system and related recreational programming for a **15 year horizon**.

MASTER PLAN GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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TIMELINE



EXISTING SITE ASSESSMENT

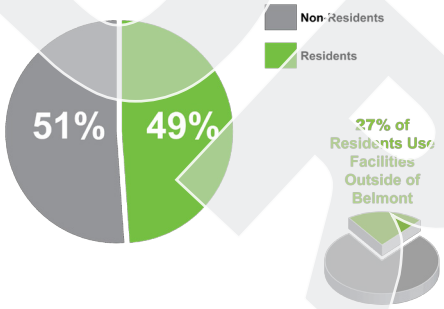


FOCUS GROUPS

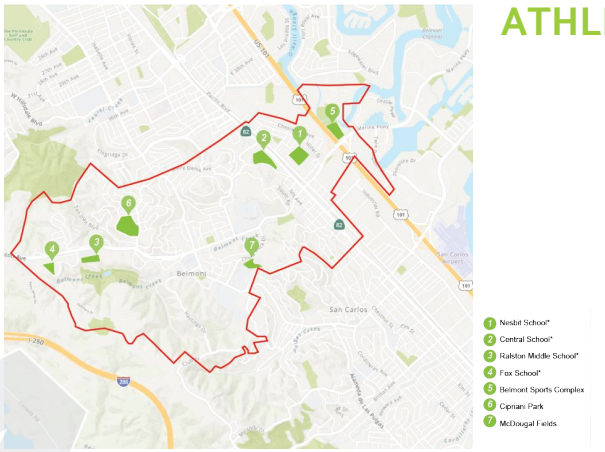
SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

2800+ Responses





ATHLETIC FIELDS



What Are We Doing Today?

Current Use

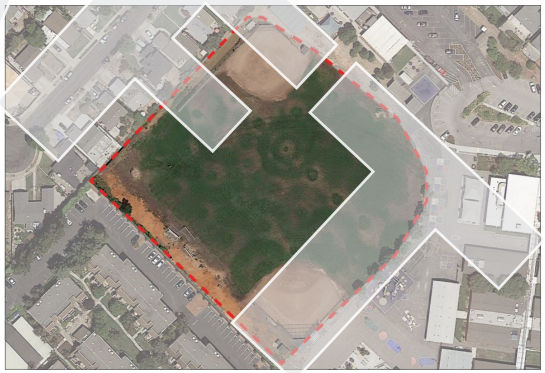
- Who is using what and where
- Any issues with this use

Future Use

- Unmet needs
- Field improvements
- Other opportunities

NESBIT SCHOOL

Joint Use Agreement



FOCUS GROUPS

CENTRAL SCHOOL



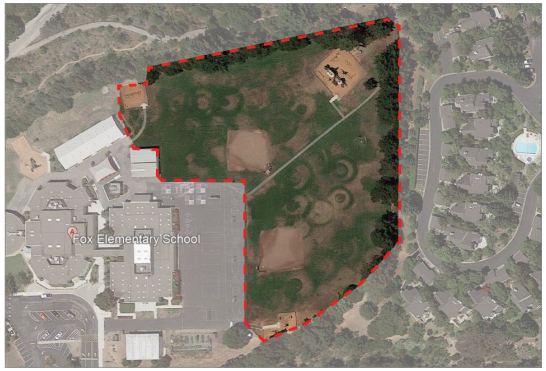
Joint Use Agreement

RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



Joint Use Agreement

FOX SCHOOL



Joint Use Agreement

BELMONT SPORTS COMPLEX



FOCUS GROUPS

CIPRIANI PARK



McDOUGAL FIELDS



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



THANK YOU

info@belmontprosplan.com

DRAFT

FOCUS GROUPS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Inclusion Focus Meeting

June 29, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

What Are We Doing Today?

- Overview of Project Efforts to Date
- Discussion:

Existing Conditions

- Who is using what and where
- Feedback about current amenities? programming?
- Any unmet needs?

Opportunities for improvement?

- Additional recreation needs?
- Other amenities or opportunities?

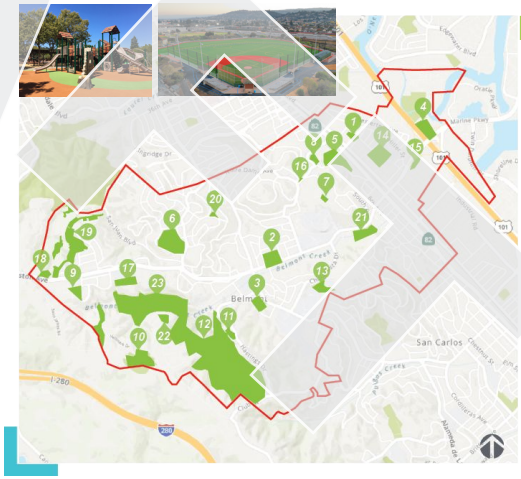
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BELMONT PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

OUR PLAN EVENTS RESOURCES CONTACT



PARKS & FACILITIES

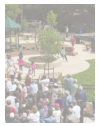


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FOCUS GROUPS

PURPOSE

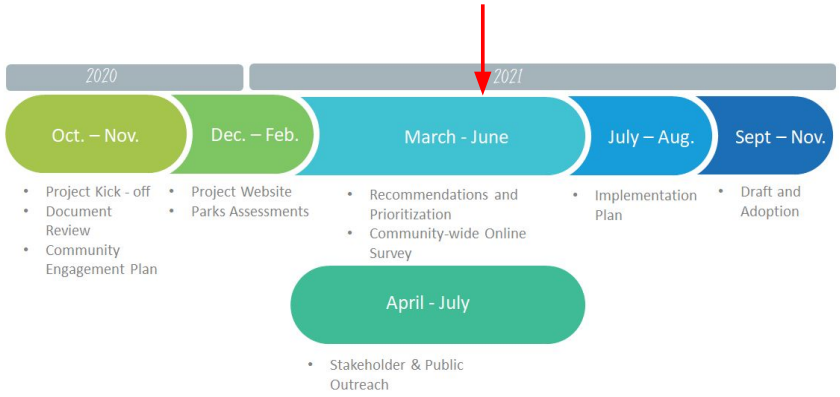




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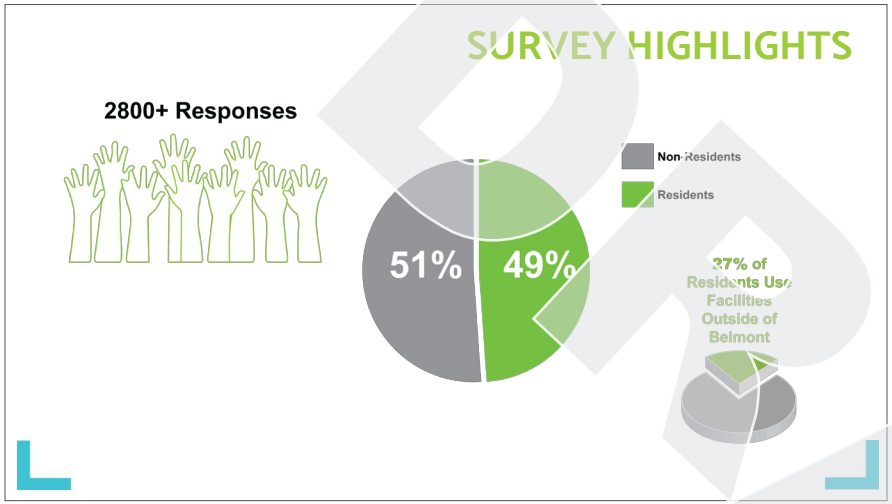
TIMELINE

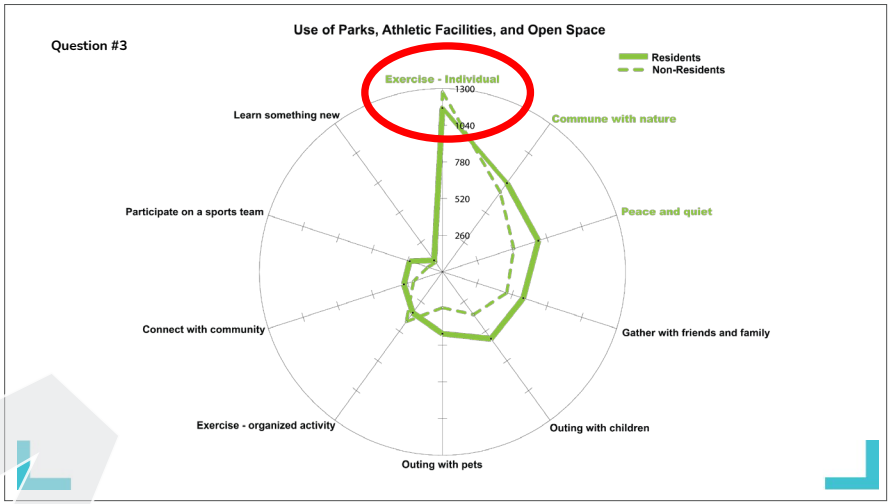


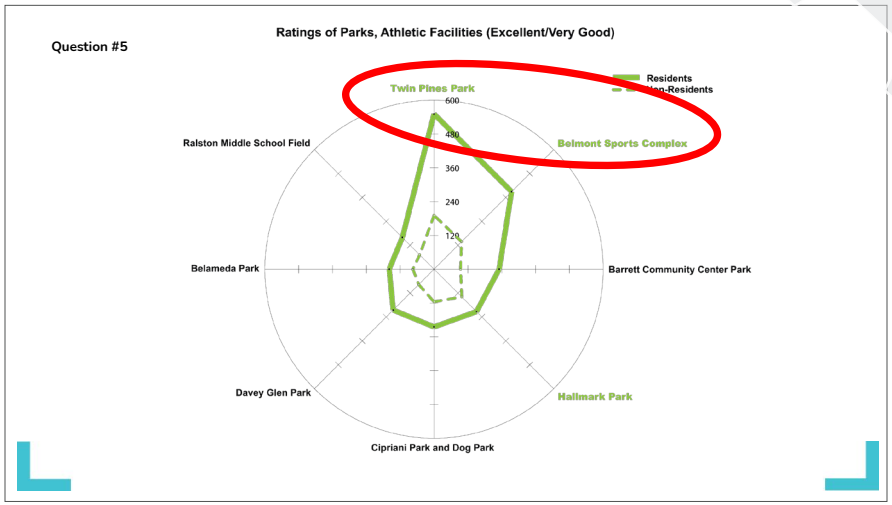
EXISTING SITE ASSESSMENT



FOCUS GROUPS



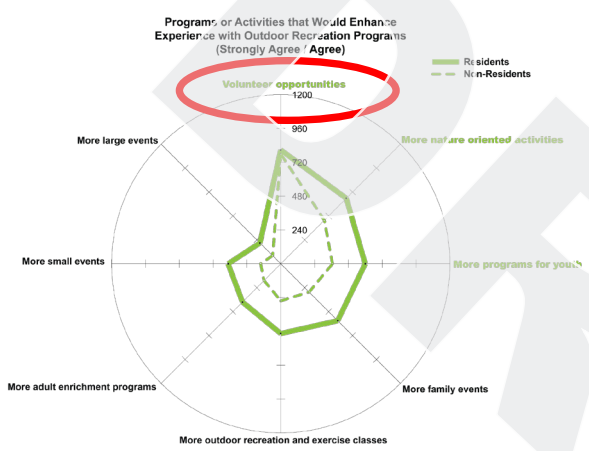


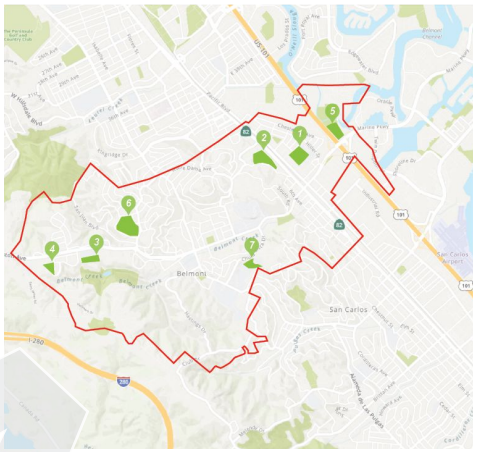




FOCUS GROUPS

Question #9





What Are We Doing Today?

Existing Conditions

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Opportunities for improvement?

- Additional recreation needs?
- Other amenities or opportunities?

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



FOCUS GROUPS

THANK YOU

info@belmontprosplan.com

DRAFT

FOCUS GROUPS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Schools Focus Meeting

June 29, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

belmontprosplan.com

BELMONT PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

OUR PLAN EVENTS RESOURCES CONTACT



What Are We Doing Today?

- Overview of Project Efforts to Date
- Discussion:

Current Joint Use

- Who is using what and where
- Any issues with continuing joint use
- Any unmet needs

Potential Joint Use

- Additional recreation needs
- Other joint use opportunities

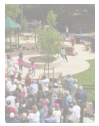


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FOCUS GROUPS

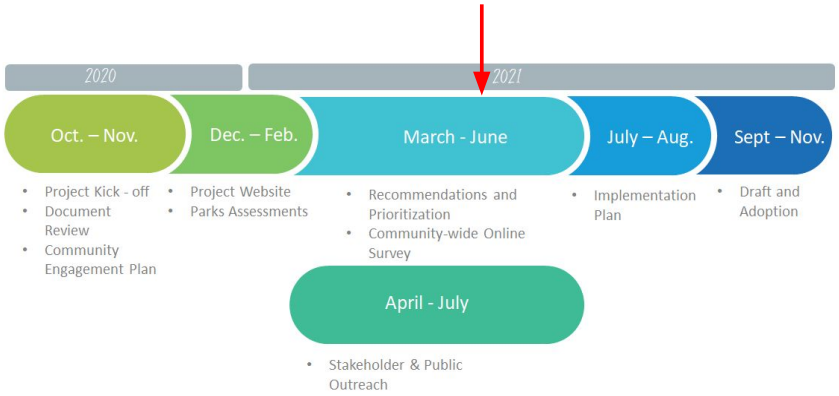

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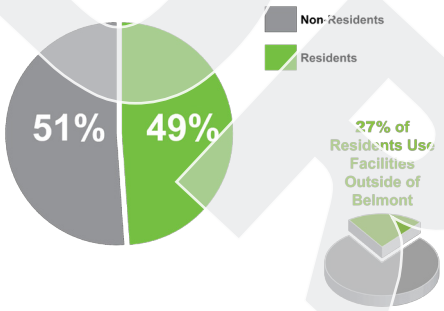
DRAFT

FOCUS GROUPS

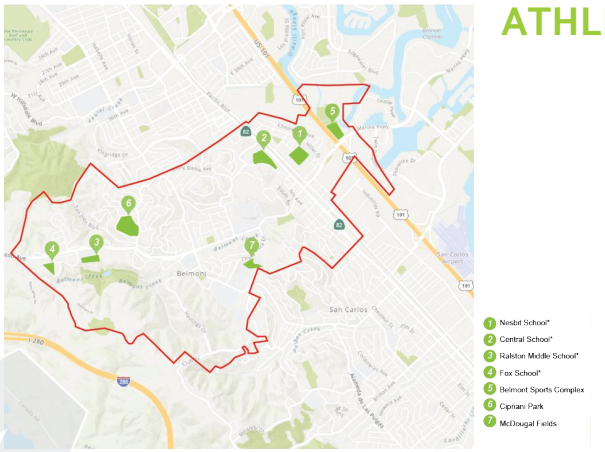
SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

2800+ Responses





ATHLETIC FIELDS



What Are We Doing Today?

Current Joint Use/ Shared Space

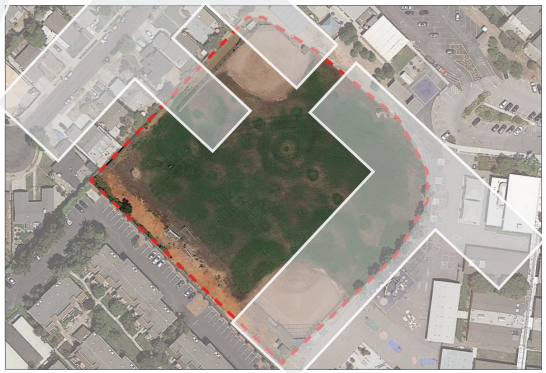
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Potential Joint Use

- Additional recreation needs?
- Other joint use/shared space opportunities?

NESBIT SCHOOL

Joint Use Agreement



FOCUS GROUPS

CENTRAL SCHOOL



Joint Use Agreement

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FOCUS GROUPS

CIPRIANI PARK



McDOUGAL FIELDS



CSUS FIELD



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



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THANK YOU

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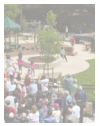
Focus Group
Hidden Canyon Park
October 18, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

1

AGENDA


Purpose *To discuss park-specific DRAFT recommendations for Hidden Canyon Park*

Introductions + Schedule

Efforts to Date

Hidden Canyon Park DRAFT Recommendations

Next Steps

Discussion (Q+A, comments)

2

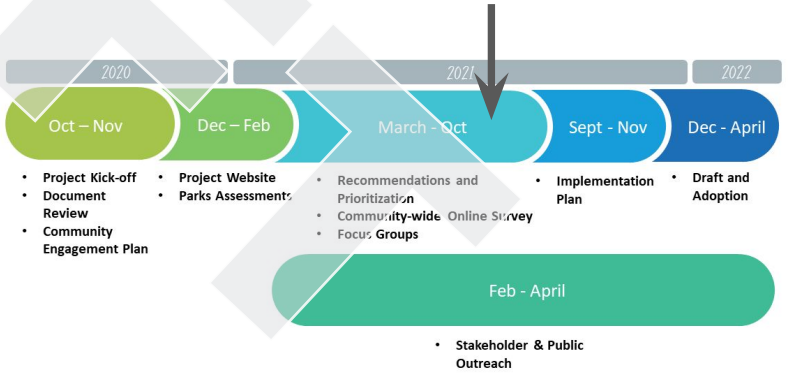
GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Master Plan will

- Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
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- Make all users feel **welcome and safe**
- Offer services and activities across a **range of interests, abilities, and ages**
- Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience and sustainability**
- Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
- Advance community **health and well-being**
- Foster a sense of community and encourage **social interaction**
- Provide **well maintained** and actively managed facilities
- **Adapt** to changing conditions and needs
- Utilize **transparent community process** to inform decisions

3

PROCESS



4

DRAFT

FOCUS GROUPS

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5

EFFORTS TO DATE

- **Existing Conditions**
- **Community Engagement**
  - Online Survey
  - Focus Groups
- **Benchmarking + Trends**
- **Park Typologies**

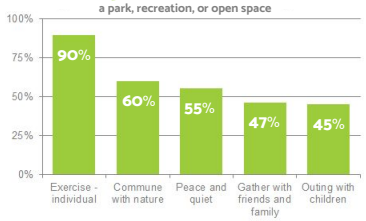
6

COMMUNITY INPUTS: **SURVEY**

BELMONT RESIDENTS ON **PARKS**

Top 5 Reasons to Visit

a park, recreation, or open space



Top 6 Amenities positively-rated

To Enhance the Belmont Park Experience



7

COMMUNITY INPUTS: **FOCUS GROUPS**



SCHOOL DISTRICT/ YOUTH SPORTS

Incentivize **school field improvements**

Continued **growth in sports field demand**

Interest in synthetic turf

INCLUSIVITY

Inclusive play elements sized larger (not just for small children)

Sensory and tactile play

Protected spaces, but with multiple sightlines and access points

YOUTH

Hang-out space for youth/teens

Add **seating**

Larger-sized play equipment

Community tables

Game areas

SENIORS

More **seating**

More **shade**

Generally happy with existing parks

DOG OWNERS

More **shade**

More **seating**

More **gathering and social** spaces

More waste bins

Water fountain

8

FOCUS GROUPS

AMENITIES: BELMONT IDEAL

To maintain the high level-of-service, Belmont will need to add (based on population):

Benchmarked Amenity	2021	2035
All-Abilities Playground	+1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	0	+2
Basketball Court (Half)	0	+2
Multi-Use Athletic Field	+1	+2
Play Element	+3	0
Playground	0	+2
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	+2	+1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	+1	0
Tennis Court	+2	+1

Priority Amenity	2021	2035
Community Garden	+1	0
Dog Park	+1	0
Dog Parklet	+2	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)	+1	0
Skate Park	+1	0
Water Play, Pool	+1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	+1	0

Secondary Amenity	2021	2035
Fitness Equipment Cluster	+1	0
Handball Court / Wall Ball	0	+1
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	0	+1
Outdoor Classroom	+1	0
Performance Space	0	0
Teen Outdoor Space	+2	0
Volleyball Court	+1	0

Priority Amenities were highly ranked in community outreach

9

RECOMMENDATIONS SPECTRUM

Existing Master Plan	Minor Improvements	Upgraded or New Amenity	Park Redesign	Undeveloped Parks	New Park Opportunity
Master Plans recently created Extensive community input Recommendation: Implement Master Plan	Parks recently developed or in very good condition Minor improvements to maintain high-quality	Current park functioning well New amenity to meet identified needs Upgrade existing amenity to meet identified needs	No change-in-use Rethink accessibility and park layout Park Master Plan process	Existing parks are undeveloped Proposed recommendations to amenitize site	City-owned property To fill gaps in park proximity Proposed recommendations to amenitize site
Barrett Community Twin Pines	College View Davey Glen Patricia Wharton Semeria Wakefield	Alexander Belameda Belmont Sports McDougal O'Donnell	Cipriani Hallmark Hastings	**Hidden Canyon** Ralston Ranch	Ralston & Old County Oak Knoll Alameda de las Pulgas Belmont Village Specific Plan

10

EXISTING CONDITION: HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK



1. Parking lot
2. Restroom, Portable
3. Fence Line
4. Boot Brush
5. Paved Road
6. Cleared Space
7. Terminus of Paved Road
8. Box Culvert
- Trailhead

ACCESSIBILITY
- Park is accessible from gravel parking lot.
- Paved linear strip within park area.

AMENITY
- Paved road is in good condition.
- Fence line is in good condition.
- Parking gravel levels are low in some locations.
- Parking stops are in fair condition.
- Bench is in fair condition.

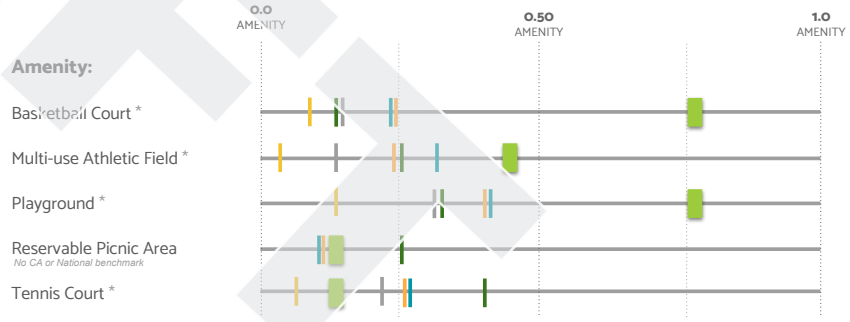
LANDSCAPE
- Naturalized area. Lots of native plants on the hillsides.
- Park area is not planted.
- Parking lot is not planted.
- Parking lot trees in good condition. Some shade provided to cars.

GOOD — FAIR — POOR

11

AMENITIES: BENCHMARKED

per 1,000 RESIDENTS

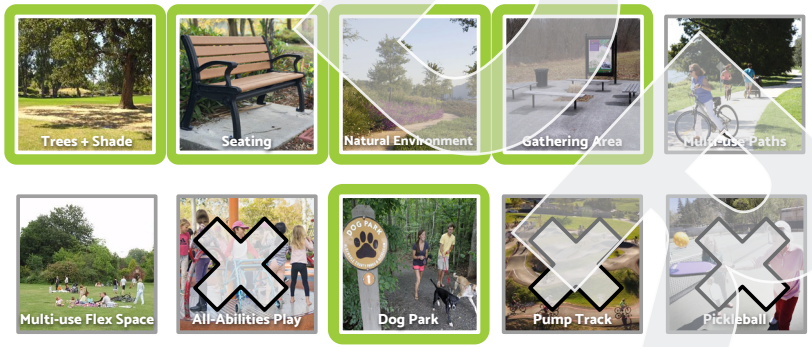


* includes amenities at Belmont's Schools (JUA) sites

12

FOCUS GROUPS

AMENITIES

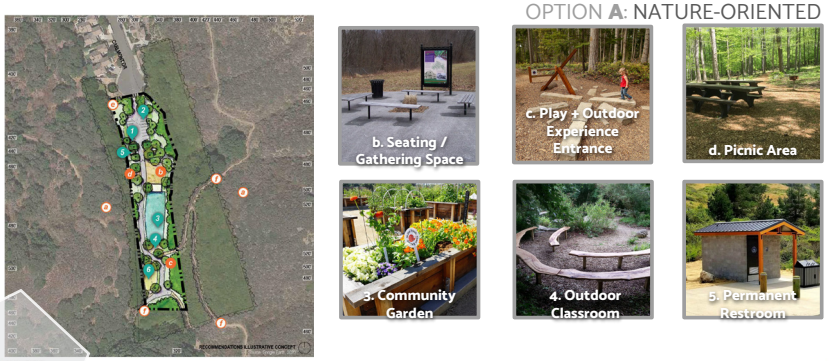


13

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK

OPTION A: NATURE-ORIENTED



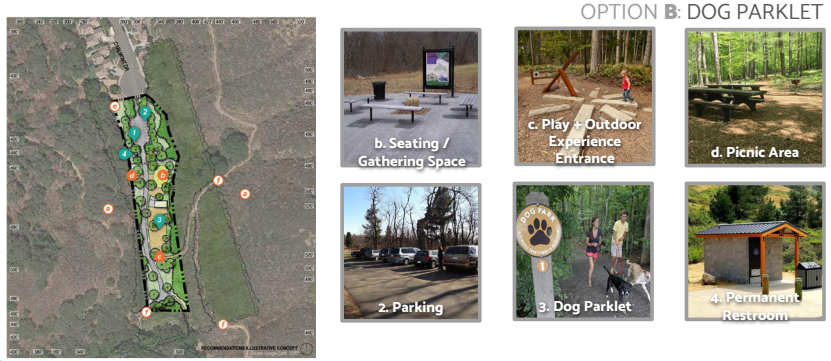
1. ADA Parking : 2. Parking : 6. Play Element
Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

14

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK

OPTION B: DOG PARKLET



1. ADA Parking
Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

15

QUESTIONS + COMMENTS

16

FOCUS GROUPS

NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Community Input Opportunities

- Online Comments and Feedback
- *Neighborhood Focus Group Meetings: mid-October*
- Parks & Rec Commission Meeting: November 3
- City Council Meeting: November 23

PROS Plan: Implementation

- Prioritization
- Action Plan

17

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FEEDBACK

Comment and provide feedback at

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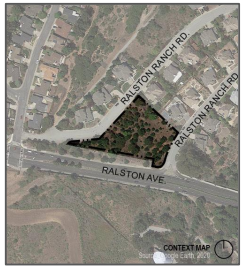
All Park-Specific Recommendations available on PROS Plan website.

18

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS GROUPS



Neighborhood:
HIDDEN CANYON PARK
Mon Oct. 18, 6:30pm
Meeting will be Virtual



Neighborhood:
RALSTON RANCH PARK
Wed Oct. 20, 6:30pm
Meeting will be Virtual

Register to participate at BelmontPROSplan.com

19

THANK YOU!

20

FOCUS GROUPS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

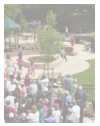
Focus Group
Ralston Ranch Park
October 20, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

1

AGENDA


Purpose *To discuss park-specific DRAFT recommendations for Ralston Ranch Park*

Introductions + Schedule

Efforts to Date

Park Typologies + Amenities

Ralston Ranch Park DRAFT Recommendations

Next Steps

Discussion (Q+A, comments)

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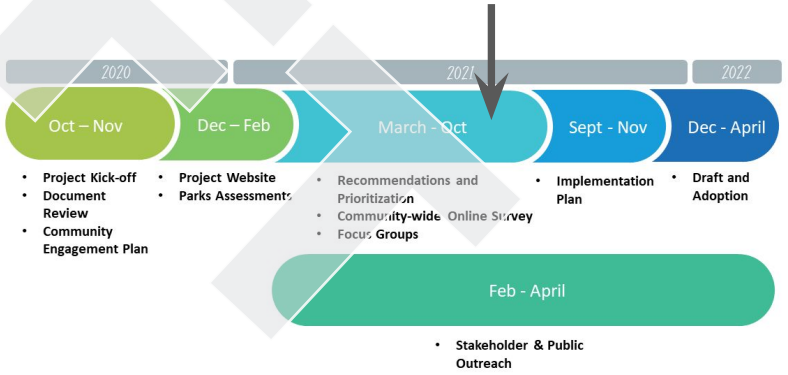
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PROCESS



4

DRAFT

FOCUS GROUPS

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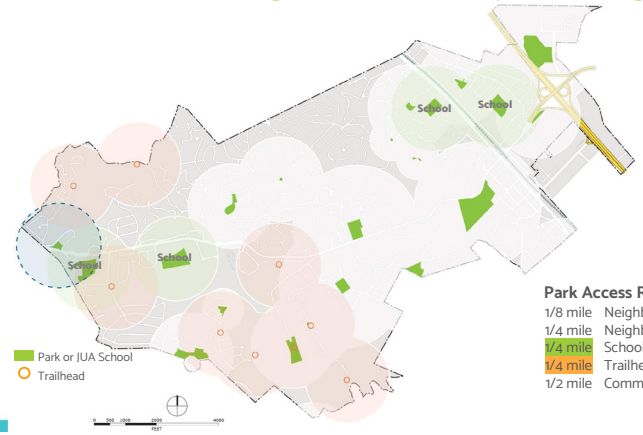
5

EFFORTS TO DATE

- **Existing Conditions**
- **Community Engagement**
  - Online Survey
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- **Benchmarking + Trends**
- **Park Typologies**

6

CITY-WIDE **PARK PROXIMITY**



Park Access Radii

1/8 mile	Neighborhood Park Tier 1
1/4 mile	Neighborhood Park Tier 2
1/4 mile	Schools (JUA)
1/4 mile	Trailhead
1/2 mile	Community Park

7

EXISTING **CONDITION:** RALSTON RANCH

UNDEVELOPED PARK



1. Sloped Hillside
2. Fuse Box and Irrigation Controller

ACCESSIBILITY
- Undeveloped space.
- Road has high slope off of Ralston Ranch Road (East).
- Road has less slope on Ralston Ranch Road (West).

AMENITY
- No furnishings on site.

LANDSCAPE
- Some trees need evaluation.
- Redwoods look in fair condition.
- Very little planting on hillside, need erosion control.

8

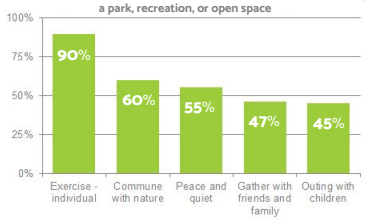
FOCUS GROUPS

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11

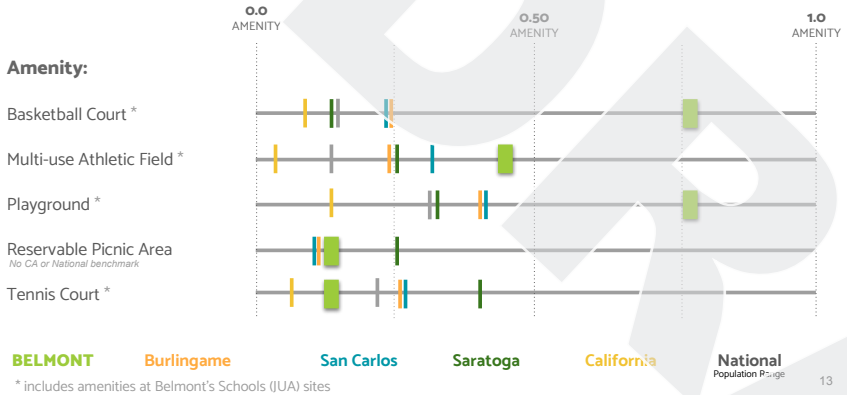
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Recommendation: Implement Master Plan		Upgrade existing amenity to meet identified needs	Park Master Plan process		Proposed recommendations to amenitize site
Barrett Community	College View	Alexander	Cipriani	Hidden Canyon	Ralston & Old County
Twin Pines	Davey Glen	Belameda	Hallmark	**Ralston Ranch**	Oak Knoll
	Patricia Wharton	Belmont Sports	Hastings		Alameda de las Pulgas
	Semeria	McDougal			Belmont Village Specific Plan
	Wakefield	O'Donnell			

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FOCUS GROUPS

AMENITIES: BENCHMARKED
per 1,000 RESIDENTS



* includes amenities at Belmont's Schools (JUA) sites

13

PARK TYPOLOGIES

Community Park

- Generate the **most visitors**
- **High use** intensities
- Accessed by foot, bike, or car
- Large capture area (1/2 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

A. Natural Environment
B. Seating
C. Play Amenity
D. Picnic Opportunity
E. Multi-purpose Flexible Space
F. Recreation Amenity
G. Off-Street Parking
H. Permanent Restroom
I. Multi-use Athletic Field or Community Facility

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

- **Interacting with nature, gathering, and recreation**
- Local and nearby neighborhoods
- Accessed by foot, bike, and car
- Medium capture area (1/4 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

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Neighborhood Park Tier 1

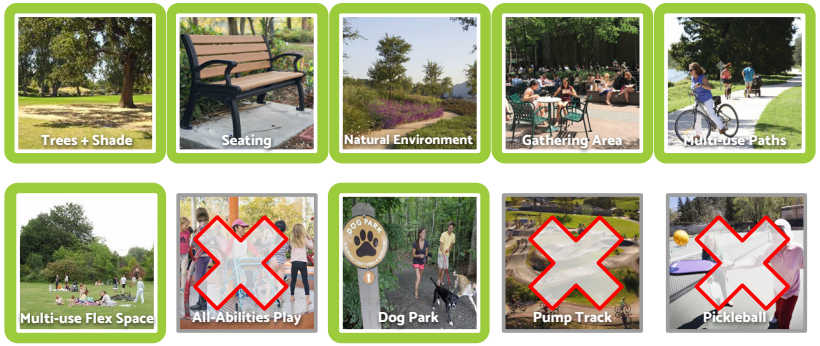
- **Interacting with nature or gathering**
- Local neighborhood
- Mainly accessed by foot or by bike
- Small capture area (1/8 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

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B. Seating
C. Identifiable Amenity

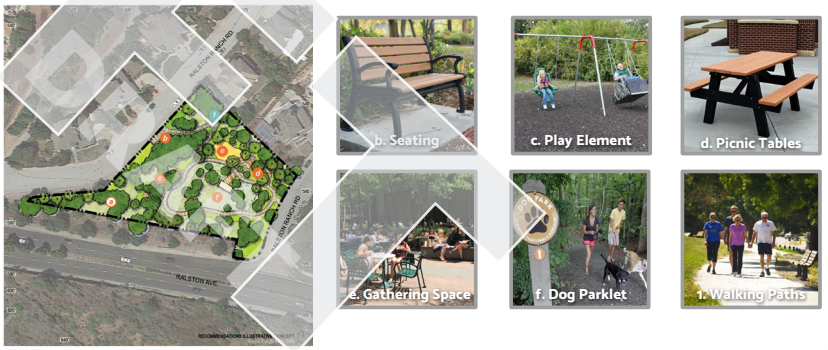
14

AMENITIES



15

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: RALSTON RANCH
UNDEVELOPED PARK



Accessible : Trees : Planting

16

FOCUS GROUPS

QUESTIONS + COMMENTS

17

NEXT STEPS

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19

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DRAFT

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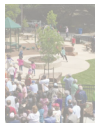
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Youth Advisory Committee
November 18, 2021

GATES +ASSOCIATES

1

AGENDA

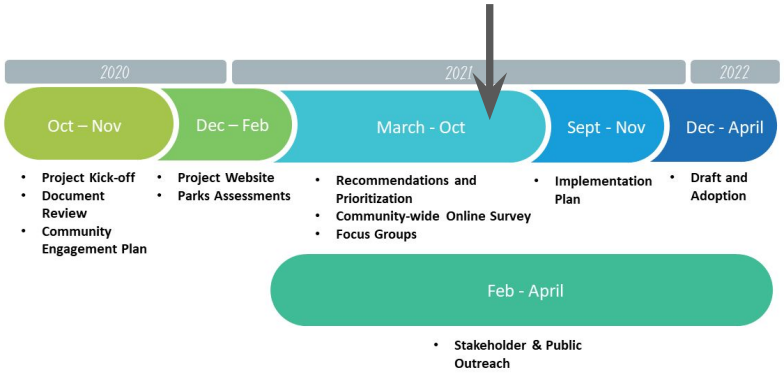




Purpose *To discuss park-specific DRAFT recommendations & public response to-date*

- Introductions + Schedule
- Efforts to Date
- Park Typologies + Amenities
- Park-Specific DRAFT Recommendations
- Park Opportunity Sites DRAFT Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion

2

PROCESS



3

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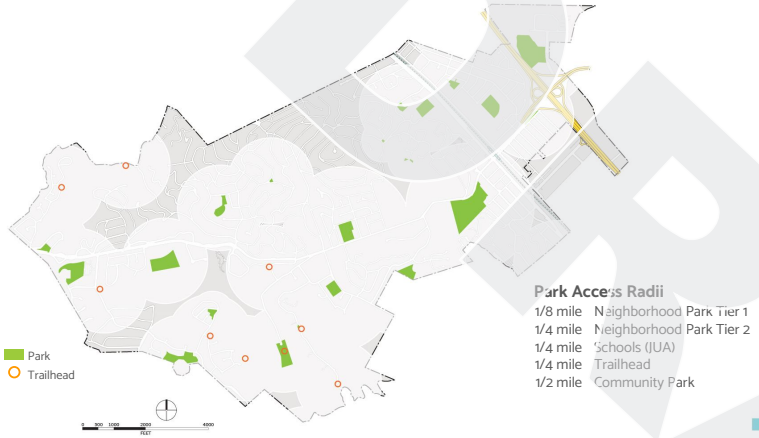


4

DRAFT

FOCUS GROUPS

CITY-WIDE PARK PROXIMITY



CITY-WIDE PARK CONNECTIVITY

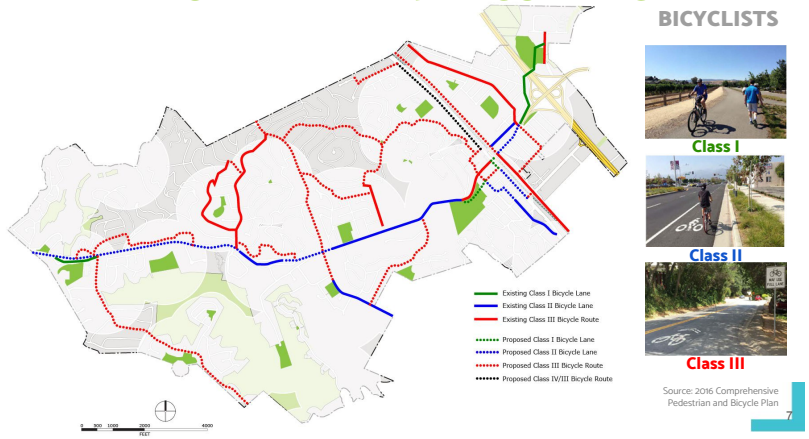
PEDESTRIANS



Source: 2016 Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

CITY-WIDE PARK CONNECTIVITY

BICYCLISTS



Source: 2016 Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

ASSESSMENTS

- Existing Conditions
- Community Engagement
  - Online Survey
  - Focus Groups
    - Park-specific: Hidden Canyon 10/18, Ralston Ranch 10/20
- Benchmarking + Trends
- Park Typologies

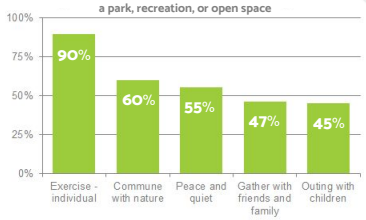
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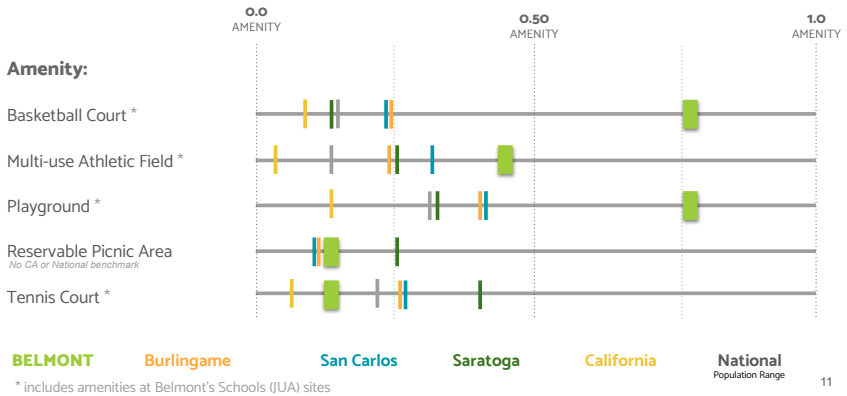
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per **1,000** RESIDENTS



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Neighborhood Park Tier 2

- **Interacting with nature, gathering, and recreation**
- Local and nearby neighborhoods
- Accessed by foot, bike, and car
- Medium capture area (1/4 mile radius)

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Neighborhood Park Tier 1

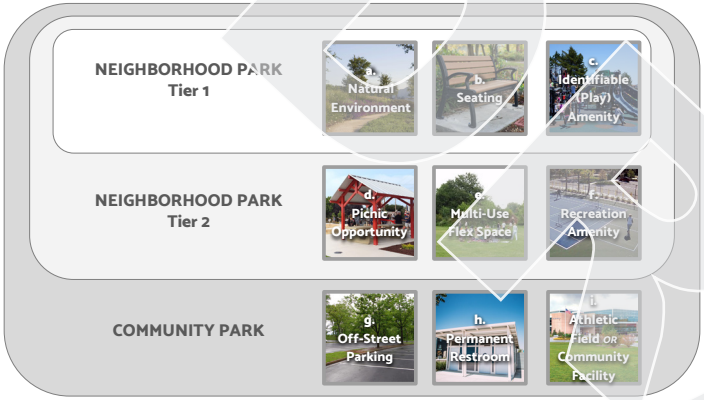
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STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

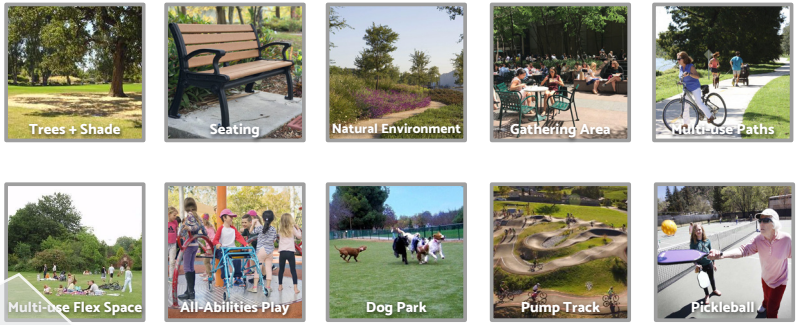
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FOCUS GROUPS

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES



AMENITIES



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Benchmarked Amenity	2021	2035
All-Abilities Playground	+1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	0	+2
Basketball Court (Half)	0	+2
Multi-Use Athletic Field	+1	+2
Play Element	+3	0
Playground	0	+2
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	+2	+1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	+1	0
Tennis Court	+2	+1

Priority Amenity	2021	2035
Community Garden	+1	0
Dog Park	+1	0
Dog Parklet	+2	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)	+1	0
Skate Park	+1	0
Water Play, Pool	+1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	+1	0

Secondary Amenity	2021	2035
Fitness Equipment Cluster	+1	0
Handball Court / Wall Ball	0	+1
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	0	+1
Outdoor Classroom	+1	0
Performance Space	0	0
Teen Outdoor Space	+2	0
Volleyball Court	+1	0

Priority Amenities were highly ranked in community outreach

RECOMMENDATIONS SPECTRUM

Existing Master Plan	Minor Improvements	Upgraded or New Amenity	Park Redesign	Undeveloped Parks	New Park Opportunity
Master Plans recently created Extensive community input Recommendation: Implement Master Plan	Parks recently developed or in very good condition Minor improvements to maintain high-quality	Current park functioning well New amenity to meet identified needs Upgrade existing amenity to meet identified needs	No change-in-use Rethink accessibility and park layout Park Master Plan process	Existing parks are undeveloped Proposed recommendations to amenitize site	City-owned property To fill gaps in park proximity Proposed recommendations to amenitize site
Barrett Community Twin Pines	College View Davey Glen Patricia Wharton Semeria Wakefield	Alexander **Belameda** **Belmont Sports** McDougal **O'Donnell**	Cipriani Hallmark Hastings	**Hidden Canyon** **Ralston Ranch**	**Ralston & Old County** **Oak Knoll** **Alameda de las Pulgas** Belmont Village Specific Plan

FOCUS GROUPS

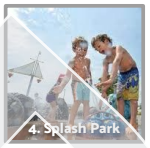
RECOMMENDATIONS: BARRETT COMMUNITY

EXISTING MASTER PLAN



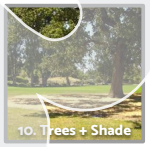












1. Parking : 5. Playground : 8. Multi-use Sports Court : 9. Picnic Area

17

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: BELAMEDA

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY













Seating : Planting : High-Quality Landscape

18

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: BELMONT SPORTS

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY















Seating

19

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: O'DONNELL

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY









Planting : High-Quality Landscape

20

FOCUS GROUPS

DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK
OPTION **A**: NATURE-ORIENTED















1. ADA Parking : **2.** Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK
OPTION **B**: DOG PARKLET















1. ADA Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

PUBLIC RESPONSE: HIDDEN CANYON

VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUP MONDAY 10/18

- **Poor maintenance condition** noted currently, and more of a concern if increased amenities at site
- **Concerned about vehicular access** (traffic volume and speed, parking)
- Many participants voiced support to keep the space **natural and quiet**
- **Phased implementation** supported in order to manage traffic concerns
- **Picnic tables, seating, and child outdoor play amenity** generally supported

DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** RALSTON RANCH

UNDEVELOPED PARK















Accessible : Trees : Planting

FOCUS GROUPS

PUBLIC RESPONSE: RALSTON RANCH

VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUP WEDNESDAY 10/20

- **Walking paths and seating** supported by multiple participants
- Neighborhood residents **generally against a dog-oriented amenity**
- Maintain and increase **trees**
- Respect **natural environment** in any proposed changes
- **Traffic, specifically exiting** Ralston Ranch Rd, considered negative to residents
- Child **play element** supported

25

PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES



Park Proximity Map

26

DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: RALSTON & OLD COUNTY

INTERIM PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITY













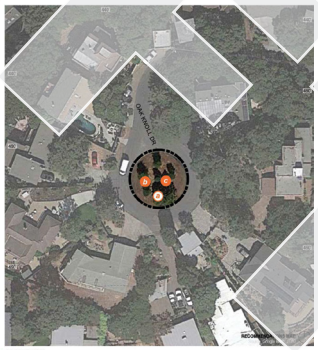


Accessible : Planting

27

DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: OAK KNOLL

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY







Accessible : Planting

28

FOCUS GROUPS

DRAFT **OPPORTUNITY:** ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY









Accessible : Planting

PUBLIC RESPONSE: RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED OCTOBER 2021

- Multiple comments in support of **Pump Track (Bike Park)** at Belmont Sports Complex (requests to include and exclude bike amenity at Hidden Canyon)
- Positive response to proposed park at **Alameda de las Pulgas** (Opportunity Site)
- Seating and Permanent Restroom for Hidden Canyon, add bike repair station
- Request for more **Youth- and Teen-oriented spaces**
- Splash park (water play) at O'Donnell not encouraged
- Yes to **Bocce ball** (multiple locations)
- Request for **dog-oriented amenities**, limited support for proposed sites
- Maintain **natural environs** on undeveloped parks
- Neighbors support **park creation at summit of Oak Knoll Drive**

NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Community Input Opportunities

- Online Comments and Feedback
- City Council Meeting: November 23

PROS Plan: Implementation

- Prioritization
- Action Plan

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION **FEEDBACK**

Comment and provide feedback at

BelmontPROSplan.com

Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

All Park-Specific Recommendations available on PROS Plan website.

FOCUS GROUPS

DRAFT

QUESTIONS + COMMENTS
from YAC

33

COMMENTS
from General Public

20 minutes allotted for comments on agenda items

Speaker time will be limited based on number of persons wishing to comment
Questions will not be answered live in this meeting

Visit BelmontPROSplan.com or
email Info@BelmontPROSplan.com
to comment and provide feedback

34

THANK YOU!

35

BelmontPROSplan.com



Info@belmontprosplan.com

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Advisory Committee Meeting

March 4, 2021

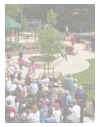
CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

- CASEYS NOTES - DONT PRINT
- Should be built on data
- Skate parks
- Option to remove items from parks
- Could ask if we need dedicated trails for each
- Do people think there is conflict?
- Additional trees?
- Quantitative approach that then becomes more qualitative

AGENDA







Introduction of Advisory Committee Members

Introduction to Project

Project Scope

Goals & Guiding Principles

Role of Advisory committee

Outreach Plan

Draft Survey

Open for Public Comment

Future Meeting Dates

WELCOME

BelmontPROSPlan.com

Info@belmontprosplan.com



DRAFT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

INTRODUCTIONS

Gates + Associates

Casey Case
Linda Gates
Kelley Lotosky
Melonie O'Sullivan

PROS Committee

Avery Lyford
Karl Mittelstadt
Craig Michaels
Brigitte Shearer
Daniel Ourtiague
Michael Moran
Peter Meier

Advisory Committee

Abby Sanders
Karen Haas-Foletta
Bob Stahl
Nelson Corteway
David Braunstein
Scott Sisemore
Susan Wright
Donna Sanchez
Dean Wilson
Lynn Bell
Sergio Raddaverro
Dan Deguara
Rui Bao

PURPOSE

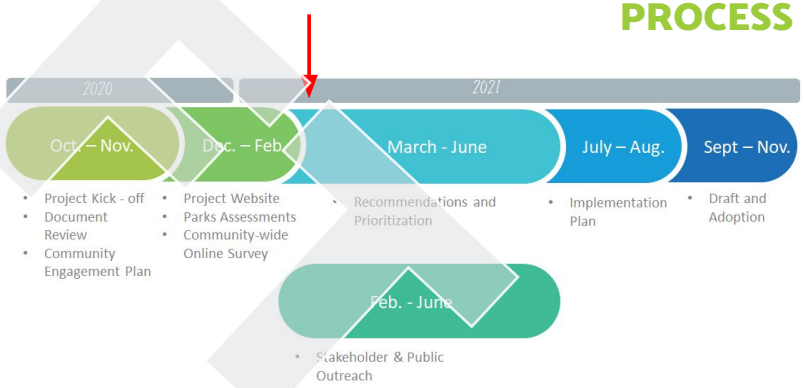
Set the **framework** for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system and related recreational programming for a **15 year horizon.**

GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Develop a Master Plan that:

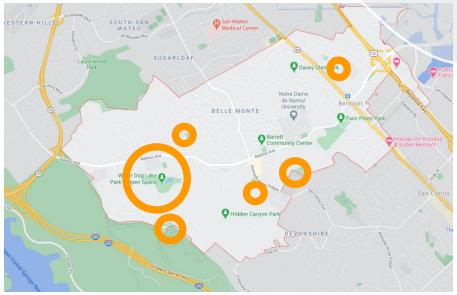
- Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
- Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position or physical/cognitive ability
- Offer services and activities across a range of **interests, abilities, and ages**
- Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience** and sustainability
- Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
- Advances **community health and well-being**
- Foster a sense of **community** and encourage **social interaction**
- Are **well maintained** and actively managed over time
- Can **adapt** to changing conditions and needs
- Utilize **transparent community process** to inform decisions

PROCESS



ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

EFFORTS TO DATE: BENCHMARKING



Benchmarking of 3 comparable Cities

- *San Carlos*
- *Saratoga*
- *Burlingame*

City Staff Park Usage Study

- ***Open Space*** *- Waterdog*
- ***Community Parks*** *– McDougal Park & Athletic Fields, Belameda Park*
- ***Neighborhood Parks*** *- Cipriani, Alexander Park, Hallmark Park*

EFFORTS TO DATE: EXISTING SITE ASSESSMENT





EFFORTS TO DATE: OUTREACH

Outreach to date:

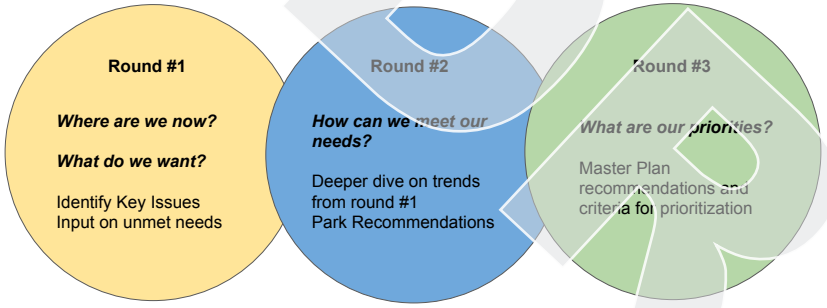
- **Brand (Logo/Tagline)**
- **Project Website**
- **Identify Community Enhancers**
- **Selected Our Channels**
- **Developed Our Questions for Round #1 Survey**

EFFORTS TO DATE: OUTREACH EVENTS

- **Presentation at BRSSD Superintendent** Meeting March 2, 2021
- **The Belmont Park and Recreation Commission Meeting** February 3, 2021
- **The Belmont Park and Recreation Commission Presentation** February 3, 2021

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

OUTREACH STRATEGY



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **Advisory Committee Meetings** *(4 Total)*
- **Community-Wide Survey**
- **Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings** *(6 Total) - User Group or Topic (Open Space, Teens, etc., ...)*
- **Neighborhood Meetings** *(6 Total)*
- **Community Pop Up Events** *(3 Total)*
- **Community Workshops** *(2 Total)*
- **Parks and Recreation Committee Presentation** *(4 Total)*
- **Planning Commission Meeting**
- **City Council Presentation** *(3 Total)*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- **Role:**
  - **Insights:** represent a diverse perspective of interests and ideas
  - **Outreach:** gather feedback and serve as community liaison to Master Plan team
  - **Advise:** review and provide input on the Master Plan process

DRAFT SURVEY

- **General Information Requested:**
  - Who are you? *Age and Neighborhood*
  - Frequency of park, open space and outdoor recreation program use
  - Opinion on park, open space and outdoor recreation program spaces visited
  - Types of improvements desired for:
    - Parks
    - Open Spaces
    - Outdoor Recreation Programs

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS



DRAFT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Belmont PROS Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

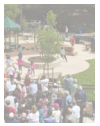
May 13, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

AGENDA







- Introductions
- Survey Results Overview
- Focus Groups
- Questions and Comments from Advisory Committee
- Comments from General Public
- Next Steps

INTRODUCTIONS

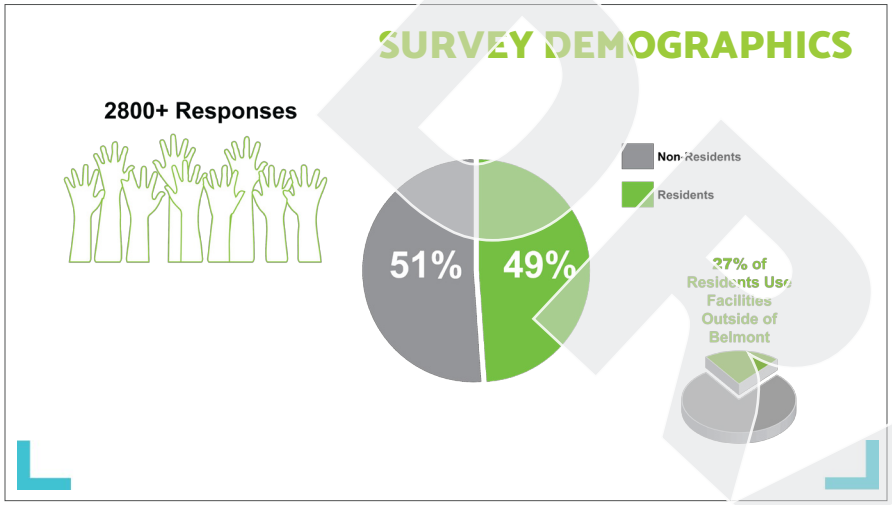
Gates + Associates	PROS Committee	Advisory Committee
Casey Case	Brigitte Shearer	Karen Haas-Foletta
Linda Gates	Daniel Ourtiague	Bob Stahl
Kelley Lotosky	Michael Moran	Nelson Corteway
Melonie O'Sullivan		David Braunstein
Grant Hudson		Scott Sisemore
		Susan Wright
		Dean Wilson
		Lynn Bell
		Sergio Raddaverro
		Dan Deguara/Rui Bao
		Karl Mittelstadt
		Ulla Foehr
		Austin Lee
		Caroline Pyrz
		Eli Latimerlo
		Abby Sanders

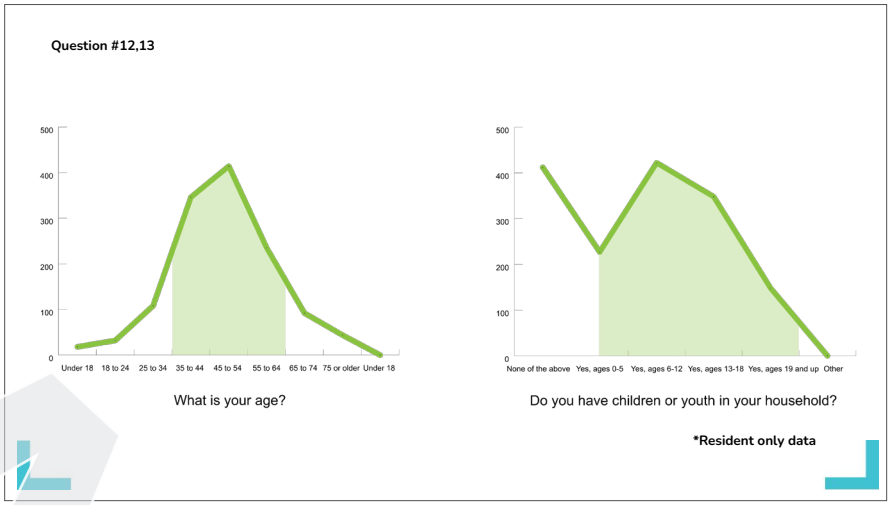
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

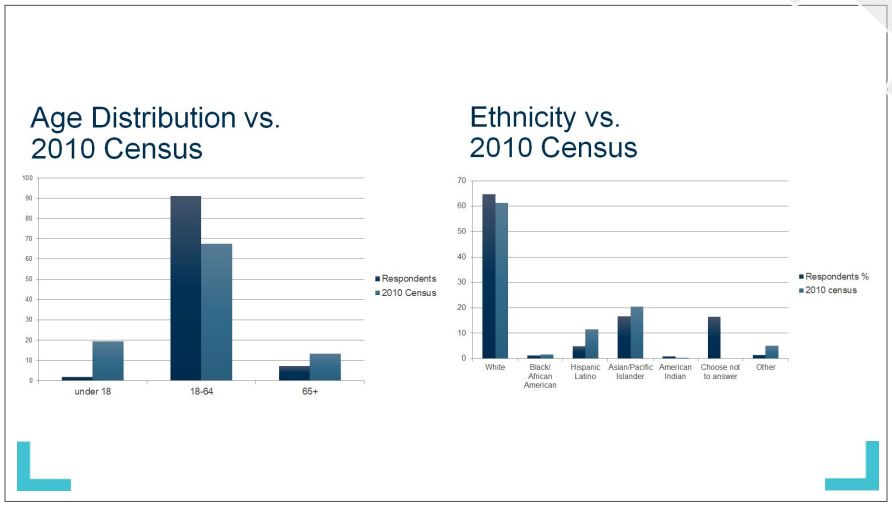
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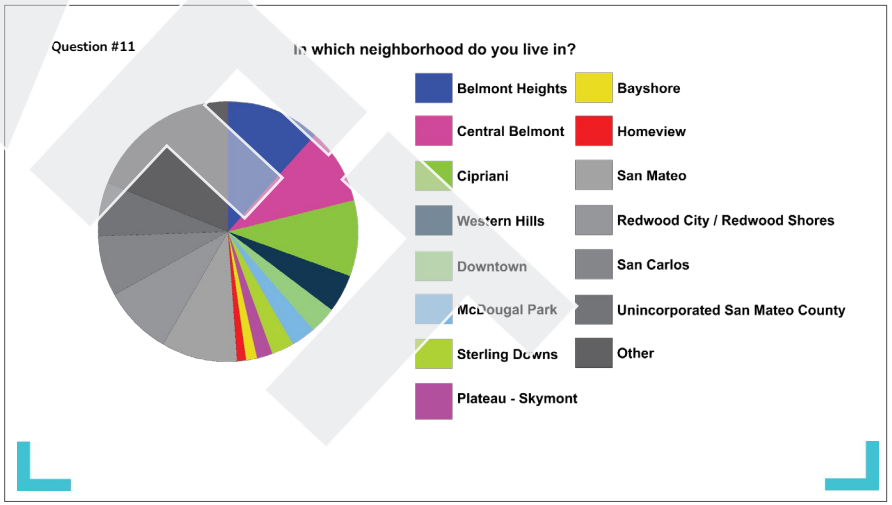
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

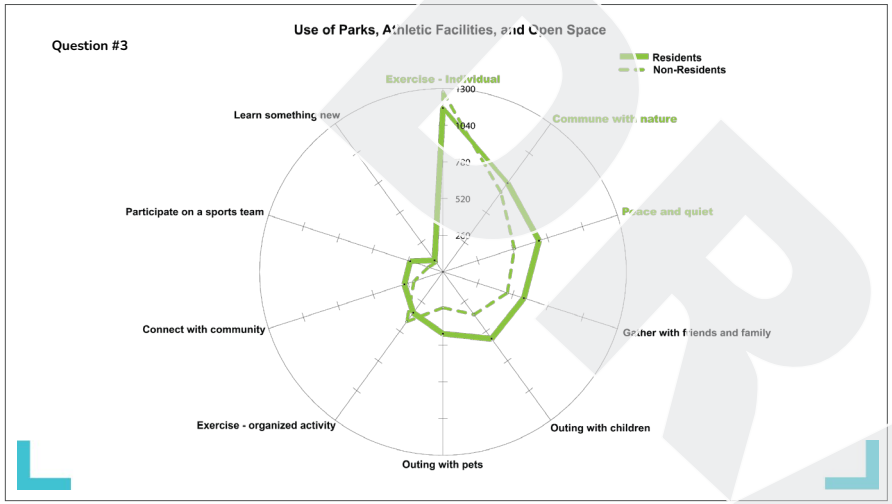


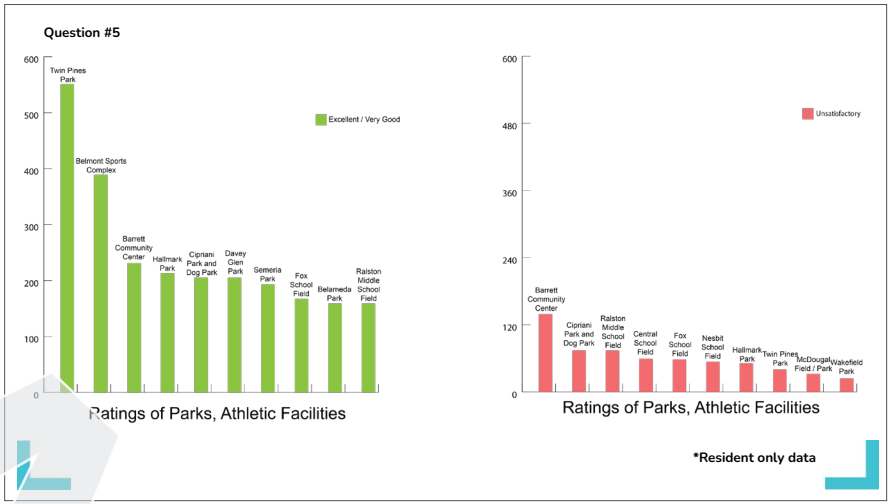


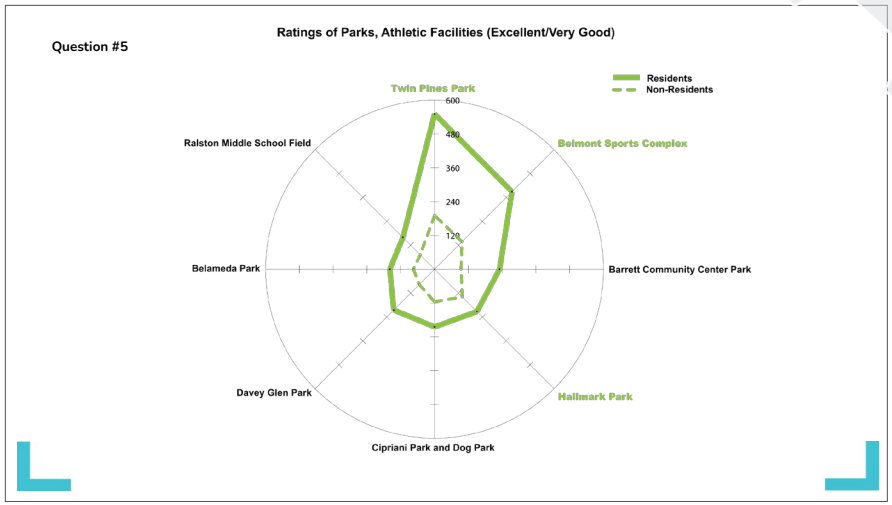


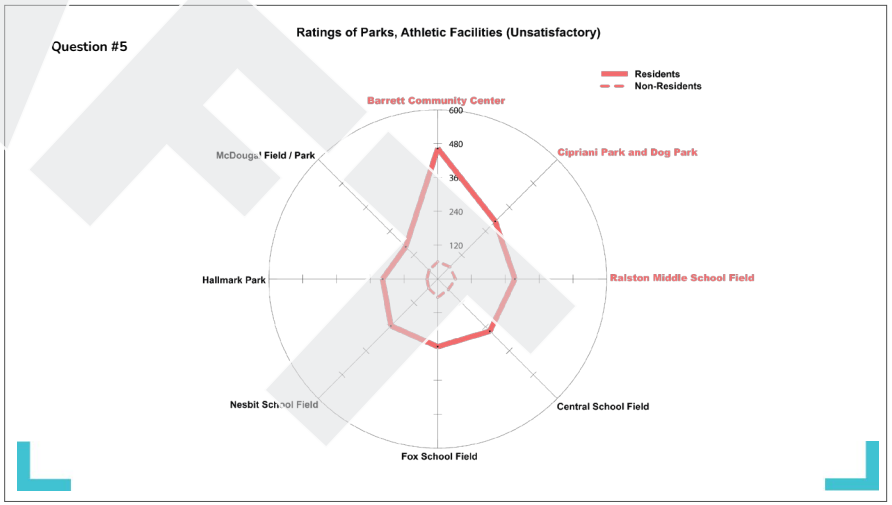


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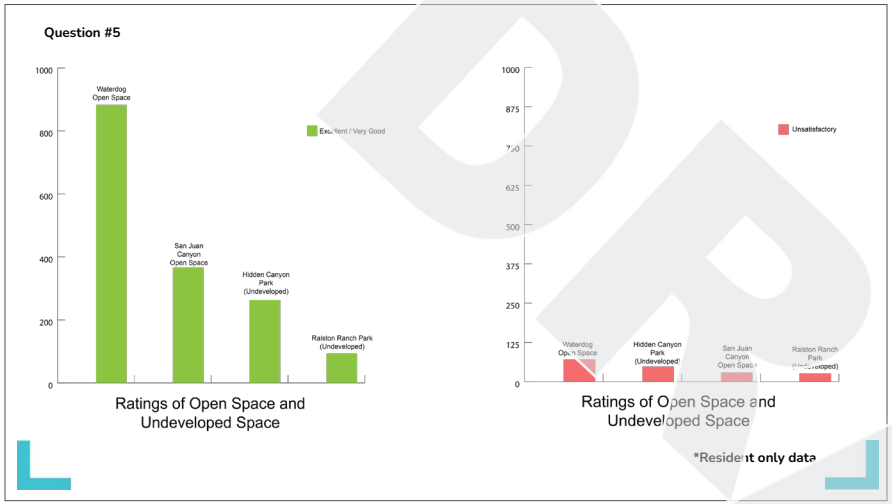


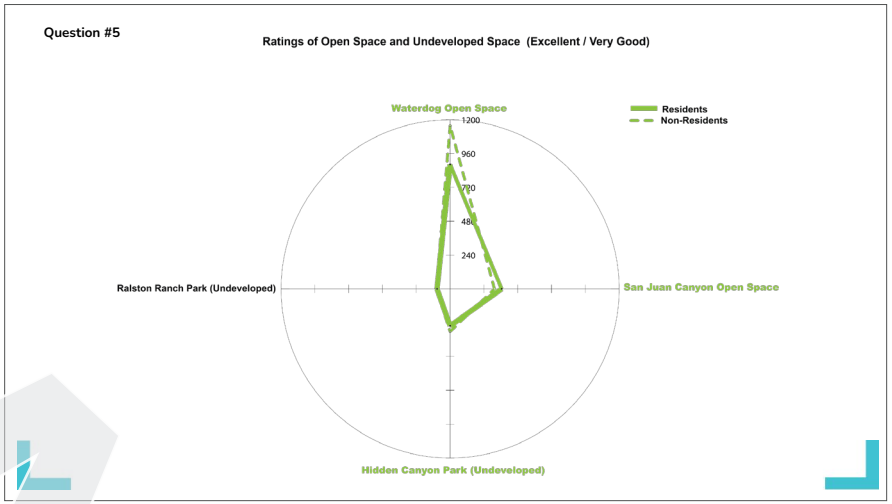


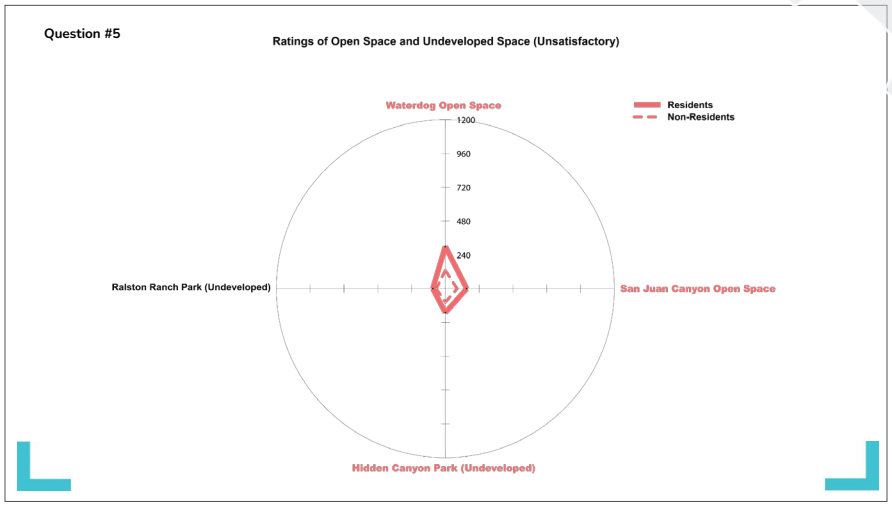


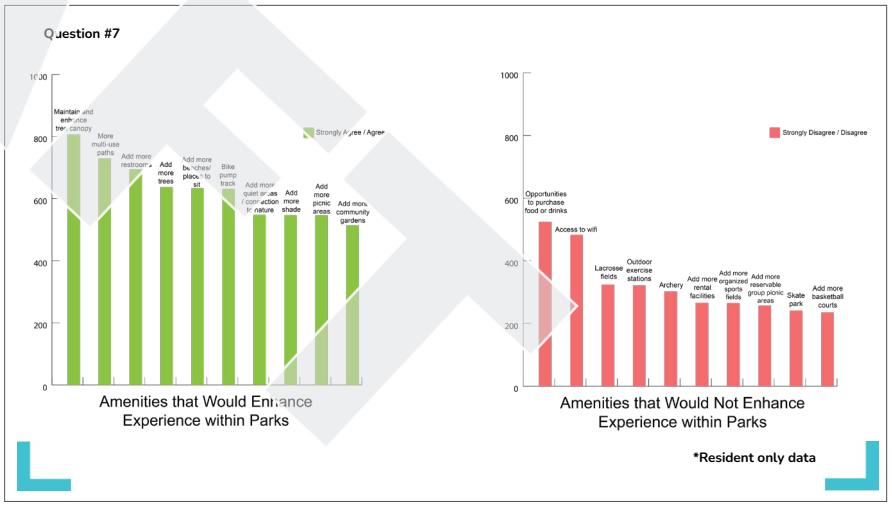


ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS



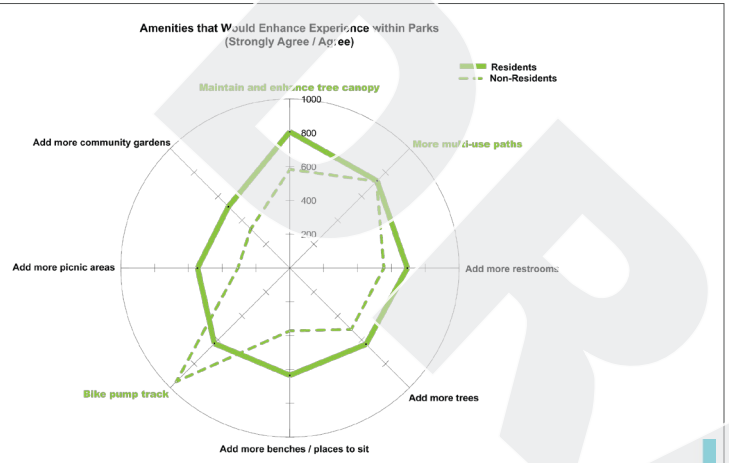




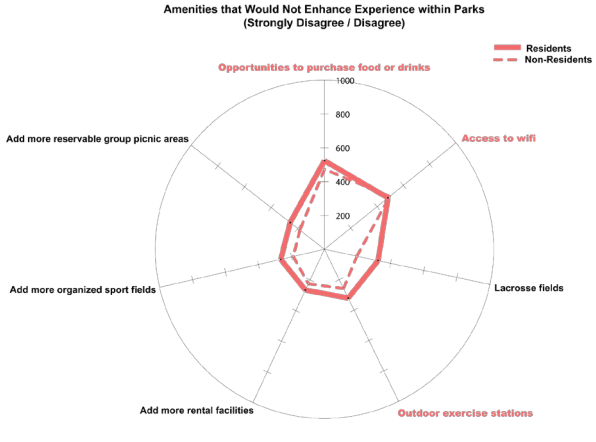


ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

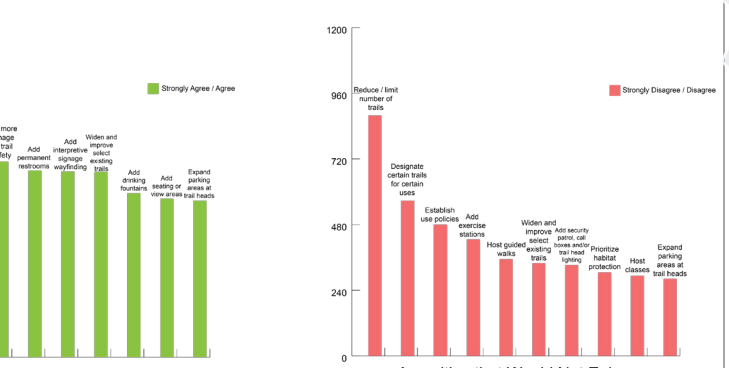
Question #7



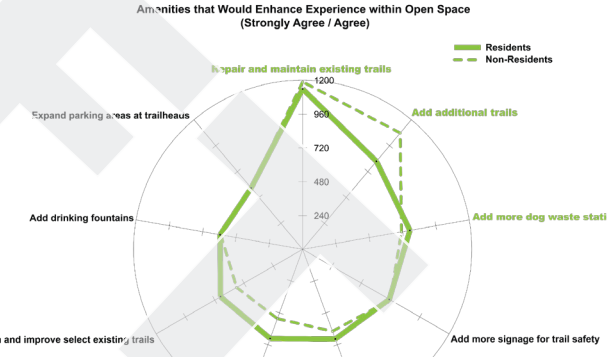
Question #7



Question #8

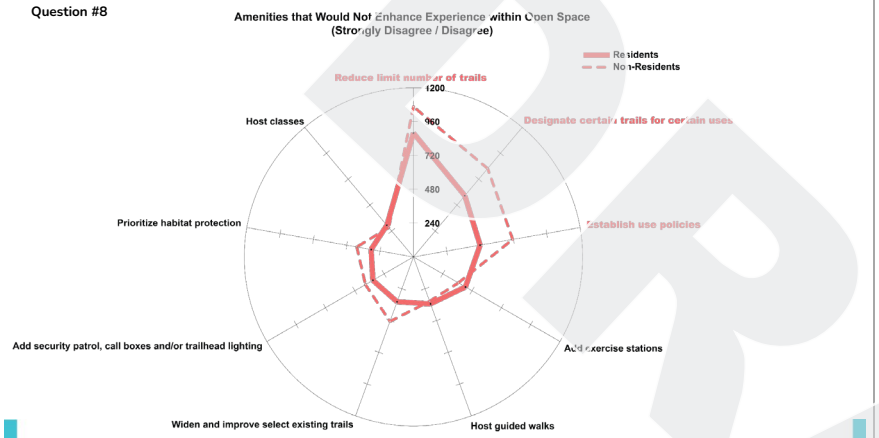


Question #8

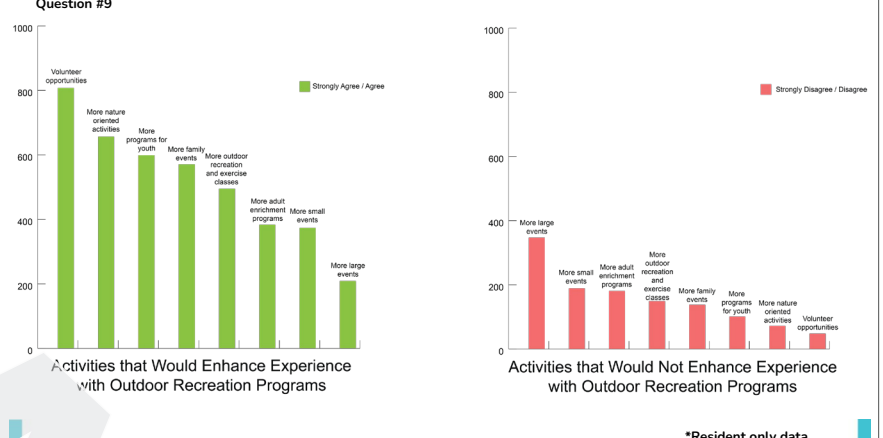


ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Question #8

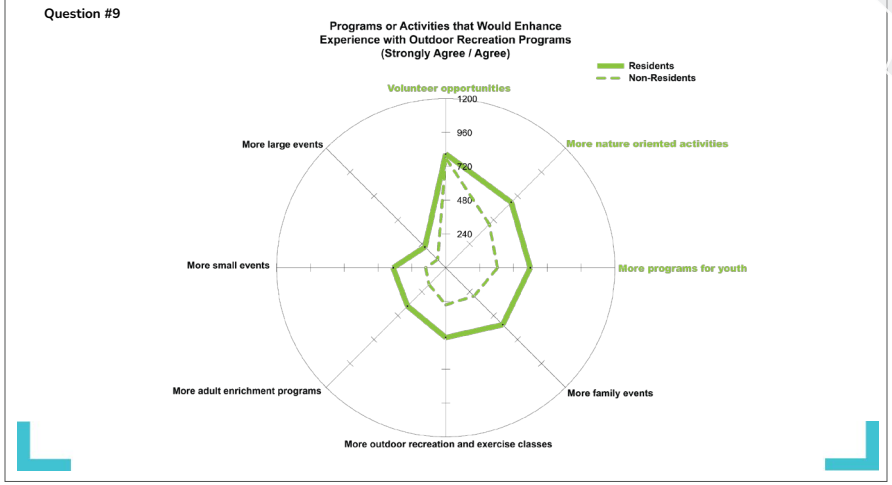


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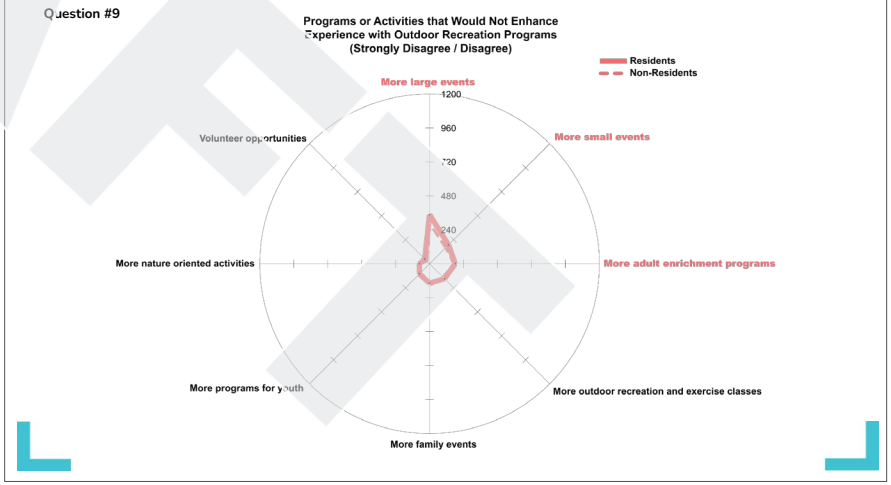


*Resident only data

Question #9



Question #9



ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

FOCUS GROUPS

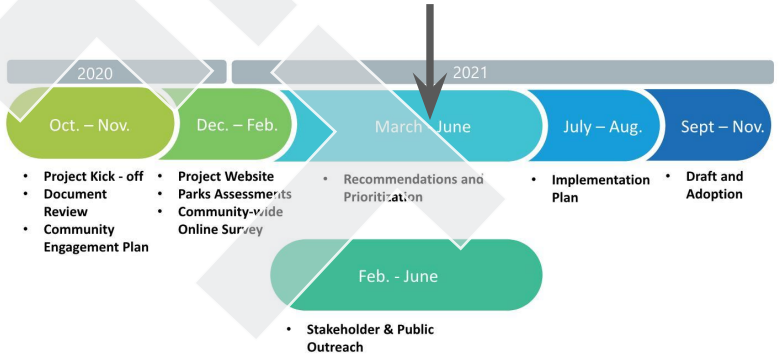


Interested in participating in a focus group? Email info@belmontprosplan.com

Questions and Comments from Advisory Committee

Comments from General Public

PROCESS



DRAFT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Meetings

- Focus Group Meetings (May & June)
- Council of Cities Presentation May 28 at 6 pm
- Parks & Rec Commission Meeting June 2
- July and August Commission Meetings Combined: July 2?

Previous Meetings:

- April 6, Planning Commission
- March 29, Belmont Rotary Presentation
- March 9, Belmont City Council Meeting
- March 4, PROS Advisory Meeting
- March 2, BRSSD Superintendent Meeting
- Feb 3, March 3, April 7, May 5 Parks & Rec Commission Meetings

THANK YOU

DRAFT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

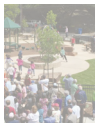
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Belmont PROS Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #3

September 30, 2021

1

AGENDA


Purpose *To discuss Belmont parks and park-specific DRAFT recommendations*

Introductions + Schedule

Efforts to Date

Park Typologies + Amenities

Park-Specific DRAFT Recommendations

Park Opportunity Sites DRAFT Recommendations

Next Steps

Discussion (Q+A, comments)

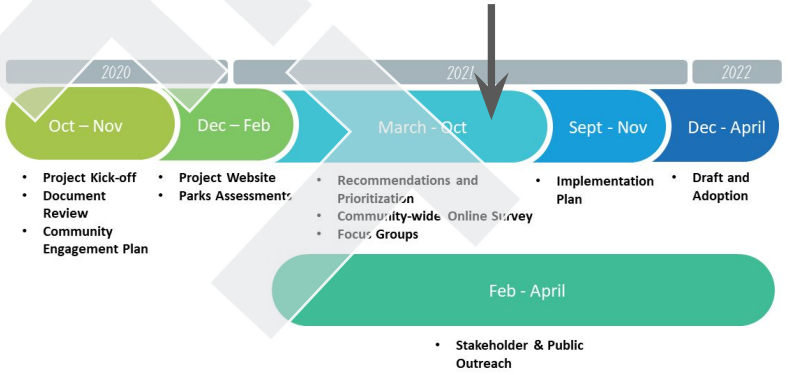
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- **Role**
  - **Insights:** represent a diverse perspective of interests and ideas
  - **Outreach:** gather feedback and serve as community liaison to Master Plan team
  - **Advise:** review and provide input on the Master Plan process

3

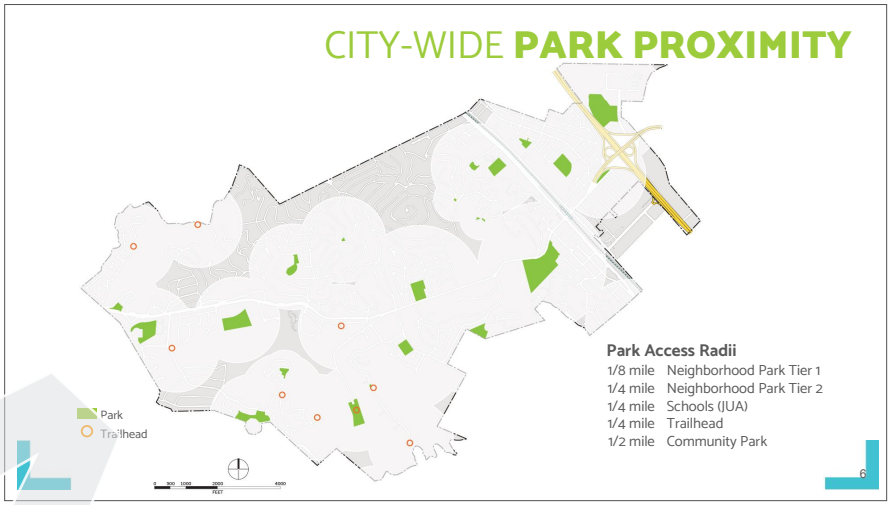
PROCESS

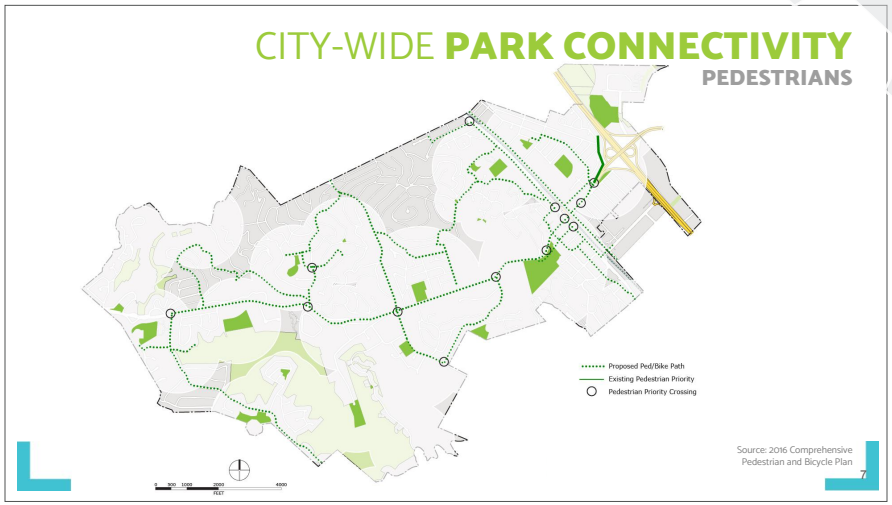


4

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS









ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

EFFORTS TO DATE

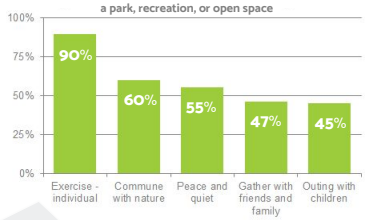
- Existing Conditions
- **Community Engagement**
  - Online Survey
  - Focus Groups
- **Benchmarking + Trends**
- **Park Typologies**

9

COMMUNITY INPUTS: **SURVEY**

BELMONT RESIDENTS ON **PARKS**

Top 5 Reasons to Visit
a park, recreation, or open space



Top 6 Amenities positively-rated
To Enhance the Belmont Park Experience



10

COMMUNITY INPUTS: **FOCUS GROUPS**



SCHOOL DISTRICT/ YOUTH SPORTS

Incentivize **school field improvements**

Continued **growth in sports field demand**

Interest in synthetic turf



INCLUSIVITY

Inclusive play elements sized larger (not just for small children)

Sensory and tactile play

Protected spaces, but with multiple sightlines and access points



YOUTH

Hang-out space for youth/teens

Add **seating**

Larger-sized play equipment

Community tables

Game areas



SENIORS

More **seating**

More **shade**

Generally happy with existing parks



DOG OWNERS

More **shade**

More **seating**

More **gathering and social** spaces

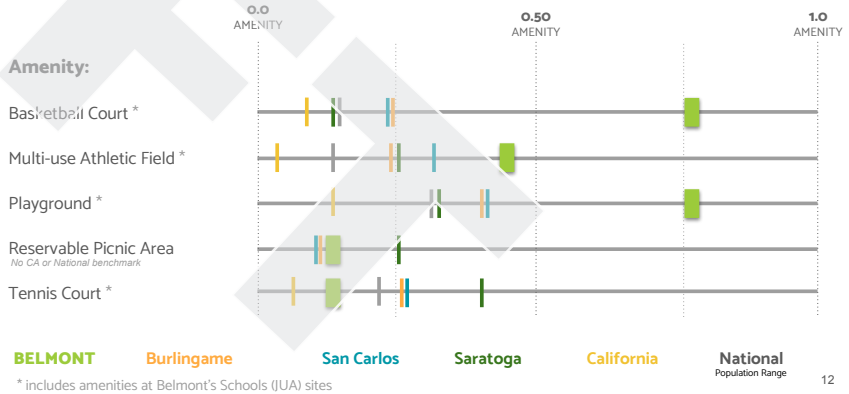
More waste bins

Water fountain

11

AMENITIES: **BENCHMARKED**

per **1,000** RESIDENTS



* includes amenities at Belmont's Schools (JUA) sites

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

PARK TYPOLOGIES

Community Park

- Generate the **most visitors**
- **High use** intensities
- Accessed by foot, bike, or car
- Large capture area (1/2 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Play Amenity
4. Picnic Opportunity
5. Multi-purpose Flexible Space
6. Recreation Amenity
7. Off-Street Parking
8. Permanent Restroom
9. Multi-use Athletic Field or Community Facility

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

- **Interacting with nature, gathering, and recreation**
- Local and nearby neighborhoods
- Accessed by foot, bike, and car
- Medium capture area (1/4 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Play Amenity
4. Picnic Opportunity
5. Multi-purpose Flexible Space
6. Recreation Amenity

Neighborhood Park Tier 1

- **Interacting with nature or gathering**
- Local neighborhood
- Mainly accessed by foot or by bike
- Small capture area (1/8 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Identifiable Amenity

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AMENITIES


Trees + Shade


Seating


Natural Environment


Gathering Area


Multi-use Paths


Multi-use Flex Space


All-Abilities Play


Dog Park


Pump Track


Pickleball

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AMENITIES: BELMONT IDEAL

Benchmarked Amenity	2021	2035
All-Abilities Playground	+1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	0	+2
Basketball Court (Half)	0	+2
Multi-Use Athletic Field	+1	+2
Play Element	+3	0
Playground	0	+2
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	+2	+1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	+1	0
Tennis Court	+2	+1

Priority Amenity	2021	2035
Community Garden	+1	0
Dog Park	+1	0
Dog Parklet	+2	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)	+1	0
Skate Park	+1	0
Water Play, Pool	+1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	+1	0

Secondary Amenity	2021	2035
Fitness Equipment Cluster	+1	0
Handball Court / Wall Ball	0	+1
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	0	+1
Outdoor Classroom	+1	0
Performance Space	0	0
Teen Outdoor Space	+2	0
Volleyball Court	+1	0

Priority Amenities were highly ranked in community outreach

15

PAUSE FOR QUESTIONS

from Advisory Committee

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

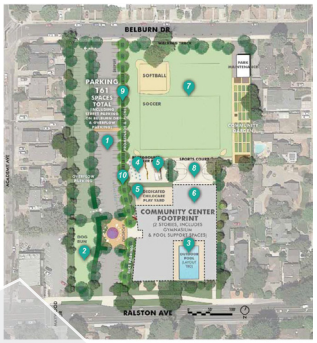
RECOMMENDATIONS SPECTRUM

Existing Master Plan	Minor Improvements	Upgraded or New Amenity	Park Redesign	Undeveloped Parks	New Park Opportunity
Master Plans recently created Extensive community input Recommendation: Implement Master Plan	Parks recently developed or in very good condition Minor improvements to maintain high-quality	Current park functioning well New amenity to meet identified needs Upgrade existing amenity to meet identified needs	No change-in-use Rethink accessibility and park layout Park Master Plan process	Existing parks are undeveloped Proposed recommendations to amenitize site	City-owned property To fill gaps in park proximity Proposed recommendations to amenitize site
Barrett Community Twin Pines	College View Davey Glen Patricia Wharton Semeria Wakefield	Alexander **Belameda** **Belmont Sports** McDougal **O'Donnell**	Cipriani Hallmark Hastings	**Hidden Canyon** **Ralston Ranch**	**Ralston & Old County** **Oak Knoll** **Alameda de las Pulgas** Belmont Village Specific Plan

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RECOMMENDATIONS: BARRETT COMMUNITY

EXISTING MASTER PLAN













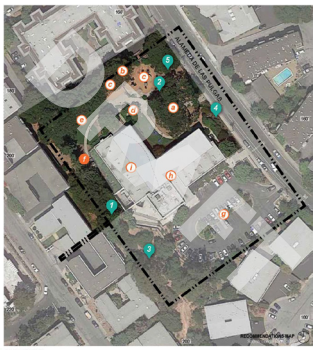


1. Parking : 5. Playground : 8. Multi-use Sports Court : 9. Picnic Area

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: BELAMEDA

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY













Seating : Planting : High-Quality Landscape

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: BELMONT SPORTS

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY















Seating

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS: O'DONNELL
UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY









Planting : High-Quality Landscape

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: HIDDEN CANYON
UNDEVELOPED PARK
OPTION A: NATURE-ORIENTED















1. ADA Parking : 2. Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: HIDDEN CANYON
UNDEVELOPED PARK
OPTION B: DOG PARKLET















1. ADA Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

23

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: RALSTON RANCH
UNDEVELOPED PARK













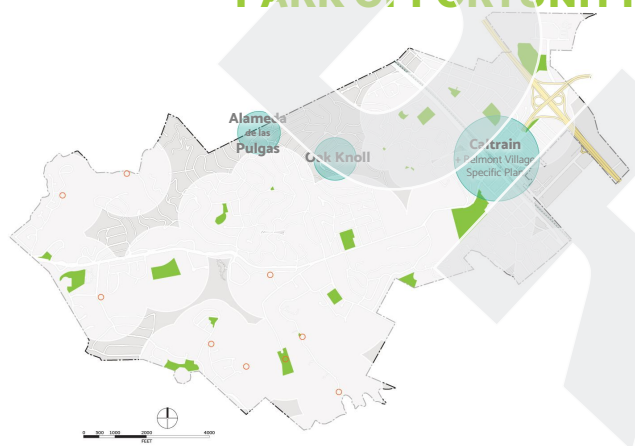


Accessible : Trees : Planting

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES



Park Proximity Map

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DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: RALSTON & OLD COUNTY

INTERIM PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITY















Accessible : Planting

26

DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: OAK KNOLL

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY







Accessible : Planting

27

DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY









Accessible : Planting

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Community Input Opportunities

- Online Comments and Feedback
- Neighborhood Focus Group Meetings: mid-October
- Parks & Rec Commission Meeting: November 3
- City Council Meeting: November 23

PROS Plan: Implementation

- Prioritization
- Action Plan

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FEEDBACK

Comment and provide feedback at

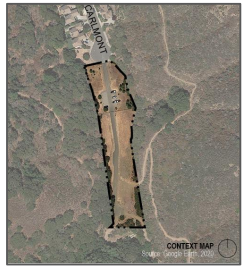
BelmontPROSplan.com

Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

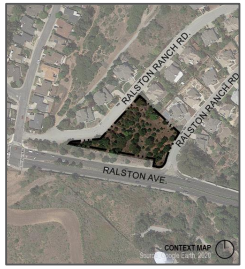
All Park-Specific Recommendations available on PROS Plan website.

30

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS GROUPS



Neighborhood:
HIDDEN CANYON PARK
Mon Oct. 18, 6:30pm
Meeting will be Virtual



Neighborhood:
RALSTON RANCH PARK
Wed Oct. 20, 6:30pm
Meeting will be Virtual

Register to participate at BelmontPROSplan.com

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QUESTIONS + COMMENTS

from Advisory Committee

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

COMMENTS

from General Public

20 minutes allotted for comments on agenda items

Speaker time will be limited based on number of persons wishing to comment
Questions will not be answered live in this meeting

Visit BelmontPROSplan.com or
email Info@BelmontPROSplan.com
to comment and provide feedback

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THANK YOU!

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BelmontPROSplan.com



Info@belmontprosplan.com

35

DRAFT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

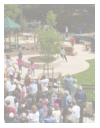
Advisory Committee #4

April 5, 2022

PROS Plan purpose:
*Set the **framework for decision makers** in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system for a **15 year horizon**.*

GATES +ASSOCIATES 1

AGENDA


***Purpose** To discuss the Open Space Management Plan*

PROS Plan Efforts to Date

Open Space Management Plan

- Overview of planning process and tasks
- Management alternatives input

Schedule + Next Steps

2

BelmontPROSplan.com Info@belmontprosplan.com



3

EFFORTS TO DATE

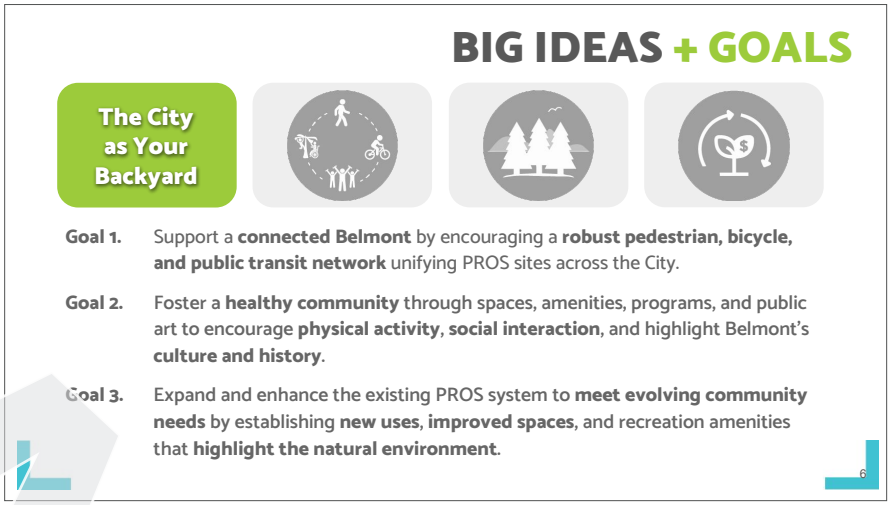
- Existing Conditions Assessments
- Community Engagement
- Benchmarking + Trends
- Park Typologies
- Park-specific Recommendations
  - Park-specific Focus Groups: Hidden Canyon 10/18, Ralston Ranch 10/20
  - In-depth review at January, February, and March 2022 Parks & Recreation Commission
- Goals and Strategies
- Recommendation Prioritization + Action Plan
- Continuing Community Engagement
- Open Space Management Plan

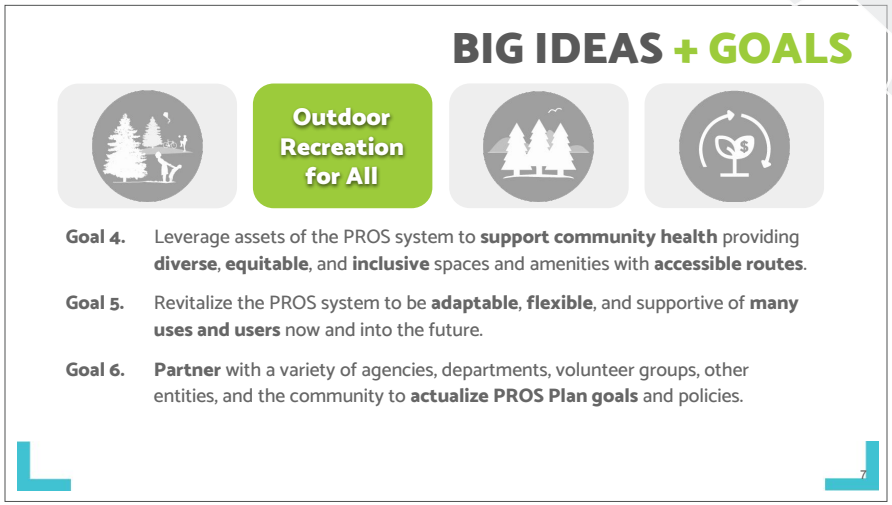
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DRAFT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS









ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

BIG IDEAS + GOALS



Prioritize Environmental + Financial Sustainability

Goal 10. Nurture the **ecological strength** of the City's natural resources through **resource-efficient landscapes** and operations.

Goal 11. Provide **high-quality, actively-managed**, and **well-maintained** PROS assets supported by a range of funding sources.

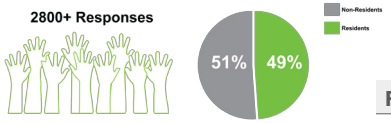
Goal 12. Prioritize **sustainable**, **resilient**, and **responsible management and maintenance** practices, improvements, and projects at PROS sites.

9

AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Survey

2800+ Responses



Emails + Comments

Over **730**

(2020 to February 2022)

Emails to Info@BelmontPROSplan.com and/or P&R Commission, and Comments via project website

Focus Groups

11 in 2021

PROS Advisory Committee

4 meetings in 2021 + 2022

Parks and Recreation Commission

*Updates at **every** P&R Commission meeting*

*Recommendations reviewed in-depth at **Jan/Feb/March 2022***

Pop-up participation at City events

Concerts in the Park, Movie Night in the Park, etc.

* April 16th *Egg Hunt*

* April 24th *Celebrate the Music*

City Council presentations

3 in 2021 + 2022

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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of the Open Space Management Plan is to guide City decision-making for:

- Managing sensitive resources
- Balancing recreation uses
- Mitigating hazards



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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Plan process includes 8 tasks:

1. Project startup and orientation
2. Review of existing information
3. Develop goals and policies
4. Describe existing environmental conditions
5. Describe current and potential future recreational activities
6. Develop Management Alternatives and recommendations
7. Prepare Open Space Management Plan
8. Meetings for public input and Plan adoption

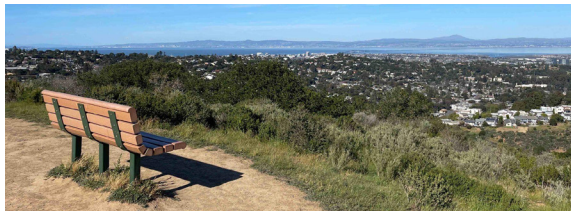


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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Current Tasks

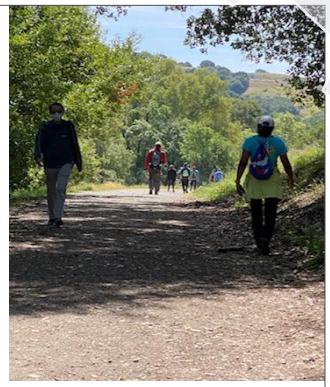
1. Task 3: Develop Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions
2. Task 4: Describe existing environmental conditions
3. Task 5: Describe current and potential recreational activities
4. Task 6: Development Management Alternatives



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Task 3: Goals and Policies

1. Reviewed goals and policies from existing City planning documents.
2. Identified those goals and policies relevant to the OSMP.
3. Reviewed and adapted goals, policies, and implementation actions from regional open space management plans.



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Task 3: Goals and Policies

Goal=A general statement that articulates a desired outcome.

Policy=A more specific statement that states what steps the City will take to achieve a desired outcome.

Implementation Action=A measurable action that specifies how a desired outcome is achieved.

Developing definitions for key terms (e.g., riparian resources, sensitive resources)

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Task 3: Goals and Policies

1. Existing planning documents include goals, policies, and implementation actions in the following categories:
   a. Protection of sensitive resources
   b. Trail maintenance
   c. Visitor Demand and Management
   d. Visitor Safety and Hazard Management



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Task 3: Goals and Policies

1. Identified ***new*** categories to address management issues and public comments:
   a. New unauthorized trails
   b. Trail closures - redundant trails
   c. Protection of riparian resources
   d. Adaptive Management
   e. Use of e-bikes
   f. Wildfire hazards



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Task 4: Environmental Assessment

Desktop Review of Environmental Conditions

1. CNDDB records
2. USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation Species
3. CNPS Inventory records
4. California Bird Species of Special Concern
5. USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper



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Task 4: Environmental Assessment

Field Assessment of Environmental Conditions Waterdog and San Juan Canyon open spaces

1. "Ground-truth" vegetation communities obtained from the San Mateo County vegetation mapping.
2. Assess conditions of 9.6 miles of trails.
3. Determine if existing conditions provide suitable habitat for any special-status plant or wildlife species.
4. Assess baseline conditions of vegetation as observed from trails.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Task 4: Environmental Assessment

Potentially suitable habitat for:

1. Western leatherwood
2. San Francisco Dusky Footed Woodrat





Image source: National Park Service

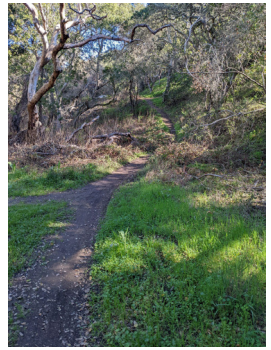
21

Task 4: Environmental Assessment

Trail Assessment reviewed the following:

1. Trail erosion
2. Presence of multiple trails (social trails) in a single area
3. Presence of legacy trails
4. Stream crossings





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Task 4: Environmental Assessment



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Task 4: Environmental Assessment



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Task 4: Environmental Assessment

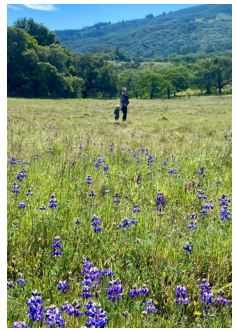


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Task 5: Recreational Use Assessment

Examine current and future recreation uses

1. Both current and future use in Belmont open space areas are influenced by local population size.
2. Belmont's population grew at 10% during the last decade.
3. Other factors, such as the pandemic and new technology, also influence use in more significant ways than population size.
4. Results of regional park surveys show trail use and wildlife and scenery viewing most frequently engaged activities for open space areas.

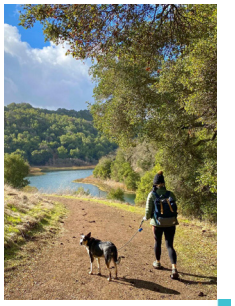


26

Task 5: Recreational Use Assessment

Managing the open space trail system

1. Trail system design and maintenance can accommodate varying levels of use while avoiding environmental degradation
2. Legacy trails were not always built or maintained with current Best Management Practices for trail design and maintenance
3. Management options for legacy trails:
   a. Re-construct in the current, exact location
   b. Construct new segment along the same general route
   c. Re-route
   d. Seasonal closures
   e. Permanent closures



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Task 6: Management Alternatives

1. Developing two management alternatives for the OSMP.
2. Each alternative represents a mix of goals, policies, and implementation actions to address management concerns and public comments.
3. Choice between alternatives is typically not "All or None."

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Task 6: Management Alternatives

Management Alternatives must address all goal/policy categories:

1. Protection of sensitive resources
2. Trail maintenance
3. Visitor Demand and Management
4. Visitor Safety and Hazard Management
5. New unauthorized trails
6. Trail closures
7. Protection of riparian resources
8. Adaptive Management
9. Use of e-bikes
10. Wildfire hazards



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Task 6: Management Alternatives

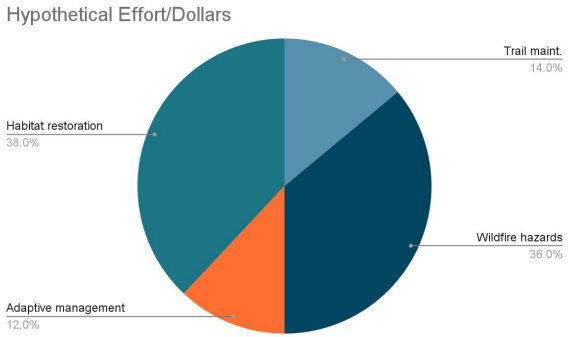
Defining management actions:

1. Trail maintenance: periodic, regular actions to clean or repair drainage structures (Water bars, rolling dips).
2. Habitat restoration: identifying areas where native plants could be successfully restored, then designing and implementing restoration plans.
3. Adaptive Management: periodically collecting information on resources conditions and determining any follow-up actions to meet restoration or protection goals.
4. Wildfire hazards: periodically reducing excessive fuels through grazing, manual labor and equipment.

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Task 6: Management Alternatives

How should the city and its partners allocate effort to the OSMP?



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Preliminary conclusions

1. Existing plans focused on protection sensitive resources, trail maintenance, visitor demand and management, and visitor safety/hazard management.
2. New policies are needed to address: adaptive management, trail management, protecting riparian resources, e-bikes, and wildfire hazards.
3. Multiple trail sections are in poor condition and need immediate attention.
4. Habitat conditions show minimal degradation.
5. Western leatherwood (plant) and SF Dusky-footed woodrat were found.
6. There are some opportunities for habitat restoration.
7. There are multiple opportunities for periodic wildfire hazard reduction.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

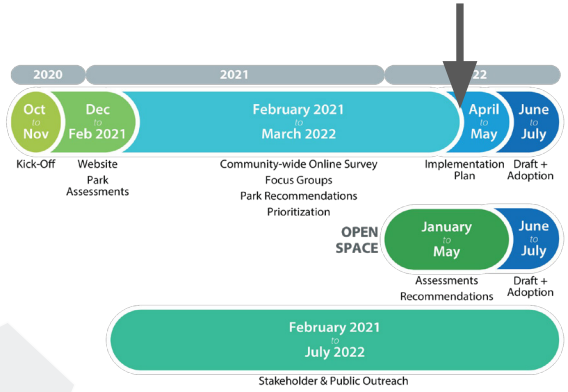
Next Steps

1. Finish Environmental Use Assessment.
2. Finish Recreation Use Assessment.
3. Finish Management Alternatives.
4. Prepare Draft Open Space Management Plan.
5. Solicit Public Feedback.



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SCHEDULE



- **Continuing Community Input Opportunities**
  - April 16: *Egg Hunt*
  - April 24: *Celebrate the Music*
  - Email to info@belmontprosplan.com
  - Parks & Recreation Commission
- **Open Space Management Plan**
  - July
- **PROS Plan: Implementation**
  - Prioritization
  - Action Plan

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Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

THANK YOU!



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Q + A

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DRAFT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

2 minutes per speaker

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMMENTS

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

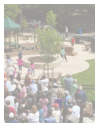
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Advisory Committee Meeting
May 31, 2022

PROS Plan purpose:
*Set the **framework for decision makers** in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system for a **15 year horizon**.*

GATES +ASSOCIATES 1

AGENDA*


***Purpose** To discuss the Open Space Management Plan and provide guidance for the future of Belmont's Open Spaces*

Open Space Management Plan

- Environmental Assessment
- Base Plan and Management Alternatives
- Implementation Actions and Requirements

Next Steps

2

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Adoption of the OSMP will enable the city to:

- **Augment existing goals and policies pertaining to open space**
- **Commit to specific "implementation actions"**
  - *Actions may require funding, and possible environmental compliance and permitting requirements.*

3

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN*

Key issues addressed:

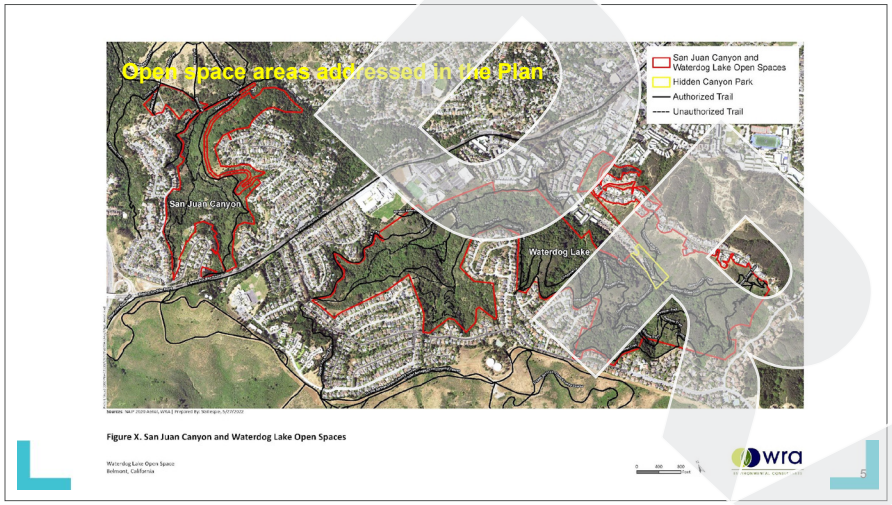
Environmental Sustainability

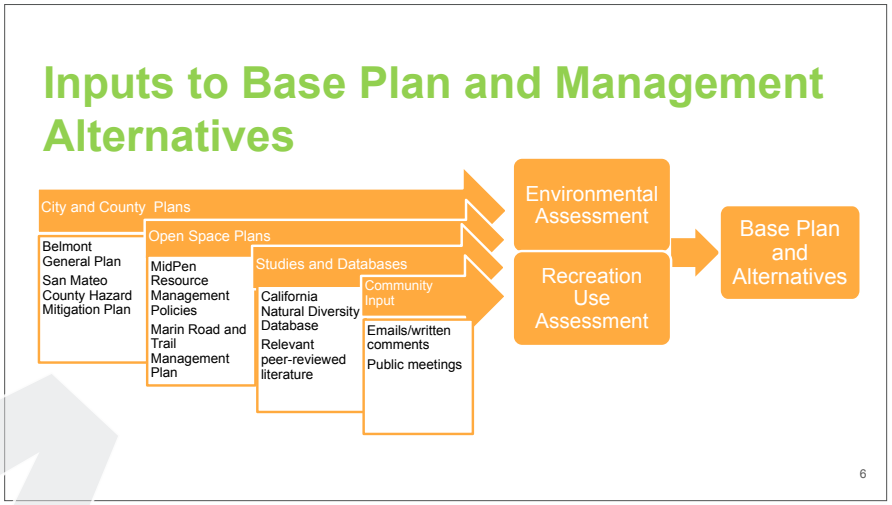
Balanced Recreational Uses + Trail Management

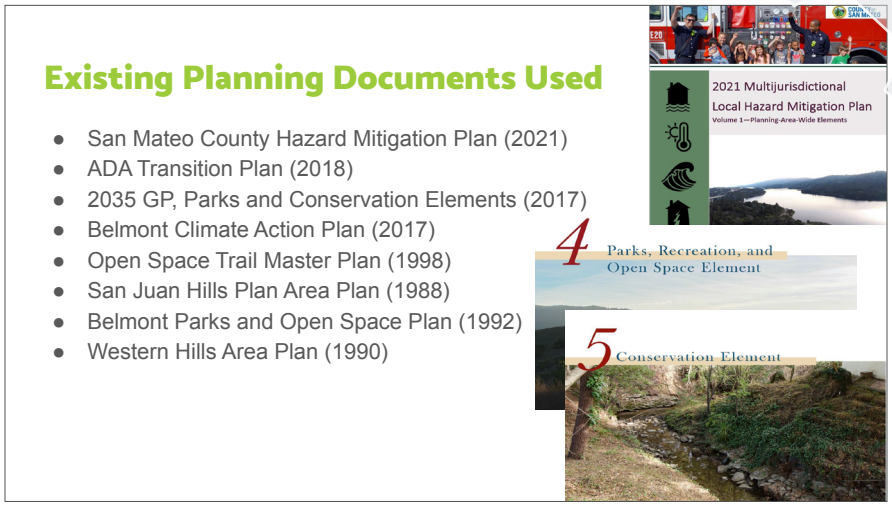
Natural Hazard Mitigation

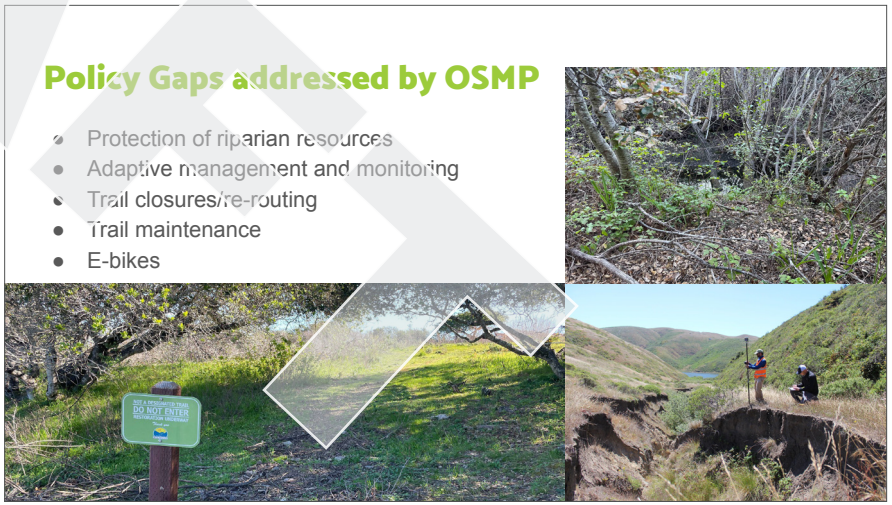
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS









ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Assessment



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Environmental Assessment

- **The environmental assessment is:**
  - Is a master planning level study to support development of goals, policies, and implementation actions.
  - Involves limited fieldwork to identify any environmental concerns that will require detailed field based evaluation.
- **The environmental assessment is <u>not:</u>**
  - A research project
  - A complete vegetation survey of the entire open space areas
  - A series of wildlife surveys to verify the presence of common or sensitive wildlife species.

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Environmental Assessment Components

Desktop Review and Field Assessment of:

1. Common & sensitive plant species
2. Common & sensitive animal species
3. Vegetation communities-naturally occurring and exotic
4. Trail conditions



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Environmental Assessment: Methods

Desktop Review of Environmental Conditions

- CNDDB records
- USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation Species
- CNPS Inventory records
- California Species of Special Concern
- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Assessment: Methods

Field Assessment of Environmental Conditions (WDL and SJC)

1. Verify in the field vegetation communities identified in San Mateo County data (2021)
2. Assess conditions of trails
3. Determine if existing conditions provide suitable habitat for any special-status species
4. Assess baseline conditions of vegetation and wildlife habitat
5. Note any common wildlife and plant species observed



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Environmental Assessment: Results

Initial Field Assessment of Environmental Conditions

- 2 WRA staff performed field assessments on March 8, 21, and 22
- Traversed over 10 miles of existing trails



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Vegetation Rating Categories:

- High Quality/Mostly Intact
- Moderate Quality/Moderately Altered
- Low Quality
- Low Quality/ Extensively Altered



Environmental Assessment: Results

Verify in the field vegetation communities at Waterdog Lake

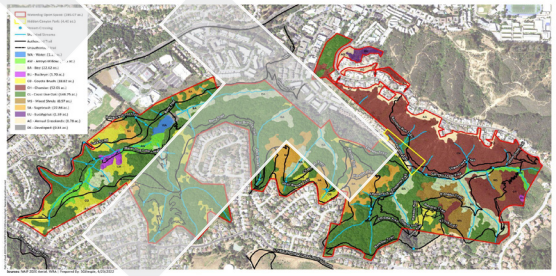


Figure 3. Waterdog Lake & Open Space Land Cover Types

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Most abundant vegetation types at WDL



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Environmental Assessment: Results

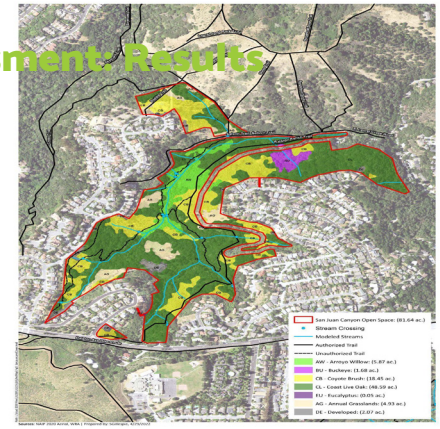


Figure 2. San Juan Canyon Open Space Land Cover Types

Most abundant vegetation types at SJC



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Environmental Assessment: trail condition indicators

A. Trail erosion
B. Presence of multiple (braided) trails or trail sections in a single area
C. Presence of unofficial trails
D. Stream crossings



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Assessment: Trail Condition Findings

Location	Low Erosion	Medium Erosion	High Erosion	Total Erosion Instances
WATERDOG LAKE				
Official trails	127 (56%)	77 (34%)	25 (11%)	229
Unofficial trails	59 (83%)	7 (10%)	6 (8%)	71
SAN JUAN CANYON				
Official trails	5 (38%)	7 (54%)	1 (8%)	13
Unofficial trails	11 (85%)	2 (15%)	0 (0%)	13

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Environmental Assessment: Trail Density Findings

- Trail density not having an effect on other environmental indicators:
  - Presence of common wildlife species
  - Presence of special status wildlife species
  - Habitat conditions
  - Carnivore movements

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Environmental Assessment: Findings

Sensitive Wildlife with Moderate or higher potential to occur

- Western (Pacific) pond turtle
- Olive-sided flycatcher
- White-tailed kite
- San Francisco (saltmarsh) common yellowthroat
- Hoary bat
- American badger



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Environmental Assessment: Findings

During the March site visits WRA confirmed presence of these two special-status species

1. Western leatherwood
2. San Francisco Dusky Footed Woodrat





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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Assessment: Findings

Regarding baseline conditions of vegetation and wildlife habitat:



A. Most vegetation is in good condition.
B. Low potential to occur for many sensitive plant and animal species identified during "desktop" review
C. Recreation use generally not having environmental impacts
   a. *Exception: trails that go directly through stream channels that are not "protected" with erosion stabilization features*
D. Both open space areas contain habitat for bobcats and mountain lions.

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Environmental Assessment: Findings

Common Wildlife Identified

- California towhee
- Spotted towhee
- Wrentit
- California quail
- Anna's hummingbird
- Common Merganser
- Mallard
- Red-shouldered hawk
- Mountain lion*
- Bobcat*
- Black-tailed mule deer
- Western fence lizard
- Pond turtle



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Environmental Assessment: Findings

Common Plants Identified

- Bullthistle
- Annual hairgrass
- Sticky monkeyflower
- Yerba santa
- Blue gum eucalyptus
- Fennel
- French broom
- Toyon
- Foxtail barley
- Goldfields
- Arroyo lupine
- Pineapple weed
- Bur clover
- Gold back fern
- Harding grass
- Western choke cherry
- Coast live oak
- California blackberry
- Common snowberry



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Environmental Assessment: Trail Critical and Possible Recommendations

1. Critical: Address severe erosion areas
2. Critical: Protect stream crossings or reroute
3. *Consider potential further assessment to determine disposition of trails for appropriate management:*
   - *Maintain as is*
   - *Re-construct in the current, exact location for hydrology*
   - *Construct new segment along the same general route*
   - *Re-route entire trail*
   - *Seasonal closures*
   - *Permanent closures*

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Recreation Use Assessment



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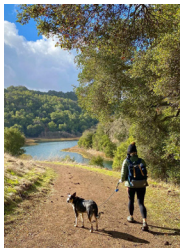
Recreation Use Assessment: Methods*

Desktop Review

1. Note potential safety issues during trail conditions assessment.
2. Review local and regional trends in open space recreational uses.
3. Consider opportunities to improve trail user experiences.

Field Assessment of Environmental Conditions

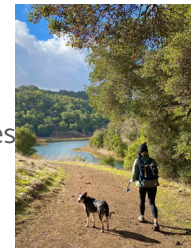
- 2 WRA staff performed 2 additional days of field assessments



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Recreational Use Assessment: Findings

- Many trails or trail segments lack adequate signage and wayfinding.
- Some trail segments lack sustainable alignments/construction.
- There are multiple areas where visitor experiences could be enhanced.



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Recreation Use Assessment: Recommendations

1. Adopt trail construction standards for which existing trails can be assessed and improved.
2. Consider single use and single travel direction trail segments to enhance visitor experiences.
3. Measure recreation use and survey non-visitors to evaluate visitor experiences and management actions.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Wildfire Hazard Assessment



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Wildland Fire Assessment: Findings

1. Calfire rates the two open space areas as very high (WDL) and high for SJC
2. Majority of vegetation in WDL and SJC open space areas are ranked low hazard and low ignition potential.
3. Many of the WDL open space lands immediately adjacent to residential areas subjected to recent fuel reduction.



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Management Alternatives Update



35

Base Plan and Management Alternatives

1. The Base Plan is a set of objectives, policies, and implementation actions.
   a. Added new objectives and policies based on WRA's expertise and experience.
   b. Many of these originated from city planning documents.
2. Objectives and policies from 2035 GP, Park & Recreation, and Conservation Elements are incorporated by reference.
3. One alternative provides an additional recreational policy.
4. One alternative provides additional habitat protection and restoration policies.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Objectives cover the following categories:

- Environmental Sustainability
- Balanced Recreation Use
- Natural Hazard Mitigation
- Vegetation Protection
- Wildlife Protection
- Water Resources
- Science based Management (Adaptive management)
- Expanded ability (human, financial resources)

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Base Plan

- Includes 39 new policies.
- Includes 28 implementation actions.
- Representative implementation actions include:
  - *Actively seek additional funding sources to support wildfire hazard mitigation.*
  - *Periodically conduct visitor surveys to gauge experiences for all trail users.*
  - *Monitor and control exotic or nuisance plant species.*

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Recreation Emphasis Alternative

- Contains 1 additional policy (evaluate new trails)
- Includes 3 additional implementation actions:
  - *Designate existing connection routes or build new trails between open space areas*
  - *Implement single-use and one-way trail segments in areas identified in the Recreation Use Assessment*
  - *Evaluate potential new nature-based recreation programming for open space lands.*

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Habitat Emphasis Alternative

- Contains 4 additional new policies:
  - *Expand volunteer restoration programs.*
  - *Preserve and enhance native wildlife habitat.*
  - *Preserve and enhance riparian, stream, and other wetland communities.*
  - *Partner with abutting property owners to manage adjacent fuel loads and vegetation.*

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Habitat Emphasis Alternative

- Contains 4 additional implementation actions:
  - *Engage volunteer groups to monitor plant and wildlife species using citizen science efforts.*
  - *Restore and expand native bunchgrass areas.*
  - *Install wildlife cameras at high activity locations or in riparian habitats to monitor wildlife presence.*
  - *Install decontamination stations at high use trailheads to prevent the spread of SOD.*

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Implementation Requirements and Examples*

Easy	Medium	Hard
These actions can be performed immediately under existing City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.	These actions require additional planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes.	These actions may require substantial planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.
Provide educational materials on Sudden Oak Death (SOD) and information about how to minimize the spread of SOD at high use trailheads.	Realign, add drainage or otherwise improve trail sections identified in the Recreation Use Assessment as having "high" erosion levels. The Rambler Trail was identified as a top priority given its severity. Prioritize other trail segments for improvement and incorporate into a multi-year workplan.	Periodically inventory trails and facilities to assess any impacts to watercourses, riparian areas, and wetlands, and prepare plans for protection or restoration, as appropriate.



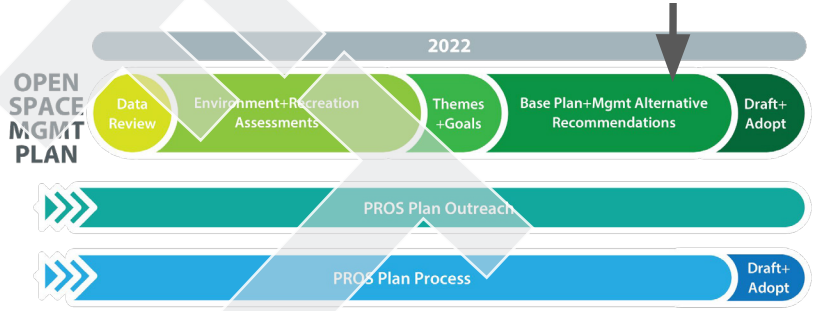
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Next Steps

1. Review/comment on Environmental Assessment and Recreation Use Assessment.
2. Review/comment on Base Plan.
3. Review/comment on Alternatives.
4. Open House event June 13
   - Hidden Canyon Park, 5-7pm
5. Plan adoption by City Council July 12.



SCHEDULE



Continuing Community Input Opportunities

- Email to info@belmontprosplan.com
- May 31st PROS Advisory Committee
- OSMP Event planned for mid-June

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

www.BelmontPROSplan.com Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

THANK YOU!



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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Q + A

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PUBLIC

COMMENTS

2 minutes per speaker

47

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMENTS

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS



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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

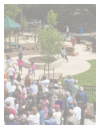
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Parks and Recreation Commission
February 3, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES + ASSOCIATES

AGENDA


Purpose: Update Commission on Efforts to date and solicit input on project expectations

1. **Project Overview**
2. **Efforts to Date**
3. **Desired Outcomes**

INTRODUCTIONS

Gates + Associates	PROS Committee	Advisory Committee
Linda Gates Casey Case Melonie O'Sullivan	Avery Lyford Karl Mittelstadt Craig Michaels Abby Sanders Brigitte Shearer Daniel Ourtiague George Brunson	

PURPOSE

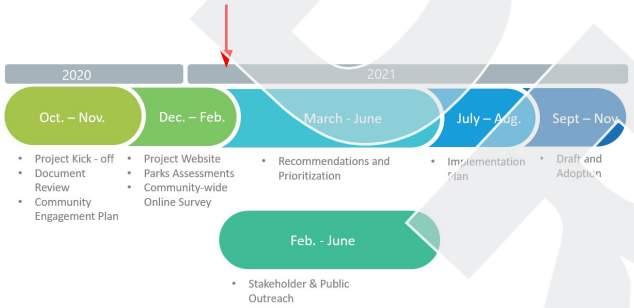
Purpose of the Master Plan

Set the **framework** for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system for a **15 year horizon.**

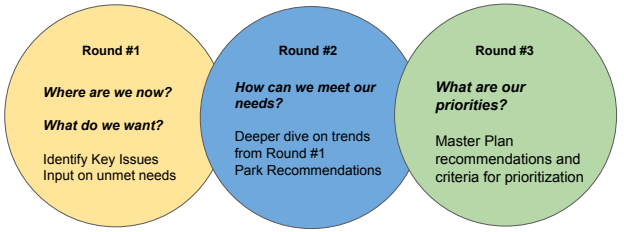
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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PROCESS



PROCESS: OUTREACH STRATEGY



PROCESS: OUTREACH EVENTS

- **Project Website**
- **Advisory Committee Meetings** *(4 Total)*
- **Community-Wide Survey**
- **Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings** *(6 Total) - User Group or Topic (Open Space, Teens, etc., ...)*
- **Neighborhood Meetings** *(6 Total)*
- **Community Pop Up Events** *(3 Total)*
- **Community Workshops** *(2 Total)*
- **Parks and Recreation Committee Presentation** *(4 Total)*
- **Planning Commission Meeting**
- **City Council Presentation** *(3 Total)*

PROCESS: OUTREACH

Outreach to date:

- **Brand (Logo/Tagline)**
- **Project Website**
- **Identify Community Enhancers**
- **Selected Our Channels**
- **Began Our Questions for Round #1 Survey**

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PROCESS: COMMUNITY OUTREACH



PROCESS: COMMUNITY AWARENESS



Leveraging Existing Channels
- Social Media
- Banner on City Website
- E Newsletter
- Postcard Mailers/Sheets in Activity Kits
- Signs in Parks/Trails
- Existing Email Lists (Twin Pines, Barrett Master Plan, Etc.)
- School Newsletters
- Newspapers
- Neighborhood association, clubs, groups

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Criteria Matrix Sample

- Geographic
- Demographics
- Special Interests
- Vested Partners

SURVEY TOPICS

- Age of respondee
- Resident/ Non-Resident
- Frequency of use
- Which outdoor space used most frequently
- Reasons for use
- Barriers to use
- What do you like about the PROS
- What type of amenities would you like to see added?
- Which outdoor programs would you like to see added?
- Which community values should be reflected in the park system?
- Priorities for the PROS master plan
- Additional thoughts
- Email address to subscribe to newsletter

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

ONLINE SURVEY AWARENESS

Round #1 Survey Participation Boosters

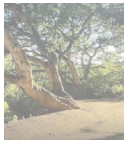
Presentations to the Community
City Council
Planning Commission
Youth Advisory Committee
VOICES - Youth Volunteer group
Rotary
Neighborhood Associations
Others?

Presentations will be virtual until in-person gatherings are permitted

Community Enhancers
Schoolforce
Youth sports leagues
Chamber of Commerce
Faith based organizations
Others?

HONOR THE PAST

- 2001 Athletic Field Master Plan
- 2018 ADA Transition Plan
- Parks, Recreation & Open Space element of General Plan
- Twin Pines & Barrett Master Plans & community outreach summaries
- San Juan Hills Area Plan
- Belmont Village Specific Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Community Center Conceptual Design Report
- Green Infrastructure Design Guide
- 1998 Open Space Trail Master Plan
- 1992 Parks and Open Space Master Plan
- Park Improvement Impact Fee Nexus Study Draft
- Parcel Maps for Water Dog Lake and San Juan Canyon
- Belmont and School Joint Use Agreement
- Western Hills Area Plan
- GIS Maps of Parks

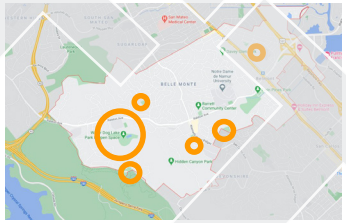




GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **General Plan**
  - Community character
  - Easy mobility
  - Natural beauty
  - Thriving culture
  - Parks create sense of community and quality of life
  - Harmony with land use policies and the Circulation Element
- **PROS Master Plan RFP**
  - Sustainability
  - Inclusion
  - Environmental stewardship
  - Fire safety
  - Preservation
  - Historical and cultural character
- **Other Objectives**
  - Consider the mature park system, evolving (not growing) demographics and address specific challenges
  - Reimagine the park system with evolving use patterns, emerging trends, embraces technology
  - Focus investment on public / private collaboration, revenue generating operations and maximizing public benefit/ return with a clear action plan

BENCHMARKING



Benchmarking of 3 comparable Cities
- *San Carlos*
- *Foster City*
- *Burlingame*

City Staff Park Usage Study
- ***Open Space*** *– Waterdog*
- ***Community Parks*** *– McDougal Park & Athletic Fields, Belameda Park*
- ***Neighborhood Parks*** *– Cipriani, Alexander Park, Hallmark Park*

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

EXISTING SITE ASSESSMENT



DESIRED OUTCOMES



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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

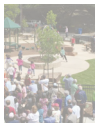
June 2, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

PURPOSE







Set the **framework** for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's parks and open space system and related recreational programming for a **15 year horizon.**

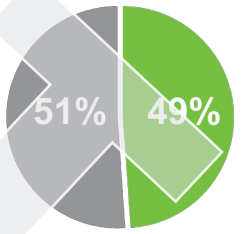
MASTER PLAN GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
- Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position or physical/cognitive ability
- Offer services and activities across a range of **interests, abilities, and ages**
- Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience** and sustainability
- Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
- Advances **community health and well-being**
- Foster a sense of **community** and encourage **social interaction**
- Are **well maintained** and actively managed over time
- Can **adapt** to changing conditions and needs
- Utilize **transparent community process** to inform decisions

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

2800+ Responses



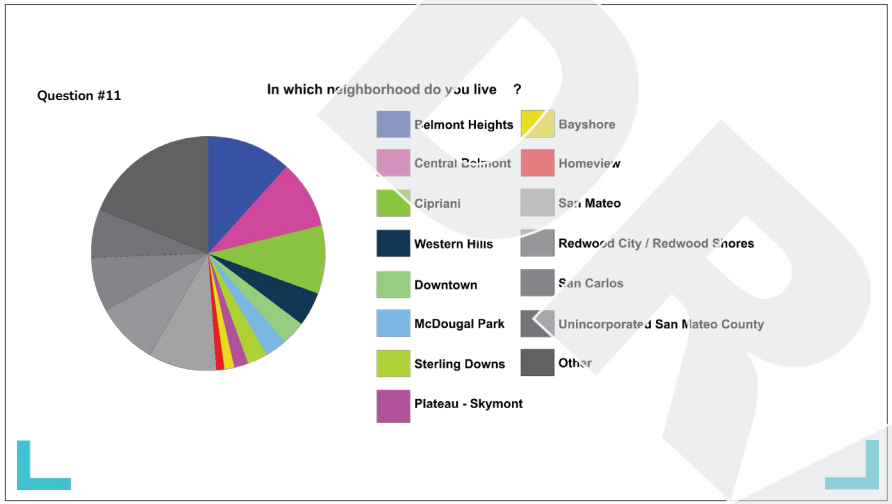


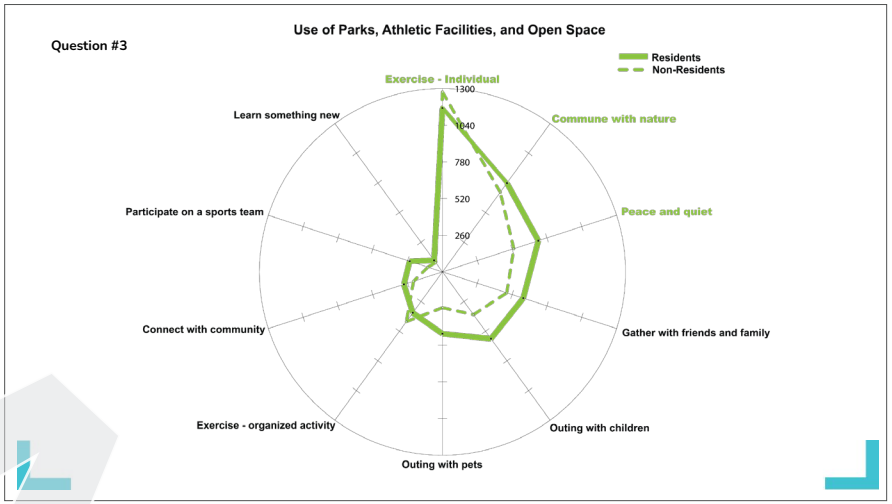
27% of Residents Use Facilities Outside of Belmont

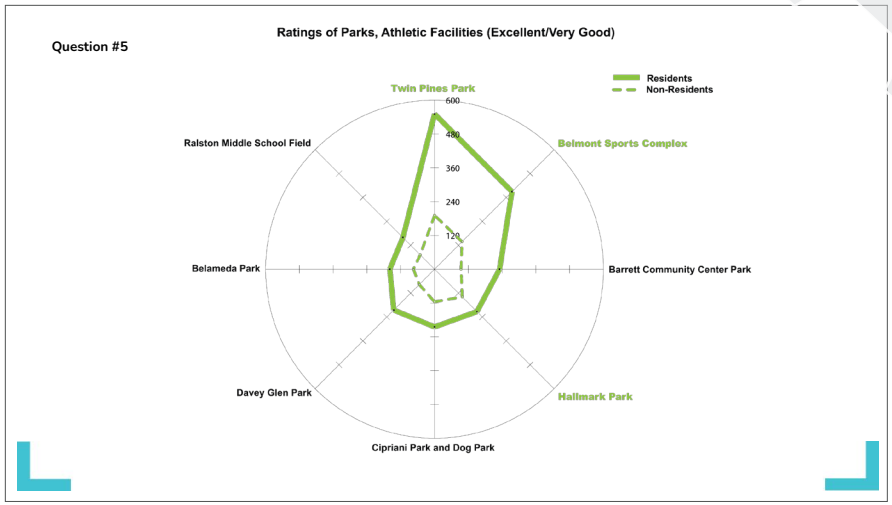


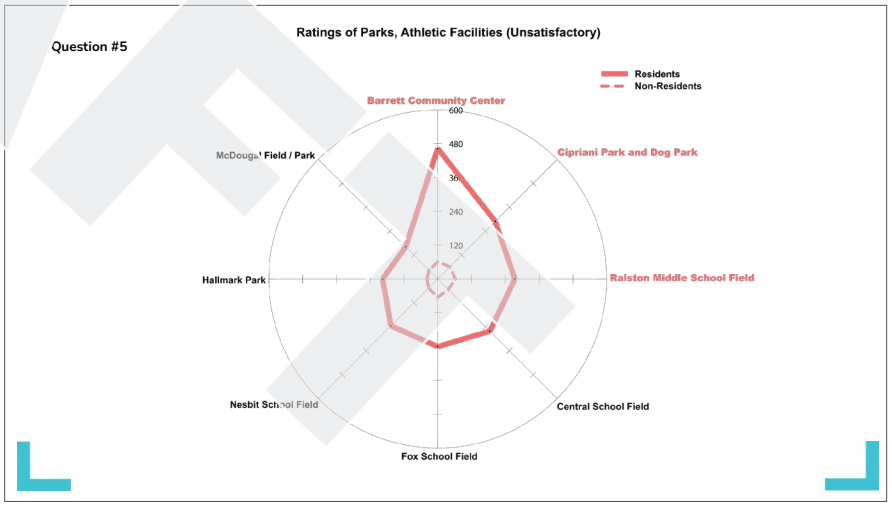
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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS



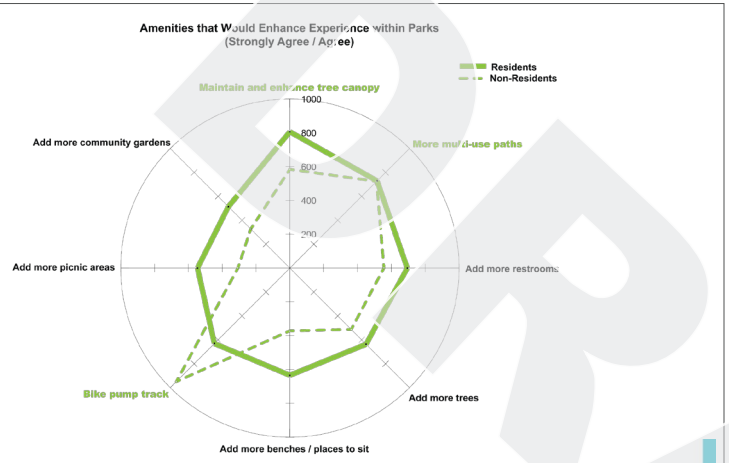




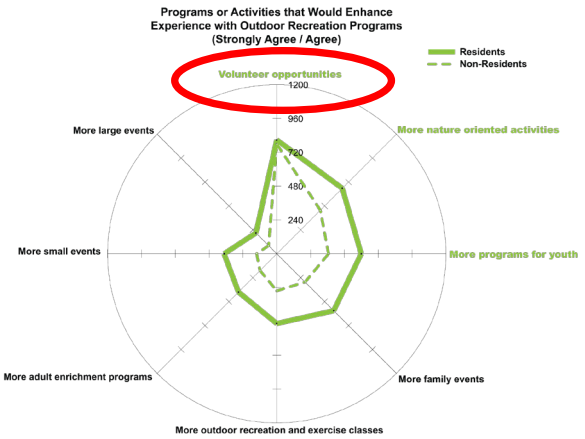


PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

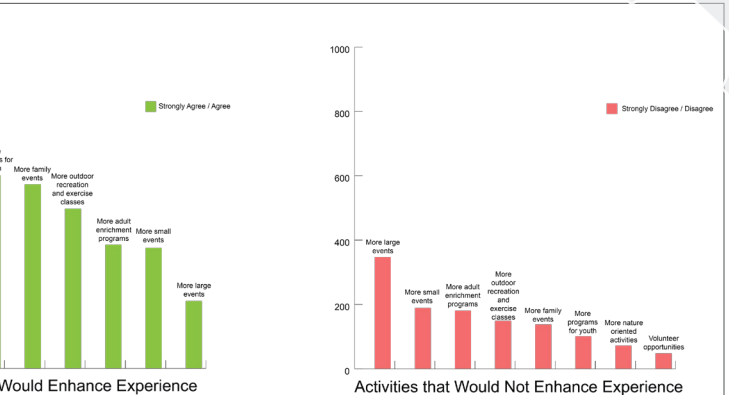
Question #7



Question #9



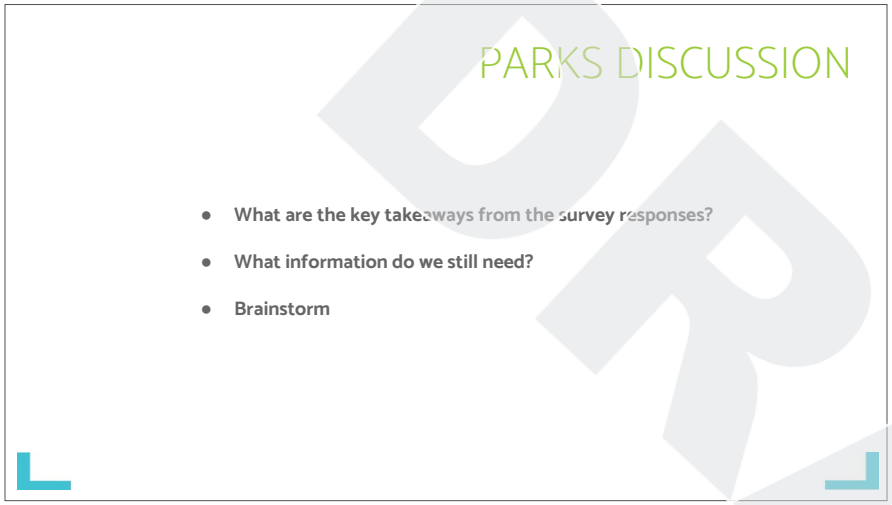
Question #9



NEXT STEPS

- **Stakeholder Interviews, Focus groups**
  - Schools - BRSSD & private schools
  - Seniors
  - Open Space Park Users
  - Dog Owners
  - Youth
  - Inclusivity Improvements
- **Park Visitor Tallys**
- **Open Space Management Plan RFP**
  - Recreational uses
  - Trail Assessment
  - Sustainability
  - Wildfire Risk Mitigation

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS



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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Parks & Recreation Commission

November 3, 2021

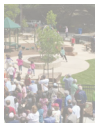
CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

1

AGENDA





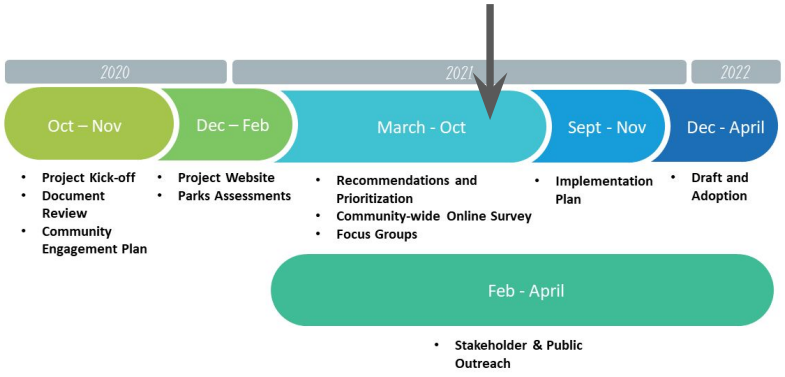


Purpose *To discuss park-specific DRAFT recommendations & public response to-date*

- Introductions + Schedule
- Efforts to Date
- Park Typologies + Amenities
- Park-Specific DRAFT Recommendations
- Park Opportunity Sites DRAFT Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion

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PROCESS



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DRAFT

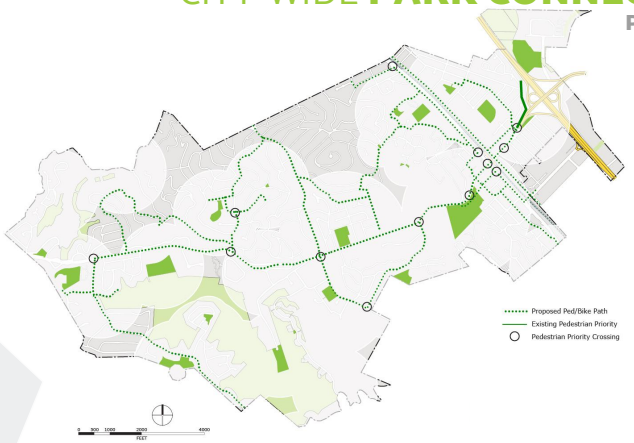
PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

CITY-WIDE PARK PROXIMITY



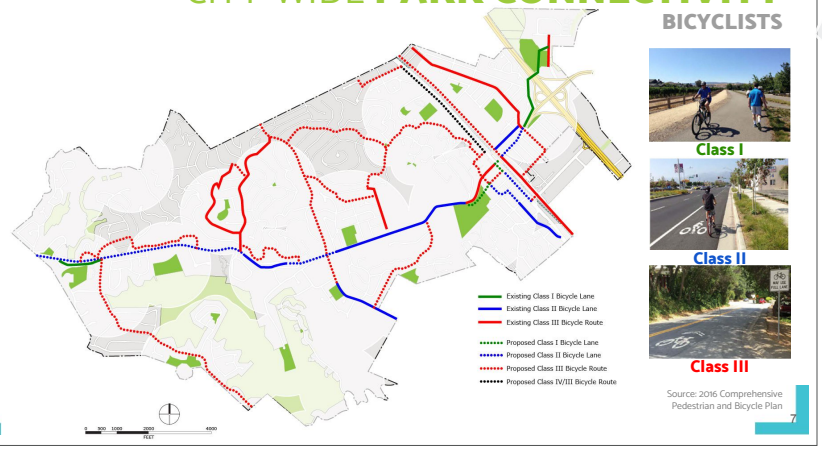
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CITY-WIDE PARK CONNECTIVITY
PEDESTRIANS



6

CITY-WIDE PARK CONNECTIVITY
BICYCLISTS



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ASSESSMENTS

- Existing Conditions
- Community Engagement
  - Online Survey
  - Focus Groups
    - Park-specific: Hidden Canyon 10/18, Ralston Ranch 10/20
- Benchmarking + Trends
- Park Typologies

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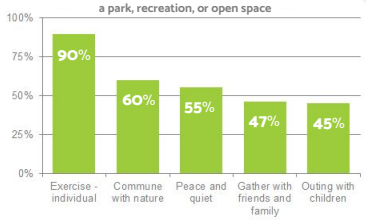
PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

COMMUNITY INPUTS: **SURVEY**

BELMONT RESIDENTS ON **PARKS**

Top 5 Reasons to Visit

a park, recreation, or open space



Top 6 Amenities positively-rated

To Enhance the Belmont Park Experience



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COMMUNITY INPUTS: **FOCUS GROUPS**



SCHOOL DISTRICT/ YOUTH SPORTS

Incentivize **school field improvements**

Continued **growth in sports field demand**

Interest in synthetic turf

INCLUSIVITY

Inclusive play elements sized larger (not just for small children)

Sensory and tactile play

Protected spaces, but with multiple sightlines and access points

YOUTH

Hang-out space for youth/teens

Add **seating**

Larger-sized play equipment

Community tables

Game areas

SENIORS

More **seating**

More **shade**

Generally happy with existing parks

DOG OWNERS

More **shade**

More **seating**

More **gathering and social** spaces

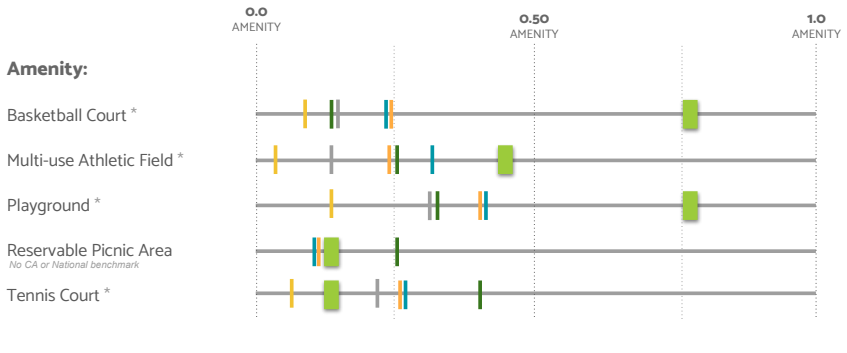
More waste bins

Water fountain

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AMENITIES: **BENCHMARKED**

per **1,000** RESIDENTS



* includes amenities at Belmont's Schools (JUA) sites

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PARK TYPOLOGIES

Community Park

- Generate the most visitors
- High use intensities
- Accessed by foot, bike, or car
- Large capture area (1/2 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Play Amenity
4. Picnic Opportunity
5. Multi-purpose Flexible Space
6. Recreation Amenity
7. Off-Street Parking
8. Permanent Restroom
9. Multi-use Athletic Field or Community Facility

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

- **Interacting with nature, gathering, and recreation**
- Local and nearby neighborhoods
- Accessed by foot, bike, and car
- Medium capture area (1/4 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Play Amenity
4. Picnic Opportunity
5. Multi-purpose Flexible Space
6. Recreation Amenity

Neighborhood Park Tier 1

- **Interacting with nature or gathering**
- Local neighborhood
- Mainly accessed by foot or by bike
- Small capture area (1/8 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Identifiable Amenity

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

AMENITIES





















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AMENITIES: BELMONT IDEAL

Benchmarked Amenity	2021	2035
All-Abilities Playground	+1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	0	+2
Basketball Court (Half)	0	+2
Multi-Use Athletic Field	+1	+2
Play Element	+3	0
Playground	0	+2
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	+2	+1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	+1	0
Tennis Court	+2	+1

Priority Amenity	2021	2035
Community Garden	+1	0
Dog Park	+1	0
Dog Parklet	+2	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)	+1	0
Skate Park	+1	0
Water Play, Pool	+1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	+1	0

Secondary Amenity	2021	2035
Fitness Equipment Cluster	+1	0
Handball Court / Wall Ball	0	+1
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	0	+1
Outdoor Classroom	+1	0
Performance Space	0	0
Teen Outdoor Space	+2	0
Volleyball Court	+1	0

Priority Amenities were highly ranked in community outreach

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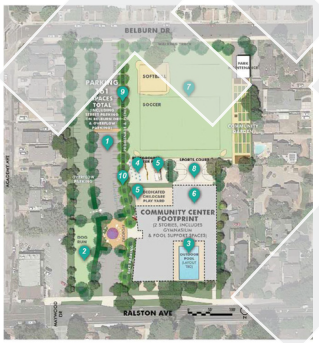
RECOMMENDATIONS SPECTRUM

Existing Master Plan	Minor Improvements	Upgraded or New Amenity	Park Redesign	Undeveloped Parks	New Park Opportunity
Master Plans recently created	Parks recently developed or in very good condition	Current park functioning well	No change-in-use	Existing parks are undeveloped	City-owned property
Extensive community input	Minor improvements to maintain high-quality	New amenity to meet identified needs	Rethink accessibility and park layout	Proposed recommendations to amenitize site	To fill gaps in park proximity
Recommendation: Implement Master Plan		Upgrade existing amenity to meet identified needs	Park Master Plan process		Proposed recommendations to amenitize site
Barrett Community	College View	Alexander	Cipriani	**Hidden Canyon**	**Ralston & Old County**
Twin Pines	Davey Glen	**Belameda**	Hallmark	**Ralston Ranch**	**Oak Knoll**
	Patricia Wharton	**Belmont Sports**	Hastings		**Alameda de las Pulgas**
	Semeria	McDougal			Belmont Village Specific Plan
	Wakefield	**O'Donnell**			

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RECOMMENDATIONS: BARRETT COMMUNITY

EXISTING MASTER PLAN















1. Parking : 5. Playground : 8. Multi-use Sports Court : 9. Picnic Area

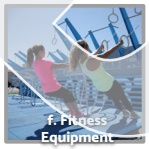
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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** BELAMEDA

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY













Seating : Planting : High-Quality Landscape

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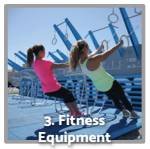
DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** BELMONT SPORTS

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY















Seating

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DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** O'DONNELL

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY









Planting : High-Quality Landscape

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DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK

OPTION **A**: NATURE-ORIENTED















1. ADA Parking : **2.** Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK
OPTION **B**: DOG PARKLET















1. ADA Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

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PUBLIC RESPONSE: HIDDEN CANYON

VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUP MONDAY 10/18

- **Poor maintenance condition** noted currently, and more of a concern if increased amenities at site
- **Concerned about vehicular access** (traffic volume and speed, parking)
- Many participants voiced support to keep the space **natural and quiet**
- **Phased implementation** supported in order to manage traffic concerns
- **Picnic tables, seating, and child outdoor play amenity** generally supported

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DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** RALSTON RANCH

UNDEVELOPED PARK















Accessible : Trees : Planting

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PUBLIC RESPONSE: RALSTON RANCH

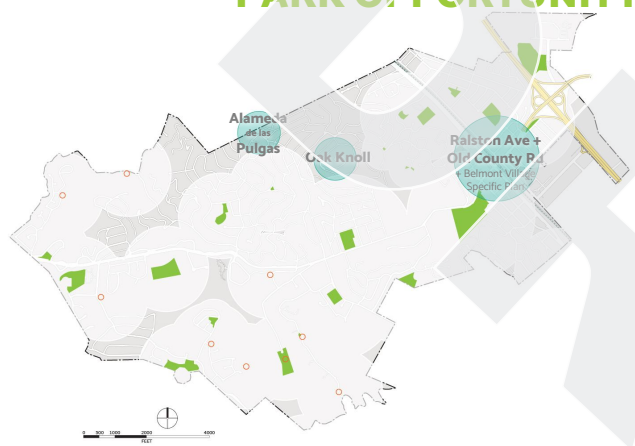
VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUP WEDNESDAY 10/20

- **Walking paths and seating** supported by multiple participants
- Neighborhood residents **generally against a dog-oriented amenity**
- Maintain and increase **trees**
- Respect **natural environment** in any proposed changes
- **Traffic, specifically exiting** Ralston Ranch Rd, considered negative to residents
- Child **play element** supported

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES



Park Proximity Map

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DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: RALSTON & OLD COUNTY

INTERIM PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITY













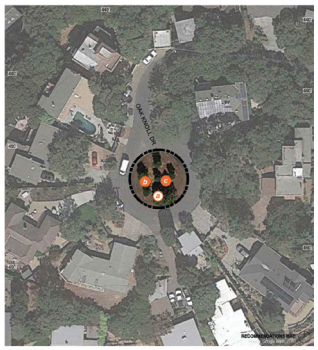


Accessible : Planting

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DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: OAK KNOLL

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY





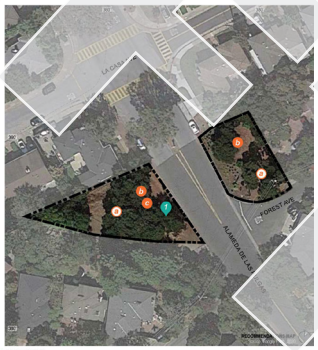


Accessible : Planting

27

DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY









Accessible : Planting

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC RESPONSE: RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED OCTOBER 2021

- Multiple comments in support of **Pump Track (Bike Park)** at Belmont Sports Complex (requests to include and exclude bike amenity at Hidden Canyon)
- Positive response to proposed park at **Alameda de las Pulgas** (Opportunity Site)
- Seating and Permanent Restroom for Hidden Canyon, add bike repair station
- Request for more **Youth- and Teen-oriented spaces**
- Splash park (water play) at O'Donnell not encouraged
- Yes to **Bocce ball** (multiple locations)
- Request for **dog-oriented amenities**, limited support for proposed sites
- Maintain **natural environs** on undeveloped parks
- Neighbors support **park creation at summit of Oak Knoll Drive**

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NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Community Input Opportunities

- Online Comments and Feedback
- City Council Meeting: November 23

PROS Plan: Implementation

- Prioritization
- Action Plan

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FEEDBACK

Comment and provide feedback at

BelmontPROSplan.com

Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

All Park-Specific Recommendations available on PROS Plan website.

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QUESTIONS + COMMENTS

from P&R Commission

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DRAFT

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

COMMENTS

from General Public

20 minutes allotted for comments on agenda items

Speaker time will be limited based on number of persons wishing to comment
Questions will not be answered live in this meeting

Visit BelmontPROSplan.com or
email Info@BelmontPROSplan.com
to comment and provide feedback

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THANK YOU!

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Info@belmontprosplan.com

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

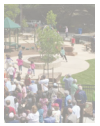
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
May 4, 2022

PROS Plan purpose:
*Set the **framework for decision makers** in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system for a **15 year horizon**.*

GATES +ASSOCIATES 1

AGENDA


***Purpose** To discuss the Open Space Management Plan and provide guidance for the future of Belmont's Open Spaces*

Open Space Management Plan

- Overview of planning process and tasks
- Results of the environmental and recreation assessments
- Overview on Management alternatives development

Schedule + Next Steps

2

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Today we're talking about these tasks:

1. Review of existing information
2. Develop goals and policies
3. Conduct environmental assessment
4. Conduct recreational assessment
5. Develop Management Alternatives and recommendations



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WRA Team

WRA Staff	Experience Summary	Role on Belmont OSMP
Leslie Lazaroff	Environmental regulatory compliance for public access/habitat restoration projects for San Francisco Parks and Recreation, San Mateo County Parks and Recreation, and East Bay Regional Parks District.	Principal in charge, regulatory strategy
John Baas, Ph.D.	Open space planning for Midpen, San Mateo, Marin and Sonoma counties, and California Dept. of Water Resources.	Project Manager, recreation ecology, trail conditions assessment, wildfire hazard assessment
Ivy Poisson	Open space planning for Sonoma County Regional Parks, botanical surveys for Midpen.	Plant and vegetation communities evaluation
Brian Kearns, Ph.D.	Specialized expertise in bird surveys, wildlife evaluations for San Mateo County Parks, East Bay Regional Park District, and City of Cupertino Parks & Rec	Wildlife evaluation and trail condition assessment

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

WRA Team (continued)

WRA Staff	Experience Summary	Role on Belmont OSMP
Rob Schell	Expertise on biology of the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander and vernal pool species.	Senior advisor for wildlife evaluations for the environmental assessment
Robin Graham	Protected area planning for GGNRA. Expertise includes impacts from recreation, visitor use assessments, stakeholder engagement, and visitor management.	Trail condition assessment, visitor management, recreation ecology
Jason Mills	Experience with wildfire hazard reduction, and wildfire recovery/revegetation for Sonoma, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and Napa Firewise Council.	Wildfire hazard analysis advice for environmental assessment

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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Adoption of the OSMP will enable the city to:

- Augment existing goals and policies pertaining to open space
- Commit to specific "implementation actions"
  - *Actions may require funding, and possible environmental compliance and permitting requirements.*

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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. **The OSMP is based on:**
   - review of city planning documents
   - review of historical information
   - environmental & recreation assessments
   - community input
2. **A forward looking plan for the next 15 years**



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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Key issues addressed:

Environmental Sustainability

Balanced Recreational Uses + Trail Management

Natural Hazard Mitigation

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Environmental Assessment

- **The environmental assessment is:**
  - Is a master planning level study to support development of goals, policies, and implementation actions.
  - Involves limited fieldwork to identify any environmental concerns that will require detailed field based evaluation.
- **The environmental assessment is not:**
  - A research project
  - A complete vegetation survey of the entire open space areas
  - A series of wildlife surveys to verify the presence of common or sensitive wildlife species.

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Environmental Assessment

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Environmental Assessment Components

Desktop Review and Field Assessment of:

1. Common & sensitive plant species
2. Common & sensitive animal species
3. Vegetation communities-naturally occurring and exotic
4. Trail conditions



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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Assessment: Methods

Desktop Review of Environmental Conditions

- CNDDB records
- USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation Species
- CNPS Inventory records
- California Bird Species of Special Concern
- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper



Field Assessment of Environmental Conditions (WDL and SJC)

1. Verify in the field vegetation communities identified in San Mateo County data (2021)
2. Assess conditions of trails
3. Determine if existing conditions provide suitable habitat for any special-status species
4. Assess baseline conditions of vegetation and wildlife habitat
5. Note any common wildlife and plant species observed

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Environmental Assessment: Results

Initial Field Assessment of Environmental Conditions

- 2 WRA staff performed field assessments on March 8, 21, and 22
- Traversed over 10 miles of official and unofficial trails



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Environmental Assessment: Results

1. **Verify in the field vegetation communities at Waterdog Lake**

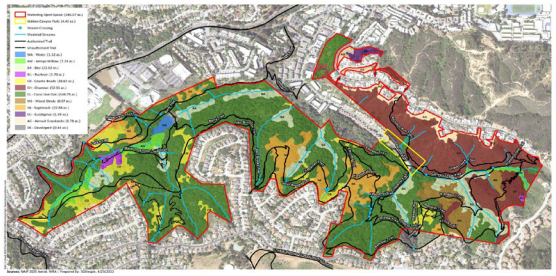


Figure 3. Waterdog Lake & Open Space Land Cover Types

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Environmental Assessment: Results

1. **Verify in the field vegetation communities San Juan Canyon**

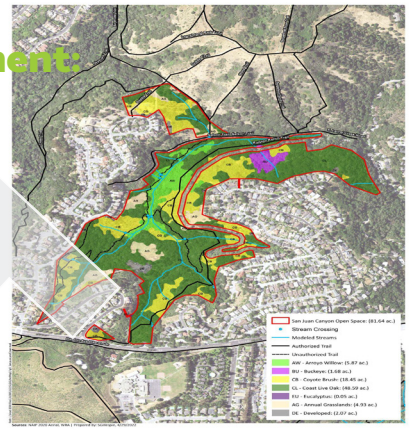


Figure 2. San Juan Canyon Open Space Land Cover Types

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Assessment: Methods

2. Assess Trail Conditions:

A. Trail erosion
B. Presence of multiple trails or trail sections in a single area
C. Presence of legacy trails
D. Stream crossings


Low erosion


Medium erosion


High erosion

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Environmental Assessment: Trail Condition Findings

Level of Erosion	Waterdog Lake	San Juan Canyon	Totals
Low	86 (61%)	5 (42%)	91 (59%)
Medium	39 (28%)	6 (50%)	45 (29%)
High	16 (11%)	1 (8%)	17 (12%)
Total	141 (100%)	12 (100%)	153 (100%)

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Environmental Assessment: Findings

Sensitive Wildlife with Moderate or higher potential to occur

- Western (Pacific) pond turtle
- Olive-sided flycatcher
- White-tailed kite
- San Francisco (saltmarsh) common yellowthroat
- Hoary bat
- American badger



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Environmental Assessment: Findings

3. During the March site visits we confirmed presence of these two special-status species

1. Western leatherwood
2. San Francisco Dusky Footed Woodrat





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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Assessment: Findings

4. Assess baseline conditions of vegetation and wildlife habitat.



A. Most vegetation is in good condition.
B. Low potential to occur for many sensitive plant and animal species identified during "desktop" review
C. Recreation use generally not having environmental impacts
   a. *Exception: trails that go directly through stream channels that are not "protected" with erosion stabilization features*
D. Both open space areas have low potential to serve as wildlife migration corridors.

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Environmental Assessment: Findings

5. Common Wildlife Identified

- California towhee
- Spotted towhee
- Wrentit
- California quail
- Anna's hummingbird
- Common Merganser
- Mallard
- Red-shouldered hawk
- Black-tailed mule deer
- Western fence lizard
- Pond turtle



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Environmental Assessment: Findings

5. Common Plants Identified

- Bullthistle
- Annual hairgrass
- Sticky monkeyflower
- Yerba santa
- Blue gum eucalyptus
- Fennel
- French broom
- Toyon
- Foxtail barley
- Goldfields
- Arroyo lupine
- Pineapple weed
- Bur clover
- Gold back fern
- Harding grass
- Western choke cherry
- Coast live oak
- California blackberry
- Common snowberry



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Environmental Assessment: Trail Critical and Possible Recommendations

1. Critical: Address severe erosion areas
2. Critical: Protect stream crossings or reroute
3. *Consider potential further assessment to determine disposition of trails for appropriate management:*
   - *Maintain as is*
   - *Re-construct in the current, exact location for hydrology*
   - *Construct new segment along the same general route*
   - *Re-route entire trail*
   - *Seasonal closures*
   - *Permanent closures*

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Recreation Use Assessment

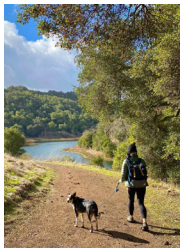


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Recreational Use Assessment: Methods

Desktop Review

1. Note potential safety issues during trail conditions assessment.
2. Review local and regional trends in open space recreational uses.
3. Consider opportunities to improve trail user experiences.



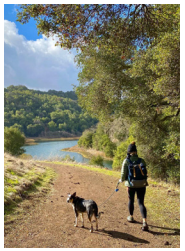
Field Assessment of Environmental Conditions

- 2 WRA staff performed 2 additional days of field assessments focused on trail mapping

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Recreational Use Assessment: Findings

- Many trails or trail segments lack adequate signage and wayfinding.
- There are multiple parallel, braided trails.
- There are multiple areas where visitor experiences could be enhanced.



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Recreational Use Assessment: Recommendations

1. Adding calming features to reduce speed, and landings for respite
2. Consider separate, new single use trails to enhance visitor experiences
3. For parallel, braided trails, designate as single use, one-way use or close if unnecessary



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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Wildfire Hazard Assessment

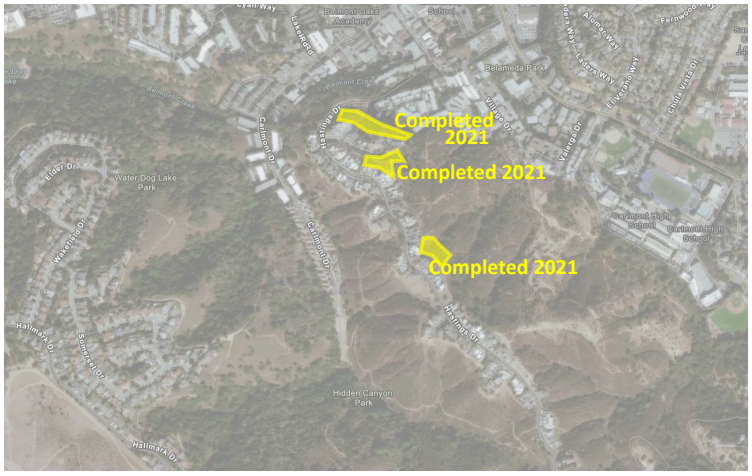
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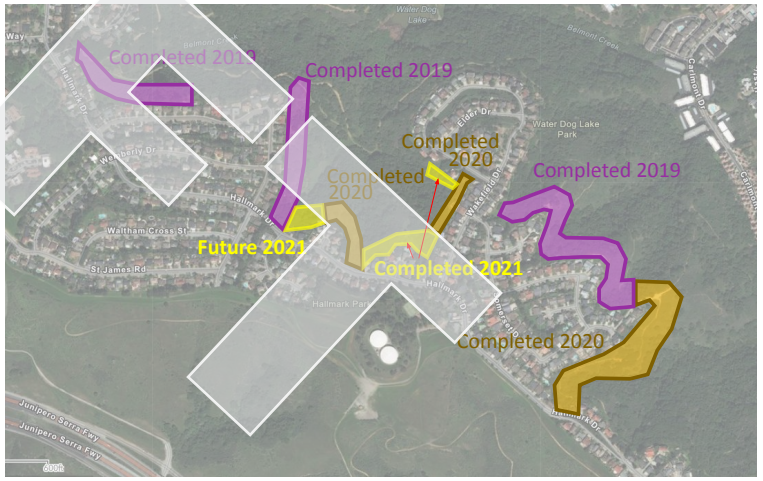
Wildland Fire Assessment: Methods

1. Desktop review of aerial photography
2. Observe fuel conditions from trails
3. Review city's recent fuel treatment activity
4. Evaluate wildfire hazards and ignition potential based on vegetation types mapped and observed



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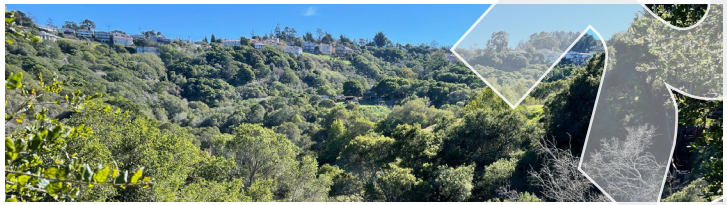




PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Wildland Fire Assessment: Findings

1. Calfire rates the two open space areas as very high (WDL) and high for SJC
2. Majority of vegetation in WDL and SJC open space areas are ranked low hazard and low ignition potential.
3. Many of the WDL open space lands immediately adjacent to residential areas subjected to recent fuel reduction.



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Wildland Fire Assessment: Recommendations

1. Consider developing an annual fuel treatment plan
2. Continue maintaining treatment areas
3. Conduct a field based evaluation of conditions in SJC open space for possible treatments



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Management Alternatives Update

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Task 6: Management Alternatives

1. The "Base" Plan is a set of goals, policies, and implementation actions.
   a. Added new policies and goals based on WRA's expertise and experience.
   b. Many of these originated from city planning documents.
2. One alternative provides additional recreational policies (e.g. e-bikes)
3. One alternative provides additional habitat protection and restoration policies.

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

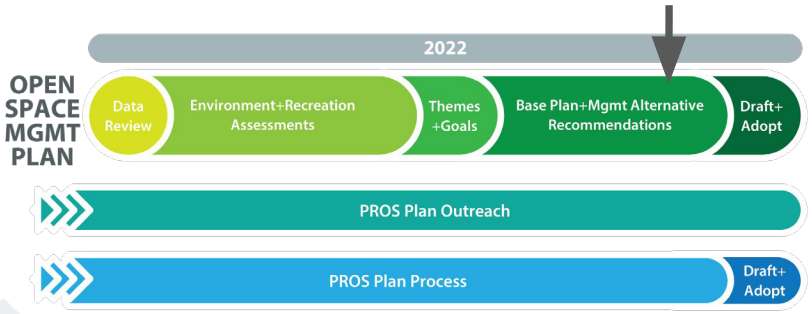
Next Steps

1. Publish Draft Environmental Use Assessment.
2. Publish Draft Recreation Use Assessment.
3. Publish Draft Management Alternatives.
4. Prepare Draft Open Space Management Plan.
5. Solicit Public Feedback.
6. Plan adoption.



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SCHEDULE



Continuing Community Input Opportunities

- Email to info@belmontprosplan.com
- May 31st PROS Advisory Committee
- OSMP Event planned for mid-June

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THANK YOU!



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COMMISSION Q + A

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

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COMMISSION
COMMENTS

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

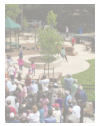
Parks & Recreation Commission
July 6, 2022

PROS Plan purpose:
*Set the **framework for decision makers** in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system for a **15 year horizon**.*

GATES +ASSOCIATES

1

AGENDA


Purpose *To review and recommend the PROS Plan to the City Council*

PROS Plan

- Process
- Vision
- Recommendations
- Open Space Management Plan
- Implementation Strategy

2

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3

Process: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

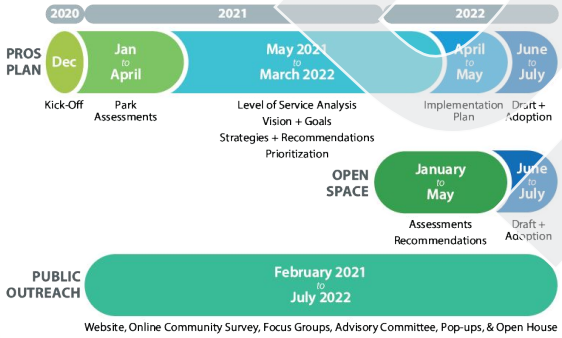
1. Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
2. Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
3. Make all users feel **welcome and safe**
4. Offer services and activities across a **range of interests, abilities, and ages**
5. Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience and sustainability**
6. Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
7. Advance community **health and well-being**
8. Foster a sense of community and encourage **social interaction**
9. Provide **well maintained** and actively managed facilities
10. **Adapt** to changing conditions and needs
11. Utilize **transparent community process** to inform decisions

4

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Process: SCHEDULE

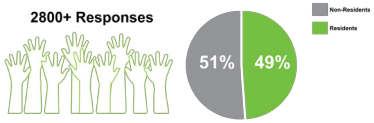




Process: AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Survey

2800+ Responses



Focus Groups
11 in 2021

Emails + Comments
Over **1,500** (2020 to June 2022)
Emails to Info@BelmontPROSplan.com and/or P&R Commission, and Comments via project website

Project Website
3,800+
unique visitors

PROS Advisory Committee
5 meetings in 2021 + 2022

Parks and Recreation Commission
*Updates at **every** P&R Commission meeting*
19 meetings in 2020 + 2021 + 2022

City Council presentations
3 in 2021 + 2022 * Next Meeting: July 12th

Pop-up participation
at City events
Concerts in the Park
Movie Night in the Park
Egg Hunt
Celebrate the Music
etc.

Open Space Open House

Process: AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY



How the COMMUNITY informed and influenced the PROS Plan
(a sample)

1. Open Space Management Plan
   a. WRA Environmental Consultants
   b. PROS Plan schedule extended
2. Proposed uses at undeveloped parks
   a. Hidden Canyon Park + Ralston Ranch Park
3. Opportunity Site: Oak Knoll Drive
4. Additional Advisory Committee meeting

PROS PLAN VISION

Re-imagine the Belmont Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS)system to **create the City's Backyard** that fosters **inclusive, experiential, and nurturing public spaces** by setting the framework for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation, implementable over a **15 year horizon**.

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Vision: COMMUNITY THEMES

- Amenities for Social + Physical Activity
- Create More with Less
- More Seating Opportunities
- Connecting with Nature
- Physical Connections
- Available for Many Uses + Users
- Amenities for Diverse Interests
- Natural Resources
- Accessible for All Abilities
- Honor Belmont's Unique Landscape

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Vision: BIG IDEAS + GOALS

- The City as Your Backyard
- Outdoor Recreation for All
- Celebrate the Outdoors
- Prioritize Environmental + Financial Sustainability

10

The Ideas: BIG IDEAS + GOALS

The City as Your Backyard

Goal 1. Support a **connected Belmont** by encouraging a **robust pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit network** unifying PROS sites across the City.

Goal 2. Foster a **healthy community** through spaces, amenities, programs, and public art to encourage **physical activity**, **social interaction**, and highlight Belmont's **culture and history**.

Goal 3. Expand and enhance the existing PROS system to **meet evolving community needs** by establishing **new uses**, **improved spaces**, and recreation amenities that **highlight the natural environment**.

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Vision: BIG IDEAS + GOALS

Outdoor Recreation for All

Goal 4. Leverage assets of the PROS system to **support community health** providing **diverse**, **equitable**, and **inclusive** spaces and amenities with **accessible routes**.

Goal 5. Revitalize the PROS system to be **adaptable**, **flexible**, and supportive of **many uses and users** now and into the future.

Goal 6. **Partner** with a variety of agencies, departments, volunteer groups, other entities, and the community to **actualize PROS Plan goals** and policies.

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Vision: BIG IDEAS + GOALS

Celebrate the Outdoors

Goal 7. Develop and implement an **Open Space Management Plan**.

Goal 8. **Expand educational opportunities** in parks and open spaces to highlight the local ecosystems.

Goal 9. Continue to **enrich Belmont's outdoor recreation opportunities** with trail improvements, volunteer collaborations, and wayfinding features.

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Vision: BIG IDEAS + GOALS

Prioritize Environmental + Financial Sustainability

Goal 10. Nurture the **ecological strength** of the City's natural resources through **resource-efficient landscapes** and operations.

Goal 11. Provide **high-quality**, **actively-managed**, and **well-maintained** PROS assets supported by a range of funding sources.

Goal 12. Prioritize **sustainable**, **resilient**, and **responsible management and maintenance** practices, improvements, and projects at PROS sites.

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Vision: CITY-WIDE PARK ACCESS



- **Interconnected Park System**
  - Amenities distributed across the system
- **Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle access to green spaces**
  - Identify areas with low access
  - Promote ped and bike infrastructure to reduce areas with low access
  - Investigate new park opportunity sites in areas with low access

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Recommendations: SYSTEM-WIDE STRATEGIES

74
Strategies

- Broad recommendations to impact the entire PROS system
- Organized under the Big Ideas and Goals
- Furthered by:
  - Strategic actions
  - Park-specific recommendations
  - Open Space Management Plan

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Recommendations: STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Inclusive + All-Abilities Play



- Social Gathering Space



- "Pop-up" Park Installations



- PROS Activation Plan
- Usage Study

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RECOMMENDATIONS SPECTRUM

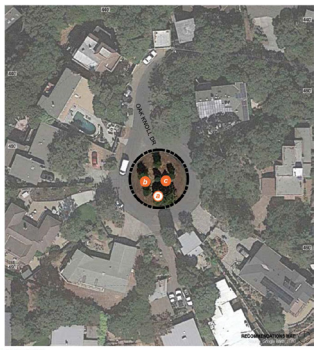
INCREASING MAGNITUDE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Magnitude	EXISTING MASTER PLAN	MINOR IMPROVEMENT	UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY	PARK REDESIGN	UNDEVELOPED PARKS	NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY
Existing Condition	Master Plans recently adopted Created with extensive community input	Parks recently developed or in Very Good condition	Current park functioning well	Rethink accessibility and park layout No change-in-use	Existing park is undeveloped	Add Parkland To fill gaps in park access City-owned property
Recommendation	Implement Existing Master Plan	Minor improvements identified to maintain high-quality	Upgrade existing amenity or new amenity to meet identified needs or gaps	Undertake Park Master Plan	Develop and amenitize site	Create, develop, and amenitize site

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Recommendations: NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY

OAK KNOLL DRIVE



Community Feedback: Identified as an Opportunity Site via neighbor's input, strong community support for new park


b. Benches


c. Play Element



"Safety Circle" Signage

Accessible : Planting

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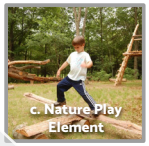
Recommendations: UNDEVELOPED PARK

HIDDEN CANYON PARK



Community Feedback: Community revised Option A
Nature-oriented, phase improvements per community request


b. Seating Opportunities


c. Nature Play Element


d. Picnic Area


e. Outdoor Classroom


3. Restroom


4. Open Space Gateway

1. ADA Parking : 2. Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

Recommendations: EXISTING PARK MASTER PLAN

TWIN PINES PARK



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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Open Space Management Plan identifies objectives, policies, and implementation actions for:

1. Environmental sustainability
2. Balanced recreation use
3. Natural hazard mitigation
4. Vegetation protection
5. Wildlife protection
6. Water resources
7. Science based management
8. Expanded implementation resources



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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Plan consists of:

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Recreational Use Assessment
3. Base Plan
4. Management Alternatives

Methods included:

- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Community and stakeholder input



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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

FINDINGS

Key Findings from Environmental Assessment, Recreation Use Assessment

1. **Over 90 percent of the open space lands consist of native biological communities.**
2. 11 special-status plant species and 7 special-status wildlife species have moderate/high potential to occur or are present.
3. Non-native species generally limited.
4. **Trails represent about 1.3 percent of open space lands.**
5. Approximately 50 stream crossings identified.
6. **Less than 10% of trail erosion ratings were considered "high."**
7. Rates of participation in nature-based recreation are increasing.

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FINDINGS

Key Findings Wildfire Hazard Assessment

Steep topography, weather, and the potential to damage human life and structures

- Very high wildfire hazards for WDL
- High wildfire hazards for SJC

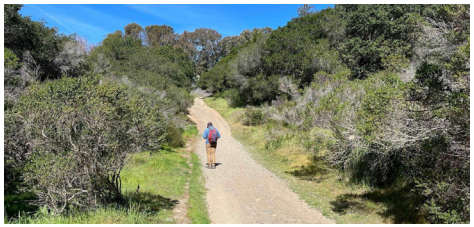


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FINDINGS

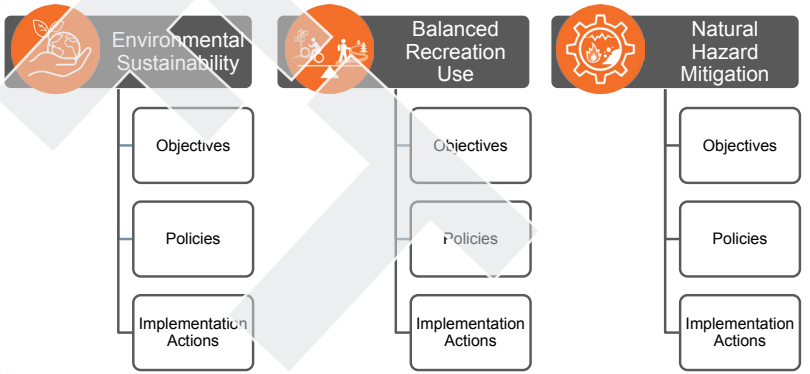
Key Takeaways

1. Overall habitat quality is high.
2. Existing nature-based recreational uses can continue on existing mapped and established, previously unmapped trails.
3. Continue wildfire fuel reduction efforts.



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OPEN SPACE THEMES



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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

BASE PLAN + MGMT ALTERNATIVES

Base Plan

Comprehensive set of objectives, policies and implementation actions designed to:

- Protect sensitive resources
- Guide trail management and manage recreation
- Mitigate the risk of natural hazards

Recreation Emphasis Alternative

Additional policy and implementation actions related trails and recreational use

Habitat Emphasis Alternative

Additional policies and implementation actions related to vegetation restoration and wildlife protection

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Mgmt Alt: COMMUNITY PREFERENCE

Management Alternatives	% of Vote
Base Plan (alone)	6%
Base Plan + Recreation Emphasis	37%
Base Plan + Habitat Emphasis	17%
Base Plan + Recreation Emphasis + Habitat Emphasis	40%

Advisory Committee #5 (5/31/22).
Poll question: Which Management Alternatives do you support?
35 responses (8 AC members + 27 participants)

30

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Recommendations based on:

- PROS Plan Big Ideas + Goals,
- Findings from WRA assessments,
- Public feedback
- Clear next steps for the City



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IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

An implementation action is a discrete, measurable action that achieves a desired outcome.

Environmental Sustainability

Ex. Improve stream crossings

Balanced Recreation Use

Ex. Monitor visitor use levels

Natural Hazard Mitigation

Ex. Using grazing reduce wildfire fuels

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Implementation Action Ratings

Easy	Medium	Hard
These actions can be performed immediately under existing City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.	These actions require additional planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes.	These actions may require substantial planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.

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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve stream crossings (Hard)
- Fuels reduction plan (Medium)
- Monitor recreation use (Hard)
- Seasonal/weather dependent restrictions on maintenance (Easy)



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FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop recreation and volunteer restoration programs
- Examine portfolio of solutions for multi-use trail experiences



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IMPLEMENTATION

- **PRIORITIZATION MATRIX**
  To prioritize park-specific recommendations
- **FUNDING STRATEGIES + PARTNERSHIPS**
  Portfolio of funding for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations
- **ACTION PLAN**
  for short term, long term, or ongoing

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

- To further **PROS Plan goals**
  - 12 goals
- To respond to **community priority**
  - N/A, Medium, High
- To serve an **existing deficiency**
  - Demographic group, Underserved area of Belmont, Anticipated Areas of Increased Residential Density, New use, Availability of amenity/use, Resolve access issues
- To address an **existing condition**
  - N/A, Good, Fair, Poor, Critical or unsafe

PARK SITE PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS *

SITE (PARK + JUA)	AVG POINTS[1]	SITE RANK
Opportunity: Ralston + Old County	21.9	1
Opportunity: Oak Knoll Dr	18.8	2
Ralston Ranch	13.0	3
Opportunity: Alameda de las Pulgas	17.4	4
Alexander	14.5	5
O'Donnell	12.2	6
Hidden Canyon	12.0	7
Belamela	11.5	8
Twin Pines	11.1	9
Barrett Community Center, McDougal	10.3	10
Cipriani, Hallmark, Wakefield	10.4	11
Hastings Tot Lot	10.2	12
Patricia Wharton, JUA: Central	10.0	13
College View	9.9	14
Belmont Sports Complex	9.4	15
JUA: Fox, JUA: Nesbit, JUA: Ralston	9.0	16
Davey Glen	8.0	17
Semeria	7.8	18

** Open Space Sites not included in rankings*
1 Avg Points calculated by dividing the total points for all recommendations at a site by number of recommendations for the site
2 Improvements at this Opportunity site would be temporary due to expected development of the property

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The Document: PROS PLAN

PART 1. WHERE WE ARE

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Planning Process
Document Organization

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Planning Context
Recreation Trends

CHAPTER 3 **EXISTING CONDITIONS** 29
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Park Typologies
Parkland Distribution
Access + Connections
Park + Rec Amenities
Park Site Assessments
School Site Assessments
Open Space Assessments

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Informing the Big Ideas

CHAPTER 5 **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** 123
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Ideal Amenity Quantity

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System-wide Strategies

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THANK YOU!



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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Q + A

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) MASTER PLAN

Parks & Recreation Commission
January 10, 2024

PROS PLAN VISION
Re-imagine the Belmont PROS system to create the City's Backyard that fosters inclusive, experiential, and nurturing public spaces by **setting the framework for decision makers** in planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation, implementable over a **15 year horizon**.

GATES +ASSOCIATES 1

AGENDA

Meeting Purpose: Receive update on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan).

MEETING TOPICS:

1. Framework + Approach of PROS Plan
2. Document Organization and Components
3. PROS Strategies + Recommendations
4. Recap + Next Steps

2

INTRODUCTION

PROS PLAN PURPOSE:

- Study the existing PROS system: parks (developed and undeveloped), joint-use schools, and open spaces
- Present system-wide and park-specific prioritized recommendations
- Identify opportunities to increase parkland
- Develop a decision-making framework and implementation strategy

3

GUIDING **PRINCIPLES**

1. Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
2. Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
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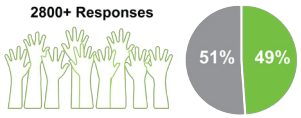
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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Survey

2800+ Responses



Focus Groups
11 in 2021

Emails + Comments
Over 1,500 (2020 to June 2022)
Emails to Info@BelmontPROSplan.com and/or P&R Commission, and Comments via project website

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PROS Advisory Committee
5 meetings in 2021 + 2022

Parks and Recreation Commission
*Updates at **every** P&R Commission meeting*
19 meetings in 2020 + 2021 + 2022

Pop-up participation
at City events
Concerts in the Park
Movie Night in the Park
Egg Hunt
Celebrate the Music
etc.

Open Space Open House

City Council presentations
4 in 2021 + 2022

5

COMMUNITY THEMES

- Amenities for Social + Physical Activity
- Create More with Less
- More Seating Opportunities
- Connecting with Nature
- Physical Connections
- Available for Many Uses + Users
- Amenities for Diverse Interests
- Natural Resources
- Accessible for All Abilities
- Honor Belmont's Unique Landscape

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FRAMEWORK



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DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

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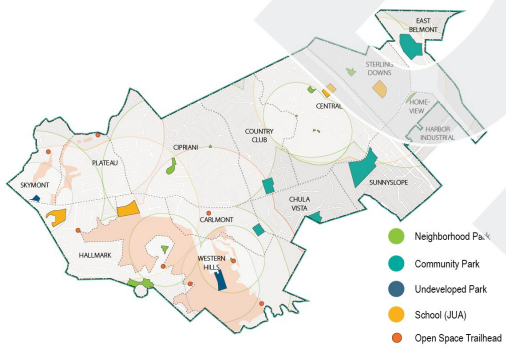
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Partnerships
Action Plan
Open Space Actions

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

ENVISIONING CITY-WIDE PARK ACCESS



Interconnected Park System

- Ensure amenities are well distributed across the PROS system

Prioritize Access to Green Spaces

- Identify areas with low access
- Align with ongoing efforts to promote pedestrian + bicycle infrastructure
- Investigate new park opportunity sites

STRATEGIES

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Strategies

- **Broad strategies to impact the entire PROS system**
- **Organized under the Big Ideas and Goals**
- **Furthered by:**
  - System-wide Recommendations
  - Park-specific Recommendations
  - Open Space Recommendations

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Inclusive + All-Abilities Play



Social Gathering Space



"Pop-up" Park Installations



Interconnect Toolkit

PROS Activation Plan

Usage Study

PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Neighborhood Parks (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
2. Community Parks
3. Undeveloped Parks
4. Schools with Joint-Use Agreements
5. Opportunity Sites
6. Open Space

Recommendation magnitude is evaluated + contextualized by category:

- Implement existing master plan
- Minor improvement
- Upgraded or new amenity
- Park redesign
- Undeveloped park
- New park opportunity

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

EXAMPLE: **UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY**

O'DONNELL PARK



EXAMPLE: **MINOR IMPROVEMENTS**

WAKEFIELD PARK



EXAMPLE: **IMPLEMENT MASTER PLAN**

TWIN PINES PARK

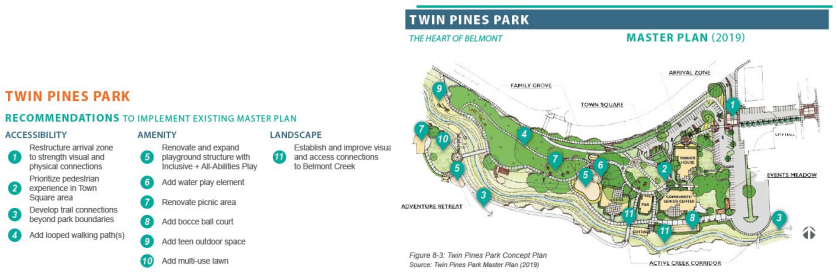


Figure 8-3: Twin Pines Park Concept Plan
Source: Twin Pines Park Master Plan (2019)

OSMP **PURPOSE**

The Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) used a science-based technical approach to provide a comprehensive set of **objectives, policies, and recommended actions** designed to protect sensitive resources, guide trail and recreation management, and mitigate the risk of natural hazards.

- Site visits, mapping inventories, community input, City and County plans, relevant databases, peer-reviewed literature, an **Environmental Assessment**, and a **Recreational Use Assessment** informed three overarching themes:

Environmental Sustainability

Balanced Recreation Use

Natural Hazard Mitigation

Assessments evaluated the environmental conditions and risks to **trails, streams, habitat, vegetation** as well as the **impacts of current recreational use** on sensitive resources.

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

OSMP **FINDINGS**

Key Takeaways

1. Overall habitat quality is high.
2. Existing nature-based recreational uses can continue on established mapped and unmapped trails.
3. **Continue wildfire fuel reduction efforts.**

Priority - Tier 1 Recommendations

- Improve stream crossings (Hard)
- Seasonal/weather dependent restrictions on maintenance (Easy)
- Fuels reduction plan (Medium)
- Monitor recreation use (Hard)

Priority - Tier 2 Recommendations

- Nature-based recreation programs (Medium)
- Volunteer restoration programs (Easy)
- Trail calming features (Hard)

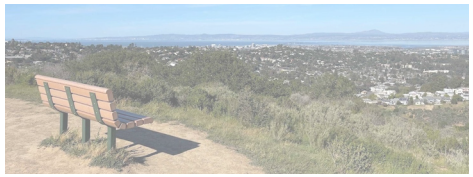
Easy	Medium	Hard
These actions can be performed immediately under **existing** City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.	These actions require **additional** planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes.	These actions may require **substantial** planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.

17

OSMP **RECOMMENDED STUDIES**

The OSMP recommends **further studies** to guide open space improvements:

- Annual Fuel Reduction Plan
- Annual Trail Inventories
- Annual Recreation Usage Observation Studies
- Trail Design Guidelines *(Specific to Belmont, or adopt an existing set from the State or other reputable source that includes ADA standards)*
- Engineering Studies for Stream Crossing Projects



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IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

To prioritize park-specific recommendations based on its ability to..

- Further the 12 **PROS Plan Goals**
- Respond to **community priority**
- Serve an **existing deficiency**
- Address an **existing condition**

FUNDING STRATEGIES + PARTNERSHIPS

Portfolio of funding for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations

ACTION PLAN

Short term, long term, or ongoing

PARK SITE PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS *

SITE (PARK + JUA)	AVG POINTS[1]	SITE RANK
Opportunity: Ralston + Old County[2]	21.9	1
Opportunity: Oak Knoll Dr	18.8	2
Ralston Ranch	18.0	3
Opportunity: Alameda de las Pulgas	17.4	4
Alexander	14.5	5
O'Donnell	12.2	6
Hidden Canyon	12.0	7
Belameda	11.5	8
Twin Pines	11.4	9
Barrett Community Center, McDougal	10.9	10
Cipriani, Hallmark, Wakefield	10.4	11
Hastings Tot Lot	10.2	12
Patricia Wharton, JUA: Central	10.0	13
College View	9.9	14
Belmont Sports Complex	9.4	15
JUA: Fox, JUA: Nesbit, JUA: Ralston	9.0	16
Davey Glen	8.0	17
Semeria	7.8	18

** Open Space Sites not included in rankings*

1 Avg Points calculated by dividing the total points for all recommendations at a site by number of recommendations for the site

2 Improvements at this Opportunity site would be temporary due to expected development of the property

19

RECAP: **REVISIONS**

The PROS Plan was **recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission** on July 6, 2022 to the City Council for **approval with the following amendments, now complete**:

1. **Consolidate the OSMP's Base Plan and Management Alternatives objectives, policies, and implementation actions into a single plan.**
2. Clearly present **priority recommendations in the OSMP by theme - environmental sustainability, balanced recreation uses and trail management, and natural hazard mitigation.**
3. Pursue the creation of **dedicated parkland in downtown Belmont** and the Belmont Village Specific Plan area in response to potential residential density increase in the area due to anticipated housing unit development as outlined in the 2023-2031 Housing Element update.
4. Apply consistent terminology to remove ambiguity.
5. Refine specific graphics for clarity.

20

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

RECAP: CEQA

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an **Addendum to the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR)** was prepared by WRA.

1. **Required Approvals, Agreements, and Permits** *(expected - not an exhaustive list)*
   a. Adoption of the PROS Plan (City)
   b. Grading Permit (City)
   c. Trail Stream Crossing Improvement Permits
      i. Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (CA Department of Fish and Wildlife)
      ii. Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit (US Army Corps of Engineers)
      iii. 401 Water Quality Certification (CA Regional Water Quality Control Board)
2. **Addendum Analysis + Findings**
   a. The Proposed Project would not result in new or substantially increased significant environmental impacts that were not previously disclosed in the 2017 EIR certified by the City.
3. **Technical Studies**
   a. The Environmental Assessment is included in the OSMP. No further technical studies were required.

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NEXT STEPS

1. Post documents on project website for community review.
2. Present at February Commission meeting.
3. Present to Council following Commission recommendation.

22

www.BelmontPROSplan.com Info@BelmontPROSplan.com



23

RECAP: OSMP

Base Plan: Initial Policies and Recommendations

ADD ONS
- **+Recreation Emphasis Alternative**
  Additional policies and actions related trails and recreational use
- **+Habitat Emphasis Alternative**
  Additional policies and actions related to vegetation restoration and wildlife protection

The Base Plan and Alternatives were combined into ONE Management Plan based on feedback

May 31, 2022 (Advisory Committee #5) *35 responses (8 AC members + 27 participants)*

Poll: Which Management Alternatives do you support?	% of Vote
Base Plan (alone)	6%
Base Plan + Recreation Emphasis	37%
Base Plan + Habitat Emphasis	17%
Base Plan + Recreation Emphasis + Habitat Emphasis (combined)	40%

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) MASTER PLAN

Parks & Recreation Commission
February 7, 2024

CITY OF BELMONT

PROS PLAN VISION

Re-imagine the Belmont PROS system to create the City's Backyard that fosters **inclusive, experiential, and nurturing public spaces** by setting the framework for decision makers in planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation, implementable over a **15 year horizon**.

GATES + ASSOCIATES

1

AGENDA

MEETING PURPOSE

1. Receive an update on the PROS Plan
2. Possible recommendation to City Council

MEETING TOPICS

- Document organization + framework
- Strategies + recommendations
- Recap revisions to date
- EIR Addendum
- Next steps

2

OUTREACH **UPDATE**

ON THE WEB

Project website: home page button to documents + FAQ tab
www.belmontprosplan.com
City website: home page banner and spotlight on P&R page
www.belmont.gov
www.belmont.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation

EMAIL

Citywide eNews: Jan 12, Jan 19, + Feb 2
P&R eNews: Feb 5
Direct email: Jan 19

SOCIAL MEDIA

P&R: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
Citywide: Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P&R Commission: Jan 10 (agenda item - introduction) + Feb 7 (agenda item - possible recommendation to Council)
City Council: Jan 23 (verbal announcement from Mayor Mates)

3

INTRODUCTION

PROS PLAN PURPOSE

Study the existing parks, recreation, and open space system

- Identify gaps
- Develop strategies
- Present recommendations
- Assess opportunities
- Establish a framework for prioritization

that can be periodically revisited as resources become available + circumstances evolve

4

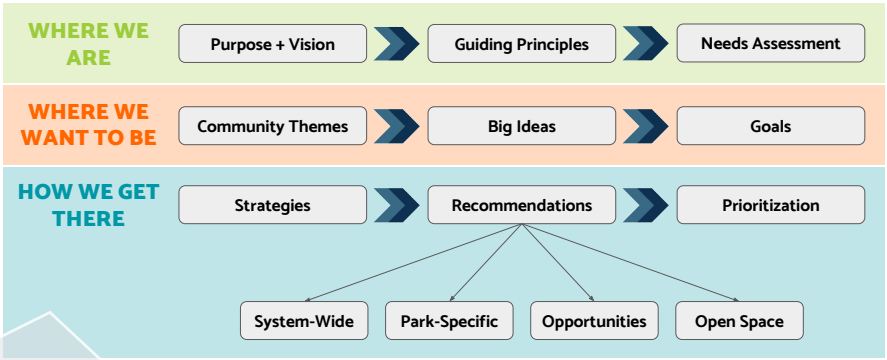
DRAFT

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

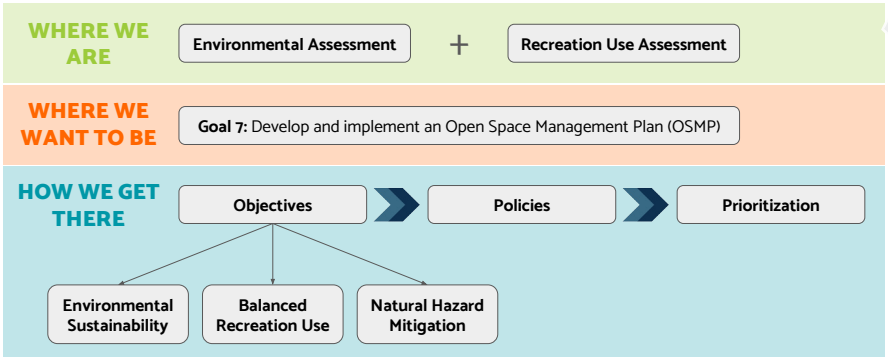
DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION



PROS FRAMEWORK



OSMP FRAMEWORK



ENVISIONING CITY-WIDE PARK ACCESS



PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

STRATEGIES

STRATEGIES: BROAD INITIATIVES THAT WILL...

- Accomplish the PROS goals
- Benefit the PROS system as a whole
- Provide guidance for future decisions
- Align with existing planning efforts





9

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Inclusive + All-Abilities Play	Social Gathering Space	Pop-up Park Installations
Interconnect Toolkit	Activation Plan	Usage Study





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PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

INCREASING MAGNITUDE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

	EXISTING MASTER PLAN	MINOR IMPROVEMENT	UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY	PARK REDESIGN	UNDEVELOPED PARKS	NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY
Existing Condition	Master plans recently adopted Created with extensive community input	Parks recently developed or in very good condition	Current park functioning well	Rethink accessibility and park layout No change in use	Existing park is undeveloped	Add parkland To fill gaps in park access City-owned property
Recommendation	Implement existing master plan	Minor improvements identified to maintain high quality	Upgrade existing amenity or new amenity to meet identified needs or gaps	Undertake park design plan	Develop and amenitize site	Create, develop, and amenitize site

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)
- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Identifiable Amenity

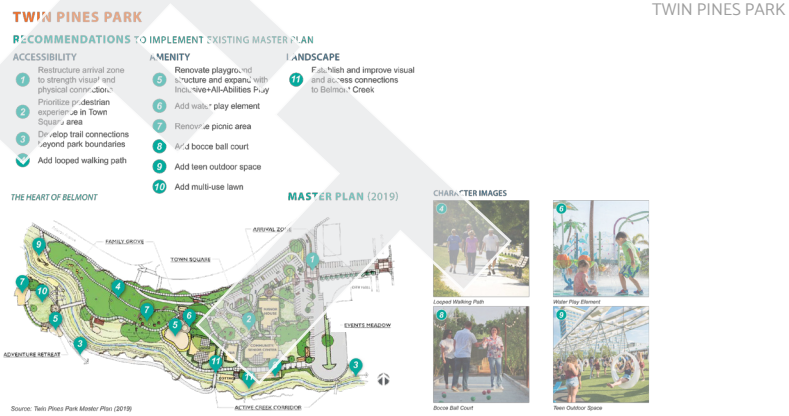
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2)
- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity

COMMUNITY PARK
- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity
- (g) Off-Street Parking
- (h) Permanent Restroom
- (i) Athletic Field or Community Facility

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EXAMPLE: IMPLEMENT MASTER PLAN

TWIN PINES PARK



PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

EXAMPLE: MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

WAKEFIELD PARK



EXAMPLE: UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

O'DONNELL PARK



OSMP PURPOSE

OSMP: A SET OF OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PRIORITIES BASED ON...

- **Environmental Assessment**: trails, stream crossings, habitat, vegetation
- **Recreational Use Assessment**: impact of recreation on sensitive resources
- Site visits + data collected in the field
- Relevant databases + peer-reviewed literature
- Community input
- Regional best practices, guidelines + regulations

Environmental Sustainability

Balanced Recreation Use

Natural Hazard Mitigation

15

OSMP FINDINGS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Overall habitat quality is high
2. Existing nature-based recreational use can continue on established mapped + unmapped trails
3. Continue wildfire fuel reduction efforts

PRIORITIES

TIER 1

- Improve stream crossings (H)
- Seasonal/weather-dependent restrictions on maintenance (E)
- Fuels reduction plan (M)
- Monitor recreation use (H)

TIER 2

- Improve stream crossings (H)
- Nature-based recreation programs (M)
- Volunteer restoration programs (E)
- Trail calming features (H)

Easy

These actions can be performed immediately under **existing** City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.

Medium

These actions require **additional** planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes.

Hard

These actions may require **substantial** planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

FURTHER **STUDIES**

NEXT STEPS

- Utilize the methodology presented in the OSMP for ongoing observation + monitoring
- Develop an annual Fuel Reduction Plan
- Conduct engineering studies for future stream crossing projects
- Adopt trail design guidelines

(specific to Belmont OR adopt an existing set from the State or other reputable source)



IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIZATION: BASED ON THE ABILITY OF A RECOMMENDATION TO...

- Further the PROS goals
- Respond to community priorities
- Resolve an existing deficiency
- Address an existing condition

FUNDING + PARTNERSHIPS: OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE ON...

- Capital improvements
- Maintenance + operations

ACTION PLAN: IMPORTANT TARGETS IN THREE TIME FRAMES...

- Short term > Long term > Ongoing

RECENT **REVISIONS**

THE PROS PLAN WAS **RECOMMENDED** BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ON JULY 6, 2022 TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL **WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS**...

1. Consolidate the OSMP's Base Plan and Management Alternatives objectives, policies, and implementation actions into a single plan.
2. Clearly present priority recommendations in the OSMP by theme - environmental sustainability, balanced recreation uses and trail management, and natural hazard mitigation.
3. Pursue the creation of dedicated parkland in downtown Belmont and the Belmont Village Specific Plan area in response to potential residential density increase in the area due to anticipated housing unit development as outlined in the 2023-2031 Housing Element update.
4. Apply consistent terminology to remove ambiguity.
5. Refine specific graphics for clarity.

2024 COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

REVISION **SUMMARY**

LAYOUT/FORMATTING/GRAPHICS

1. Color-coding/revising graphics, tables, images, figures + captions for consistency
2. Section/chapter headers renamed/reorganized for clarity/flow/readability
3. Information presented visually where needed

CONTENT/TEXT

1. Terms clearly defined + used consistently
2. Text became more concise while preserving content/details
3. Concepts/topics elaborated/reworded/explained further where needed
4. Reflects latest information available + recent meetings/outreach statistics

NOT CHANGED: THE PRIMARY TAKEAWAYS OF THE DOCUMENT...

- Inventory + needs assessment results
- Recommendations + opportunity sites
- Prioritization matrix + action plan

PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

CEQA **UPDATE**

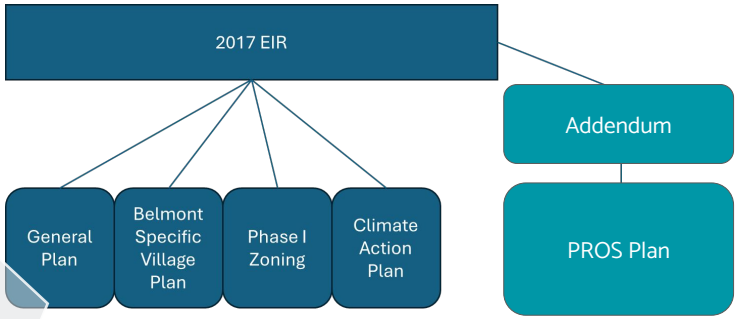
CEQA PATHWAY

- The PROS Plan was reviewed according to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Policies and actions in the PROS Plan (including OSMP) were largely already addressed in the General Plan
- To retain consistency and reduce redundancy, **an addendum to the 2017 EIR** was prepared
- The addendum and the 2017 EIR are programmatic – ***they address potential impacts that may result from the implementation of policies and actions***

Addenda are used to make changes or additions to prior EIRs or NDs without major changes to the
- Project,
- Circumstances,
- Information.

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CEQA **UPDATE**



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CEQA **UPDATE**

EIR ADDENDUM

- The addendum analyzed the potential impacts from the PROS Plan as they relate to the impact discussed in the 2017 EIR

FINDINGS

- Limited new impacts were less than significant
- No new significant impacts that had not already been discussed - no additional review is needed
- All mitigation measures will apply

The addendum will accompany the PROS Plan to City Council for approval

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NEXT **STEPS**

1. **PRESENT TO CITY COUNCIL FOLLOWING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**
2. **AS SPECIFIC PROJECTS EMERGE, INITIATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
3. **PERIODICALLY REVISIT THE PROS PLAN AS RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE + PRIORITIES CHANGE**

24

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PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS



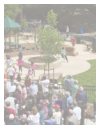
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PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Presentation to Belmont Planning Commission
April 6, 2021

AGENDA


Purpose: Present the City of Belmont's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan Project

- The Team
- Project Overview
- Outreach Strategy
- Efforts to Date
- Next Steps

The Team

Consultant: **Gates + Associates**

City Staff: **Belmont Parks & Recreation Department**

Advisory Committee: **Representatives of Belmont's neighborhoods, demographics, and interests**

PURPOSE

Set the **framework** for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's parks and open space system and related recreational programming for a **15 year horizon.**

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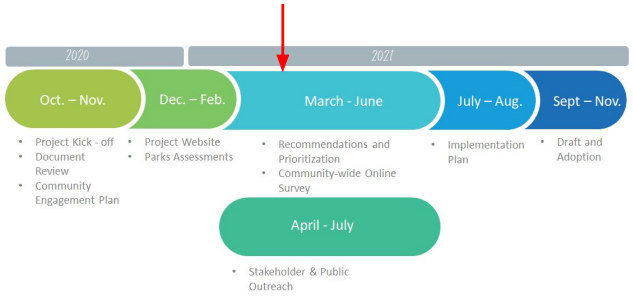
PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

GOALS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Develop a Master Plan that:

- Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
- Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position or physical/cognitive ability
- Offer services and activities across a range of **interests, abilities, and ages**
- Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience** and sustainability
- Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
- Advances **community health and well-being**
- Foster a sense of **community** and encourage **social interaction**
- Are **well maintained** and actively managed over time
- Can **adapt** to changing conditions and needs
- Utilize **transparent community process** to inform decisions

PROCESS



PROCESS: OUTREACH STRATEGY



PROCESS: OUTREACH

Outreach to date:

- Brand (Logo/Tagline)
- Project Website
- Identify Community Enhancers
- Selected Our Channels
- Prepare for Launch of Round #1 Survey
- Develop an Advisory Committee
- Survey Design & Launch

DRAFT

PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

PROCESS: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BelmontPROSPlan.com



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Role:
  - **Insights:** represent a diverse perspective of interests and ideas
  - **Outreach:** gather feedback and serve as community liaison to Master Plan team
  - **Advise:** review and provide input on the Master Plan process

SURVEY

- General Information Requested:
  - Who are you? *Age and Neighborhood*
  - Frequency of park, open space and outdoor recreation program use
  - Opinion on existing park, open space and outdoor recreation programs
  - Types of improvements desired for:
    - Parks
    - Open Spaces
    - Outdoor Recreation Programs

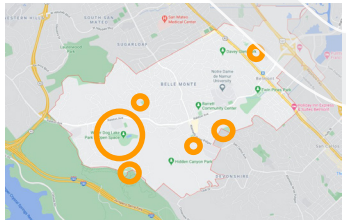
PROCESS: OUTREACH EVENTS

- Project Website
- Advisory Committee Meetings *(4 Total)*
- Community-Wide Survey
- Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings *(6 Total) - User Group or Topic (Open Space, Teens, etc., ...)*
- Neighborhood Meetings *(6 Total)*
- Community Pop Up Events *(3 Total)*
- Community Workshops *(2 Total)*
- Parks and Recreation Committee Presentation *(4 Total)*
- Planning Commission Meeting
- City Council Presentation *(3 Total)*

DRAFT

PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS

BENCHMARKING



Benchmarking of 3 comparable Cities

- *San Carlos*
- *Foster City*
- *Burlingame*

City Staff Park Usage Study

- *Open Space – Waterdog*
- *Community Parks – McDougal Park & Athletic Fields, Belameda Park*
- *Neighborhood Parks – Cipriani, Alexander Park, Hallmark Park*

EXISTING SITE ASSESSMENT



NEXT STEPS

- Ongoing Survey Awareness Campaign
- Stakeholder Interviews, Focus groups
- Review Preliminary Survey Trends

DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

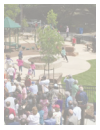
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Presentation to City Council
March 9, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES + ASSOCIATES

AGENDA


Purpose: Provide an update on Parks ,Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan and solicit Council feedback

- **Introductions**
- **Project Overview**
- **Outreach Strategy**
- **Efforts to Date**
- **Next Steps**

INTRODUCTIONS

Gates + Associates

Casey Case
Linda Gates
Kelley Lotosky
Melonie O'Sullivan

PROS Committee

Avery Lyford
Karl Mittelstadt
Craig Michaels
Brigitte Shearer
Daniel Ourtiague
Michael Moran
Peter Meier

Advisory Committee

Abby Sanders
Karen Haas-Foletta
Bob Stahl
Nelson Corteway
David Braunstein
Scott Sisemore
Susan Wright
Donna Sanchez
Dean Wilson
Lynn Bell
Sergio Raddaverro
Dan Deguara/Rui Bao

PURPOSE

Set the **framework** for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system and related recreational programming for a **15 year horizon.**

DRAFT

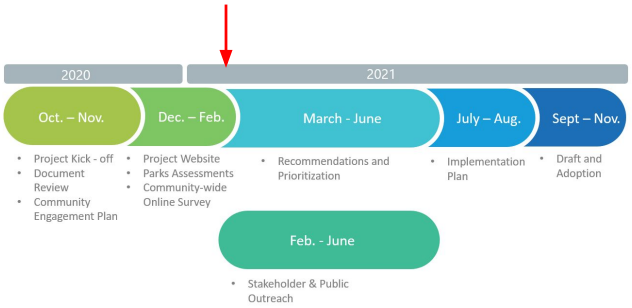
CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

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PROCESS: OUTREACH STRATEGY



PROCESS: OUTREACH

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

PROCESS: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BelmontPROSPlan.com



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- **Role:**
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  - **Outreach:** gather feedback and serve as community liaison to Master Plan team
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DRAFT SURVEY

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  - Opinion on existing park, open space and outdoor recreation programs
  - Types of improvements desired for:
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    - Open Spaces
    - Outdoor Recreation Programs

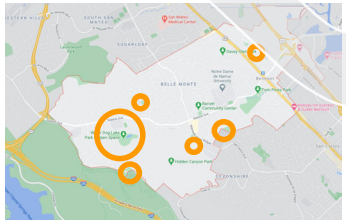
PROCESS: OUTREACH EVENTS

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- **Advisory Committee Meetings** *(4 Total)*
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- **Community Pop Up Events** *(3 Total)*
- **Community Workshops** *(2 Total)*
- **Parks and Recreation Committee Presentation** *(4 Total)*
- **Planning Commission Meeting**
- **City Council Presentation** *(3 Total)*

DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

BENCHMARKING



Benchmarking of 3 comparable Cities

- *San Carlos*
- *Foster City*
- *Burlingame*

City Staff Park Usage Study

- ***Open Space*** – *Waterdog*
- ***Community Parks*** – *McDougal Park & Athletic Fields, Belameda Park*
- ***Neighborhood Parks*** – *Cipriani, Alexander Park, Hallmark Park*

EXISTING SITE ASSESSMENT



◇◇◇ NEXT STEPS

- **Online Survey Launch**
  March 12, 2021
- **Planning Commission Presentation**
  April 6, 2021
- **Ongoing Survey Awareness Campaign**

DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

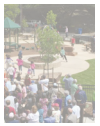
City Council
(Study Session)
November 23, 2021

CALIFORNIA BELMONT

GATES +ASSOCIATES

1

AGENDA

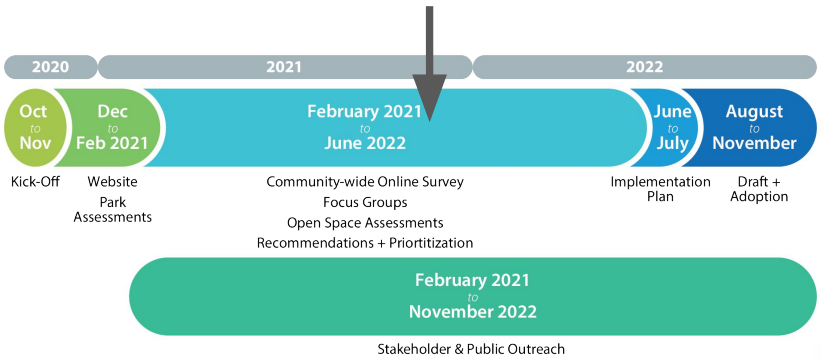




Purpose *To discuss park-specific DRAFT recommendations & public response to-date*

- Introductions + Schedule
- Efforts to Date
- Park Typologies + Amenities
- Park-Specific DRAFT Recommendations
- Park Opportunity Sites DRAFT Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion

2

PROCESS



3

BelmontPROSplan.com

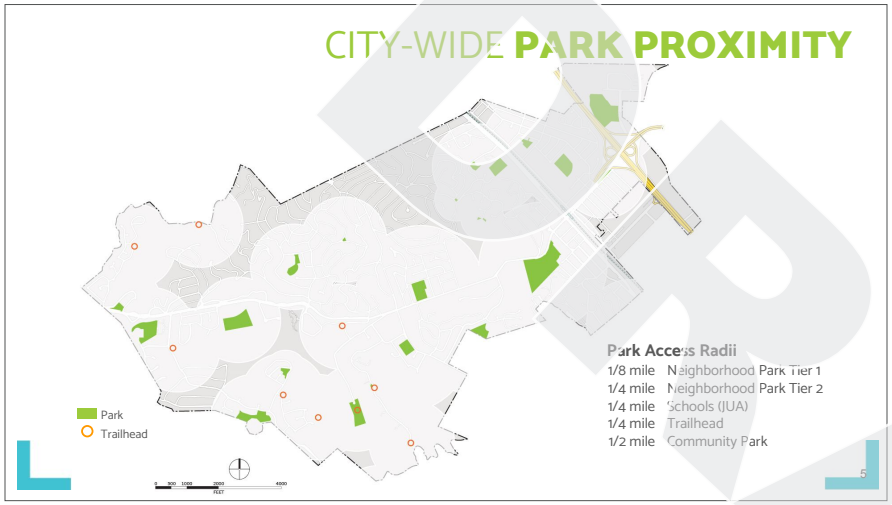
Info@belmontprosplan.com

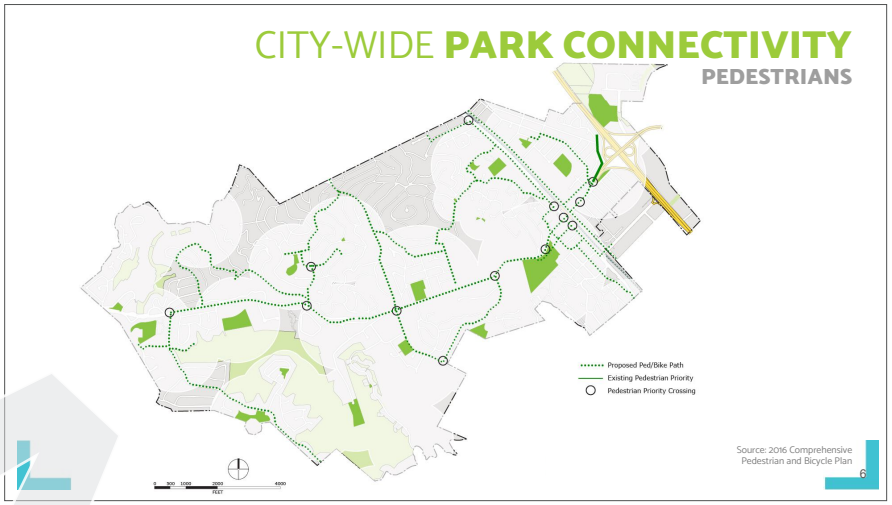


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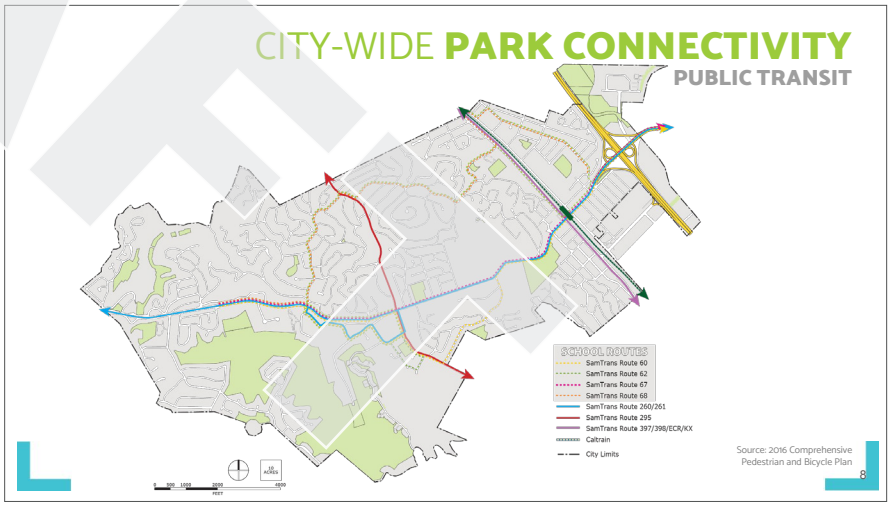
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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS









CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

EFFORTS TO DATE

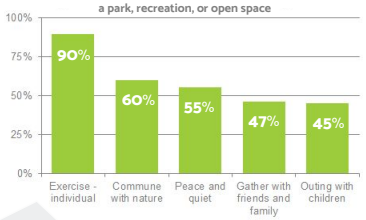
- **Existing Conditions Assessments**
- **Community Engagement**
  - Online Survey
  - Focus Groups
    - Park-specific: Hidden Canyon 10/18, Ralston Ranch 10/20
- **Benchmarking + Trends**
- **Park Typologies**
- **Park-specific Recommendations**

9

COMMUNITY INPUTS: **SURVEY**

BELMONT RESIDENTS ON **PARKS**

Top 5 Reasons to Visit
a park, recreation, or open space



Top 6 Amenities positively-rated
To Enhance the Belmont Park Experience



10

COMMUNITY INPUTS: **FOCUS GROUPS**



SCHOOL DISTRICT/ YOUTH SPORTS

Incentivize **school field improvements**

Continued **growth in sports field demand**

Interest in synthetic turf

INCLUSIVITY

Inclusive play elements sized larger (not just for small children)

Sensory and tactile play

Protected spaces, but with multiple sightlines and access points

YOUTH

Hang-out space for youth/teens

Add **seating**

Larger-sized play equipment

Community tables

Game areas

SENIORS

More **seating**

More **shade**

Generally happy with existing parks

DOG OWNERS

More **shade**

More **seating**

More **gathering and social** spaces

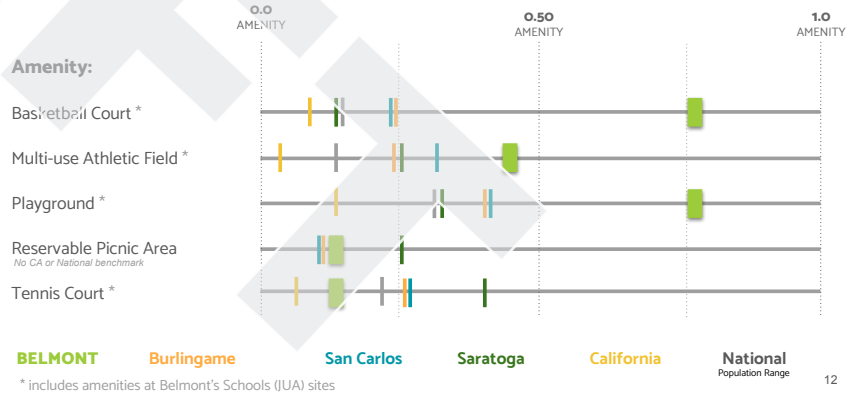
More waste bins

Water fountain

11

AMENITIES: **BENCHMARKED**

per **1,000** RESIDENTS



* includes amenities at Belmont's Schools (JUA) sites

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

PARK TYPOLOGIES

Community Park

- Generate the **most visitors**
- **High use** intensities
- Accessed by foot, bike, or car
- Large capture area (1/2 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Play Amenity
4. Picnic Opportunity
5. Multi-purpose Flexible Space
6. Recreation Amenity
7. Off-Street Parking
8. Permanent Restroom
9. Multi-use Athletic Field or Community Facility

Neighborhood Park Tier 2

- **Interacting with nature, gathering, and recreation**
- Local and nearby neighborhoods
- Accessed by foot, bike, and car
- Medium capture area (1/4 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Play Amenity
4. Picnic Opportunity
5. Multi-purpose Flexible Space
6. Recreation Amenity

Neighborhood Park Tier 1

- **Interacting with nature or gathering**
- Local neighborhood
- Mainly accessed by foot or by bike
- Small capture area (1/8 mile radius)

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

1. Natural Environment
2. Seating
3. Identifiable Amenity

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AMENITIES


Trees + Shade


Seating


Natural Environment


Gathering Area


Multi-use Paths


Multi-use Flex Space


All-Abilities Play


Dog Park


Pump Track


Pickleball

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AMENITIES: BELMONT IDEAL

Benchmarked Amenity	2021	2035
All-Abilities Playground	+1	0
Basketball Court (Full)	0	+2
Basketball Court (Half)	0	+2
Multi-Use Athletic Field	+1	+2
Play Element	+3	0
Playground	0	+2
Reservable Picnic Area, Small	+2	+1
Reservable Picnic Area, Large	+1	0
Tennis Court	+2	+1

Priority Amenity	2021	2035
Community Garden	+1	0
Dog Park	+1	0
Dog Parklet	+2	0
Pump Track (Bike Park)	+1	0
Skate Park	+1	0
Water Play, Pool	+1	0
Water Play, Spray Park	+1	0

Secondary Amenity	2021	2035
Fitness Equipment Cluster	+1	0
Handball Court / Wall Ball	0	+1
Horseshoe Pit / Bocce Ball Court	0	+1
Outdoor Classroom	+1	0
Performance Space	0	0
Teen Outdoor Space	+2	0
Volleyball Court	+1	0

Priority Amenities were highly ranked in community outreach

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RECOMMENDATIONS SPECTRUM

Existing Master Plan	Minor Improvements	Upgraded or New Amenity	Park Redesign	Undeveloped Parks	New Park Opportunity
Master Plans recently created Extensive community input Recommendation: Implement Master Plan	Parks recently developed or in very good condition Minor improvements to maintain high-quality	Current park functioning well New amenity to meet identified needs Upgrade existing amenity to meet identified needs	No change-in-use Rethink accessibility and park layout Park Master Plan process	Existing parks are undeveloped Proposed recommendations to amenitize site	City-owned property To fill gaps in park proximity Proposed recommendations to amenitize site
Barrett Community Twin Pines	College View Davey Glen Patricia Wharton Semeria Wakefield	Alexander **Belameda** **Belmont Sports** McDougal **O'Donnell**	Cipriani Hallmark Hastings	**Hidden Canyon** **Ralston Ranch**	**Ralston & Old County** **Oak Knoll** **Alameda de las Pulgas** Belmont Village Specific Plan

Bolded Parks are discussed in this presentation as examples of the Recommendations Spectrum

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS: BARRETT COMMUNITY
EXISTING MASTER PLAN



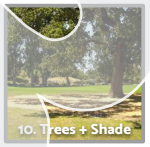












1. Parking : 5. Playground : 8. Multi-use Sports Court : 9. Picnic Area

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: BELAMEDA
UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY













Seating : Planting : High-Quality Landscape

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: BELMONT SPORTS
UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY















Seating

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS: O'DONNELL
UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY









Planting : High-Quality Landscape

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK

OPTION **A**: NATURE-ORIENTED















1. ADA Parking : **2.** Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

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DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK

OPTION **B**: DOG PARKLET















1. ADA Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

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PUBLIC RESPONSE: HIDDEN CANYON

VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUP, MONDAY 10/18

- **Poor maintenance condition** noted currently, and more of a concern if increased amenities at site
- **Concerned about vehicular access** (traffic volume and speed, parking)
- Many participants voiced support to keep the space **natural and quiet**
- **Phased implementation** supported in order to manage traffic concerns
- **Picnic tables, seating, and child outdoor play amenity** generally supported

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DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** RALSTON RANCH

UNDEVELOPED PARK















Accessible : Trees : Planting

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

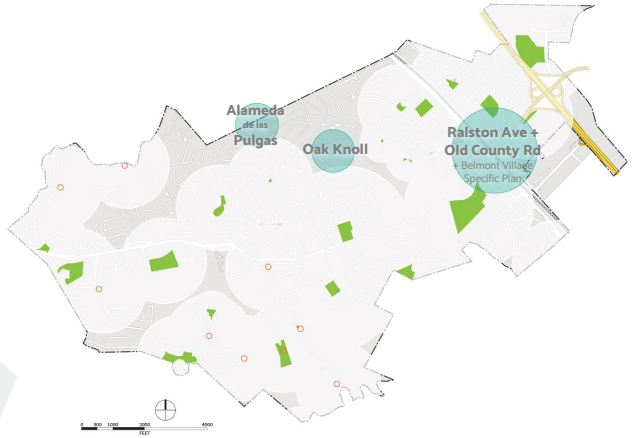
PUBLIC RESPONSE: RALSTON RANCH

VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUP, WEDNESDAY 10/20

- **Walking paths and seating** supported by multiple participants
- Neighborhood residents **generally against a dog-oriented amenity**
- Maintain and increase **trees**
- Respect **natural environment** in any proposed changes
- **Traffic, specifically exiting** Ralston Ranch Rd, considered negative to residents
- Child **play element** supported

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PARK OPPORTUNITY SITES



Park Proximity Map

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DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: RALSTON & OLD COUNTY

INTERIM PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITY













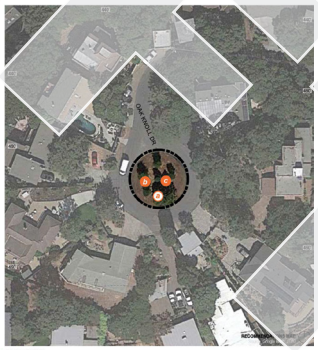


Accessible : Planting

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DRAFT OPPORTUNITY: OAK KNOLL

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY







Accessible : Planting

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

DRAFT **OPPORTUNITY:** ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY









Accessible : Planting

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PUBLIC RESPONSE: RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM OCTOBER + NOVEMBER 2021

- Multiple comments in support of **Pump Track (Bike Park)** at Belmont Sports Complex (requests to include and exclude bike amenity at Hidden Canyon)
- Positive response to proposed park at **Alameda de las Pulgas** (Opportunity Site)
- Seating and Permanent Restroom for Hidden Canyon, add bike repair station
- Request for more **Youth- and Teen-oriented spaces**
- Splash park (water play) at O'Donnell not encouraged
- Yes to **Bocce ball** (multiple locations)
- Request for **dog-oriented amenities**, limited support for proposed sites
- Maintain **natural environs** on undeveloped parks
- Neighbors support **park creation at summit of Oak Knoll Drive**

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NEXT STEPS

Continuing Community Input Opportunities

- Online Comments and Feedback

PROS Plan: Open Space Assessment and Recommendations
PROS Plan: Implementation

- Prioritization
- Action Plan

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATION **FEEDBACK**

Comment and provide feedback at

BelmontPROSplan.com

Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

All Park-Specific Recommendations available on PROS Plan website.

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

THANK YOU!

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DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

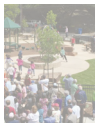
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

City Council
March 22, 2022

PROS Plan purpose:
*Set the **framework for decision makers** in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system for a **15 year horizon**.*

GATES +ASSOCIATES 1

AGENDA


***Purpose** To update City Council on PROS Plan progress and the Open Space Management Plan*

- Efforts to Date
- Big Ideas + Goals
- An Engaged Community
- Park Recommendations + Prioritization
- Open Space Management Plan
- Schedule + Next Steps

2

BelmontPROSplan.com Info@belmontprosplan.com



3

EFFORTS TO DATE

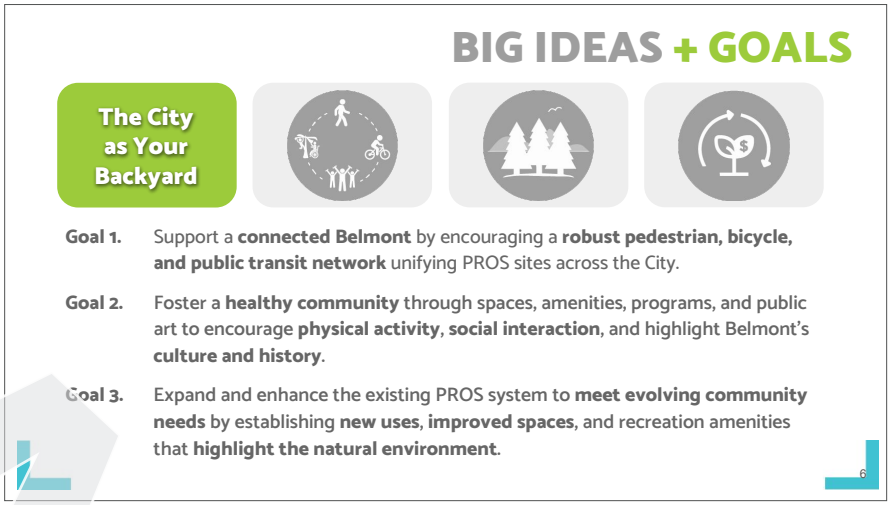
- Existing Conditions Assessments
- Community Engagement
- Benchmarking + Trends
- Park Typologies
- Park-specific Recommendations
  - Park-specific Focus Groups: Hidden Canyon 10/18, Ralston Ranch 10/20
  - In-depth review at January, February, and March 2022 Parks & Recreation Commission
- Goals and Strategies
- Open Space Management Plan
- Recommendation Prioritization Criteria
- Continuing Community Engagement

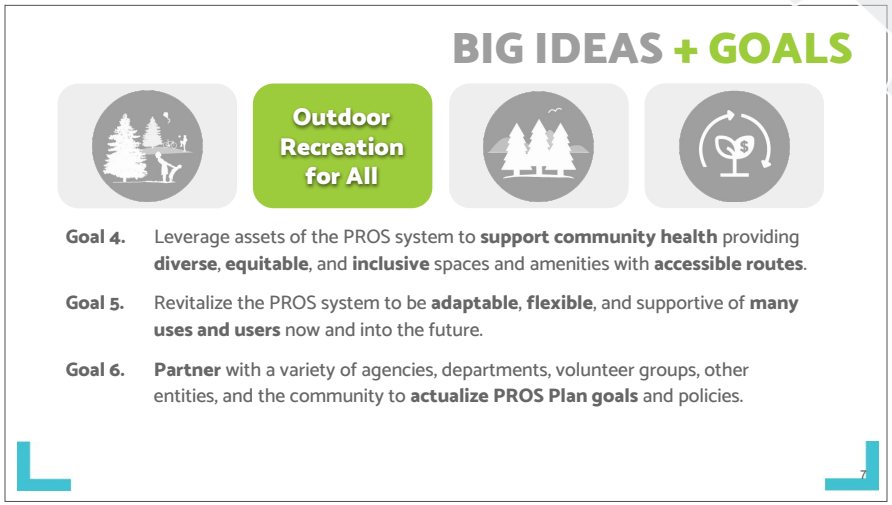
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DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS









CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

BIG IDEAS + GOALS



Prioritize Environmental + Financial Sustainability

Goal 10. Nurture the **ecological strength** of the City's natural resources through **resource-efficient landscapes** and operations.

Goal 11. Provide **high-quality, actively-managed**, and **well-maintained** PROS assets supported by a range of funding sources.

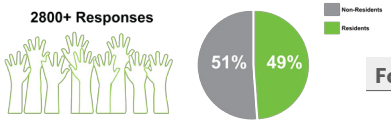
Goal 12. Prioritize **sustainable, resilient**, and **responsible management and maintenance** practices, improvements, and projects at PROS sites.

9

AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Survey

2800+ Responses



Emails + Comments

Over **730** (2020 to February 2022)

Emails to Info@BelmontPROSplan.com and/or P&R Commission, and Comments via project website

Focus Groups

11 in 2021

PROS Advisory Committee

3 meetings in 2021

* Next Meeting: April 5th *(Open Space)*

Parks and Recreation Commission

*Updates at **every** P&R Commission meeting*

*Recommendations reviewed in depth at **Jan/Feb/March 2022***

Pop-up participation at City events

Concerts in the Park, Movie Night in the Park, etc.

* April 16th *Egg Hunt*

* April 24th *Celebrate the Music*

City Council presentations

3 in 2021 + 2022

10

PARK TYPOLOGIES

	TIER 1 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	TIER 2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	COMMUNITY PARK
Character	Nature and Neighborhood Social Space	Nature. Group Gathering, and Play	Nature, Community Gathering, Recreation and Play
Uses + Users	Passive Individuals to Small groups	Passive + Active Individuals to Medium groups	Passive + Active Individual to Large groups
	INCREASING PARK SIZE, AMENITY DENSITY, AND USE INTENSITY		
Standard Baseline Amenities	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Identifiable Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity	1. Natural Environment 2. Seating 3. Play Amenity 4. Picnic Opportunity 5. Multi-Purpose Flexible Space 6. Recreation Amenity 7. Off-Street Parking 8. Permanent Restroom 9. Multi-Use Athletic Field or Community Facility
Size	No Size Requirements Typically less than 1 acre	No Size Requirements Over 2 acres should provide off-street parking	No Size Requirements
Transport Modes	Walking Biking	Walking Biking Some Driving	Walking Biking Driving
Access Radii	¼ mile	½ mile	Entire city
Previous Planning	Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park Special Facility


Neighborhood Tier 1: Wakefield Park


Neighborhood Tier 2: Davey Glen Park


Community: Twin Pines Park

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CITY-WIDE PARK ACCESS



Pedestrian and Bike Access Radii

¼ mile Neighborhood Park Tier 1
½ mile Neighborhood Park Tier 2
½ mile JUA School Site
½ mile Trailhead
Entire City Community Park

- **Interconnected Park System**
  - Amenities distributed across the system
- **Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle access to green spaces**
  - Identify areas with low access
  - Promote ped and bike infrastructure to reduce areas with low access
  - Investigate new park opportunity sites in areas with low access

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** ALEXANDER

UPGRADED/NEW AMENITY



Community Feedback: Positive support for recommendations













5. BBQs : **8.** Trees: Plantings : Planting : Shade

13

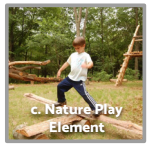
DRAFT **RECOMMENDATIONS:** HIDDEN CANYON

UNDEVELOPED PARK



Community Feedback: Nature-oriented, phase improvements











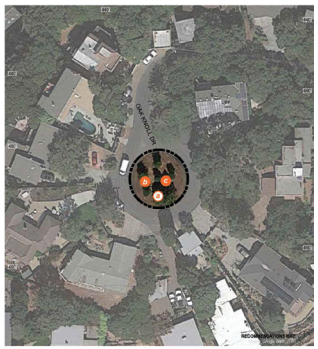


1. ADA Parking : **2.** Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

14

DRAFT **OPPORTUNITY:** OAK KNOLL

NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY



Community Feedback: Strong neighborhood support for new park







Accessible : Planting

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PUBLIC RESPONSE: RECOMMENDATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM OCTOBER 2021 to MARCH 2022

- Support for **Pump Track (Bike Park)** at Belmont Sports Complex
- Strong support by neighbors for **park creation at summit of Oak Knoll Drive**
- Water-conscious **native plants and trees** in parks
- Positive response to proposed park at **Alameda de las Pulgas** (Opportunity Site)
- Seating, Nature Play, and Restroom for Hidden Canyon Park
- Request for more **Youth- and Teen-oriented spaces**
- Splash park (water play) at O'Donnell not encouraged, game tables preferred
- Support for **Bocce ball** (multiple locations)
- Request for **dog-oriented amenities** but opposition to proposed sites
- Maintain **natural environs** in undeveloped parks
- Phased improvements at undeveloped sites (Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park)
- Increase signage and **art to celebrate** parks
- Support for redevelopment of Community Center at Barrett
- Support for **active transportation** (bike/walk) as a priority
- **Some opposition** to new uses/amenities in existing parks

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

To sort recommendations into short, medium or long term projects

Community Support	(High, Low, N/A)
Existing Condition	(Unsafe, Poor, Fair, N/A or New)
Project Complexity	(High, Low)
Estimated Cost	(High, Low)
Further a Goal	(point per goal)
Funding Opportunities	(Grant Potential, General Fund, Partner)
Users Serves	(Youth, Teen, Adult, Senior)
To Meet Underserved	(Need, Area, Demographic)
Reduce Operation and Maintenance	(High, Low)
Sustainability Improvements	(High, Low)

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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Status Update and Next Steps





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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Plan process includes 8 tasks:

1. Project startup and orientation
2. Review of existing information
3. Develop goals and policies
4. Describe existing environmental conditions
5. Describe current and potential future recreational activities
6. Develop Management Alternatives and recommendations
7. Prepare Open Space Management Plan
8. Meetings for public input and Plan adoption



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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ongoing task status:

1. Task 3: Goals and Policies
2. Task 4: Describe existing environmental conditions
3. Task 5: Describe current and potential recreational activities

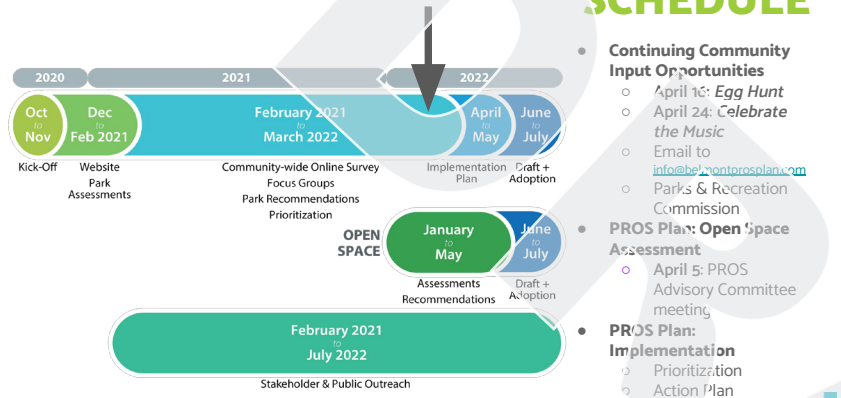


Next Steps:

1. Draft report on environmental conditions, March 2022
2. Draft Two Management Alternatives, April 2022
3. Draft Open Space Management Plan, April 2022
4. City Council adoption of Open Space Management Plan, July 2022

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS





DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

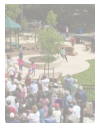
PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

City Council
July 12, 2022

PROS Plan purpose:
*Set the **framework for decision makers** in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation of Belmont's Parks and open space system for a **15 year horizon**.*

1

AGENDA


Purpose *To review and adopt the PROS Plan*

PROS Plan

- Process
- Vision
- Recommendations
- Open Space Management Plan
- Implementation Strategy
- Parks & Recreation Commission Recommendation

2

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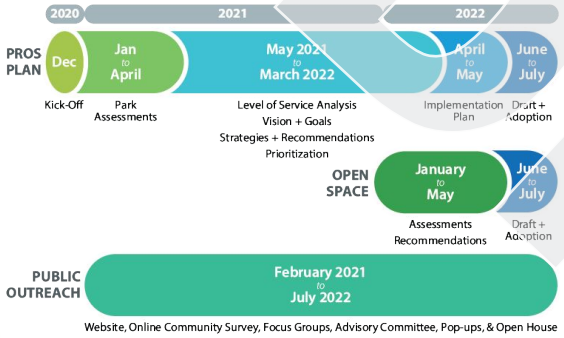
Process: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

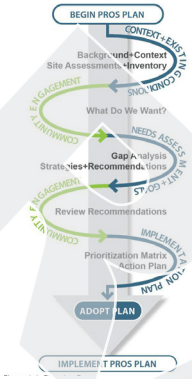
1. Provide **equitable access** to resources and activities across the entire city
2. Promote **inclusion** to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
3. Make all users feel **welcome and safe**
4. Offer services and activities across a **range of interests, abilities, and ages**
5. Reflect our commitment to **environmental resilience and sustainability**
6. Respect the beauty and importance of our **natural resources**
7. Advance community **health and well-being**
8. Foster a sense of community and encourage **social interaction**
9. Provide **well maintained** and actively managed facilities
10. **Adapt** to changing conditions and needs
11. Utilize **transparent community process** to inform decisions

4

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Process: SCHEDULE





Process: AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Community Survey

2800+ Responses



Focus Groups
11 in 2021

Emails + Comments
Over **1,500** (2020 to June 2022)
Emails to Info@BelmontPROSplan.com and/or P&R Commission, and Comments via project website

Project Website
3,800+
unique visitors

PROS Advisory Committee
5 meetings in 2021 + 2022

Parks and Recreation Commission
*Updates at **every** P&R Commission meeting*
19 meetings in 2020 + 2021 + 2022

City Council presentations
4 in 2021 + 2022

Pop-up participation

at City events
Concerts in the Park
Movie Night in the Park
Egg Hunt
Celebrate the Music
etc.

Open Space Open House

Process: AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY



How the COMMUNITY informed and influenced the PROS Plan
(a sample)

1. Open Space Management Plan
   a. WRA Environmental Consultants
   b. PROS Plan schedule extended
2. Proposed uses at undeveloped parks
   a. Hidden Canyon Park + Ralston Ranch Park
3. Opportunity Site: Oak Knoll Drive
4. Additional Advisory Committee meeting

PROS PLAN VISION

Re-imagine the Belmont Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS)system to **create the City's Backyard** that fosters **inclusive, experiential, and nurturing public spaces** by setting the framework for decision makers in the planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation, implementable over a **15 year horizon**.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Vision: COMMUNITY THEMES

- Amenities for Social + Physical Activity
- Create More with Less
- More Seating Opportunities
- Connecting with Nature
- Physical Connections
- Available for Many Uses + Users
- Amenities for Diverse Interests
- Natural Resources
- Accessible for All Abilities
- Honor Belmont's Unique Landscape

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Vision: BIG IDEAS + GOALS

- The City as Your Backyard
- Outdoor Recreation for All
- Celebrate the Outdoors
- Prioritize Environmental + Financial Sustainability

10

The Ideas: BIG IDEAS + GOALS

The City as Your Backyard

Goal 1. Support a **connected Belmont** by encouraging a **robust pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit network** unifying PROS sites across the City.

Goal 2. Foster a **healthy community** through spaces, amenities, programs, and public art to encourage **physical activity**, **social interaction**, and highlight Belmont's **culture and history**.

Goal 3. Expand and enhance the existing PROS system to **meet evolving community needs** by establishing **new uses**, **improved spaces**, and recreation amenities that **highlight the natural environment**.

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Vision: BIG IDEAS + GOALS

Outdoor Recreation for All

Goal 4. Leverage assets of the PROS system to **support community health** providing **diverse**, **equitable**, and **inclusive** spaces and amenities with **accessible routes**.

Goal 5. Revitalize the PROS system to be **adaptable**, **flexible**, and supportive of **many uses and users** now and into the future.

Goal 6. **Partner** with a variety of agencies, departments, volunteer groups, other entities, and the community to **actualize PROS Plan goals** and policies.

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Vision: BIG IDEAS + GOALS



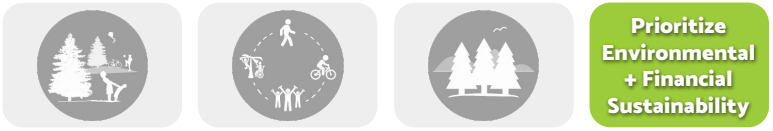
Goal 7. Develop and implement an **Open Space Management Plan**.

Goal 8. **Expand educational opportunities** in parks and open spaces to highlight the local ecosystems.

Goal 9. Continue to **enrich Belmont's outdoor recreation opportunities** with trail improvements, volunteer collaborations, and wayfinding features.

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Vision: BIG IDEAS + GOALS



Goal 10. Nurture the **ecological strength** of the City's natural resources through **resource-efficient landscapes** and operations.

Goal 11. Provide **high-quality**, **actively-managed**, and **well-maintained** PROS assets supported by a range of funding sources.

Goal 12. Prioritize **sustainable**, **resilient**, and **responsible management and maintenance** practices, improvements, and projects at PROS sites.

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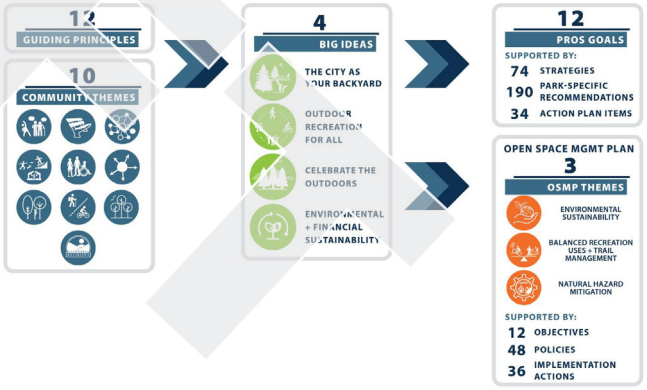
Vision: CITY-WIDE PARK ACCESS



- **Interconnected Park System**
  - Amenities distributed across the system
- **Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle access to green spaces**
  - Identify areas with low access
  - Promote ped and bike infrastructure to reduce areas with low access
  - Investigate new park opportunity sites in areas with low access

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VISION TO IMPLEMENTATION



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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Recommendations: SYSTEM-WIDE STRATEGIES

74
Strategies

- Broad recommendations to impact the entire PROS system
- Organized under the Big Ideas and Goals
- Furthered by:
  - Strategic actions
  - Park-specific recommendations
  - Open Space Management Plan

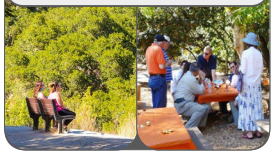
17

Recommendations: STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Inclusive + All-Abilities Play



Social Gathering Space



"Pop-up" Park Installations



PROS Activation Plan

Usage Study

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RECOMMENDATIONS SPECTRUM

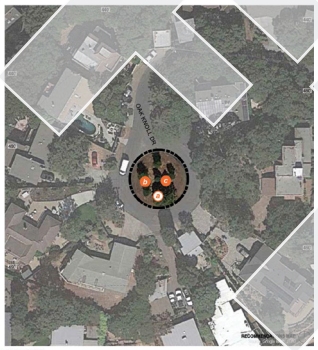
INCREASING MAGNITUDE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Magnitude	EXISTING MASTER PLAN	MINOR IMPROVEMENT	UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY	PARK REDESIGN	UNDEVELOPED PARKS	NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY
Existing Condition	Master Plans recently adopted Created with extensive community input	Parks recently developed or in Very Good condition	Current park functioning well	Rethink accessibility and park layout No change-in-use	Existing park is undeveloped	Add Parkland To fill gaps in park access City-owned property
Recommendation	Implement Existing Master Plan	Minor improvements identified to maintain high-quality	Upgrade existing amenity or new amenity to meet identified needs or gaps	Undertake Park Master Plan	Develop and amenitize site	Create, develop, and amenitize site

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Recommendations: NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY

OAK KNOLL DRIVE



Community Feedback: Identified as an Opportunity Site via neighbor's input, strong community support for new park


b. Benches


c. Play Element



"Safety Circle" Signage

Accessible : Planting

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

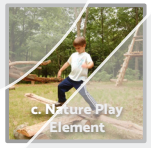
Recommendations: UNDEVELOPED PARK

HIDDEN CANYON PARK



Community Feedback: Community revised Option A
Nature-oriented, phase improvements per community request













1. ADA Parking : 2. Parking : Accessible : Seating : Planting : Shade

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Recommendations: EXISTING PARK MASTER PLAN

TWIN PINES PARK



ACCESSIBILITY

1. Restructure arrival zone to strength visual and physical connections
2. Prioritize pedestrian experience in Town Square area
3. Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries
4. Add looped walking paths

AMENITY

5. Renovate and expand Playground structure
6. Add Water Play Element
7. Renovate Picnic Area
8. Add Bocce Ball Court
9. Add Teen Outdoor Space
10. Add Multi-use Lawn

LANDSCAPE

11. Establish and improve visual and access connections to Belmont Creek

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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Open Space Management Plan identifies objectives, policies, and implementation actions for:

1. Environmental sustainability
2. Balanced recreation use
3. Natural hazard mitigation
4. Vegetation protection
5. Wildlife protection
6. Water resources
7. Science based management
8. Expanded implementation resources



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OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

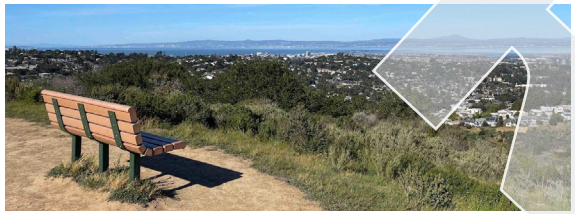
OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Plan consists of:

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Recreational Use Assessment
3. Objectives, policies, implementation actions

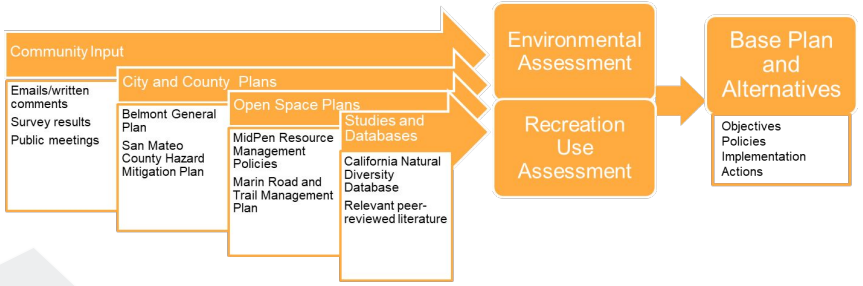
Methods included:

- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Community and stakeholder input



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OSMP PROCESS



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FINDINGS

Key Findings from Environmental Assessment, Recreation Use Assessment

1. **Over 90 percent of the open space lands consist of native biological communities.**
2. 11 special-status plant species and 7 special-status wildlife species have moderate/high potential to occur or are present.
3. Non-native species generally limited.
4. **Trails represent about 1.3 percent of open space lands.**
5. Approximately 50 stream crossings identified.
6. **Less than 10% of trail erosion ratings were considered "high."**
7. Rates of participation in nature-based recreation are increasing.

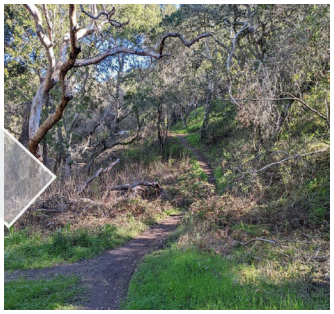
27

FINDINGS

Key Findings Wildfire Hazard Assessment

Steep topography, weather, and the potential to damage human life and structures

- Very high wildfire hazards for WDL
- High wildfire hazards for SJC



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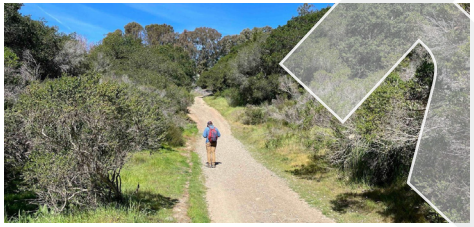
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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

FINDINGS

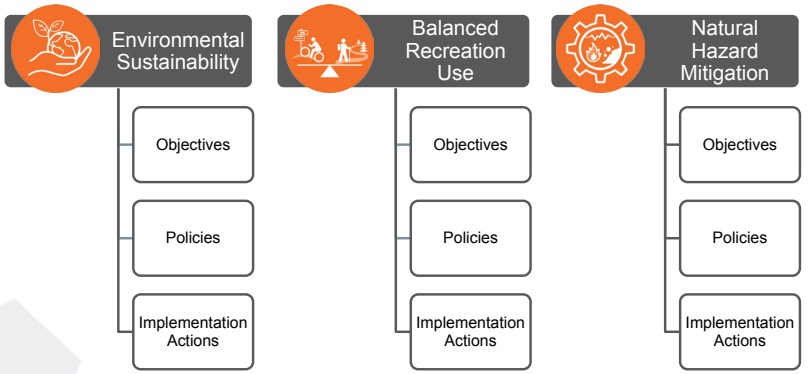
Key Takeaways

1. Overall habitat quality is high.
2. Existing nature-based recreational uses can continue on existing mapped and established, previously unmapped trails.
3. Continue wildfire fuel reduction efforts.



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OPEN SPACE THEMES



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COMBINE BASE PLAN + ALTERNATIVES

OSMP

Comprehensive set of objectives, policies and implementation actions designed to:

- Protect sensitive resources
- Guide trail management and manage recreation
- Mitigate the risk of natural hazards

+Recreation Emphasis Alternative

Additional policy and implementation actions related trails and recreational use

+Habitat Emphasis Alternative

Additional policies and implementation actions related to vegetation restoration and wildlife protection

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COMMUNITY PREFERENCE

Management Alternatives	% of Vote
Base Plan (alone)	6%
Base Plan + Recreation Emphasis	37%
Base Plan + Habitat Emphasis	17%
Base Plan + Recreation Emphasis + Habitat Emphasis	40%

Advisory Committee #5 (5/31/22).
Poll question: Which Management Alternatives do you support?
35 responses (8 AC members + 27 participants)

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DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS



Recommendations based on:

- PROS Plan Big Ideas + Goals,
- Findings from WRA assessments,
- Public feedback
- Clear next steps for the City

Recommendation to merge the Base Plan with both management alternatives

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IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

An implementation action is a discrete, measurable action that achieves a desired outcome.

Environmental Sustainability

Ex. Improve stream crossings

Balanced Recreation Use

Ex. Monitor visitor use levels

Natural Hazard Mitigation

Ex. Using grazing reduce wildfire fuels

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IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

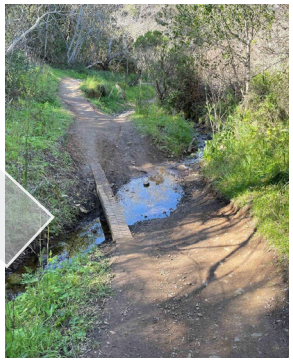
Implementation Action Ratings

Easy	Medium	Hard
These actions can be performed immediately under existing City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.	These actions require additional planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes.	These actions may require substantial planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.

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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve stream crossings (Hard)
- Fuels reduction plan (Medium)
- Monitor recreation use (Hard)
- Seasonal/weather dependent restrictions on maintenance (Easy)



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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop recreation and volunteer restoration programs
- Examine portfolio of solutions for multi-use trail experiences



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IMPLEMENTATION

- **PRIORITIZATION MATRIX**
  To prioritize park-specific recommendations
- **FUNDING STRATEGIES + PARTNERSHIPS**
  Portfolio of funding for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations
- **ACTION PLAN**
  for short term, long term, or ongoing

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PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

- To further **PROS Plan goals**
  - 12 goals
- To respond to **community priority**
  - N/A, Medium, High
- To serve an **existing deficiency**
  - Demographic group, Underserved area of Belmont, Anticipated Areas of Increased Residential Density, New use, Availability of amenity/use, Resolve access issues
- To address an **existing condition**
  - N/A, Good, Fair, Poor, Critical or unsafe

PARK SITE PRIORITIZATION RANKINGS *

SITE (PARK + JUA)	AVG POINTS[1]	SITE RANK
Opportunity: Ralston + Old County[2]	21.9	1
Opportunity: Oak Knoll Dr	18.8	2
Ralston Ranch	18.0	3
Opportunity: Alameda de las Pulgas	17.4	4
Alexander	14.5	5
O'Donnell	12.2	6
Hidden Canyon	12.0	7
Belameda	11.5	8
Twin Pines	11.4	9
Barrett Community Center, McDougal	10.9	10
Cipriani, Hallmark, Wakefield	10.4	11
Hastings Tot Lot	10.2	12
Patricia Wharton, JUA: Central	10.0	13
College View	9.9	14
Belmont Sports Complex	9.4	15
JUA: Fox, JUA: Nesbit, JUA: Ralston	9.0	16
Davey Glen	8.0	17
Semeria	7.8	18

** Open Space Sites not included in rankings*
1 Avg Points calculated by dividing the total points for all recommendations at a site by number of recommendations for the site
2 Improvements at this Opportunity site would be temporary due to expected development of the property

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CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

PR COMM RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROS Plan) was **recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission** on July 6, 2022 to the City Council for **approval with the following amendments**.

1. **Consolidate the Open Space Management Plan's** Base Plan and Management Alternatives objectives, policies, and implementation actions **into a single plan**.
2. Clearly present **priority recommendations in the Open Space Management Plan** by theme - environmental sustainability, balanced recreation uses and trail management, and natural hazard mitigation.
3. Pursue the creation of **dedicated parkland in downtown Belmont** and the Belmont Village Specific Plan area in response to potential residential density increase in the area due to anticipated housing unit development as outlined in the 2023-2031 Housing Element update.
4. Apply consistent terminology to remove ambiguity.
5. Refine specific graphics for clarity.

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www.BelmontPROSplan.com Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

THANK YOU!



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CITY COUNCIL
Q + A

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PUBLIC
COMMENTS

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DRAFT

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

CITY COUNCIL
COMMENTS

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DRAFT

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Belmont Sports Complex	"I would like to write in support of adding a a Pump Track (Bike Park). This is very much needed in the community, especially since the track in Foster City at Shorebird is no longer accessible and may never be coming back. Please make sure this is accessible for all ages and skill levels. Also, the beauty of the track at Foster City is that the track was made of dirt, so it was more forgiving than something made of concrete. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments."	Kristie Eglsaer 9/30/21
Opportunity - Alameda De Las Pulgas	Adding benches here would be great, there are some great views from this location! We should also look to define the sidewalk here as it can be a major pedestrian thoroughfare. Also, if Play Elements are added we should ensure that a fence or similar is used due to the traffic on Alameda.	Jack Gaynor 10/3/21
Hidden Canyon Park	"Great to see recommendations for more amenities at Hidden Canyon, the benches and toilet facilities will be greatly appreciated by all users. Given the parks outdoor use, I would suggest adding drinking water facilities (for both people and pets). Additionally, there are a large number of recreational bike users that visit Hidden Canyon; adding a bike repair stand with tools would assist them. The site would also be a perfect location for a bike skills area or pump track given the flat location and proximity to the Waterdog trails to allow children and beginners to learn. Regarding the proposals both seem great, I personally think the dog park would see more use given the current trail users I see."	Jack Gaynor 10/3/21
Belmont Sports Complex	The proposal to build a pump track is great! This would be a great resource for kids and beginner cyclists to build their skills in a safe environment. The Can we look at locating the pump track near other areas of heavy cyclist use such as Waterdog open space?	Jack Gaynor 10/4/21
Alexander Park	"My name is Ryen Motzek, I grew up in Belmont and own a skate shop in San Mateo, where we sell lots of skateboards to Belmont residents. Belmont is where I started skating myself. I strongly suggest building a skatepark in this location. It can be a small, plaza like space that blends with normal architecture/landscape, such as https://www.dezeen.com/awards/2020/longlists/born-skateplaza/ Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions."	Ryen Motzek 10/7/21
Barrett Community Center	I encourage belmont to consider putting forth more of an effort on providing the youth of this city places to congregate and enjoy themselves, something Belmont has Always gone against. I'm just gunna say straight Belmont city council seriously needs to take into review what actions they take to support our youth because currently they are very slim.	Nicholas Hutter 10/7/21
Belmont Sports Complex	"Dear PROS Committee, My family is excited to see the possibility of a pump track at one of Belmont's parks. My kids (5 & 8) and I have enjoyed riding bikes together on multiple occasions at a pump track in South Lake Tahoe, and are thrilled that we might have a new, safe place for kids to ride bicycles near our home."	Chris March 10/7/21
Hallmark Park	Please consider area 2 in the park map to be used as a dog park. It is critically needed, and most of us using it is for that purpose now.	Bill Kurtz 10/9/21
O'Donnell Park	I walk in the park daily and I see people using the basketball courts frequently. I'm not sure why you'd want to eliminate one although there is another one at the other end of the park so they would still have a place to play. I object to replacing this area with a water play area. We are in a drought and with global warming I can't see this as the best use of our limited water resources. How about a bocce ball court? To the best of my limited knowledge there isn't one in Belmont. Also it would be nice to see something slated primarily for adult usage.	Susan Kotta-Wait 10/10/21
Hallmark Park	"I really like the idea of a Bocce Court at Hallmark Park! I hope it happens! It's a very effective use of space (typically, 2 to 4 players play at once)... Thanks, all, for the hard work! LKG"	Laurent Gharda 10/12/21
O'Donnell Park	I like the idea of making the picnic areas eligible for reservations, however, I would also suggest that those costs remain affordable/low since this park is truly a neighborhood park and doesn't offer the same amenities as others like Twin Pines. The BBQ's need an upgrade as well so I appreciate that being captured but consider also updating the picnic tables, especially if rental fees are being imposed. Instead of a water play space at the front of the park, I'd suggest something more low maintenance and sustainable that still adds another element of play to the facility (i.e. built in concrete games like cornhole, bocce ball, ping pong, ladderball, mini golf, etc.) with a nice seating area. More running water during times of drought (with no end in sight) may not be the wisest investment for the City. Better yet, I'd love to see Bankshot Basketball considered as it's an inclusive amenity for people of all abilities.	Noreen LEek 10/12/21

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Alexander Park	Yes, yes, yes to an updated play structure, pickleball lines, and bocce here!	Noreen Leek 10/12/21
Barrett Community Center	AMEN to a pool in Belmont at Barrett! 100% support!!!!	Noreen Leek 10/12/21
Opportunity - Ralston Ave & Old County Rd.	I'm not convinced that a skate park directly adjacent to the train station in this location, is the best idea. In all of Belmont, we see the most homeless/panhandlers in this intersection and I wouldn't feel comfortable allowing my kids to hang out there. I'd prefer to see that space used for something with a greater community benefit.	Noreen Leek 10/12/21
Belmont Sports Complex	"I'm happy to see the Bike Pump Track slated for the Belmont Sports Complex. It makes so much more sense than other possible locations (access, parking, facilities, safety, etc.) Thank you for having listened to the Belmont residents' (including my) concerns during the Parks & Rec Commission Meeting – Feb 5, 2020 re: Bike Pump Track in the Belmont City Council Chambers. The plan is shaping up nicely, including Bocce court at Hallmark Park!"	Laurent Gharda 10/14/21
Belmont Sports Complex	"Glad to see the Bike Pump Track is slated for BSC where it belongs; not in Waterdog Open Space! Thank You!"	Jennifer Lien 10/14/21
Barrett Community Center	I heard there have been complaints about residents using the Barrett for their dogs after dog hours have ended. I'm assuming this applies to the morning session as the evening session only last a couple of months during the year, surely not enough time worth complaining about considering how many households in Belmont have dogs. How many houses border Barrett (the complainers) vs how many residents use the dog park? I think that's a very important point to consider—the majority should be more important, meaning dog park users. It would be so easy to stop people from using the park after dog park hours have ended: put a lock on the gate overnight and put up a security camera to monitor daytime use. Belmont PD have the manpower to handle the gate locking and unlocking—they patrol Barrett regularly as it is. They also have the manpower to monitor a security camera that would show daytime abusers. Look to how San Carlos handles their City Hall Dog Park as an example. Belmont absolutely needs two spaces for dogs. Cipriani is located in a whole different world from Barrett. Residents in Central Belmont have to drive to get there, adding to the traffic problems we're already facing. Belmont should also have a hiking area for off-leash dogs, just one trail or section of a park would work. Look to Pulgas Ridge Preserve for an example of how to handle an off-leash space within a park. There are so many things geared towards children in Belmont but what about all the dogs? I don't have children but my taxes go towards them and not dogs. Residents complain about dog poop on the streets and illegal off-leash dogs at Water Dog Lake…this happens because Belmont hasn't allocated enough outlets for off-leash dog walking. With so many households having dogs in Belmont, the City needs to allocate more, not less, space for dogs. Please work with other cities to see how they handle their space allocation for dogs. Please make Belmont friendly for everyone, not just children. Thank you.	Katarina Koster 10/15/21
Hidden Canyon Park	We would like to get some benches and tables at this park. But we prefer not to have a dog park or pump track. City has not been maintaining it too well.	Keyuri Shah 10/17/21
Ralston Ranch Park	Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation, Thank you for soliciting feedback on the Open Space Master Plan. We attended an earlier feedback session that was focused on a pump park at Water Dog Lake – these thoughts are specific to Ralston Ranch Park. Or as we lovingly call it after 24-years of living next to it, the Ralston Ranch Woods. 1. We would like to see all or a much larger % of the park left natural (A) - ideally, all of it. Open space is what makes Belmont special and we are sad to see building being permitted in areas that had previously been restricted and the continued loss of wildlife habitat. Ralston Ranch Woods is home to owls, hawks, rabbits, deer and occasional fox, bobcats and mountain lions. We watch deer moving between the canyon on one side of RR to the other everyday (and our Ring cam is full of curious deer families grazing on our front lawn). So much of their open space is already encroached, it's really a shame to develop RR Woods – be it chopping down existing trees, or building sidewalks, fences and other structures. That said, we do understand that we're not the only stakeholders in this decision. So, we could support (B) and (C). 2. A play structure for small children (C) would be nice if positioned away from houses - and we already have a few benches (B) so that's not much of a change and would be a welcome addition for families who live and walk in the neighborhood.	Wendy Miller 10/19/21

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Ralston Ranch Park (con't)	3. Everything else – a dog park that clears trees and puts up fences, picnic tables and young adult gathering area directly on the other side of existing homes sounds awful. (D,E,F) First, dog parks are usually made of dirt (do you know how windy it gets up here?), surrounded by a chain link fence (how unsightly as you enter RRR) – and adding more parked cars at the only exit point for RRR (where we already have daycare drop-off and pick-up) will only add further the congestion. The clearing of trees also means more erosion. Most homes on the lower part of Ralston Ranch have sump pumps because of the water runoff in the winter that drains down the hill into their back yards – removing existing trees will only increase that problem. Second, Belmont has a problem managing gathering areas – look at the cars/people at the Len Turner Memorial Vista Point (even after dark) who smoke, leave alcohol bottles and trash spilling over trash bins for the crow to throw around. It's become a constant parking spot for Uber and Lift drivers, so the area needs more trash and recycling bins, more frequent servicing, and better monitoring by the police. Ditto for the car park areas at the trail head on Ralston Avenue and 92 intersections. Third, people already drive to RRR and park along the street to access the trail heads for mountain biking. I'd prefer to see the city put in a water fountain, trash and recycling cans at the RRR turn-around and service it regularly for all the folks using the 16-miles of trails cut into Belmont's open space. Hikers, dog walkers and mountain bikers. Lastly, encouraging gathering of more people from outside the immediate neighborhood is simply inviting more crime. Robberies have increased in our area and the Belmont Police have acknowledged we are a quick getaway for criminals due to the easy access to 101 and 280. Unintended consequences must be carefully considered – this would affect not only Ralston Ranch, but the Highlands and other neighborhoods around us. If Homer and I had our druthers, we'd like to see the city expand (A) and just maintain the woods by trimming and clearing brush 2X year for fire safety, leaving all of the 70-plus trees alone. It would keep the space open for wildlife habitat and continue to be a place of solitude and quiet reflection for we humans. I'd like to see Belmont take better care of what we have (maintaining the trees, managing trash left by those already using our open spaces) and addressing issues at the vista point and car park areas. To add to the conversation, how about planting and dedicating a grove of redwoods to those lost in the fires this year - with a natural labyrinth in the center? Some benches for quiet reflection or meditation would be delightful. While we'd like to see the space kept natural, we could support B & C if tucked into a quiet space in the park – set away from homes. Thank you for asking for our input! Best Regards – Wendy Miller & Homer Wong 2 Ralston Ranch Road, Belmont"	Wendy Miller (con't) 10/19/21
Ralston Ranch Park	I'd like to attend the meeting	Carol Rossi 10/19/21
Hidden Canyon Park	Thank you for hosting the session yesterday about the Hidden Canyon Park. I was there but didn't speak during during the meeting. I also live on Carlmont in the "pink" houses but not very close to the park. I, like many people there, would love to see the natural wildlife / open space feel maintained, with some improvements but nothing too invasive/disruptive. I don't think a dog park is a good idea for that reason, as well as others (issues with dogs off-leash, e.g.). I also would like to echo the statement made by several people that before we add more things, or in parallel, it would be good to improve the maintenance of what we do have. The park has typically been overgrown in the summer and muddy in the winter (ok, not so much lately, but we can hope). If we want to improve it for people's enjoyment, fixing those issues would be a good start. I like community gardens but I don't think this is the space for that either -- either it'd have to be seriously fenced and seriously watered (not advisable), or it'd die and/or get eaten by all the animals. Thank you for the good discussions!	Lara Crawford 10/19/21

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Ralston Ranch Park	Parks and Recreation: My general comments regarding the current Park proposal for Ralston Ranch Park. Firstly, I am unsure as to why the park limits are not extended all the way to the edge of sidewalks on Ralston Ave. It would make sense that this portion be included so that P&R can be responsible for maintaining and up keeping the entire area. It does not make sense to exclude this area as it provides another natural location to plant mitigation, replacement and screening trees for the community. Screening trees are important as they provide mitigation from wind, visual intrusion, natural screens for wildlife to pass through the community, and on occasion an obstruction for wayward vehicles that come off Ralston Ave. Yes, this has happened and more than once; and the last one made it pretty far down the hill. As for the elements of your plan: DOG PARK I am not sure that this location is the best and most appropriate location for a dog park. Typically dog parks service wider community areas. Cipriani is the much better dog park for the overall community and services much of the local community in our area. Regardless, the proximity of Cipriani would limit the usage of this specific dog park to a smaller, defined part of the community and more than likely nearby San Mateo residents. Residents of both of the Belmont communities should be the focus of this park and they both have established trailheads into the great open park areas adjacent to these communities. We have numerous dog owners in the community, including myself, and I personally prefer to walk my dogs through the trail system so that both the dogs and myself get exercise. So as a dog owner adjacent to this park, I would probably rarely use it. I am sure that will be true for most of the RRR community. This type of park also does not have great parking and access. The roadway set up with one exit probably is not great for any more added traffic. Every person parking to access the park would have to work as a single trip in each direction for each visit. There are already bikers and hikers that use the trailhead at the cul de sac that park along the street, and most of these users also go out illegally through the Christian exit. This is just another traffic safety risk, especially at that intersection. As I see it, most of this community would not necessarily use the dog park. However, most of the park is being captured as a dog park. As stated I am not sure that is the best usage of the space in the park for the neighborhood and the community. If having a dog park to service this part of the community is important to P&R, I would suggest studying other location and more specifically a dog park at Fox Elementary School as an extension of your JUA. This would be much more ideal as it supports a wider section of this community, including the Hallmark neighborhood. It allows for better usage of the park spaces and a more functional dog park, with much better access and parking. GATHERING/PICNIC AREAS Gathering areas are fine as long as they are well maintained and policed. We already have local experience with the attractive nuisance at the lookout with the drinking, smoking and sexual activity only 500' away. As a result, there is much apprehension from providing just another location for bad behavior to occur even closer to our homes. Regardless of this, the plan placing these gathering spaces, picnic areas and such directly adjacent to the homes is not good planning. These should be located farther away to preserve and protect the privacy of this home owners. This is another consequence of having most of the functional space being used for a dog park. If you remove the dog park, the other tier 2 amenities can be better situated farther from the homes, including any play structures, gathering areas, picnic areas, garbage receptacles, etc. It would also create one specific space that is more open, and that is easier to access, use, maintain, and police. This still does not mitigate the parking and traffic related issues. The goal should be to make this park be a destination primarily for the local communities surrounding it and not to draw in people from outside the community neighborhoods, especially those that have to specifically access it by car. Better for the community and better for the environment. We appreciate this upcoming forum to discuss the park as I think getting a better understanding of what the actual local affected	Roy Schnabel 10/20/21

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Ralston Ranch Park (con't)	communities want from this park is beneficial and good planning. Ultimately, I think that maintaining or preserving as much of the park as open space is probably a more ideal use of this park space. Your current online survey also seems to bear this out as only a very small percentage view the current space as unsatisfactory. If you eliminate those with no opinion than 85-90% of the respondents feel that the park in its current condition is excellent or satisfactory with over 60% of that in the excellent column. I would also recommend that any additional, replacement or mitigation trees be planted along the perimeters of the park especially at Ralston Ave and adjacent to those homes closest to the park to continue to provide both natural visual, privacy and wind barriers. Regards, Roy and Maria Schnabel 97 Ralston Ranch Road Belmont CA 94002"	Roy Schnabel (con't) 10/20/21
Hidden Canyon Park	I love biking at this park. Please keep it free and open for everyone to use. The best is after we stop at waterdog cafe or some other pub downtown and and have some wonderful food and drinks!	Ralph Grundler 10/25/21
Other	Keep Mountain Biking alive in Waterdog! This place is amazing and has allowed so many bay area citizens to connect with nature in a suburban landscape unlike any other.	Brent Ziegler 10/25/21
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	Hi we live on hillman and have a toddler who started to walk recently. Together with many other similar aged kid, we don't have a safe / toddler friendly playground within walking distance. The plan to build a playground area near oak knoll dr will largely benefit us and many similar familiars in this neighborhood, and I'm looking forward to hearing back from Belmont city!	Xuening Liu 10/30/21
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	"This area is in so much need of a park! There is no single play structure in a mile+ radius. That is, in the area with no sidewalks (or, worse: patchy and parked). It's not only exhausting, but also plain dangerous to walk a toddler/stroller ~3 miles round-trips to College View / Davey Glen. There are many families with small kids in immediate proximity of the Oak Knoll that would benefit greatly from having a park here."	Volha Zhurauskaya 10/30/21
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	"My wife and I and our two kids (ages 1 and 3) moved to 1904 Oak Knoll Dr in May of this year. One of our neighbors recently mentioned that there was a petition for adding a small playground at the top of Oak Knoll Dr. I would like to voice my support for this opportunity. Many of our neighbors on Valley View Ave and Oak Knoll Dr also have young kids, so a playground here would be much used. Currently, I've been alternating between Twin Pines and Beresford Park to reach a playground where my kids can play. The closest park to us seems to be Patricia Wharton Park. While beautiful and well-maintained, it's rather small and suitable for only sitting. Having a park with a playground in walking distance for our neighborhood would be great!"	Jason Wang 10/31/21
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	We live at Oak Knoll Drive and we have small kids, this can be a place to entertain and meet neighbors.	Heloisa Rodrigues 11/1/21
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	As a resident of this area with 2 kids and knowing how many kids in the area will benefit greatly from this project, I am strongly in favor of it. I really hope it gets approved and built as soon as possible. A nice park like this is sorely needed here and will be very much appreciated.	Eduardo Rodrigues 11/1/21
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	This is a critical need for the neighborhood. I love the idea of additional seating and a modest structure. Only consideration would be to ensure we maintain the tree coverage as much as possible.	Zack Rhoades 11/1/21
Hidden Canyon Park	I frequently walk in the Hidden Canyon / Waterdog area and the narrow trails especially are simply too narrow for the bikes to safely pass anyone. There really should be restrictions on what trails the bikers can go on and they should not be allowed at all on the narrow trails. There are too many of them and too many bad apples among them. Putting up signs doesn't do anything. The bikers ignore them. And given the proximity of Hallmark park, I'm not sure why the bikers can't just go there, and leave the wildlife (and pedestrians) in peace at Waterdog and Hidden Canyon. Ideally, bikers should be banned entirely from Waterdog and Hidden Canyon.	Michael McEvoy 11/2/21

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Barrett Community Center	Would really love the rebuild of Barrett Community Center to start breaking ground!	S Lee 12/7/21
Barrett Community Center	There is already a master plan approved and Conceptual Design report from 2020 for Barrett Community Center. Can we focus on executing the master plan, instead of spending resources in discovering new parks? Barret Community Center is old and the area is in much need of a renovation for community to enjoy.	A L 12/7/21
Barrett Community Center	Please please please do whatever possible to accelerate the Barrett center improvements. These are long overdue and will have a huge impact community life in Belmont.	Nadav Benbarak 12/7/21
Barrett Community Center	There are no basketball courts with lighting in Belmont. For those with young children or demanding work schedules this leaves only the evenings for a basketball game. It would be great to have lighting put in for some of the courts to enable this type of use. I personally organize a weekly game and drive 20 minutes to the nearest available court with lighting.	Nadav Benbarak 12/8/21
Barrett Community Center	Please accelerate the building of the new community center!	Paul Perry 12/14/21
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	Adding a playground at the top of Oak Knoll Drive is a great idea. There are lots of little kids living in the area with no park within walking distance. We live on Oak Knoll and always have to drive to a park. The small area at the top of Oak Knoll Dr isn't being used for anything right now so this would be a fantastic use of that space!	Jessie Hsu
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	"HI Belmont Planning Team, i'm so happy this made to public review. My family and I live on Hillman Ave would be ecstatic if there was a park within walking distance we could take our toddler son to! We've been trying to take a greener approach and not to use our car while in town, but it has been a challenge with going to parks. It would be great if there could be a small play structure for the kids in the neighborhood to play with, but even a patch of flat maintained area would be much appreciated! We'll be happy to volunteer some time to help build a park for all the neighborhood! Best. The Tam's"	Gregory Tam
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	My family and I sometimes walk up Oak Knoll Drive for short hike (as do many in the neighborhood), and the addition of a small park space there with seating area/bench will be a very welcome improvement to the community at the currently underused space.	Cheuk Chi Lo
Twin Pines Park	I really like the idea of providing ADA accessibility to all amenities. I would also recommend cleaning the bathrooms in Twin Pines Park as they are very old and usually dirty, and I support the idea of replacing the drinking fountain. This might be a long shot, but I have noticed that in various campuses and businesses across the Bay Area metal table tennis tables have been built. I think this is an awesome idea that gives the community a really fun way to engage in physical exercise, and it also promotes table tennis as a sport around the community. I think this could be implemented in any park, and I know its a long shot but just a suggestion.	Taran Tummala
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	"A park here would be highly desired due to none within 20-30 min walking distance and there's been a big inbound of young kids in the neighborhood. I see kids playing in the nearby streets frequently and a park would be a safer place to play. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!!! -Adriene Wong"	Adriene Wong
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	My wife and I have a 2 year old with another one on the way and would like to support the mini park at the top of Oak Knoll. We live at 1806 Mezes and currently have to walk all the way down to Davey Glen to access a park (or drive). We walked a couple of times but the distance has made it pretty difficult. A mini-park on Oak Knoll would be great. We moved to Belmont in 2020 and have really enjoyed it. A park in our vicinity would make it an even better place to raise our kids!	Ryan Hannink
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	Great plan! Really looking forward to having a playground at the top of Oak Knoll!	Robin Raffard

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	I have lived on Oak Knoll Drive for 30 years and have always thought the circle center at the top of our street could be conveniently used as a basic, but attractive resting, sitting location for the many people who travel up and down our road. There are also a number of new families in the area with younger children that would make this convenience a real joy. The size of the location seems perfect for a bench, a park-style picnic table and maybe a small youth playground slide (for the toddlers) without overwhelming the space. Adding additional planting would provide a new level of attractiveness. It's a nice sized space that with a small upgrade could provide a really great little park for this area that's slightly under served in this regard. The vision would be to create both a functional and beautiful pinnacle (park) that travelers will ascend to atop the Oak Knoll Drive hill.	Jeff Murphy
Hidden Canyon Park	"Thank you for listening to our voices about preserving the natural beauty of Hidden Canyon and not over developing the area and encouraging even more traffic than we have today in our cul de sac. The proposed plans look great. I like that you're adding more amenities to areas that can accomodate higher traffic. Thank you for hearing our voices, acknowledging and incorporating our input into your proposed plans. Jakki"	Jakki Geiger
Opportunity - Oak Knoll Dr.	"We are residents of Oak Knoll for over five years; our younger one was born in Belmont. We enthusiastically support this initiative! Oak Knoll and the neighboring area are coming alive with toddlers and children. Since our terrain doesn't allow for much front yard mingling, a small park like this would be a great place for our children to get to know each other and build a community. Looking forward to this!"	Snigdha Sen
Hidden Canyon Park	"Hi I've been leaving in Hidden valley more than 10 years. I am (and family , including high school goes) very excited that city want to update the hidden canyon. Let's do it! :) During our dinner table conversation , kids came with the plan :) A jogging track (does go hand & hand with bicycles), few picnic tables , swings & gazebo for Thi Chi , meditation , Yoga or senior gathering. About plan definitely enhances the open nature around us & supports inclusiveness / community thinking. Thanks for all energy and efforts you all putting for us! Yogesh"	Yogesh kulkarni
Barrett Community Center	"Hi, I support the idea of spaces for teens to hang out. Indoor/outdoor pool and lighted basketball courts would be ideal. Thanks. Davinder"	Davinder Josephson
Fox Elementary School (JUA)	Please do not convert Ralston and Fox to artificial turf. It is such a joy for kids to be able to play on grass, it is better for the environment, and there are health concerns with turf fields.	Sumitra Chari
Alexander Park	As a member of the Sterling Downs Community, I would like to see updated plantings at Alexander Park with native plants to promote biodiversity and a healthier ecosystem.	Travis Bench Bench 1/27/22
Alexander Park	"Please no trees in the middle of the open grassy field, as that would block uses of the grass such as soccer, frisbee games. Looped path + bocce looks great!"	Doug Ricket 1/27/22
Alexander Park	Looped walking path and bocce ball court sounds great! Please leave the large field open and do not add trees in the middle of the field. Adding trees elsewhere, like over along the side of the playground area, would be great.	Jennifer Hennings 1/28/22
Barrett Community Center	Outdoor pool sounds AMAZING!! Please keep the pool -- we don't have any good public swimming pool options in Belmont and that would be an incredible addition to our city. Splash pad area is also great.	Jennifer Hennings 1/28/22
Twin Pines Park	The erosion behind the playground and the war memorial is not currently fenced off and kids could easily fall over the edge. Please add a fence to prevent kids from falling over the edge into the creek. The rest of the plans look great, especially improving creek access (#11), adding the grassy field (#10) and the water play element (#6).	Jennifer Hennings 1/2//22

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Hidden Canyon Park	"I live on Carlmont Drive, but based on the meeting on 2/2/2022 I think this applies across many of the park proposals as described in the meeting. Many of the neighborhoods have stated concerns over parking and traffic, but there doesn't seem to be any means to survey or assess current traffic and impact of adding elements with significant draw. For a Community Park proposed to draw from 1/4 mile, if you add parking are you not trying to pull people from farther away - this seemed inconsistent to me. Almost seems like less parking would serve to prioritize use for the local community, and potentially lead to further traffic challenges. The other area would be community-stated concerns over maintenance capacity - this should be well understood and studied in advance of the community making an investment in adding amenities which can not be safely maintained. If the answer is that the city can maintain these amenities, then I am in favor of additional development. I keep hearing this is a concern - but have not heard attempts to address this transparently. Thank you for sharing the pictures of the nature-themed elements, many of them are quite appealing. I would avoid fencing as much as possible as this is a significant concern for the wildlife movement."	Barbara Troupin 2/2/22
Cipriani Park	Dog park should be renovated w/fake turf and split into two separate areas- one for big dogs and one for little.	Monica Ryan 2/12/22
Ralston Ranch Park	I really like the idea of a small kids playground in the park. None of the current facilities are in walking distance for the residents of Ralston Ranch, Chistian Dr and others in the Skymont neighborhood.	Nikhil Madan 2/23/22
O'Donnell Park	I am one of the Co-Presidents of the Homeview Neighborhood Association. I've asked a few local neighbors that are frequent users of the park of their thoughts about some of the proposed upgrades/ additions to O'Donnell. Regarding the possibility of a water play space, one neighbor noted that the two nearby water play spaces in San Carlos/San Mateo are very crowded in the summertime and parking was an issue at those sites. O'Donnell only has limited street parking. Another voiced a concern about water waste, particularly during the ongoing droughts we are having. Other items - Yes, replacing the well work current BBQ's is needed. Some of the automated sprinklers should be extended to a couple of tree's that were planted several years ago, not making much progress due to lack of water in those areas. We've attempted to hand-water, but it's difficult.	Michael Fabel 2/25/22
Barrett Community Center	On of the most enriching experiences one can have in Belmont is to watch the dogs scampering about in the enclosed area while the owners enjoy a social visit. Unfortunately, for reasons unfathomable by most sentient beings, the park is off-limits most of the year while the field remains unused. I'm told Belmont devotes a portion of the resources to responding to complaints by some toothless hag living adjacent to the park anytime a resident brings her dog to the field 'off hours'. Belmont, alone on the peninsula, has a weird way of meeting the needs of their citizens. A manic love of regulations and a need to exercise power characterizes decades of poor governance in this insignificant town. You have this opportunity to embrace the beauty of dogs running free and their owners enjoying friendly banter. It's a beautiful sight.	Jerry Boyke 2/26/22
Wakefield Park	I support keeping Wakefield Park largely the way it is and oppose any further development of the Park. This is a small park for the immediate neighborhood. It serves its purpose well. I understand some may see the park as needing human development; I see the park as a perfect natural area (when it's not sprayed with herbicides). Before the herbicides were sprayed I would lay on the oak leaves under the magnificent oak trees and just enjoy the surroundings. The park was a requirement when our homes were built and the intent was for it always to remain a simple, natural setting with a couple of benches and a short path. REPAIRING portions of the path is warranted. I urge that we repair what is currently there instead of tearing out and rebuilding. Environmentalism must be included in everything we do. But, sadly it is not included in the PROS plan. Waste and adding to the landfill is not environmentally justified. Reducing our waste is critical to preserving natural resources and minimizing the use of landfills. Repairing and refurbishment involve reusing resources and preventing the use of more resources. Sadly, this is not reflected in any portions of the PROS process or proposal. A green PROS plan would include refurbishment & reuse, use of post-consumer recycled products, general practices that promote the use of plant-based or post-consumer ""plastics"" (structures, waste bags), etc. Our local landfill is expected to be full within a few years and Recology has not identified a new dumpsite.	Deniz Bolbol 2/28/22

DRAFT PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION COMMENTS

PARK	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Wakefield Park (con't)	People with physical challenges would likely have difficulty getting up the hill to the park ... not every area can be ADA accessible; Wakefield Park is one of those areas. Please include in the MP working with local neighbors who want to adopt the Park to ensure it remains a natural area with healthy native habitat and not a dead zone sprayed with herbicide. Thank you.	Deniz Bolbol 2/28/22
O'Donnell Park	The current draft of the plan on this website indicates that the half basketball court would be converted to a water play space with spray elements. I strongly disagree with the conversion of the basketball court to a new amenity since it is frequently used by neighbors and Belmont residents. In fact, the court is the usual meeting space for our annual Homeview Halloween parade and costume contest. In addition, I do not believe there is a strong desire for the water play feature in this community given the megadrought, which will most likely mean that the water spray features will not be in use for prolonged periods of time. If the water play space must be featured in the PROS Master Plan, it should be installed adjacent to the smaller children's playground. There is a small concrete landing in between the basketball court and playground (at the end of the sidewalk slope) where this feature could be added without impacting the basketball court. Thank you consideration of this comment. Caroline Pyrz	Caroline Pyrz 3/2/22
Hallmark Park	I support maintaining the current walking paths and welcome commissioners' ideas regarding using a more natural looking, possibly more environmental and more durable material than asphalt. Glad you have already started maintenance on the tennis courts and adding pickle ball lines for another recreational activity but we already have 20,000 visitors per year entering our small Hallmark Park entrance and don't need to attract more visitors. Adding more oaks and native trees to replace the non-natives is welcome. Agree with commissioners that leaving the steep upper meadow alone is the right choice as well as eliminating the bocce court idea for Hallmark. That may be a good idea for Twin Pines Park Community Center. I am not opposed to upgrading the current tot lot with new equipment as long as it fits in the current landscape but I am not in favor of any big McDonald playland type structures that would require excavation and removal of trees ruining our natural setting, beauty and tranquility that we currently enjoy. Thank you for listening to the residents.	Jennifer Lien 3/4/22

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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/14/2021	Dear Park Commissioners, With as few as 1,000 remaining, this beauty below is the rare and endangered San Francisco garter snake, christened “the most beautiful serpent in North America.” It is found ONLY in SF and the peninsula, and needs a riparian (pond/wetland) habitat for survival. I have seen one in Waterdog, and they are documented on the General Plan Conservation Element as present in Waterdog, but they are very rare and are protected under the Endangered Species Act (U.S Fish and Wildlife Service). If you are not aware of this beautiful creature, and our legal obligation to protect it, I highly recommend visiting this website to fully appreciate the importance of the disappearing riparian habitat that supports the few remaining animals; https://sfgartersnake.wixsite.com/dhsseadisc/why-should-you-care: Moreover I urge you to take immediate action to close the illegally built trail, cut by bikers, that bisects Waterdog marsh, trampling and fragmenting one of the few remaining habitats of this rare and endangered snake. That trail violates both the existing Park Master Plan (which stipulates no development in that marsh) and the John Brooks Contract, and it contradicts the General Plan Conservation Element.	Kristin Mercer
2/20/2021 and 2/27/2021	As residents of Belmont, we support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, we request you to consider: · Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces · Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great. · Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. · Exploring options for new trails to spread people out and relieve congestion · Installing additional benches at key view spots Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inculcation of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.	Karen and John Moody
2/23/2021	I often hike the trails at Waterdog Lake and would like to remind the Parks and Recreation Commissioners that this area is also known as the John Brooks Memorial Open Space. Isn't this because the land was donated by John Brooks? As I understand it, the land was donated with the expressed purpose of preserving a natural space. Please bear this in mind when considering any trail developments that might put recreational biking (trail biking and in particular extreme mountain biking, which is really a sport) above the preservation the natural landscape and habitat. Indeed, I am very opposed to the construction of any trails that would cater to or attract anyone engaging in extreme mountain biking (which I assume involves high speeds and jumping). This is would also open the city up to unnecessary liability. Furthermore, I sincerely hope that the you are not still considering locating a bike pump track within Waterdog Open Space. Such a track does NOT belong there!!	Connie Tettenborn

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/27/2021	Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council, My name is Jack Gaynor and I am writing to provide a public comment for the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. My fiance and I have lived in the area and have enjoyed using the Open Spaces over the past three years that they were one of the deciding factors in our decision to settle here and start our family. The various open spaces, particularly Waterdog, have been a constant source of joy over the past years, particularly during 2020. We are both hikers, mountain bikers and trail runners, and the multi-use nature of all the trails as they currently are has been one of the things we love about Waterdog as it means we can vary how we can enjoy the open space from day to day. I have also volunteered with the Waterdog Trailkeepers to maintain the trails, fixing issues with drainage and adjusting the existing trails to better suit the multi-use nature, and I really appreciate that the Belmont Parks and Recreation department is collaborative in the care and maintenance of the trails. As such I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community, for all trail users. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider: Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces Continuing outreach and education to all trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great, and the signage really helps to share the nature of Waterdog. Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. Speaking personally I think we are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers, and our trails get healthier every year. Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the families that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space for all trail users - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades and I hope that the Master Plan will continue this great history into the future. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional comments.	Jack Gaynor
3/2/2021	I would like to recommend that the planned survey have “open ended” questions and also that the questions allow for resident comments whenever possible. That is, if the questions are designed to provide for pre-prepared potential answers to choose from, there should also be an opportunity for “other” whereby people can respond with their own created comments or answer.	Bob Stahl
3/2/2021	Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider: • Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces. • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great. • Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades. Personally, mountain biking at Waterdog has been my number one source of physical and mental health for over ten years. More recently I now also ride with my kids there. It is a critical part of my health, happiness and well being. It is one of my favorite places on earth and I hope you keep it accessible for all.	Jay Maloney

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/3/2021	My name is Julianne Kline and I am writing to provide a public comment for the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. My fiance and I have been enjoying Waterdog Park for years, so much so that we have recently bought a home 3 miles away. Waterdog is one of the major venues where I learned to mountain and gravel bike over the past three years. Since it's so close to home (we lived nearby before the home purchase too), I can ride directly from my door to the park. It is the only place to mountain bike in the area where I do not need to load my bike into my car to get there, which makes it a convenient and environmentally friendly option. The park is also technical, and gives a newer biker like me a chance to work on difficult skills. During this tough pandemic, Waterdog had kept me and my fiance sane. I love gravel biking up Lake Road Trail, up through Sheep Camp Trail where I can come out on Canada Road. After hours on end stuck inside working from home, I enjoy taking breaks to hike the Crystal Springs Cross Country Trail. The trails are so beautiful and fun. I've recently explored San Juan Canyon which I discovered through word-of-mouth. More signage on these trails would help in making them more accessible to the community. Thank you for maintaining the beautiful trails and open spaces. I urge you to continue maintaining the trails for all trail users in the future plans, such that the multi-use nature of the trails will be retained for those of us who enjoy hiking, biking, dog walking, exercising, walking, etc. We look forward to building a life and a family here, and look forward to many years to come of use of the Belmont Open Spaces.	Julianne K
3/3/2021	Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Open Space Master Plan Advisory Committee: Please create a separate process in the Master Plan to address future management of the Waterdog open space. Do not combine it with sporting activities or recreation classes. Waterdog used to be a wonderful place to take peaceful nature hikes. However lately the mountain bikes are taking over the trails. Some of them are considerate. But many tear up the trails, go off trail, or ride at inappropriate times like after a rainfall when the trails are soft and vulnerable to erosion. Senior citizens (like myself) especially are starting to feel less comfortable hiking there because of the trail damage hazards and because of the fear of being hit by a bike. We can't jump out of the way of an oncoming bike as quickly as we did when we were younger. Please save the precious Waterdog native habitat for wildlife and low-impact hiking.	Carol Wilhelmy
3/3/2021	Dear Belmont City Council, I am a long time resident of Belmont living and owning a home here for the past 35 years. My family and I have greatly enjoyed living in Belmont and have had much joy in being able to access Waterdog Open Space for recreational purposes including hiking and biking. It has served as a wonderful area for us as a community and spending time with family and friends of all ages connecting with nature. Our community has a need for this type of space, which Waterdog has served well for many years improving the quality of life in Belmont! I am reaching out to you as I understand that you are in process of developing a new Master Plan for this area. As you develop the new Master Plan, I ask that you please consider to maintain the existing trails which are used for multiple purposes including exercising such as hiking, biking and dog walking, as well as community building and connecting with nature. These types of activities align with those of other Open Spaces in the area. I believe that the current volunteers and community groups who maintain the trails are doing an awesome job and the trails are in great shape. I understand that there has been some discussion to change the park designation to be preserved as a wildlife preserve. I believe this would have negative impact on the overall Belmont community. Waterdog park is surrounded on all sides by residential development and the existing wildlife has adapted to the presence of people in this area. We are fortunate to already have a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve nearby on the other side of 280 (the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed). Keeping the Waterdog Open Space as the recreational park it is today is one of the highlights that leads my family to desire to stay in this area. One of the activities that I personally enjoy in Waterdog is being able to ride my mountain bike in a safe and natural environment which is easily accessible from my home. The alternative to this would be to ride in the city streets with much traffic where even an experienced biker such as myself does not feel safe; unfortunately there are few bike lanes in Belmont and the roads are not wide enough to be bike friendly. The only other option involves loading my bike and driving a distance to find another place to ride, which is not convenient nor good for the environment.	Chris Miller

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/3/2021 (con't)	Just five years ago another Belmont institution, Belmont Iceland, closed operations suddenly and ended its long history of community recreation. Personally, I was involved with the hockey community there from 1978 until it closed in 2016. Needless to say, I was quite disappointed losing such an important part of our community. I had hoped that the city of Belmont could have kept the rink from closing permanently. Looking ahead to todays agenda and the possibility of not allowing mountain biking at Waterdog in Belmont, I stand strong in my convictions that this should not be allowed to happen for all the reasons stated above. For this 35 year resident of Belmont, I would very much like to see the Waterdog Open Space area remain the wonderful area it is serving the recreational needs of our community. Thank you very much for your consideration.	Chris Miller
3/4/2021	Dear Commissioners, I previously sent a comment via the contact link on the Parks and Open Space Plan website (https://belmontprosplan.com/). While I understand that our parks and open space areas are available for anyone to use, it appears that there is no line asking for the home address or at least the city of residence to verify that the opinions of Belmont residents are prioritized in the community input regarding the Master Plan. Will the online survey have such a requirement? There is ample documentation referring to Waterdog Lake as an Open Space Area. This designation should not be changed, and as an Open Space, motorized vehicles (including electric bikes) should be prohibited as stated in the 1992 Master Plan. Is there still a plan to build a bike pump track at Waterdog Lake? I am very opposed to this idea and would like to know where things stand with that earlier proposal.	Connie Tettenborn
3/4/2021	To whom it may concern, I'd love to see the city of Belmont build a skatepark- a few parents I know are going to try to go and support this idea.	Hays Michael
3/4/2021	Hello, I am very interested in seeing a Belmont skatepark constructed. Unfortunately I am not able to make the proposal meeting tonight, but I wanted to still voice my support. Thanks.	Joel Hamill
3/4/2021	Greetings, I'm a co-owner of Atlas Skateboard Store in San Mateo. We are the premiere shop that takes care of the skateboarders of the peninsula. We even have an employee that was born, raised and still lives in Belmont. I was his mentor at Carlmont HS about 12 years ago and then we hired him when he was old enough. I will not be able to attend tonight's meeting, but want to express my desire on behalf of the local youth to include a skateboard park in the planning as it is greatly needed in Belmont. Also, please involve skateboarders in the design process so as to not flub it as we have seen happen in other cities. Thank you for hearing me out and feel free to reach out to me any time.	Mike Manidis
3/4/2021	To whom it may concern, I unfortunately can't make the virtual meeting for tonight's master plan. However, I would like the voice the need for more skateparks in the Bay Area, specifically the desire to see a skatepark built in the City of Belmont. I work at Atlas Skateboard Store in San Mateo and as someone born and raised in San Mateo I spent a great deal of my life in Belmont. In the recent past I have seen many Bay Area cities build skateparks and would love to see Belmont follow suit to help sustain the rising amount of skateboarders on The Peninsula. Skateparks (or public places made available for skating) have a net positive effect on the community and would benefit the community greatly.	Patrick Beaudouin
3/4/2021	I cannot attend the meeting today. But I am very excited to see a fun place to skateboard being built in Belmont.	Derik Stevenson
3/4/2021	My name is Wayne Nguyen, I won't be able to attend the master meeting tonight. I do I want to discuss about having a skatepark for Belmont, it would add more public attention to the city. Please consider building a skatepark.	Wayne Nguyen
3/4/2021	I am unable to join tonights master plan meeting for a skatepark in belmont. I was born and raised in the area and always wished there was a skatepark in belmont. I would love to see one built for the community to enjoy.	Tim Quinn
3/4/2021	Hello my name is Greg Smith and I work at Thrasher Magazine and grew up in San Carlos. I won't be able to make the meeting tonight but I would very much like to see a skatepark built down there. Please keep me informed and also if there is anything I can do or future meetings. Thank you so much and good luck!	Greg Smith

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/4/2021	Skating has truly become one of the best ways for me to spend quality time with my son without having to feel like Im forcing him. Having a park local to us would be amazing and I strongly encourage you all to build one for the community.	John Shea
3/4/2021	I am not able to attend tonight's Master Plan meeting, but I want to share with you now my desire for a skateboard park to be a part of Belmont's future. I am 40 years old, have a PhD in mathematics, have worked as a professor and a community outreach program director, and have been a skateboarder for over 25 years. I know the value of skateboarding as a recreation, a culture, and a way of learning life lessons. I know that the people, young an old, of Belmont would benefit from a skatepark in their city	Jack Love
3/4/2021	Hello,Unfortunately I won't be able to join tonight's master plan meeting. But I would love to see a skatepark being built for me, my son and for all of us in the community.	Daniel Beck
3/4/2021	I will be unable to make the meeting regarding the Belmont skatepark tonight. I wanted to reach out regardless, in order to express that I would love to see this project come to light. I feel that it would be a positive contribution to the community and the youth. Please feel free to reach out if needed.	John Voskuyl
3/4/2021	My name is Jake London, a local lifelong skateboarder and Sales Representative for some of the top brands in the industry (e.g., Santa Cruz Skateboards). I am unable to join tonight's meeting, but am interested in your master plan and would love to see a skatepark included in these plans. There are 2.2 million new skateboarders in the world as a result of 2020, and the positive mental and physical effects of this activity are invaluable. This is especially true of the youth at this time.	Jake London
3/4/2021	I wanted to express my support for a skate park in Belmont. I'm unable to attend tonight's meeting. In the past I organized youth support for other city's skate parks and worked with park and rec departments to create safe skate programs that benefit riders of all ages. Skateboarding has opened up a lot of paths in life because it is a community sport that teaches perseverance, struggle along with granting sweet rewards for hard work. Please consider the positive effects having a skate park can have on the community and local businesses.	Larry Thomas
3/4/2021	My apologies for not being able to attend the meeting in person tonight I was pulled into work for a production emergency. I really hope you seriously consider a skateboard in the city of Belmont. Not only is it necessary to give kids a place to hang out, it's a place where kids learn the hard lessons in life. Where they learn how to overcome objectives, interact with all different types of people, and form a community of peers in which they learn to rely on. With parents being forced to work long hours to make ends meet it is more and more necessary to have safe hang out spots for our youth. Skateboarding is entering the Olympics and the state of California has always been a driving force in not only the sport but the industry as well. If the city doesn't consider sanctioning off space for a skatepark it is isolating a community from something they love. Please take this into consideration and thank you for your time.	Joey Escobar
3/4/2021	Unfortunately I am not able to attend tonight's master plan meeting but I would like to state that I am fully in favor of a skatepark being built. Skateparks are vital to the communities they are built in as they keep the community active and act as a second home to a lot of kids. Please consider this when making your decision.	Gabby Mejia
3/4/2021	Hey there my name is Jesse Narvaez I won't be able to join the meeting tonight but I'd love to say a few words thru email. I grew up in Redwood City but always skated all around the peninsula and from my 23 years of experience being a skateboarder I know that having a skatepark in your city helps a lot with kids staying out of trouble and best of all making friends. I now started my own skateboard company called Loopholewheels and I know that if it wasn't for the Phil Shao memorial skatepark in Redwood City I wouldn't be the same person I am today. Thank you for your time I hope Belmont gets its own skatepark in the near future.	Jesse Narvaez
3/4/2021	Hello, my name is Marissa. I won't be able to join tonights meeting but I wanted to show my interest in the idea of a new park being built.I have met so many great people in just my one year of skating and having a new park would be an amazing opportunity to meet more friends in the community, get outside away from constant technology and learn some new skills you never thought you could do. It's been very mentally healthy for me and so many people I've met and I hope to see more of it.	Marissa Rod
3/4/2021	I am writing as a 40 year old Carlmont high school graduate and avid skateboarder. I am not able to make it to tonight's meeting, but I would absolutely love to see a skate park in Belmont	Jack Shirley

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/4/2021	Unfortunately I am unable to join tonight's meeting. However I would like the city to know that I fully support the plans to build a skate park. Not only is a skatepark a place to build community, but it helps give kids and young adults (and adults!) a sense of purpose and place where they can exercise, practice discipline, build friendships and a community of their own. As a successful business owner and skateboarder myself, I truly value everything that skateboarding and it's global and local community has done for me. It has sent me around the world and built connections and friendships that have helped me succeed in my life. I truly hope the city will move forward with plans and recognizes the value and impact a skate park will bring to Belmont's thriving community and city.	Ian Ernzer
3/4/2021	cant make it tonight, but I want to say that skate parks are a safe outside individual activity that should be encouraged Please do a skate park in Belmont.	David Keagy
3/4/2021	I'm not able to attend tonight's master plan meeting but we would love to see a skatepark built for the community and the youth of Belmont. I've been skateboarding for over 20 years and it has taught me so many invaluable life lessons as well as introduced me to life time friends that I still am close with today. I'd love to help in the future and crossing my fingers i can one day bring my kids there!	Mike Richins
3/4/2021	Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's Master Plan Meeting. Rather than attending I want to register my support for the skatepark here. Skateboarding has changed significantly in the past 20 years. Not only is it shaping up to be one of the most viewed events in the 2021 olympics it is also a possible remedy to the nation's growing obesity problem among the young. I think the building of a new skatepark will support the following -Offer a space for children and adults to participate in a free, accessible, and diverse physical activity. -Offer a place for high school age kids to meet and engage in healthy activity -Provide a place for kids to learn how to skateboard with the future possibility of representing their country and city in the olympics There is very little other than the financial hurdles that will not be ultimately beneficial from the skatepark being built.	James Beavis
3/4/2021	Hi, Growing up, there was never a good option for us to go skate without skating in private property and getting tickets. I think it would be a great addition for Belmont and get the youth outdoors. I would also enjoy spending time riding. Please consider this when voting.	Max Krieg
3/4/2021	Thank you so much for your assistance with creating a master plan in regards to our aim to building a skatepark, I'd still love to see the skatepark being built.	Tomoko Oikawa
3/4/2021	I am unable to make tonights master plan meeting, but I would love to see a skatepark built in Belmont!	Tobin Valverde
3/4/2021	I heard the city is having a meeting about building a skatepark and I really wanted to go but I'm unavailable. I've been living in the Bay Area my entire life and just recently city's have started building parks and I say the more the better. It doesn't have to be a major project with a huge pool and big ramps but just a plaza style skatepark is best.	Nick Perez
3/4/2021	I am personally in favor of adding a skateboard park to our community. A skateboard park will offer the youth of our community a safe and productive place to skateboard instead of in local parking lots. I hope you consider my thoughts on the issue	Dustin Waters
3/4/2021	The youth of Belmont would greatly benefit from having a skatepark built	Jordan Herz
3/4/2021	Hello, I am available to attend the Belmont master plan but I would suggest a skatepark to be built for all the local citizens and nearby ones. I think it would be great as anyone can enjoy a skatepark.	Lester Legarda

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/4/2021	Hi my name is Robert Miron and I am unable to attend tonights meeting about the Belmont Master Plan. I grew up skateboarding in San Mateo and have lived in many places around the world, but throughout my travels and localities i would always reflect on how fortunate i was to not only grow up in the peninsula, but that i also grew up with a skatepark and the world of skateboarding in San Mateo. I think it is essential for Belmont to build a skatepark and budget one into it's master plan because there are no skate parks in Belmont and with the creativity and potential of students from Carlmont high school, a skatepark would fit right in and further foster an alternative outlet for Belmont and the surrounding peninsula citie	Robert Miron
3/4/2021	Sorry I'm not able to join the master plan meeting tonight about the skate park being built I think you guys should make it tho. Take some kids off the streets help out some kids learn some healthy active sports	Sean Rael
3/4/2021	I am sending this in regards to the skatepark, as I possibly cannot make the meeting tonight at 7. Being a skateboarder from the peninsula for over 10 years, the idea of a new park brings a lot of excitement. There hasn't been a lot of new skateparks, and the parks in the area are definitely outdated and becoming rough. I think a new park brings a lot of positivity and brings the community together, considering since covid has hit skateparks have become more crowded. Thank you for putting the new skatepark into consideration, and hopefully we can have a new skatepark soon!	Matthew Mehl
3/4/2021	My name is Nicholas Hutter and I have been a resident of Belmont for 31 years. I grew up in this town. And not only did I grow up in this town I grew up skateboarding in this town. Obviously my opinion may seem biased, but I can say with absolute certainty that the building of a decent sized, well built, yet simple, and not overly expensive skatepark along with the renovation of the Barret community center would bring great value to Belmont and our community. I propose the beginning of setting plans into action to rebuild our community center, if you can really call it that(I know it used to be an old school), and include a skatepark. At least that's where I had envisioned it since there appears to be room. I would love to see a few things change in Belmont, which would greatly increase Belmonts value, but this would be a great start. Who am I? Just a local resident who believes in providing the highest quality experience to all people around the world and of course in your immediate community. Let's do this!	Nicholas Hutter
3/4/2021	Hello, I was unable to attend last nights meeting and would very much like a skatepark Belmont can call its own. Skateparks are a source of wholesome entertainment and exercise and bring joy to a wide and diverse range of people. I am 40 years old and still am gravitated to skateparks after 25 years of skateboarding! Please supply our community with a skatepark	Nathan Perkel
3/4/2021	My apologies for not participating in the community call yesterday evening, March 4, 2021 at 7:00pm. However, I am writing to you now asking you to please hear us skateboarders out by saying we need a new skatepark; specifically in the city of Belmont. Speaking as a representative of the Skatepark on Treasure Island, as well as multiple other skateparks I have participated in donating for as well as build; having a well built, concrete skateboard park is the best alternative for the youth of today. Having a skateboard park in the city of Belmont would give many children, as well as young and even older adults a healthy way to exert their time and energy. Especially during these times of Covid, and self quarantine. I believe the citizens, not only of Belmont, but the larger Bay Area would greatly appreciate your consideration in building a skateboard park.	Clay Howell
3/5/2021	Hello All, I emailed the following to the Parks and Recreation commission, but I think it is good to send it here as well because otherwise I do not know whether the information would be available to everyone in the advisory committee and all consultants. I attended the first advisory committee zoom meeting, and a question I asked was not answered. I wondered whether the Master Plan process included the ability to re-designate an Open Space area because, for several reasons, it appears that the difference between a park and an open space is not well understood or appreciated by the advisory committee, the consultant(s) and perhaps even some Commissioners. For example, I asked for clarification of "bike repair stations", and a panelist replied that they could be in either a park or open space. Since if I remember correctly, this item in the survey was listed in the same space as permanent restroom facilities (with flush toilets?), this would suggest that the commission thinks it would be OK to build such facilies at Water Dog Lake Open Space. An open space is an essentially undeveloped area with the aim of preservation. Developments such as flush toilets and bike pump tracks and electric bikes do not belong in an Open Space preserve. Bike repair stations could be located in a parking lot area but not on the trails, but I would place them elsewhere in Belmont first if funds are limited.	Connie Tettenborn

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/5/2021 (con't)	The definition and distinction between Parks and Open Spaces should be clearly presented at the beginning of the survey. (I do recall some separate sections for these two in the survey, but not the specifics.) Another point I asked about was addressed to some extent. I said that "widening trails" should not beconsidered a "trail improvement" because widening a narrow single-use trail would encourage even greater IMPROPER use of such a trail by bicyclists. Indeed, the concept of a single-use trail for hikers only has been totally ignored by the City. The 1992 Master Plan has a map of Water Dog Lake Open Space, which indicates that the loop trail around the lake is for hiking only. Unfortunately, not only is Water Dog Lake Open Space referred to as a Park in various online places, but Trailforks.com, which in part caters to mountain bikers, lists the Loop trail with 4 stars for bikers. The Berry trail is also listed for mountain bike use on this site. The incorrect listing of Water Dog Lake "Park" on this site should be removed and signs should clearly state NO BIKES on these trails. The maps of the area provided by the city should also mark them as foot traffic only. If part of the Hidden Valley area is not designated as Open Space, perhaps a trail there could be for only bikes? Another point I made regarding the survey and residency was also addressed, but I think that the question should be placed near the beginning of the survey, not the end, and should be required-- the form could not be completed or submitted if the question is left blank. Further, the options of "Don't know" or "Not sure" should be added along with "Not a Belmont resident" instead of "Other" because some new folks may not know the name of their neighborhood. (I didn't when I first moved here.) In this way, it will be possible to clearly identify which interests and priorities are those of Belmon citizens who are the ones paying city taxes. Thank you for considering my points. Connie Tettenborn	Connie Tettenborn
3/7/2021	Hello All, I would like to amend my earlier suggestion that the difference between Parks and open spaces be explained at the start of the survey so that residents will understand that there is a priority for preservation in open spaces. This introduction should include a clarification that Water Dog Lake is an example of an open space, and it should be stated that there is currently a ban on motorized vehicles at Water Dog Open Space. Because whether this ban includes e-bikes is debatable, a question should be added to the survey to specifically ask whether e-bikes should be prohibited in Water Dog preserve; the current ban is not being enforced regarding e-bikes, since the police chief (a mountain bike proponent) believes that he is enforcing the spirit of the law because, in his view, pedal-assist e-bikes are really no different from regular bikes. Yet according to what I have seen on Nextdoor.com, even some mountain bikers believe e-bikes should be prohibited. In the Advisory Committee meeting last week, I recall that e-bikes were included in a part of the survey, but I do not recall where and the video recording was not clear enough to tell. Because this is a complex topic--there are three different classes of e-bikes; it is not feasible to enforce speed limits; some bikes have much wider tires with potentially greater trail impacts--I do not think that the city should allow such bikes in our Open Spaces without proper review. A follow-up survey question to whether e-bikes should be prohibited should be "Should research into allowing e-bikes in Water Dog Open Space be carried out?" Note that from the Midpeninsula Open Space website: "Electric bicycles are not, and have never been, allowed on Midpen trails, except for use by individuals with a mobility disability on trails where bicycles are allowed." Instead of just letting people make their own decisions, signs that specifically prohibit e-bikes are currently posted at Midpen trailheads. It is true that due to public interest, "[Midpen] Staff will initiate a short-term unpaved trails study to start by summer/fall 2021 on lands of a regional partner agency where e-bikes are currently allowed," but at least they are doing the appropriate analysis. Decisions regarding the use of e-bikes is very critical because of the many sites online that refer to trails in Water Dog Open Space: Mtbproject.com (in which the description of a Water Dog Lake trail ends with"...a ripsnortingly fast ride. Have fun!"), mtbr.com (which has an advocacy forum for e-bikes), singletrack.com, (which specifically says e-bikes are allowed at Water Dog Lake). Thus, if e-bikes are not allowed elsewhere but are allowed here in Belmont's open space, the resulting increase in such bikes here would clearly negatively impact the peaceful enjoyment of the natural environment by hikers and the safety of both hikers and bikers. (An electric motor as small as that in an electric toothbrush makes an annoying buzz that can be heard 30 ft away in a different room!) Even if Belmont citizens want e-bikes in Water Dog Open Space, I strongly suggest that they be banned if Midpeninsula Open Space bans e-bikes at the completion of their study. Regards, Connie Tettenborn	Connie Tettenborn

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/7/2021	Dear City Council Members, We are Belmont residents and would like to share our opinion regarding the consideration to ban cycling from Waterdog. Both of our kids grew-up biking in these trails and our family enjoys daily walks through the park with our chocolate lab. The use of all open spaces has increased during the pandemic, and we are happy to see how our local trails have offered residents an option for healthy outdoor activity during these difficult times. The increased traffic comes with challenges, and it is clear that some modifications may be needed. However, we must remember that as the pandemic gets under better control some of this increase in use will decline. We have heard/seen arguments from both sides on this issue and it is clear that few people in the community have very strong opinions regarding this topic. While they may be the loudest, we do think they represent the character of our community and the friendliness that we see from almost everyone in the trails. We would support the following: Maintain all current trails open to bikes and pedestrians. Prevent the development of any new trails. Provide good maintenance to the current trails, and do not close any trails. Close trails for bikes (as needed) after rain. Prohibit night riding. Prohibit the use of e-bikes. Launch an education campaign to foster a culture of kindness, sharing and safety in the trails and in our community. Open communication and cooperation between Belmont Parks and Recreation and volunteer groups to upkeep, educate, and enforce rules at Waterdog Thank you for all the work you do.	Mauricia Ronderos
3/8/2021	Dear Parks and Recreation, please add me to the distribution list for upcoming PROS questionnaires and upcoming events so that I may participate. If OK, I would also like to forward the information to friends and neighbors to help get the word out. All the best, Thaddeus Block	Thaddeus Block
3/8/2021	As someone who has previously develop opinion polls, surveys and worked on focus groups, I found the survey difficult to follow due to the lack of organization and, in some questions, inconsistent use of categories (parks, open spaces, recreation facilities). Additionally, in some questions, conflating different categories and inconsistent use of terminology creates a lack of understanding of respondents' intentions. Confusing questions, leading options, and conflating categories make any survey ineffective by failing to yield an accurate understanding of respondents' intentions. Inconsistencies and lack of organization may lead to confusion which would further negate capturing respondents' true intentions. Lack of clarity creates confusion and results will be left to interpretations rather than yielding clear, understandable results. Because people likely will not spend excessive time trying to understand the intention of the question(s) -- making things as clear as possible is desirable. While I would be happy to provide detailed feedback, I have limited my comments to a few obvious clarifications that are needed: 1. #5 “”What factors limit your ability to visits our parks and open spaces”” “”ability”” refers to the participants' “”skills”” or “”capability”” or “”talent”” - rather I think you seek the factors that limit visitors' use of the parks and open spaces. Clearly conflating parks and open spaces means you will not know which answers apply to which area -- parks or open spaces. 2. #5 relates to parks & open spaces and “”facilities”” []Poor condition/maintenance of facility []The facilities Does not accommodate my needs	Deniz Bolbol

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/8/2021 (con't)	The word ""facilities"" has somewhat consistently be used to address recreation facilities -- now you use the word ""facilities"" in relation to parks and open spaces which is inconsistent and confusing 3. #7 please clarify by adding bold text: ""parks (not recreation facilities or open spaces)"" for clarification 4. #8 please clarify by adding bold text: ""outdoor recreation/athletic facilities (not open spaces or parks)"" for clarification 5. #9 please clarify by adding bold text: ""open spaces (not recreation facilities or parks)"" for clarification Again, the questions that conflate categories will not yield meaningful responses because the respondents' intention will be unknown. Ambiguous survey questions force an interpretation of the results; interpretation is usually not desired if capturing the respondents' true intentions is the goal.	Deniz Bolbol
3/8/2021	I have reviewed your draft PROS opinion survey and find some of the terminology confusing, several omissions and several biased questions. 1. #2 & #3 questions, you bring up three separate entities; parks, outdoor recreation facilities and open spaces but then in #4, you refer to the third entity as recreation/athletic facilities and in #8 you go back to using outdoor recreation facilities. As some of the facilities listed in #4 such as Barrett Community Center and Twin Pines Park buildings have indoor as well as outdoor facilities, the terminology ""outdoor recreation facilities"" is confusing. Why not use the term indoor/outdoor recreation facilities for ALL questions to be consistent? 2. You omitted the Belmont Sports Complex as one of the most important indoor/outdoor recreation facilities in Belmont?? How about Hidden Canyon Open Space and John Brooks Open Space Preserve? 3. In #9, the question should just read ""The following would greatly enhance my experience with open spaces in Belmont"" (delete amenities and uses which is confusing). You also have a typo (it should be just open, not opens spaces). Widen and improve select existing trails is a biased question because it implies improvement which everybody favors and will elicit a strongly agree. You will then incorrectly infer that participants want wider trails. Reduce/limit number of trails is similarly biased because it implies restrictions which nobody wants and will elicit a strongly disagree. You will then incorrectly infer that participants want more trails. Since you allow everybody who are non residents of Belmont to answer your survey from all over the country, the answers to this survey will also represent organized special interest groups that have far more numbers than our ordinary citizens of Belmont. Therefore, this survey alone should not be used to determine the outcome of a 15 year Master Plan for our City of Belmont. Doing so could devalue property values and our tax base as well as irreversibly damage the eco-system and geological stability in our open spaces. Thank you for your attention.	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/9/2021	Dear All, I sent an email to the Parks and Recreation Dept. before their January meeting and would like to share the pertinent information to everyone here because someone in the Advisory committee meeting asked about removing trails. I think the reply was that comments could be left. A possible reason for his question may be what I experienced on a hike on the Loop trail at Water Dog Lake. There was a very short bifurcation on this trail, and I took the left-hand trail to increase the social distance between me and my friend only to find that the trail had been modified into a bicycle ramp or jump that could not be walked down. This is the sort of unsanctioned trail that could be removed. I feel that simply having a place for additional comments would not fairly represent the community's concerns about trails and bicycles in Water Dog Open Space. It is very easy to tick a box to say you have an interest in e-bikes or want wider trails, but it takes more effort to leave a comment. Does this place an inherent bias in the survey? Regarding widening trails, in that same January email, I said mentioned that the poison oak on narrow trails makes it hard to move to allow bikes to pass. I want to reiterate a comment I made at the Advisory committee meeting: widening such trails is NOT AN IMPROVEMENT as this would encourage greater improper usage of these trails by bicyclists AND widening certain trails would remove very beautiful species of flowers (there are a couple of purple perennial flowers at the edge of one trail--I think the Loop trail). Rather, I think that bicycles should be restricted to wider trails. Finally, I want to encourage everyone to take into consideration the intent of the person who donated the land for Water Dog Open Space, which I believe was primarily to preserve a natural setting. Regards, Connie Tettenborn	Connie Tettenborn
3/20/2021	I wanted to provide you my thoughts on the upcoming Master Plan for the Belmont Parks Department. My husband and I have been residents of Belmont since 1985. We love the area and feel the Parks Department has done a lot to provide many avenues for recreation to all ages. My major point I do want to make is regarding the Open Space Water Dog trails. Over the many years, we have lived here we walked or hiked the Water Dig trails literally hundreds of times. Our kids hiked there as well. Over the last year however it has become too dangerous to hike or walk there due to the numerous bikers riding aggressively on the trails. There were several instances last year between May and September that my husband and I were nearly hit by bikers rounding curves which did not see us or we see them until they skidded into us. The fact that they ride on the single track trails is outrageous. We've tried to bring our 6 year old and 8 year old on the trails and they too have nearly been hit by bikers. As they are only 36 - 44 inches tall, bikers cannot see them running ahead of us. We now have to hold their hand if they want hike with us. As you can imagine, they do not want to be required to hold our hands on a 1-2 hour hike. Our daughter in law now refuses to let us take them on Water Dog trails out of fear for their safety. I must also mention that many of our friends and neighbors also have stopped coming to the trails due to their concerns over the bikers on the single track trails. I think this is ridiculous that long time residents fear for their lives and will totally avoid these trails. These single track trails should be kept open for walkers or hikers only. This should be a peaceful setting and not a situation where you need to be stressed and worried about your safety. I also want to say that we used to see deer, rabbits and other wildlife. This does not happen anymore and I attribute this to the bikers racing on these trails. Please make single track trails available only to hikers and walkers. My understanding that this land was supposed to be a preserve per grants from John Brooks. In addition, previous Master Plans(1992 and 1998) required this. Why was this not followed? I hope you will bring the Open Space back to its original intent and use. Thank you.	Pamela Stahl

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/29/2021	HI Karen, How does one observe/join the following PROS presentations listed on the City website? Other Presentations/Events for the PROS Plan: Belmont Rotary Presentation March 29th, 2021 12- 1 Pm Presentation at BRSSD Superintendent Meeting March 2nd, 2021 Do I interpret correctly that this is the consultant addressing these groups and offering a Q&A after? Are the comments received at these meetings "on the record"; will they be recorded for inclusion in public comments? Thanks, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
4/13/2021	Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council Members, We have been Belmont residents for over thirty years and have raised our family here. Our three children have all gone through the local public schools; Central Elementary, Ralston Middle School and Carlmont High School (with the youngest now a Junior at Carlmont). In all these years we have greatly enjoyed the City's open space, including Waterdog Lake / Hidden Canyon and San Juan Canyon / Sugarloaf Mountain. This enjoyment includes walking, running, riding bicycles, exercising our dogs and enjoying nature. As you consider these open spaces in the new Master Plan, we urge you to maintain their current multi-use designation with no new restrictions. Consistent with this, we fully support the "Love Waterdog" campaign and associated outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. For the record, we are very grateful for the excellent work to maintain and enhance the trails and related facilities done by the partnership between the City's Public Works department and various volunteers. One request: Please install dog waste bags and garbage cans at the trailheads for San Juan Canyon (for example at the bottom of San Juan Blvd).	Patrick and Mai Wheeler
4/16/2021	It is important that Belmont pays attention to it's park trails. Right behind my home on Soho Circle is an ILLEGAL bike trail. The city has done NOTHING to protect me nor my neighbors from this trail. It is a disturbance to us and our neighbors. It is also a hinderance to our natural surroundings. It is also probably on my land. Many of us have complained to our Parks and Rec dept., but yet nothing gets done. Also, on weekends, this bike trail as well as the walking trail creates a massive parking situation on Hallmark. Yet, nothing gets accomplished by the city to clear these problems. WHAT CAN BE DONE???????	Kenneth. Lebovitz
4/17/2021	Hi PROS Advisory Committee Members and Park Commissioners, Last September I was given the opportunity to lead a few Park Commissioners on a walking tour of Hidden Canyon. It's very aptly named; most residents are largely unaware of this southern end of the Waterdog Open Space. But in fact Hidden Canyon is larger than the Waterdog acreage and the John Brooks acreage combined: Waterdog 51 acres John Brooks 49 acres Hidden Canyon 180 acres On our hike we stopped and discussed the extensive damages. We observed heavily eroded trails, especially on the southern slope where Rambler trail has ditches 4 feet deep and is widened to 30 feet in places. We saw drainage issues – some natural and some from homes above - that contribute to trail and slope damage. We hiked down the notorious Finch switchbacks, noting that no amount of maintenance could make them safe or sustainable. And we saw dirt and debris tossed into the creek – a direct violation of state guidelines for protection of riparian habitats. All of this is even more saddening when you become familiar with the Western Hills Area Plan, adopted in 1990. The Plan recognizes the unique chaparral, riparian and oak woodland habitats of the canyon – areas that are now designated as "sensitive communities" for the diversity of plants and the animals that call them home. I urge you all to visit Hidden Canyon and to learn why it's protection is so important to our regional Biodiversity Hotspot. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/18/2021	As a resident of San Mateo, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider: Keep maintaining Waterdog Lake just as it is today. There are a ton of parks and outdoor spaces designated as ""hiking only"" available to hikers already, whereas mountain bikers already have very limited options. Please consider educating hikers that are uncomfortable sharing the trail about the hundreds of trails that are available for hiking exclusively in other areas. Closing Waterdog Lake Park to mountain bikers will result in people having less chances to engage in healthy exercise. I have biked dozes of times at Waterdog and never had any issues with hikers, it's easy to be careful and polite and make space for each other, even on single track. Some additional points: • Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces; • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign. • Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. • Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades. • Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.	Fabian Frank
4/19/2021	Hello, I support keeping Water Dog Open Space as a mountain biking friendly area. There are very few places like this in the Bay Area (maybe even country) and none on the Peninsula. Most other spaces in the Bay Area are for hikers only. This should be just thought of as a mountain biking park, it should get more funding to maintain the park but stay open to all types of use. It seems that people who are against this are very Not In My Backyard, as there are plenty of nearby places for great hiking but none for mountain biking. More people need to get outside and mountain biking offers people an outlet. Bikers love the outdoors and appreciate it. The more people who enjoy the outdoors and can appreciate it the more likely they are to care about the environment in other ways, i.e eat less meat, drive less, recycle, consume less, etc. All in all this is one of the best places to mountain bike in the area, people will have to drive hours to get to something similar. On top of that there is a very strong community around mountain biking at Water Dog and for years hikers, bikers, dog walkers, etc have all been able to enjoy the space with no real problems. So I would like to see more funding in the master plan to support mountain biking and other uses at Water Dog. Thanks, Mike	Michael Jaron

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/19/2021	Hello All, I forgot to email this to the above address so that all interested parties will receive this message regarding the survey. Are you getting ample input? Should the survey stay online longer? Thank you, Connie Dear Commissioners, I just noticed an online plea for mountain bikers to fill out the survey. Given that anyone can fill out the survey and may not necessarily give an honest answer regarding residency, is there some analysis that can be done to determine whether the survey results are valid and give Belmont citizens' views priority. We live here and pay city taxes and are responsible for the infrastructure here. Is there an estimated response rate, which could be compared with the number of people living in each neighborhood? Thank you, Connie Tettenborn, PhD	Connie Tettenborn
4/19/2021	To whom it may concern, Our trails, through our open space and parks are being overrun by bikers, and now some with electric bikes. This is largely because other cities are outlawing bikes in their parks and open spaces. These bikers disregard the safety of the walkers which always have to go off the trail to get out of their way often in unsafe situations like going up an embankment or into poison oak, unstable ground or a steep downslope. Many of the walkers are elderly and have a lot of trouble getting out of their way. Why are we making our parks and open spaces a playground for people that neighboring cities don't want in their parks and open spaces? We didn't work hard to preserve our open spaces for bikers! We had no idea at the time that they would end up being the predominate users since many walkers are finding it unpleasant and too dangerous to use with the proliferation of bikers. (I have a recurring fantasy of being blind and 'accidentally' poking my stick through the spokes of a fast passing bicycle.)	Gary Feierbach
4/21/2021	Hi, I have been mountain biking in Water Dog for years and absolutely treasure it! It's very unique to offer such amazing mountain biking right next to home. Love sharing the space with all (hiking, groups, nature walks, etc.). Please do not eliminate mountain bike riding there. There are many great hiking trails around, but only one place to mountain bike. Cheers, Julien	Julien Marcil

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/22/2021	Hi PROS committee and Park and Rec Commissioners, This Earth Day we are reflecting on sustainability for our planet. But since conservation begins at home, I'd like to address our sustainable stewardship of Belmont's Open Spaces. The first and foremost aspect of sustainability is balance. We want people to enjoy nature, but not to the detriment of the very thing they come to enjoy. That balance is achieved by managed trail density – enough trail access to enjoy nature, but not so much that it fragments habitats and destroys the ecosystem. Last year I undertook a study of all open spaces within 20 miles of Belmont. I compiled data for 44 of the comparable preserves, and shared this data with Parks Commissioners. Now I urge you to watch the video of this presentation: Open Space Preserves in the San Mateo Region. (choose the 12 minutes in full, or a 3-minute summary at this link) Fact: Waterdog has the highest trail density of any open space area on the peninsula, and probably the bay area. It has twice the trail density of other comparable small open space areas. This fragmentation and intensity of use is not sustainable. As stewards of our city and our planet we are tasked with adopting sustainable policies. For Waterdog that means fewer trails and a more thoughtful approach to trail planning. For the sake of future residents, please consider this legacy as you guide our new Master Plan. Feel free to contact me with questions. Thank you for your service to our City, Kristin Mercer 2035 Belmont General Plan Conservation Element p.5.3 "Belmont's extensive open spaces are part of the regional open space network on the San Francisco Peninsula. Notable landmarks in the city include San Juan Hills, Western Hills, Water Dog Lake, and Belmont Creek…. These connected open spaces are valuable because they provide travel corridors for wildlife and increase wildlife population diversity. They also play important roles in stormwater management, ecological functions, and other environmental conservation efforts	Kristin Mercer
4/30/2021	Hello Park Consultants to Belmont: I live on close to Waterdog Lake Park and have for a long time been concerned about how bikers are ruining the trails there. In addition, one time when I was walking there, I almost got hit by a biker. The trails are ruined because so many bikers in the Bay Area come to Belmont to bike in the Park; however, people like myself who live near the Park should be given first priority about its uses. I hope that you will stop all bikers from using the trails near the Park. Thank you for your attention! Carol	Carol Epstein
5/1/2021	Please review the following new video illustrating Belmonts Waterdog Preserve. waterdogpreserve.org/beauty-destroyed Regards, Bill Kurtz	Bill Kurtz

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
5/6/2021	Dear PROS Advisory Committee: Last night at the Park & Rec Commission meeting, I gave e following public comments which I have put into the following email for your information. Thank You for your attention. San Mateo has over 50 open space preserves including Waterdog which has one of the smallest acreages yet more bike density than 90% of all other San Mateo open spaces. Because Waterdog is the only open space that allows mountain bikers on every single one of our 11 miles of Waterdog trails; both wide and narrow, bikers come from the entire Bay Area to sport speed on our narrow trails. Mountain bikers have readily admitted that their desire for crowding our narrow hiking trails is because they seek their adrenaline thrills and excitement that comes with speed riding the narrow trails in our Open Space. But the sheer increasing volume from all over the Bay Area for their recreation is overwhelming our environment and damaging the trails to the point that no amount of biker volunteer trail maintenance can now keep up with the ruts, gullies and trenches they create. Hikers also have a right to their recreation of a quiet walk in the woods and a day of peaceful contemplation of nature listening to the birds and the rustle of the trees. Hikers have a right to a place where they don't have to worry about bikers screaming up behind them at top speed, slamming on their brakes, shooting gravel everywhere and swerving around them forcing them to step into the poison oak before speeding off again. Bikers have falsely argued that they have a right to ALL the trails for their recreation in our open space, but that doesn't give them them the right to damage so many narrow trails in our Waterdog. An equitable plan where both parties can enjoy their form of recreation is to leave the Narrow, quiet winding trails for hikers enjoy and to allow both bikers and hikers to share the Wide trails as originally intended. The thrills of speed biking recreation on narrow trails are best left to the other San Mateo open spaces that are much larger than Waterdog with trails able to naturally recover from such a rigorous sport. Commissioners, as a long time Belmont resident, I truly feel it will be a shame if an entire generation of children will not have the opportunity to enjoy this natural beauty with quiet nature walks. So I ask you, "Isn't it more important to preserve the natural beauty of Waterdog for future generations than to cater to thrill sport seekers?" Jennifer Lien Belmont	Jennifer Lien
5/13/2021	Dear Commissioners and PROS Advisory Committee, The results of the online survey overwhelmingly point to the conclusion that Open Space is a major concern, reflected not only by the survey responses but also by all the comments. This is despite the fact that the survey is population skewed against seniors over 65 not in the habit of computer responses while staying home during Covid, and despite being biased with questions such as Widen and Improve existing trails which should have been asked separately as Improve is considered an agreeable word. Nevertheless, where Parks, Athletic facilities and Open Spaces were broken out, survey responses clearly indicated that over 79% reported walking does not feel safe (even if it is only based on the smaller number that responded), over 70% reported biking does not feel safe either and almost 84% agreed that there were safety concerns in Open Spaces. There is a problem with how the Open Space is currently being managed and deterring people from enjoying its beauty due to safety concerns. In addition, over 58% cited Open Space poor conditions and maintenance as a concern. Going forward, Open Spaces need to be treated differently from Parks and needs its own separate studies and I am glad that you have devoted a Focus Group to Open Space. Non-Belmont bikers heavily influenced the survey from as far away as San Jose, Menlo Park, Palo Alto and their comments readily admit they come to our Open Spaces specifically to mountain bike because NO other local open space allows mountain bikes. Non resident mountain bikers can share our facilities by using the wide trails for their recreation but need to respect the survey results regarding safety, trail conditions, maintenance and environment. Despite an overwhelming 51% response by non Belmont residents to this survey, I hope and expect that Belmont PROS Advisory members and Park and Rec Commissioners will make policy and management decisions that reflect your public service to Belmont resident taxpayers. Thank you for your attention Jennifer Lien	Jennifer Lien
5/13/2021	I would be interested in participating in the Open Space focus group	Jonathan Carter

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
5/18/2021	Please sign me up. Many thanks. interested in open space focus group	Deniz Bolbol
5/18/2021	In order to really understand what the danger of hiking in the Belmont open space is really like I encourage you to review a couple videos. These are of bikers riding the trails in Waterdog. They are taken by the bikers themselves riding the trails. While viewing, place yourself on the trail as a hiker, a narrow single track trail, with one of these guys bearing down on you, or coming around a blind corner. Picture yourself with a young child on the trail while viewing. Also, notice the hikers that are encountered are either forced or expected to get off the trail to allow bikers to pass by them. I personally have had many, many experiences where I had the life scared out of me, and also clipped by passing bikers who just kept on going. Please also notice how narrow the trails are and the condition of the trails themselves, the rutting, the cut of the trail for thrill riding (they call this trail maintenance), the berms and tight bends, the riding over creeks and tree roots. Go to your browser and type in: youtube.com, in the search type in Trailkeepers, Water Dog Lake Park"" and watch several of the videos to truly understand my comments. I you have and problems, please feel free to contact me. Regards, Bill Kurtz	Bill Kurtz
5/18/2021	I would like to volunteer for the open space focus group. I think I have a unique perspective to offer and I'm looking forward to having productive conversations about the future of the open space. I also had a question about the survey results- a couple times during the meeting someone brought up a statistic, something like ""77% of people felt unsafe on the trails"" or similar. Someone had also said this was an incorrect/misleading interpretation of the results. Will you be posting the survey results online? I would like to look at them for myself. If you won't be posting them, could you at least clarify this statistic? Thanks!	Austin Fisher
5/19/2021	Hi, I'd like to participate in the focus group portion of the PROS Master Plan process. My order of preference would be: 1. Open Space 2. Youth	Scott Sisemore
5/22/2021	I write to you all in my head almost every morning. That is because we wake up to barking dogs at Barrett between 6 and 7 a.m. almost every day. The worst day is Sunday. This is despite our double-paned windows. The dog hours have gotten very popular this year. We have noticed a big increase in the number of dogs and noise. We know we live by a community center, one that has gotten busier every year we've lived here. But with the dog hours, you have taken away the only quiet hours we had - early morning, late evening and Sundays. Easter Sunday, having my elderly parents over for a socially distanced lunch - dogs barking. Mother's Day, enjoying our back yard with our kids - dogs barking. Today, we were awakened at 6:05 by a barking dog and while eating breakfast at 7:30, dogs barking frantically at other dogs outside the fence as their owners talked. We know people don't even notice our houses or realize how sound travels in this little valley. But this is the problem with having a dog park in a neighborhood. The thought of a permanent dog park at Barrett breaks our hearts. It does not matter that it will be moved a few hundred feet one way or the other (actually closer to us in the latest plan). There are not many of us living next to Barrett so perhaps it is easy to discount us. But we do have to live here 24/7. As you develop your all parks plan for the city, could you consider putting a permanent dog park on the Sports Complex site or some other site, away from any neighbors, no matter how few? We have been told (repeatedly) to call Belmont Police when we see someone with dogs during off hours or if there is excessive barking. I could call every day. We did for a few days when dog hours opened this year, because people broke the rules every day. The new signs helped a little. Soccer practice helped a lot. But the reality is, I don't want to call the police department every time there are dogs barking, someone there with dogs at the wrong time, or someone not picking up after their dog. One, this is exhausting. Two, there don't seem to be any consequences for people breaking the rules. Three, all of us Barrett neighbors occasionally have to call the police for more serious disruptions at Barrett, often late at night. The police dispatcher knows us all. I don't want to become an annoying presence to the police. We appreciate you trying to accommodate a wide variety of citizens in Belmont. But, as Barrett neighbors, we really would like some help with this situation. Please advise at your earliest convenience.	Rose Laflin and Justin Mauck

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
5/24/2021	I'd like to see specific information on open space "best practices" and management. I believe it's very important for the Park Commissioners and Advisory Committee to have scientific studies and research available to review before making any decisions. So far, the survey has provided only opinions by community members and non residents. Obviously there is a wide disparity of opinions on what is desired. I strongly suggest that the Commissioners and Advisory Committee receive formal studies available. Thank you.	Bob Stahl
5/24/2021	Dear Director Shearer, Gates Associates, and Park Commissioners, Last fall I was given an opportunity to present my research on Open Space Trail Density to a few of the Parks Commissioners. Now I respectfully request the opportunity to give this presentation to members of the PROS Advisory Committee, in a study session format. Responsible land stewardship policies cannot be based on opinion; management of natural habitat is entirely different than management of recreationally developed parks. It requires a foundation in the science of ecology and environmental sustainability. While Belmont is lacking in that foundation, fortunately we are surrounded by open space management districts that do have extensive knowledge and experience. We should be looking to their examples to inform our policies. I surveyed over 50 preserves and parks from Pacifica to Santa Clara, and identified 44 open space districts comparable to Belmont's. I then compiled data on area, trail miles, and trail use to compare and contrast their policies. My presentation takes about 20 minutes using PowerPoint via Zoom. Multiple Commissioners and PROS members expressed a desire for more data, and I believe a broader awareness of other regional open spaces and their management policies will be a good starting point and foundation on which to build their study. I'd be pleased to provide a preview. I look forward to helping our community create a progressive and enduring open space master plan.	Kristin Mercer
5/24/2021	As a Belmont resident for over 47 years, I would like to state my opposition to the continuing destruction of the trails in the Water Dog Lake park area. The evidence is clear when I visit our beloved open space that mountain bikes are the culprit. In addition, mountain bikers seem to have little regard for those who are merely using the trails for walking/hiking. As a city, we need to take a stand against this destruction done by both citizens and visitors. I have seen this abuse first hand and the effects are truly disturbing.	Glenn Morgan
5/31/2021	Dear PROS Advisors, I'm glad the committee will be expanding focus on the topics of developed parks, seniors and athletic fields. However on the subject of open space, we do not need another ""focus group"" to identify the user's wants, needs and values - users have been sharing that for over a year. What is needed for Open Space is FACTS and science. The users are not the ones to make policy recommendations - that is the job of this committee. And good policy requires data, not opinion. Please schedule time for factual presentations on conservation best practices, trail standards, natural habitat management and stewardship policies of other open space authorities. I have submitted a request to present a data analysis of trail policies among all of the other open space districts in the San Mateo region. The powerpoint presentation takes about 20 minutes, and is necessary to your understanding of open space stewardship. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.	Kristin Mercer
6/7/2021	Just wanted to ask if you would be interested in getting external help with graphic design? We do all design work like banners, advertisements, photo edits, logos, flyers, etc. for a fixed monthly fee. We don't charge for each task. What kind of work do you need on a regular basis? Let me know and I'll share my portfolio with you.	Eric G
6/7/2021	Hi PROS folks. I just ran across this article and wanted to share it with this team because I found it really helpful (and challenging!). It provides some important things to consider as we discuss Belmont's outdoor spaces and recreation programs: https://www.melaninbasecamp.com/trip-reports/2021/5/20/a-refugees-guide-towards-a-more-inclusive-outdoors Enjoy! :)	Susan Wright

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/7/2021	please keep this area open for bikes. It's accessible and large, there is enough room for all outdoor activities. Please continue to allow bikes!	Ross Levy
6/22/2021	Dear Council Members, RE: Belmont Creek Stream Restoration Project. The June 22, 2021 staff report for this project states “The City will cultivate local stewardship of Belmont Creek.” How does this staff report statement comport with City failure to protect upper Belmont Creek which drains into Waterdog Lake? A year ago, I reported to your Parks Commission a half-mile long unauthorized trail forged through the sensitive Belmont Creek riparian area. This trail is illegal on many levels, and directly damages the creek and water quality as well as the surrounding habitat. I shared photo evidence of dumping and erosion into the creek, damage to the habitat of endangered species, vandalism of a 100-year-old 50-foot-tall heritage bay tree, removal of endangered plants, and proof that the trail was never approved by the city. To date the City has taken no steps to stop the eco-vandalism and illegal use of the trail. It is ironic that the City promises to protect and restore Belmont Creek, as the City Council intentionally looks the other way while portions of the Creek are being destroyed. The Belmont Creek riparian trail is: Unauthorized and was never approved by any City entity. The Park Director’s 2012 report stated there were “no new trails planned” after the construction of Lake Loop, and none have been approved since then. Violates the Open Space Master Plan which specifically identified this marsh area for environmental protection, Violates guidelines of the California Department of Water Resources, in neglect of the City’s contractual commitments of the Notre Dame Waterdog Lake lease and the John Brooks Preserve bequest, Violates Belmont’s own riparian guidelines as published in the Belmont leaflet “Erosion and Sediment Controls for Riparian Areas: · Do not rake up leaf litter and fallen branches of native plants. This material provides food and shelter for beneficial insects, a crucial part of the food chain. · Do not dump yard wastes or grass clippings into the creek or riparian corridor. They smother existing plants, causing erosion and spreading invasive, nonnative plants. Their decomposition also robs the water of valuable oxygen, affecting fish and other aquatic organisms. · Minimize soil compaction. Control the use of trails and other recreational activities. · Control erosion by protecting areas where flowing water meets bare soil, such as on dirt roads, trails, driveways, earthen drainage ditches, or patches of bare or · Protect existing native vegetation. Construction, compaction, tilling, changes to soil grade or drainage patterns, should not occur under the tree drip-line (from the trunk to the edge of vegetation canopy). Noted in the biologist report commissioned by Friends of Waterdog, which was sent to all City Council and Parks and Recreation Commissioners: “Contrary to these policies, the City allowed wet crossings and an unmapped trail to be constructed through the riparian community west of Water Dog Lake. Significant habitat loss occurred during trail construction. Ongoing use of the trail is causing additional habitat loss and degradation through trail widening, vegetation trampling and removal, and trail spidering, especially in the vicinity of Belmont Creek. The magnitude of impacts to riparian vegetation suggests a lack of environmental review and disregard for state regulations that protect riparian resources.” The riparian communities of the entirety of Belmont Creek are protected under section 1602 of California Fish and Game Code (Lake and Streambed Alteration Program), and the water bodies themselves are protected under the federal Clean Water Act, the State’s Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, as well as section 1602 of California Fish and Game Code. Again, I ask the Council to instruct staff to immediately close this illegal trail and begin restoration of the habitat that has been vandalized by its unauthorized construction and use. Especially during this drought, protecting all riparian areas is vital to our preservation of this rare and protected habitat.	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/23/2021	Hello Park Commission and PROS Committee Members, When the Master Plan process was getting underway, I compiled a review of all open space preserves in the San Mateo Region to better inform the Commission on the topic of Open Space Stewardship. Management of natural spaces requires very different objectives and knowledge than management of developed parks. I believe an awareness of stewardship policies and best practices adopted by other open space entities will better inform our own stewardship decisions, helping to ensure Belmont's natural spaces remain healthy for future generations. A good starting point is this review of all open space areas in the San Mateo region. I presented this data to members of the Park Commission in October 2020 and June 2021. This PDF is compiled from my original slide presentation. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your work on behalf of the future of Belmont Parks and Open Space. Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
7/15/2021	Hi, to whom it concerns, I'm Xuening, a current resident in [REMOVED], Belmont. I'm petitioning to build a mini park within walking distance. Our daughter Erica was born last August and is eager to learn to walk. As she gains mobility, the need for outdoor spaces for kids to play safely greatly increased. Most areas in Belmont have a playground within 10 mins walk, however, residences near us are underserved. A park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive could benefit tens/hundreds of residents nearby and I'm looking forward to hearing back. Best, Xuening	Xuening Liu
7/22/2021	Hello to the friendly folks in the Belmont Planning Commission! My wife and I and our two kids (ages 3 and 9 months) moved to [REMOVED] in May of this year. One of our neighbors recently mentioned that there was a petition for adding a small park at the top of Oak Knoll Dr. I would like to voice my support for the petition. Currently, I've been alternating between Twin Pines and Beresford Park to reach a playground where my kids can play. The closest park to us seems to be Patricia Wharton Park. While beautiful and well-maintained, it's rather small and suitable for only sitting. Having a park with a playground in walking distance for our neighborhood would be great! Thanks, Jason Wang	Jason Wang
7/25/2021	Hi all, I'm a homeowner at [REMOVED] here in Belmont. Our family (Joe Sexton, age 37; Abbye Sexton, age 38; and Jack Sexton, age 14 months) is excited very excited about the prospect of the mini-park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive. It would be so fun to have a walkable park where our son Jack could play and meet more neighborhood kids! Best, Joe	Joe Sexton

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
8/8/2021	Hello: We are a family of four living at [REMOVED]. We strongly support the petition from Henry Lin, to build a playground at the top of Oak Knoll. Our children are two and five years old and love going to the playgrounds. Unfortunately, there is no playground within walking distance of our home so we always need to drive to the park, which we do at least once a week. Having a playground on Oak Knoll would add significantly to our quality of life, removing the need to drive and providing some great exercise and fun to the kids instead of playing inside. Finally, the space is currently unused and seems to us perfectly appropriate for a little playground. Thank you very much! Robin, Jennifer, Audrey, and Xavier Raffard	Robin, Jennifer, Audrey, and Xavier Raffard
8/11/2021	Hello, I'm a resident of Belmont at [REMOVED], and I'm writing to request a mini-park in my neighborhood. My husband and I just moved to Belmont last September, and we are expecting our first child in January. While we love walking our dog through Patricia Wharton Park, we'd love to have a playground close by where our coming little one will be able to play with neighborhood kids. When we heard about the potential for a mini-park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive (a spot we walk to often), we thought that would be perfect for kids -- the street gets MUCH less traffic than the intersection where Patricia Wharton Park is located and would be much safer. We treasure the friendliness of our neighbors and would love the opportunity for our future children to make friends at a local park! Thank you for your consideration. Best, Tiffany Shih and Phil Savoie (and our future baby!)	Tiffany Shih
8/20/2021	It has come to my attention that certain members of the Belmont Heights Civic Improvements Association (BHCIA) have been pushing for use limitations and restrictions on the Open Space as part of the Master Plan. I would urge the city council and members of the committee to give an appropriate amount of skepticism to any statements made by Ms. Bobol and Mr. Cuviello. Despite the title of the association, neither they, nor any of the members of the BHCIA, speak for myself regarding this issue. Contrary, to Ms. Bobol and Mr. Cuviello's assertions, assertions, as a resident of the Belmont Heights neighborhood and frequenter of the surrounding open space, I do not support any restrictions to the shared use of trails at Waterdog Lake or closure of any trails. I appreciate the commission's work on the master plan and as the current Vice Chairman of the San Mateo County Assessment Appeals Board, I understand the dedication and sacrifice it takes to serve in an appointed role. Please feel free to call or email me if I can answer any questions or be of any help. Clinton Freeman	Clinton Freeman
8/20/2021	Dear City of Belmont Leadership, Please support the continued access to Water Dog for multi-use activities including mountain biking. The community (children and adults alike) benefits from access to the outdoors (exercise, experiencing nature, etc.). Please do not allow a small but loud group of individuals dictate how this community resource can be used. Providing "equitable access", "inclusion", supporting a "range of interests. . and community health and well-being" are all principles of the Master Plan. To deprive access to mountain bikers or even hikers would be at odds with these principles. I have hiked and ridden through Water Dog hundreds of times and have never experienced an issue. The proposed "solutions" from his minority group are extreme and would be a net negative to the community. Please support the broader community and the greater good by supporting continued, multi-use access to Water Dog. Feel free to call me should have you any questions or if it would be helpful for me to share my and my family's positive experiences with Water Dog. Thank you. Jim Miller	Jim Miller

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
8/20/2021	I understand that certain members of the Belmont Heights Civic Improvements Association (BHCIA) have been pushing for use limitations and restrictions on the Open Space as part of the Master Plan. Belmont Open Space and Waterdog in particular are outdoor gems of Belmont suitable for multi-use recreation. It is hard to imagine that the wildlife in the park is impacted to a greater degree whether on foot or bicycle. I have ridden nearly 10,000 miles in Waterdog over the past 20years. During this time I have not seen any significant impact to wildlife. While there has been some trail misuse and wear caused by mountain bikes over the years, this is an issue that needs to be remedied through vigilance and education. The current trail maintenance that has been lovingly accomplished makes it even safer and more enjoyable to hike and bike in the park. It is not fair to restrict access to Waterdog due to the misdeeds of a few park users. Thus, as a long time resident of the Belmont and frequent user of the surrounding open space, I do not support any restrictions to the shared use of trails at Waterdog Lake or closure of any trails. Lawrence Shubert	Lawrence Shubert
8/22/2021	To whom it may concern: Via our local NextDoor group, I have seen that members of our neighborhood association, the BHCIA, have been attempting to reduce the number of cross country meets we experience during the fall season. As a resident of Belmont Heights, I wish to say that the BHCIA does not speak for me in this regard. My family has lived here since 2003, and we live at the corner of Wakefield & Hallmark--kitty-corner from the entrance to the running course. We have absolutely experienced the rise in traffic, along with the buses, during the cross country season. However, my family really enjoys it. What a wonderful community resource. It's a beautiful course and I walk there nearly every day. When my son was young, he loved to see all the buses go by. When he got older, he opened a lemonade stand to cater to thirsty runners! I do no worry about the impact on housing prices, or the very minor inconvenience of some increased traffic on a few days a year. The course is meant to be used, and I so appreciate having it. We should continue to encourage our young people to be outside and to exercise. I do not feel the BHCIA has accurately represented the desire of our community. They have not done outreach and asked people how they feel. I have never seen a community survey about this specific issue. Please keep the cross country course open for meets, even a few large ones. It's a treasured resource. Sincerely, Cathy Pearl (former BHCIA VP)	Cathy Pearl
9/7/2021	Hi. 30-year ex-professional MTB rider of local trails and I have to say, the e-bikes are really just motorcycles. With 4" wide tires, big suspension, and typically armored pilots. And because they are motor-driven, can exceed 50lbs in weight so they tear up the trails. The bike I ride has 2.2" tires, and must be lightweight so I can pedal it up the hills! E-bikes just don't seem like bicycles to me, and are causing more harm than good, especially in Waterdog. I'd hate to see access for normal mtb taken away due to e-bike riding styles. Thanks Tom Sharp	Tom Sharp
9/27/2021	Dear Park and Recreation Committee. On this coming Thursday, I would hope you would add on to your agenda the Illegal Bike Trail that was constructed in the canyon behind many homes in Belmont Heights. As a homeowner right behind this trail, it is very disturbing to me with talking and dog barking that this brings to our neighborhood, in addition to numerous cars parked on Hallmark. We bought our home in Belmont Heights because it offered us tranquility and privacy. It appears that the City is now more interested in providing outdoor recreation to all the people of The Bay Area with our cross country track, hiking trail in Water Dog Park, and now an illegal bike tail. What if a biker should injure themself. Will the City be responsible? It is time for Parks and Recreation to support our Belmont constituents first and not try and placate everyone else in the Bay Area. Thank You Ken Lebovitz	Ken Lebovitz

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
9/30/2021	Hello PROS Plan team, I wanted to bring this foundation to your attention: https://www.saris.com/page/foundation A grant from this foundation could help with funding for the pump track. There could be other similar foundations to look into as well. Thanks, Austin Fisher	Austin Fisher
9/30/2021	Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners: Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. I appreciate the work you are doing to improve Belmont. We have a big interest in increasing bicycles and pedestrian safety in Belmont. We'd like to increase percentage of students who can bicycle to school safely, have a safe place to leave their bikes, to reduce car traffic, and promote independence in kids, as well as health benefits We are also interested in safe cycling for all community members, Right now I will not ride on Ralston; the area from Alameda heading wesr towards Highway 92 and the bike bridge is too dangerous with cars going 40 mph (and often faster) with no bike lane or protection. If I won't ride, I don't expect Ralston Middle School Community to feel safe riding either. With nearly students getting transported in cars, traffic on Ralston is out of control. Encouraging students to walk or ride to school when we can ensure students safety us critical and would help meet several of your goals including making users feel safe, improving enviormental resiliance and sustainability (reducing traffic), and advancing community health and well-being by increasing physical activity, Ultimately protected bike lanes on Ralston would be ideal, even if it means reducing the median. Short-term changed should involve reducing the speed limit on Ralston to 25 mph all the time. This would need enforcement and could be facilitated with traffic warming techniques like speed bumps/humps that are being used in other parts of Belmont	
9/30/2021	Dear PROS plan committee, I have spoken at meetings before, so will keep introductions brief. Suffice it to say that I am a well entrenched community member in the city of Belmont, having lived here for close to 20 years with my wife. We are raising 3 wonderful children who are at this time attending public elementary, middle and high school! Go Wildcats, Rams, and Scotts!! We love our city and we love our parks and open space. I believe we are working on this PROS plan at just the perfect time! While we do this, we need to zoom out a bit and reflect on the major issue in the room - climate change. I don't think it would be responsible to look at any project right now, without at least incorporating climate change into the metrics. While it is overwhelming to think about the effects of greenhouse gasses and climate change, we can focus on the here and now. What can we do as a city and as a community to lead and ensure we are going in the right direction? We need to begin to tackle the sticky business of entrenched car culture. I see parents dropping off kids all over town in cars. Going to the store in cars. Everyone goes everwhere in cars. This IS entrenched car culture. However, we can make inroads quickly if we support creating safe routes for people to walk and bike to their destinations. Electric bicycles can flatten the hills - try one out! Green striping really does inform drivers that bicycles belong on the roads and are expected to be there. Reducing the speed limits on the streets to 25 MPH would do FANTASTIC things for our overall safety, for drivers, cyclists and walkers alike. Our roads would become quieter and safer. The drivers would lose 4 seconds on their Ralston speed records, and we would gain a happier and safer community. Improved signage and widening the bike lanes can make a huge difference in inviting potential cyclists to ride rather than drive. It is great to have wonderful parks around the city, but the parks and schools should be connected by greenways and very safe routes that are tested and marked and established. The connections are as important as the destinations. This way families can have confidence that their child will safely make it to school, the library or a park on time.	Thaddeus Block

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
9/30/2021 (con't)	Our community will benefit by riding more bicycles - better exercise and more independence from cars. There is an ebike club starting at Carlmont High School so our high school kids can easily get around town to school and extracurricular activities. Lets address climate change head on - and make a claim as a city! Lets promote PRO pedestrian and PRO bicycle routes in our PROS plan, and start disrupting the entrenched car culture. Sincerely, Thaddeus Block	Thaddeus Block
10/1/2021	Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners: Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting but would like to add my thoughts. Firstly, the work you are doing to improve Belmont is greatly appreciated, especially the attention to the efforts to build community by improving the local parks. One of my concerns is the safety of pedestrian and bike travel in Belmont for seniors like myself and for the children going to school and accessing those parks. I live in the Cipriani neighborhood and enjoy going to nearby Waterdog Park walking or cycling. I have stopped cycling on the Ralston corridor to Hallmark, Canada Rd and Sawyer Camp trails as I do not feel safe cycling next to cars going 40+ mph on a road with no bike lanes and narrow shoulders. I will put the bike on a car and begin cycling outside Belmont. Likewise, I do not use my bike to go to Carlmont to shop or have coffee, for the same reason. The congestion during school commute hours is awful, but I believe most parents would not feel safe letting their children cycle or walk to schools as I did at that age. They are missing out on a great experience that includes exercise and building independence as well as the obvious community and environmental benefits we all reap when we use our cars less. I am aware of Assembly Bill AB43 becoming law and making it feasible for Belmont to regulate the speed on the major arteries to schools and to access parks. I would like to see the speed on roads like Ralston and Alameda de las Pulgas reduced to 25 mph and speed bumps placed by the school zones. I would like to see police enforcement of traffic rules during the school commute hours. I see those things as "baby steps" that would not require much more expensive but greatly needed infrastructure changes such as protected bike lanes on those streets. Thanks for your efforts and please consider these options. Sincerely, Arnie Berman	Arnie Berman
10/1/2021	Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners: I am a long time resident of the Belmont-San Carlos area, a father of three and an experienced cyclist that rides upper Ralston on my bicycle nearly every day. Sadly, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting but would like to add my thoughts. First, the work you are doing to improve Belmont is greatly appreciated, especially the attention to the efforts to build community by improving the local parks. One of my concerns is the safety of pedestrian and bike travel in Belmont, especially for seniors and and for children going to school and accessing those parks. While I bike on upper Ralston daily, this road is extremely dangerous for most cyclists, as cars routinely travel 40+ mph (even 50+) on a road with no bike lanes and narrow shoulders. Additionally, traffic congestion during school commute hours is awful, but I believe most parents would not feel safe letting their children cycle or walk to schools. They are missing out on a great experience that includes exercise and building independence as well as the obvious community and environmental benefits we all reap when we use our cars less. I am aware of Assembly Bill AB43 becoming law and making it feasible for Belmont to regulate the speed on the major arteries to schools and to access parks. I would like to see the speed on roads like Ralston and Alameda de las Pulgas reduced to 25 mph and speed bumps placed by the school zones. I would like to see police enforcement of traffic rules during the school commute hours. I see those things as "baby steps" that would not require much more expensive but greatly needed infrastructure changes such as protected bike lanes on those streets. Thanks for your efforts and please consider these options. Respectfully, Andrew Hsu San Carlos Resident (former Belmont resident)	Andrew Hsu

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
10/3/2021	Dear PROS Committee and P&R Commission: I watched the 9/30 PROS Committee meeting on Zoom and wanted to compliment Gates & Associates for their excellent and informative presentation. I'm pleased with the progress on the plan and hope the city can stay on pace to get the plan completed. I also wanted to offer some feedback on some items that were discussed during the meeting. Hidden Canyon Park I am glad that developing Hidden Canyon Park is finally on the agenda. As you know, in the 1990s, that parcel of land was dedicated as a city park by the developer of the Hidden Canyon tract under the Quimby Act as a condition of allowing the subdivision to be built. Due to lack of leadership and initiative of prior city councils, that tract of land has been sitting fallow for nearly 30 years. I'm grateful that our city current leadership recognizes the need for this resource to be utilized as it was originally intended. I think a permanent bathroom would be a great addition to that park. Someone mentioned having interpretive/ educational aspects to it, and I think that was a great idea. There could be signs to educate park users about local flora and fauna, trail use courtesy, and trail stewardship. I also agree with the comments at the meeting that because the park is so close to the open space interface, it should be developed with a natural aesthetic to it, and amenities such as metal/plastic playground structures would be out of character with the space. This past summer, while in Bend, Oregon, I visited Rockridge city park. That park is much larger than Hidden Canyon. It has developed areas such as a large lawn, group picnic areas, a concrete skate park, etc. However, part of the park borders open space, and that portion of the park showcases some really great examples of natural amenities that blend in with the environment. Rather than a synthetic play structure, there is a "forest" of fossilized tree trunks and rocks placed for kids to play on. There are also beginner and intermediate mountain bike skills courses. These are very short loop trails with both natural and man-made wooden and stone obstacles designed to allow beginning and/or younger riders to hone their bike handling skills in a safe environment before heading onto trails where mistakes have bigger consequences. Both of these amenities would be a perfect fit for Hidden Canyon. There are some photos of the park here: https://www.bendparksandrec.org/park/rockridge-park/ (you can also do a Google Images search for Rockridge Park Bend), and I have also attached a few photos that I took while I was there. Connectivity At the meeting there were a number of comments about the importance of having connectivity between parks and amenities. I agree wholeheartedly with those comments. I think the city is doing a great job with the sidewalks along Ralston Avenue and look forward to more improvements to improve pedestrian and cycling connectivity throughout the city. During the meeting when pump tracks were discussed, a public commenter suggested that a pump track location in the main residential area of Belmont would be preferable to the Sports Complex, because that would allow users to safely bike there rather than traversing the hazardous Ralston / El Camino Real route. I agree with that commenter. Also, during this discussion, there was an aerial view of Hidden Canyon Park up on the screen, showing both a trail and road leading to the space, so that site has great connectivity - not only from Carlmont and Hastings Drives, but from Hallmark Drive (via the Lake Road Trail) Pump Track I'm very pleased to hear committee members speaking favorably about pump tracks. As you know there is strong grassroots community interest in a pump track, evidenced by the PROS survey results. Yesterday, I attended the Derby and Day in the Park event in Brisbane. They had a modular pump track set up for the event, which was a big hit. I have attached a few photos. I chatted with the gentleman from American Ramp Company (the outfit who supplied the track for the event), he said they build dirt, asphalt, and concrete pump tracks, and built a dirt one at Stafford Lake Park in Novato, and recently built a concrete one in Simi Valley. The portable one at the event is made out of plywood and bolts together, it is intended for temporary use. He said when they build concrete or asphalt ones, they use forms similar to the portable track to pour the asphalt or concrete. He said from a maintenance perspective, they prefer asphalt tracks because they hold up to wear very well, allow bikes, scooters, and skateboards, and surface damage is very easy to repair. Skate Park During the meeting, I was also happy to hear the committee members speaking favorably about skate parks, and really pleased to finally see a concrete proposal for a small skate park in the Ralston / Old County Road area. There were some concerns expressed about space limitations for a skate park, and whether it would be too small to be used. There is such a pent-up demand for this type of amenity in Belmont, it will get used no matter the size. Belmont's preteens and teens are starving for an amenity like this. As in Field of Dreams, if you build it, they will come.	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
10/3/2021 (con't)	Coincidentally, while I was at the Brisbane event, I noticed they have a very small skate park right across the street from the event venue, which was being well-used and enjoyed by residents. I have attached a few photos to illustrate how a nice skate park can fit into a small space. During the meeting Brigitte mentioned that this park may be temporary in nature, and that can certainly be done, for example in Daly City has a skate park, which is not the greatest, but has prefabricated metal ramp and boxes rather than poured concrete. A few pictures are here: https://www.westcoastskateparks.com/skateparks/daly-city-skatepark-daly-city-california I'm sure that even if a small, temporary skate park is constructed, that will serve a a successful proof-of-concept, and I hope someday soon the city will construct a permanent skate park for its underserved teens. Thank you for all the time and effort you have been putting into our PROS Plan, keep up the good work, and I look forward to continued progress. Sincerely, Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng
10/3/2021	Hi Kelley, Thank you so much for this invitation. Unfortunately I did not get this email until it was too late. Is there a way that the communities involved with wanting to give input can send information via email? I've heard from a couple people that they would've needed more of a heads up. Been able to attend. Please let me know, I'd like for her to be proper input for this process. Thank you!	Ryen Motzek
10/19/2021	Dear Commissioners and PROS Committee, At the PROS meeting for Hidden Canyon staff got an earful from residents expressing disapproval of development in the neighborhood park. There are three important points to summarize: "Neighborhood" parks are defined in the General Plan (see below) as intended to serve only the immediate neighborhood, NOT to draw and serve visitors from the wider community. Located in sites where there is limited access and no parking, it is inappropriate to develop neighborhood parks as attractions for anyone who can't walk a few blocks to get there. Belmont Heights currently struggles with traffic, noise pollution and pedestrian safety issues due to heavy use of the Cross Country Course. This growing conflict is the result of ignoring the General Plan and failing to consider available infrastructure and neighbors when scaling plans. "Undeveloped" parks were never intended to be filled with amenities. The original plan for these open spaces was exactly at titled -"Undeveloped". They were intended as natural space for wildlife corridors and shelter for our neighborhood visitors (deer, birds, etc.), as quiet, contemplative natural settings, and breathing space. Humans need to resist the urge to build on every little bit of nature. These spaces are NOT awaiting development, but rather intentionally UN-developed. The Survey on which the consultants base their suggestions was wildly flawed. Over half of the respondents were NON Belmont residents. Yes, Belmont Parks are open to all visitors; but their intended purpose is to serve residents who live here and pay for them, not to attract and serve those from the wider community. Belmont's General Plan provides validity for our argument: 4.2 PARKS AND RECREATION PARK CLASSIFICATIONS The City provides its residents with several types of parks and recreation facilities. Parks are defined as land owned, leased, or provided to the City and used for public recreational purposes. In addition, there is joint use planning and operation of school district athletic facilities for public recreation. Parks and recreational facilities are classified as follows: • Mini Park. A small park ranging from a quarter-acre to 2 acres that is located within a residential area and is intended to provide play areas for small children or passive sitting areas for residents within a quarter-mile-radius. • Neighborhood Park. A medium-sized park ranging from 2 to 10 acres that provides basic recreational activities for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius. • Community Park. A large park ranging from 20 to 50 acres that includes passive and active recreation facilities that serve the entire city or a substantial portion of the city.	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
10/19/2021 (con't)	• School Park. Athletic fields and facilities that operate under joint use agreements between the City and the School District and are used by the community during non-school hours. • Special Facility. A facility such as a community center, athletic complex, aquatic center or other cultural or athletic facility that services a specific recreational need for all or a portion of the city's population. This is why I repeatedly plead with staff and planners to really read the existing General Plan, Conservation Element, and Parks Master Plan. These plans are our blueprint. Please respect them. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
11/5/21	Dear City Council, Parks & Rec Commission, and PROS Committee: I watched the 11/3/21 meeting on Zoom and wanted to offer some input on Hidden Canyon Park. First, I thought Gates & Associates did a great job in presenting the draft parks improvement element of the PROS plan. I think the Parks staff and Gates have done a fantastic job of doing a needs assessment for our parks and recreational opportunities. The needs assessment shows a very clear need for additional parks in Belmont. Ralston Ranch and Hidden Canyon have been identified as two tremendous opportunities to fill our community's needs - particularly Hidden Canyon which offers the largest opportunity, both in terms of acreage and the proximity to the widest population. I was unable to make the focus group meeting for Hidden Canyon, but a friend of mine did and I was very disturbed by what he told me. It's my understanding that nearly 100% of the participants were either homeowners from the Hidden Canyon development, or homeowners / political operatives from Belmont Heights such as Pat Cuvielo, Deniz Bolbol, and Kristen Mercer. There was not a single renter or landlord representative from any of the many nearby apartment buildings that house thousands of renters. If you take a look on Zillow, you can see that the Hidden Canyon housing development consists of 31 single family houses, with market values ranging from $2.2M to $2.7M. These are among the priciest homes in the city, if not the priciest. As you know, the guiding principles of the PROS plan include the following points, among others: - Provide equitable access to resources and activities across the entire city - Promote inclusion to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability - Make all users feel welcome and safe - Adapt to changing conditions and needs I'm concerned that the first two principles, equitable access and inclusion, are being steamrolled by elite special interests in this process. During the Parks & Rec Commission meeting, David Braunstein (PROS Committee member and former Belmont Mayor / City Councilman of 8+ years) made strong public comment advocating against any improvement in the Hidden Canyon park. He made an analogy that "just because you can build improvements in something like Yellowstone Park, it doesn't mean you should do it." In my opinion this is a false analogy. That analogy would be valid if there was a proposal to build things within the boundaries of the Open Space, but no one is proposing to do that. As you know, Hidden Canyon Park is a parcel of land that is already dedicated to city park use that sits between the Hidden Canyon development and the Waterdog Open Space. In the 1990s, the developer was required to grant that parcel to the city to be used as a park as a condition of the development permit. Specifically, the 1994 City Council resolution approving the Hidden Canyon tract states ". . . The 5.6 acre park area shall be dedicated to the City of Belmont for the provision of a park" and "The proposed park area will consist of a trail head, drinking fountains, and picnic tables to be developed by the City at a later date, subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission." See https://ecmx.belmont.gov:81/Image/DownloadPdf/133919 It seems to me that Mr. Braunstein, as well as the 30 other households in the wealthy Hidden Canyon neighborhood, have a vested interest in keeping that city park lot barren and unappealing. Apparently they feel improvements would increase traffic on "their" street. I put "their" in quotation marks because Carlmont Drive is of course a public street paid for by taxpayer dollars, which everyone has the right to use. It would be a tremendous shame to see Hidden Canyon Park - the biggest opportunity we have to add desperately needed park infrastructure - lay fallow for the next 20 years, as it has for the past 27 years. In the sale and re-sale contract of every home in the in Hidden Canyon tract, there would have been a disclosure that the 5.6 acre lot at the end of Carlmont Drive was designated to be a city park. Over the past 27 years, it appears a sense of entitlement has developed in that neighborhood that they can keep that land fallow for their benefit, which is to the detriment to the entire city. Of course, as adjoining neighbors to the city park land, they are important stakeholders, and the process needs to consider the impact any development will have on them. However, I feel like in the process thus far, their voices are dominating the discussion to the exclusion of almost everyone else.	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
11/5/2021 (con't)	Consider this: the undeveloped Hidden Canyon park land is 5.6 acres. That is roughly the same size as Barrett Community center. We have a choice of either providing all 30,000 citizens of our city with 5.6 acres worth of parkland to fill an unmet need for our increasing population, or we can kowtow to interests of 31 of the city's wealthiest households so they can have marginally fewer cars drive down "their" street. I think everyone is in agreement that development of Hidden Canyon Park should be as congruent with the natural setting as possible. It is not an appropriate place for things such as plastic playground equipment or splash pads. (However, a permanent bathroom would be a welcome addition - it would especially be appreciated by seniors and families with small children.) I really liked Commissioner Michaels' idea of a staff outpost with outdoor classroom space. That would provide a great launching point for city staff-guided nature walks, fishing clinics, etc. Something like a scaled-down version of the interpretive center/restroom building at Arastadero Preserve in Palo Alto is something that would fit nicely in the space. I have a question about the process as it pertains to Hidden Canyon Park. Mr. Braunstein is on the PROS Committee, he lives in the Hidden Canyon tract, and he has now gone on public record vigorously opposing any development of Hidden Canyon Park. (Mr. Braunstein has every right to express opinions at public meetings as a private citizen, and I have no issue with him expressing his opinions at the last Parks & Rec Commission meeting.) However, it seems like a conflict of interest for him to participate on the PROS Committee on items relating to Hidden Canyon Park. During Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, Commissioner Mittelstadt recuses himself when items of Commission business come up on trails adjoining his house. However, as a member of the PROS Committee, don't the same legal or ethical rules require Mr. Braunstein to recuse himself from items of PROS Committee business adjoining his house? I feel the Hidden Canyon Park issue is just one example of a larger issue with the PROS process that City Council and the Parks & Rec Commission needs to address. We need more balance, more equity, and more inclusion. Of course, every citizen on every side of the issue has the right to speak and be heard. However, the discussion is being dominated by "ghosts of Christmas past" - politicians who have been voted out of office years ago, and would-be politicians who don't have enough support to get into office. At each and every meeting, we are hearing from Deniz Bolbol (losing City Council candidate from 2018 election); Pat Cuvielo (losing City Council candidate from 2020 election), Kristen Mercer (former Planning Commissioner appointed by a prior political regime), and now former mayor/councilman Braunstein. It is a loud, constant drumbeat from the same tiny group of people every time. This is the least diverse demographic group I can possibly think of. They are all white, middle-aged to older retired or semi-retired political operatives who own $2.2M+ houses adjoining open space. To be clear, I am not saying these people should be marginalized or excluded from the process; I absolutely respect their First Amendment right to speak. However, they do not have the right to dominate every discussion and dictate how our community uses our land. There should be more balance in the process and more input from a broader and more diverse group of community members. More outreach is needed so regular community member voices can get heard over the roar of former/would be politicians. Finally, I want to make one thing very clear: I am by no means critical of Parks Director Shearer, Gates & Associates, or their respective staff. I think they are all doing a fantastic job with the PROS plan, and the issues with the process are not due to them, but rather the constant barrage from this group of political operatives who are aggressively trying to dominate the agenda. I have a concrete suggestion to bring some balance to this process, at least as it pertains to Hidden Canyon Park. There has already been a Hidden Canyon focus group meeting that was well-attended by the Hidden Canyon homeowners and Belmont Heights political operatives. How about conducting a second Hidden Canyon / Carlmont renter focus group? It will take some outreach to get those folks to the table, but it is well worth the effort. It just seems unfair and inequitable for policy decisions to be made on the basis of input from one tiny special interest group. Thank you for taking the time to read my lengthy email, and I very much appreciate all the time and effort you are all putting into our PROS Plan process. Regards, Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng
1/7/2022	"I'm co-President of the Homeview Neighborhood Association. I believe there was mention made last year of some additional work planned/considered for O'Donnell, such as a water-play area of some sort, and/or other improvements/additions to the Park. Please point me to the specific area in the PROS Plan that I can find detailed information on that. Thanks!!!!!"	Michael Fabel

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/9/2022	I just wish to express my desire that the open space at the top of Ralston Ranch which is under concideration for turning it into a Dog Park by the Belmont Parks and Rec. Dept. is very much unwanted! It would create more traffic noise and congestion in that area. It would also be detrimental to the indigenous wildlife which use it as a Crossing area within the San Juan Canyon. The area is also a hill which makes it most unsuitable for such a park. Thank you! Jeanette Sacco-Belli saccobellistudio.com	Jeanette Sacco-Belli
1/10/2022	Dear Parks Taskforce, I submitted the below letter on October 18th and there was no acknowledgement you received it. I also attended the last comment session and will attend this Wednesday. I ran a survey monkey pulse of our Ralston Ranch Neighbors and there was all but one respondent whose first choice was to keep the park as open space, focusing funds on maintaining and planting more trees over time. The other responded their first choice was a walking path. No one wanted a dog park. Finally, I would like to underscore the security and trash concerns outlined in my letter regarding the Len Turner Outlook - more often than not, trash is brimming over and posted signs for no drinking alcohol or parking after dusk are totally disregarded. Is this the responsibility of Belmont Police or Parks and Rec? Or perhaps both? I look forward to an acknowledgement and an answer on what can be done for the Outlook. Best regards - Wendy October 18th, 2021 Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation, Thank you for soliciting feedback on the Open Space Master Plan. We attended an earlier feedback session that was focused on a pump park at Water Dog Lake – these thoughts are specific to Ralston Ranch Park. Or as we lovingly call it after 24-years of living next to it, the Ralston Ranch Woods. 1. We would like to see all or a much larger % of the park left natural (A). Open space is what makes Belmont special and we are sad to see building being permitted in areas that had previously been restricted and the continued loss of wildlife habitat. Ralston Ranch Woods is home to owls, hawks, rabbits, deer and occasional fox, bobcats and mountain lions. We watch deer moving between the canyon on one side of RR to the other everyday (and our Ring cam is full of curious deer families grazing on our front lawn). So much of their open space is already encroached, it's really a shame to develop RR Woods – be it chopping down existing trees, or building sidewalks, fences and other structures. That said, we do understand that we're not the only stakeholders in this decision. So, we could support (B) and (C). 2. A play structure for small children (C) would be nice if positioned away from houses - and we already have a few benches (B) so that's not much of a change and would be a welcome addition for families who live and walk in the neighborhood. 3. Everything else – a dog park that clears trees and puts up fences, picnic tables and young adult gathering area directly on the other side of existing homes sounds awful. (D,E,F) First, dog parks are usually made of dirt (do you know how windy it gets up here?), surrounded by a chain link fence (how unsightly as you enter RRR) – and adding more parked cars at the only exit point for RRR (where we already have daycare drop-off and pick-up) will only add further the congestion. The clearing of trees also means more erosion. Most homes on the lower part of Ralston Ranch have sump pumps because of the water runoff in the winter that drains down the hill into their backyards – removing existing trees will only increase that problem. Second, Belmont has a problem managing gathering areas – look at the cars/people at the Len Turner Memorial Vista Point (even after dark) who smoke, leave alcohol bottles and trash spilling over trash bins for the crow to throw around. It's become a constant parking spot for Uber and Lift drivers, so the area needs more trash and recycling bins, more frequent servicing, and better monitoring by the police. Ditto for the car park areas at the trail head on Ralston Avenue and 92 intersections. Third, people already drive to RRR and park along the street to access the trail heads for mountain biking. I'd prefer to see the city put in a water fountain, trash and recycling cans at the RRR turn-around and service it regularly for all the folks using the 16-miles of trails cut into Belmont's open space - hikers, dog walkers and mountain bikers.	Wendy Miller

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/10/2022 (con't)	Lastly, encouraging the gathering of more people from outside the immediate neighborhood is simply inviting more crime. Robberies have increased in our area and the Belmont Police have acknowledged we are a quick getaway for criminals due to the easy access to 92, 101 and 280. Unintended consequences must be carefully considered – this would affect not only Ralston Ranch, but the other neighborhoods around us as well. If Homer and I had our druthers, we'd like to see the city expand (A) and just maintain the woods by trimming and clearing brush 2X year for fire safety, leaving all of the 70-plus trees alone. It would keep the space open for wildlife habitat and continue to be a place of solitude and quiet reflection for us humans. I'd like to see Belmont take better care of what we have (maintaining the trees, managing trash left by those already using our open spaces) and addressing issues at the vista point and car park areas. To add to the conversation, how about planting a grove of redwoods around a natural labyrinth? Some benches for quiet reflection or meditation would be delightful. If we have to develop the park, we could support B & C if tucked into a quiet space in the park – set away from homes. Thank you for asking for our input! Best Regards – Wendy Miller & Homer Wong	Wendy Miller
1/11/2022	Please find my past correspondence to P&R regarding this issue from the previous meeting. To summarize, the discussion from the previous meeting was well represented by the local nearby community and the overwhelming consensus by the community represented was for keeping the park as natural, open and undeveloped as possible. We support sitting areas and walking paths and potentially a play structure. Here are my concerns in general: Play Structure - is OK but should be located away from the fence lines of adjacent property owners to assure privacy and security Dog Park – This is a horrible location for a dog park for many reasons. As a local dog owner, I would prefer to use the easily accessible trails to walk my dogs as do most of the neighborhood. If I need to socialize my dogs at a dog park, Cipriani is already fairly close. If you mean to add a dog park here, Fox MS is a much better location for access, use of space and parking. Gathering/Picnic Areas – this can be just another attractive nuisance if not policed and maintained properly. Given our experience with the lookout, there is not much confidence that this will be done properly. Regardless, it should not be located against the adjacent resident for the aforementioned reasons above. Maintenance and Additional Trees – The park limits should be extended to back of sidewalk on Ralston Ranch so the park can be maintained properly. This area tends to be the least maintained area. It would be nice to get some screening additional trees along the sidewalk and below where people can peer into the homes from the street above. As mentioned in my past email, I would strongly recommend that any additional, replacement or mitigation trees be planted along the perimeters of the park especially at Ralston Ave and adjacent to those homes closest to the park to continue to provide both natural visual, privacy and wind + noise barriers. Regards Roy + Maria Schnabel	Roy and Maria Schnabel

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/11/2022	Dear Commissioners and PROS advisory representatives, Confusion about the designation of Neighborhood Park vs. Community Park, Mini Park, and Open Space has created community conflict. The 2035 General Plan Parks Element, section 4.2 (attached) differentiates between the classes of parks by size and appropriate use, and clearly Hidden Valley is intended as a "Neighborhood Park". 4.2 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS The City provides its residents with several types of parks and recreation facilities. Parks and recreational facilities are classified as follows: · Mini Park. A small park ranging from a quarter-acre to 2 acres that is located within a residential area and is intended to provide play areas for small children or passive sitting areas for residents within a quarter-mile-radius. · Neighborhood Park. A medium-sized park ranging from 2 to 10 acres that provides basic recreational activities for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius. · Community Park. A large park ranging from 20 to 50 acres that includes passive and active recreation facilities that serve the entire city or a substantial portion of the city. Gates Associates affirmed this principle in Community Meeting #3 (below); neighborhood parks are to serve an area of 1/8 to 1/4 mile ONLY – not the wider community or region. Hidden Valley is very clearly a "Neighborhood Park". It is only 5 acres – far too small to accommodate community-wide amenities without impacting park space. It's located at the end of a long dead-end residential street, with limited infrastructure and constrained emergency access in a high wildfire risk canyon. Traffic and Parking already overburden the entire length of Carlmont Drive (not just the single family homes), and providing parking for greater use would entail paving a large portion of the park. Social equity is NOT the issue in this case. These General Plan standards are based on resident security, visitor safety, traffic circulation, emergency services, and City infrastructure considerations. Some of the public confuse this park with the adjacent 200 acres of Hidden Canyon. Already this neighborhood is dangerously overtaxed, serving as the gateway access to that open space, which the City promotes regionally. Unwittingly the City has, without consideration for capacity or resident and visitor safety, drawn thousands of visitors from a far wider region than intended by the General Plan. The Park Master Plan MUST conform to General Plan standards, and your legal obligation is to ensure that conformance. Please make it clear to staff and consultants as well as the general public, that intensification of use in this tiny park is not their choice; both the General Plan and prudent consideration of public safety and City planning dictate Hidden Valley is NOT a community park, but a neighborhood park.	Kristin Mercer
1/12/2022	Hi Everyone, I wanted to reach out in support of your vision to maintain the trail system at Waterdog park and beyond as an inclusive trail system open to hikers, bikers, runners & pets. I live by Sugarloaf mountain with my wife and 2 kids and we visit Waterdog park every week as a family for a hike through the park. My kids love the bridges on the backside of the lake. My wife and I also visit the park on our mountain bikes and enjoy riding the entire park. It's wonderful! Big props to the crew that maintains all the trails! Superb job fixing the ruts, clearing the dead trees. Keep up the awesome work! Thank you! Ivan	Ivan Smiljanic

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/12/2022	Dear PROS plan committee, As residents of Ralston Ranch Road, we are writing in support of leaving Ralston Ranch Road park as natural as possible and to limit development of the park to perhaps a walking path with some benches and possibly a small children's play element. Our street abuts the Canyon and the deer use the park to cross from one side of the Canyon to the other side. Having a dog park that would bring people from outside the neighborhood would increase concerns regarding traffic and safety. Our street is unique in that it is a U shaped street that has two ways to enter, but only one exit. The hairpin turn is narrower than the rest of the street and the family that lives at the bottom of the hairpin does not have a garage and must park their cars on the street. When there are cars going in both directions at the hairpin turn, one must be very careful to avoid the other car as one also navigates around the parked cars. In addition, the sun can be quite blinding at that spot during sunrise and sunset. Even though there is supposedly only one way to exit from our street, visitors and delivery trucks often exit out the wrong way which creates a safety hazard for those coming through the narrow entry of our street off of Christian Drive. Also concerning is the fact that the proposed entry to the dog park is right by the only authorized street exit and that area will become very congested when there are multiple cars parked along both sides of the street while cars both enter and exit. Another concern about having our park become a destination for people from outside the neighborhood is the increased risk of burglaries. Our street is very close to the freeway and our local neighborhood has had burglaries in the past, and we do not want to potentially further endanger those who live here. Ralston Ranch Road is incredibly windy and on trash day, the wind often blows the trash, as it is being dumped mid-air, down the street. If we have a picnic area where the trash cans are overflowing like they are at the Len Turner Memorial Vista Point, this will further add to the litter problem we are experiencing. Having a picnic spot also gives people a chance to loiter after dark which may increase the prospects of safety concerns. The trees in the park create a windbreak and sound break for the homes on our street since we are right off of busy Ralston Avenue. Limiting development and leaving most of them undisturbed would be our neighborhood's preference. Our U shaped street slopes down from Ralston Avenue and some of the homes on our street have a sump pump to help with drainage. Removing a number of the trees for development may further exacerbate this drainage issue. In 2018 the trees also helped to prevent a car that went off of Ralston Avenue and into Ralston Ranch Road park from rolling all the way down into the homes adjacent to the bottom of the park. Although it would be nice to have a children's play element, we worry about an accident like this happening again as people often speed down Ralston Avenue. It would be a tragedy to have people, children, and dogs injured if our park was developed as proposed and became a heavily used park and this kind of roll-over accident occurred once more. Thank you for considering how the development of Ralston Ranch Road park will impact the wildlife and residents of the neighborhood. We hope the park will be left as natural as possible. Sincerely, Kip Leong and Yvonne Ong	Yvonne Ong

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/13/2022	Dear Park and Rec, I would like to make sure that the neighborhood thoughts regarding the development of the Ralston Ranch Park are clearly expressed to PROS and the Park and Rec Commission. Based on comments made on the zoom meet, we want to make sure that the park stays as natural as possible to allow for the wildlife to roam through easily to access either side of the canyon around the neighborhood. We also expressed support of making sure this space allows for the local neighborhood, which is defined as a 1 mile radius, to have equitable access to the park. We are in support of having the city develop a sitting area and walking paths through the park, with the additional suggestion of a meditation walking circle. Overall, we aren't opposed to a simple, small play structure, however we highlighted 1. our neighborhood is windy (one of, if not the windiest neighborhoods in Belmont- not conducive to being outside for extended periods of time) and foggy, 2. the play structure should not be placed up against the fence line of the neighbors properties but on the side of Ralston, 3. neighbors being concerned about trash accumulating and being blown around (as it is not maintained at the vista point), 4. bringing extra traffic into the neighborhood with the bend in the street (blind spot when sun is low in the sky at sunrise/sunset) and the 1-way turn around at the Christian exit, that a lot of outsiders use as an exit. Please consider that this property will require a significant amount of grading and that with erosion/water damage over time it will erode the natural drainage for the trees that are currently in the park. If the city puts in a seating area or a playground away from the residents fence line and closer to ralston avenue, it may need to consider building a retaining wall. A small playground or sitting area may possibly attract teenagers who might drink and smoke and cause a fire. In addition, the city will need to assess the PG&E line that runs along Ralston and goes to the station (at Christian) on Ralston Ranch Road. The line crosses somewhere from Ralston to Ralston Ranch Road. We do strongly oppose a dog park for many of the reasons stated above. Passive development (walking trails, meditation circle, sitting areas) for the Ralston Ranch Park is supported by this community. We appreciate the PROS committee reaching out to the local residents and hope that our opinions in developing the Ralston Ranch Park will be respected as it moves forward in developing our undeveloped parks in Belmont. Thank you, Carol Rossi	Carol Rossi
1/13/2022	I am Bob Stahl, an advisory member of the Belmont Prosplan. I want to let you know I've been receiving multiple emails from residents of the Ralston Ranch area who are against placing a dog park in the planned park area. They cite the limited street parking, narrow road, and increased traffic in the area from people coming from outside the area. They also believe installing a play structure is not in keeping with the naturalness of the area. Please take this into consideration in your planning. Thank you.	Bob Stahl
1/15/2022	Dear Parks & Recreation Commission: I thought the format for discussing the various parks at the 1/12/22 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting worked out very well, and the meeting was very collaborative, creative, positive, supportive, and productive. I know that emailed comments about parks are being tallied in the PROS plan, so rather than sending a separate email about each park, I will submit all of my input in this one email by highlighting the park name in bold, and ask that Gates & Associates tally these comments separately for each park. Patricia Wharton Park – I think the draft improvements are great, and I think That Comr. Foehr's idea of putting in boulders for small kids to climb on is an excellent idea. Wakefield Park – same as above, a walking path would be great. Again, excellent idea by Comr. Foehr for an observation deck for visitors to take in the view. In looking at Wakefield Park on Google Maps, it has a large barren area. Maybe that would be a place to consider a neighborhood pump track. Belamdea Park – all the draft improvements look great, and the proposal for a teen outdoor experience is a fantastic idea – our teen population is underserved and there's not much for teens to do after school. Many end up aimlessly hanging out at Carlmont Shopping Center. A teen outdoor zone at Belameda is very close to Carlmont High and would be an absolutely perfect location for that amenity. Hidden Canyon Park - I agree wholeheartedly with Comr. Michael's comments at the prior meeting, and they're worth quoting here:	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/15/2022 (con't)	"I also believe a big part of this connection with the community does happen through Hidden Canyon. I think we should have an open space outpost here, offering a natural transition from city to park to open space. We should run staff programs here. Let little kids sample nature here. Offer wildlife education. Invite everyone to learn, respect, and help out. There's a ton we can do to enhance our open space while not turning the site into a manufactured, high-volume destination. In a smaller way, I think we should replicate this at all our major trailheads." I want to make a couple of points in response to public comments made by Deniz Bolbol, Pat Cuvielo, and Kristen Mercer, who were aggressively railing against any improvement to Hidden Canyon Park. They stated that Hidden Canyon is classified as a Neighborhood Park in the Master Plan, which is defined as "A medium-sized park ranging from 2 to 10 acres that provides basic recreational activities for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius." That is correct. But they went on to argue that because 10 or so Hidden Canyon tract homeowners essentially said "not in my backyard" to any improvement at the Hidden Canyon Focus Group meeting, no improvement should happen there. They also seemed to argue that the Master Plan legally requires Hidden Canyon to only serve the interests of those homeowners. Not so. First, as the Commission correctly pointed out, Neighborhood Parks are a classification in the Master Plan, not a restriction or mandate on how parks can and should be improved to serve the community. Second, consider what is actually within a one-mile radius of Hidden Canyon Park: Go to https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hidden+Canyon+Park/@37.5034277,-122.300551,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x808f9f62b039d777:0x84c7f24c0202cd4d!8m2!3d37.5034277!4d-122.2987105?hl=en and right-click your mouse pointer on the red marker for Hidden Canyon Park. A dialog box will come up. Click on the last item "Measure distance." Zoom out a bit, and then left-click your mouse on Casa Bona Avenue at Semeria Park. A line will appear, drawing a 1-mile radius to that point from the center of Hidden Canyon Park. If you left-click and hold the mouse pointer on the circle at the end of that line (the one at Semeria Park), you can rotate the line to see what's within a one-mile radius of Hidden Canyon Park. That one-mile radius encompasses at least a third, if not more, of Belmont's residential areas. It includes, for example: -all of the homes, condos, and apartments in the Carlmont neighborhood; -most of the homes in the area behind/between Barrett Community Center and Notre Dame University; -all of the homes and apartments off Ralston near Charles Armstrong School and off Alameda near Carlmont High School (even past the Belmont border, well into the Devonshire area of San Carlos); -a large portion of the Cipriani neighborhood surrounding Semeria Park and Cipriani Elementary; -nearly the entire Belmont Heights neighborhood, from Tahoe/Yosemite Drive, all the residential streets that branch off Hallmark, and well past the San Carlos/Belmont Border at Hallmark and Crestview; So even if one strictly views Hidden Canyon Park's classification as a "Neighborhood Park" under the Master Plan, then the "neighborhood" it serves -within a one-mile radius – includes portions of nearly every residential neighborhood in the city - and 100% of the Carlmont neighborhood, including all the apartments. (i.e. the highest-density neighborhood in the city.) Thus, under the Master Plan, Hidden Canyon park is intended to provide basic recreational activities for the thousands of people who live within that radius – not just the handful of homeowners in the pink townhouses on Carlmont Drive. Commissioner Michaels' vision for improvements to Hidden Canyon to serve as a natural transition to the open space is entirely consistent with the Master Plan, and the overwhelming majority of people in Belmont would like to see this vision come to fruition in the PROS Plan. Thank you for considering my comments, and thank you for all of the time, effort, and dedication you put into serving on the Commission. -Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/29/2022	I want reiterate my request that the Water Dog open space have separate trails for bikers apart from hikers. Just yesterday my wife and I were on the John Brooks trail and two bikers raced past us nearly knocking us off the trail. They came from behind us without warning us and were within inches of us. They said nothing as they passed us. This has happened many times in the past. The bikes have also ruined many of the trails almost creating highly slick and deep trails. In addition they run over roots they may kill the trees. My wife and I hike the Rambler, Chaparral and John Brooks trails regularly and see very little wildlife(deer, rabbits, coyotes, snakes) than we have in prior years. I believe bikers have scared off many of these animals. Please restrict bikers to separate trails in future Water Dog trail plans. Thank you. Bob Stahl	Bob Stahl
2/4/2022	First I'd like to thank the Parks & Rec Commission for their dedication and measured approach to figure out how parks can best serve the Belmont community. After reviewing the proposed plans for Hidden Canyon, it seems clear to me, that developing this property in accordance with the Master Plan will be a wonderful addition to the Belmont community. The plans appear to thoughtfully provide spaces that will serve many needs. As someone who lives across the street from a neighborhood park, I love the community it provides and the opportunity to share the good fortune of living near an open space. And I'm sure the neighbors living around Hidden Canyon will find it equally rewarding to see others discover this special green space. I look forward to hearing more about the plans tonight! Thanks for all your work! Mandy Gibbs Belmont	Mandy Gibbs
2/4/2022	Dear Belmont Park and Rec Commission, Regarding Agenda item 6 B. I want to let you know that I am in favor of the development of Hidden Canyon park. The plans look stunning, and I believe that by developing this space, our community will be able to enjoy this breathtaking area. Thank you, Michelle Kelley "	Michelle Kelley
2/7/2022	I want the Park Commissioners and the Consultant reviewing the Open Space to know that the trails are unsafe to hikers and walkers due to bikers. In the last 5 days I've nearly been hit twice by bikers speeding around turns that stopped just 3-5 feet from me on the John Brooks trail. They skidded to a stop at the last second when they saw me. There was absolutely no warning to me as the bikers sped around blind curves. They had no bell or other device to warn me. I was fortunate in both these occurrences as I could have been crashed into by these bikers. Many of the trails are only 30"-36" wide and cannot accommodate a bike rider and a hiker. I implore you to restrict bikers from riding on any trail that is less than four feet wide. I must also state many of my friends will no longer walk or hike these trails due the danger posed by the bikers. Many of these Belmont residents have hiked these trails for years but they literally fear for their life on these trails due to the numerous bikers on the trails who sped on the trails making it extremely dangerous. At some point someone is going to be seriously injured. It falls on the biker who undoubtedly will be sued and also the City of Belmont for allowing this unsafe condition to exist. Thank you. Pamela Stahl	Pamela Stahl
2/14/2022	Brigitte, Attached please find a letter and attachments that we would like forwarded to WRA Consulting. Thanks, Paul	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/10/2022	As we turn our attention to the plan for Hidden Canyon Park, one great idea has been to add a nature interpretive center along with public restrooms and drinking fountains. An excellent example is the interpretive center down at Arastradero Preserve in Palo Alto. Worth checking out if you haven't been there. If we do build such a center, I was wondering if we could add a tool shed in the back to store our trail maintenance tools? I have them now stored on the side of my house, which is fine, but at some point Mrs. Carter might want to have her side yard back. And she's the boss! Also, I think we could raise funds pretty easily to build something if we put our minds to it. A lot of folks would donate. Warmly, Jonathan Carter, MD Lead, Waterdog Trailkeeper Volunteers	Jonathan Carter
2/24/2022	Good morning Brigitte, it was nice talking to you this morning and I'm very happy to hear that further discussion of a dog park at Ralston Ranch Park has been terminated. We are all eager to see what the new plan looks like and if the other points in this petition have also been addressed. Attached is a scan of our petition, with 97 signatures of residents within the 1-mile radius of Ralston Ranch Park - the area this park is intended to serve. Thank you for listening and I know we all share a love of Belmont and are trying to find a good compromise. Warmly - Wendy	Wendy Miller
2/24/2022	Dear Belmont Park and Rec Commissioners, +2 Noreen and Mike, Homeview's Co-Presidents, for perspective. I am excited about many of the additions and upgrades being planned for Belmont's parks and open spaces. With that being said, I took a moment to review the current Pros Plan and there is a current change being suggested that I think can be done without disrupting the usage of a key feature of the park for many of our young people. At present, there is a proposal to replace the half basketball court that sits on the eastern-most portion of O'Donnell park with a water feature which, on the surface (pardon the pun), is a fun idea! But, living near this park, I often observe that the two half court basketball areas are used very often by young people and that the eastern most half court (the one in the Pros Plan) has lower rims that allow for the very young to dribble and shoot baskets - something that clearly provides them with great joy and satisfaction. To replace those courts, even with something as exhilarating as a water feature, would be a net loss for many of the young people that use O'Donnell Park on a daily basis. Especially since we could still provide the water feature (as proposed by a member of the Parks and Rec Advisory Council) by just relocating it to the fenced in children's play area in the park a few meters due west of the current plan. Moreover, given the nature of water play with young kids running around the perimeter of water features, it seems to me that locating the water feature behind the existing fence and away from an unprotected intersection (Ralston and Kedith) is an elegant and much safer solution. Therefore, I would like to officially request that the ProsPlan be amended to relocate the proposed water feature from the east facing basketball court to the gated section of the park. Please let me know if I can do anything further to follow through with this humble request. And, thank you for your service to our community. Submitted respectfully, Eli Latimerlo Homeview (2003 - present)	Eli Latimerlo
2/25/2022	I heard that there were funds and initial bids to resurface the tennis courts at the park. I do not see that on the agenda nor anywhere else on the Belmont website. Don	Don Pierce

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/26/2022	I must again state the danger posed by bikers on the Water Dog trails. My wife and I have nearly been hit by bikers three times in the last three weeks by bikers on the John Brooks and Rambler trails. On many of these trails the width is less than 36 inches wide and there is no way for bikers to pass a walker or hiker safely without one party stopping to allow the other to pass. Each of the last 3 weeks a speeding biker has come within inches of hitting us. Twice they rounded a blind turn in front of us. Neither they nor us saw each other until the last few seconds. The most recent time a biker came speeding up right behind us and veered off the trail to avoid hitting us- fortunately. In any new plan for Water Dog Open Space, please plan to have separate trails for bikers and hiker/ walkers. Thank you. Bob Stahl	Bob Stahl
2/26/2022	Hello, this is Bob Stahl, a member of the Advisory Committee for the Belmont PROS Plan. I want to bring to your attention requests from several neighbors who have contacted me and raised serious concerns regarding several of the proposals regarding changes or additions to Hallmark Park. The concerns are as follows: 1.The residents do not want to add any amenities to the upper meadow up the hill from the tennis courts. Several have told me that they have seen group going up there in the past for parties, creating loud noise late at night. The neighbors also do not want to create an “attraction” or structures to draw more people to the area and possibly leave trash, have parties, create possible wildfires and frankly destroy the natural environment. There are residents living right below the meadow as well whose privacy would be invaded. 2. Residents are concerned about drawing numerous more people to the park which they believe should be a “neighborhood park”. The area is very over crowed on days when the track meets occur and they do not want to see similar situations from major changes that will bring in more people than local neighbors. 3. They do look forward to resurfacing of the tennis courts, adding pickle ball lines and resurfacing the path to get to the tennis courts which is seriously in need of repair. 4. Residents are divided on the idea of a bocce ball court. Several stated they like the idea but they have concerns about the building of it, where it would be placed and how it would be maintained with all the pine trees in the area and the current inability to maintain the parks with the low budget Belmont has for park maintenance. Others bring up the fact that they have a concern about this being an attraction for that would require moving the current tot lot and possible cutting down more trees. Residents also do not want more traffic in the area. 5. Overall, residents feel there are enough amenities already at Hallmark Park and that it would be great to just improve what is there I.e. the tennis courts, play structure, pathway to the tennis courts. Obviously the CSM cross country trail is already there and is enjoyed by many neighborhood residents on a regular basis. Residents enjoy the natural setting of Hallmark Park with the trees, some wild flowers, occasional deer, birds and rabbits. Thank you. Bob Stahl	Bob Stahl

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/27/2022	To Whom it may concern: We live at [REMOVED] and have for the past 30 years. We love it here mainly because it is away from the crowds of the peninsula and the bay area. It is quiet and usually there isn't a lot of traffic. Our children grew up here and now our grandchildren enjoy almost the same serene environment. Although Belmont is hardly the same sleepy town it was back then, this neighborhood has maintained its quaintness. We tolerate the track practices and races that take place every year. We clean up the garbage the visitors leave, we give up our street parking and we are kind and friendly to the crowds. We do this because we understand the uniqueness of the area and honestly don't mind sharing it. The garbage accumulates and often overflows at the park and it takes the city quite some time to clean it up. The crows and other wildlife rummage around it and create quite a mess. We tolerate that as well. However, we are not prepared to do this on a daily basis. If the city thinks for a moment that this will not affect our homes with the same issues we deal with when track season arrives, you are mistaken. If you want to update what is currently there, I am all for it. The current play structure is old and the wood is rotten and dangerous. The pathway is a trip hazard because of the tree roots coming through it. We already have a significant amount of people using the park daily for their workouts and tennis games. We don't need any more traffic. We paid to live here, we pay an association fee to keep the area in good condition. We don't need any interference from the city. If it's not broke, don't fix it. Sincerely, Michael and Stephanie Moore	Michael and Stephanie Moore
2/27/2022	Attn: Park and Rec. Commission As almost 50 yr residents in Belmont my wife and I are opposed to any additional structural buildings in Hallmark Park. We moved to Belmont many years ago to enjoy the natural setting and tranquility of the area. To date, this has changed with cross country racing, additional walking paths and illegal bike paths. All this has brought in additional people as well as additional vehicles and Hallmark Drive and adjoining areas have become parking lots as outsiders are using our area creating difficulty to drive and to park in the area that we live in. Enough is enough already! There are already existing dog parks, playground structures, ball courts etc that are nearby and are hardly used in Belmont and nearby areas. Belmont does not need anymore of these areas! Let our population enjoy our natural settings of wild life, plants, trees, birds and animals. Why is it necessary to cover every inch of our beautiful Peninsula Area with man made things. Lets enjoy nature. Thank you Ken and Bobbie Lebovitz	Ken and Bobbie Lebovitz
2/27/2022	"Park and Recreation Commissioners, My wife and I have happily resided at [REMOVED] for more than 43 years. We drive past Hallmark Park multiple times each week. Over those years, my family, I, and many of my neighbors have enjoyed the current setting and facilities in the park. In earlier days my family used the tennis courts. Now, at 81, I play golf weekly, and my wife regularly attends exercise classes. Our daughter and son have their own families in the Bay Area. But new families are regularly locating in Belmont Heights and will likely visit Hallmark Park, as their families grow. I and many of my neighbors are opposed to the commissions plan to expand the park, including new structures. Apparently the commissioners are not familiar with the fact that a bocce ball court requires daily maintenance of the playing surface for the balls to roll true. So, a skilled parks employee would need to tend to that on a daily basis with proper supplemental court surface dressing and leveling tools. We support the proposed maintenance of the existing facilities. But otherwise, please leave well enough alone. We are sure that the commission can find other worthy placed to spend the taxpayers hard earned money! Respectfully, Bill Larsen"	Bill Larsen

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/27/2022	We oppose addition of any man-made structures or surfaces in Hallmark Park. How have you missed the blaring message that Belmont residents value our natural settings? It's expressed in the Belmont Vision Statement: · Our natural surroundings inspire us to play, create, and contemplate. · Our actions today preserve and enhance Belmont's beauty for future generations. and Conservation Element: "Human safety and recreation opportunities must be balanced with maintaining the proper functioning of natural systems." (p.5.3) and your own PROS guiding principles: · Reflect our commitment to environmental resilience and sustainability · Respect the beauty and importance of our natural resources We moved to Belmont to raise our children in this natural setting. Every school-day they play on a schoolyard – on metal and plastic man-made structures; regulated, sanitized, surrounded by concrete with lines and rules. Outside school is where they learn about our natural world and Hallmark Park is their classroom. We teach them to understand habitats, ecosystems, and the extraordinary and delicate balance of all inhabitants of our planet. They learn by immersive play; adventuring, inventing games using natural materials and their own imagination. Exploring a deer trail, they learn about feeding habits, shelters, the predator-prey balance. Exploring the meadow they discover the incredible biodiversity of hundreds of plant species right under their noses. You have constructed play spaces at every school. But these natural meadows and woods are far more valuable, and rapidly vanishing. Children need natural settings accessible to their neighborhood – not just in distant national parks. We need these natural settings as the classrooms for future generations if we are to change our horrible path of environmental exploitation. Please leave Hallmark and all of our parks as natural as possible. Repair and maintain what you have. Replace dead trees with native species. But leave the meadows and woods untouched. Don't invest in more man-made structures. Invest in restoring nature and teaching to value our natural world. Thank you, Kristin and Frank Mercer	Kristin and Frank Mercer
2/27/2022	To whom it may concern: I'm not sure who came up with this idea of building out Hallmark Park with new gaudy structures & artificial walkways, but as a 34 year resident of Hallmark Drive, I protest this plan. I love the natural landscape presently available. I hope you understand that just upgrading & maintaining the tennis courts (with new lines for Pickle Ball), the paths that already exist, removing dead trees & replacing them with native plants & trees will be suffice & much cheaper in the long run. And maybe upgrading the play structure that is already there. Please: No new man-made structures or paths. Simplify this plan & keep nature on the top of the list! Sincerely, Michelle Speert	Michelle Speert

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/27/2022	Hello Belmont's Parks and Recreation: I am writing to you now to let you know that as 25-year residents of Belmont Heights, my husband and I have enjoyed many walks in our neighborhood and at Hallmark Park, and consider the park an attraction that makes our neighborhood very special. I was however, recently informed that you are considering adding to the park manmade structures in the upper meadow, as well as a bocce ball court and playground structures. While I support your efforts to maintain and/or upgrade the park's paths, tennis courts, and tot lot and to replace non-native plants with native oaks, bays and buckeyes, I do not support the addition of the proposed manmade structures, bocce ball court, and playground structures to the park since those additions will ruin the park's natural beauty. I look forward to hearing that the proposed additions will not be allowed. Thank you for your time. Carol	Carol Epstein
2/27/2022	Dear Park & Rec, I write as a resident of Belmont Heights to object to certain of the plans to "improve" Hallmark park. Years ago, in the 1970s, the BHCIA fought for preservation of this open space as a casual, natural park with tennis courts. The tennis courts were a specific wish of the Belmont Heights residents. Have we asked for a bocce ball court in our neighborhood? Have we been surveyed about a bocce court, or any other structural additions for that matter? Yes, the tennis courts, current paved paths, and tot lot have been sadly neglected over the years. We would be grateful for those long overdue upgrades, as well as replacing non-native with native plants. Please seek neighborhood specific input before going any further with plans for structures and paved paths in our "neighborhood park."" Respectfully, JoAnn Berridge	JoAnn Berridge
2/27/2022	To Whom It May Concern: Personally, I think the Hallmark Park should be upgraded but not to the extent to attract more visitors, e.g., making the tot lot like a McDonald playland! Adding the bocce court should be definitely rule out! It will not only make our neighborhood very noisy but also congested with more cars creating parking problems! Our neighborhood has already attracted many bicyclists in the Water Dog area. We don't want our neighborhood to become tourist attraction but for the enjoyment of us neighbors! Sincerely, Bessie Ip	Bessie Ip
2/28/2022	Park and Rec, Absolutely OPPOSED to your plan for new structures. Yes to fixing the current paths, tennis courts. Ron and JoAnn Berridge	Ron and JoAnn Berridge

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/28/2022	Thank you for all the work done on the PROS plan. The Summary of Feedback is a step in the right direction but it is misleading due to the omission of pertinent data - specifically the number of supporters for various new amenities or sentiments. Why is this important? The Commission is given this summary without knowing whether one sentiment is more broadly supported by Belmont residents than another. For example, the Hidden Canyon neighborhood meeting had tremendous neighborhood attendance. The vast majority of residents (approx 10-15) opposed building a bathroom and gave reasons why. Only 2-5 residents supported the building of bathrooms. Yet, reading the Summary of Feedback the Commission would have no idea the tremendous opposition to the bathrooms. This is because the Summary of Feedback merely states there was neighborhood support and opposition for the toilets -- which makes it sound like it was an evenly contested issue. This is not reflective of the public comments given at the neighborhood meeting. In an effort of transparency, on the Summary of Feedback, I urge staff to add the number of public comments received supporting each amenity or sentiment (the number can be put in parenthesis next to the sentiment). This will enable the Commission to have all the data when making decisions. Thank you. Deniz Bolbol	Deniz Bolbol
2/28/2022	We prefer keeping the Park largely as is. G& Y Weinstein	G& Y Weinstein
2/28/2022	We are dismayed at the planning for Hallmark Park. We absolutely need open space in our densely packed area of Hallmark homes. I would also be concerned of people coming in from other areas use the new spaces. Please let our native area along for animals and green areas. Rosemary Lake	Rosemary Lake
2/28/2022	I want to let you know my thoughts on the proposed plans for Hallmark Park. 1. This is a neighborhood park. The plan should not propose supposed improvements which will draw people driving to the park for events. It seems some of your plans will encourage this. 2. To plan an event space on the upper meadow is not something which should be done. This space is above homes just below the space. Leave it natural. Don't build an event venue. That is unnecessary and counter to having the space where animals roam. 3. Fix the tennis courts, put in pickle ball lines. 4. Improve the children's play area. Add another play structure. 5. Keep the entire area as natural as possible. 6. Repair the path leading to the tennis courts. 7. Don't build a bocce ball court. It's unnecessary and will require excavation of trees and land. 8. Please- this is a neighborhood park. This should not encourage people to drive from other areas to come here. Thank you. Pamela Stahl	Pamela Stahl

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/28/2022	Planning Commission and Others: This message is form Bob Beaulieu and Corinne Cho-Beaulieu – we have lived at 2649 Wakefield Drive in Belmont for over 25 years. We are asking you to please scrape any plans to change/modify Hallmark Park. We feel it is a beautiful park and nature walk , open to all just the way it is. In fact it is a real shame (in our opinion) that the city has already cut down so many trees Sometime this are simply beautiful and any intended improvement distracts form that beauty. I believe this is the case. Thanks you for listening , Bob Beaulieu and Corinne Cho-Beaulieu	Bob Beaulieu and Corinne Cho-Beaulieu
2/28/2022	I live across from Hallmark Park and for the past 40 years frequently visit or walk through it at least a couple times a week. It is a very small facility on a very small plot of land. It has a couple tennis courts which are frequently used by many local neighbors, and a small tot lot which is very seldom used. There is a path to walk around and some benches to sit and take in a view of the Bay Area. The setting is in a grove of trees, which makes it very relaxing. To try and add anything additional to this area would ruin and trash the tranquility of the setting. There is no room for a Bocce ball court (I do enjoy playing the game) without serious excavation and tree removal. To which the city just planted 20 new trees. The tot lot is more than sufficient, it is never crowded or frequented by more than one or two mothers/nannies at any given time. I bet I only see someone using it 1 out of 30 times I walk through. To even think of adding a Dog Park to this small space if ridiculous, there is no viable space to do this. Are you going to add a dog park for 3-4 dogs usage at a time? There is a very small clearing up behind the tennis courts which has a flat area about 30 x 30 yards, one side is fenced for SFPUC property and the rest has severely steep drop offs down to neighbors backyards. People tromping around there would have views into their property and the windows of their homes. If you even think of putting something up there, you better get approval and sign off from those people, as I am sure most don't know anything about what is going on with this proposal. Also, the existing tennis courts are in poor condition as is the small paved path that currently exists. It would be great to see them refurbished. The City is not able to maintain the small facility that exists currently, why do you think adding additional facilities would get care and maintenance. Where are the funds and personnel going to come from? Not the City of Belmont. Don't build more when you can't maintain what we already have. Keep the natural settings, we don't need additional man made structures replacing our trees. Bill and Pat Kurtz	Bill and Pat Kurtz

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
2/28/2022	Hello, Most of you know me pretty well. I wanted to take a few minutes to send you some information when I'm not on the clock and there is a bit less energy flying around. I do want to say I think the entire commission is doing a great job in general and in working on the PROS plan in particular. I can well imagine how difficult it is at times with the venomous negativity coming from a few but it appears you have been able to weather that and stay focused on a plan that looks to me like it is really coming together in a way that is going to benefit many many people in the community. This week's presentation is about community parks so that is what I'm going to talk about here. I was fortunate to be a commissioner when Semeria and then Davey Glen park were designed and built. Both parks had many rounds of public input. Davey Glen was such a physical challenge due to being on a hillside that we almost didn't make it across the finish line. But we did and both of these parks are serving as the quiet but well loved community parks they are supposed to be. Both parks started out with a good deal of very local opposition to any plan to change what was there. Remember what was there in both cases was a dirt lot people had just gotten used to. In the case of Semeria park, a vocal minority wanted the muddy, dirt lot to remain so they could park their work trucks there. Lots of hand wringing about parking and no place to park for residents when the park filled up. None of those fears materialized. Davey Glen had people up in arms at commission meetings talking about all the drug use that would happen with teenagers because its gonna be dark at night in there. None of that happened, in fact there is much more light in there at night and not some hidden drug den. So you will continue to hear these fears at meetings to discuss the details. SOME are legitimate fears about how their street will change. MOST are illegitimate stories being told because people don't want others to enjoy what they enjoy. In the case of people who live in the Pink homes at the top of Carlmont, everyone living there knows or should know the only reason those homes got built is because the developers and new buyers agreed to donate land and build a park at the end of the lane. What they don't seem to realize is that the park is going to create massive improvements for the people living in those homes. Lots of families in those homes have younger kids and thats exactly who tend to use these small parks the most. So now the city (we) are looking at some new small parks and improvements to existing parks. I strongly feel people trying to propose "Keep everything natural" don't really want anything changed at all. In my mind, there is no point in putting in a park if it doesn't attract young residents to play. So incorporating lasting play elements is essential. Once construction of park elements is completed, parks quickly look like they have always been there and the improvements are obvious. I strongly encourage you to go by Semeria and or Davey Glenn a few times over the next weeks as the plan comes together. What I think you will see is the parks are almost never crowded and yet are also almost never empty. These parks attract people in the neighborhood to get out of the house for a few hours. They rarely drive their cars to the park but sometimes do. Many of the park users are kids in strollers with moms or nanny. They grow up using and knowing the park, then they become teenagers and have other interests. That leaves room for the next set of kids in strollers and play age. Its what happens in parks. So please don't be afraid to be visionary in your plans. I love the idea of a Gateway to the open space and some of the examples could be copied as is, but why not create something of our own. Permanent and lasting conversation tables like we designed into Semeria and Davey glen provide for people to hang out and for people to have small parties or picnics. Once the initial construction is completed at Hidden Canyon, it will be more difficult to add or change once infrastructure has been installed. I encourage you to think big (well big for Belmont) and think of the people who will use the park. Plan for them not to appease the people who don't want a park anyway. If that is their only position and the city has decided a park is going in, its time to stop listening to the people who don't want the park. Listen to the people who will use it. I know you all have the community in mind or you wouldn't be spending your time on this commission since it has often been testy lately. But your commission works together WAY better than the commissions I was on and we were able to pull it off. I know you can too. Keep up the good work and I look forward to supporting your continued actions to make Belmont a better place to live for our residents. Hope that wasn't too long. I'll repeat some of it at the meeting. Have a great day. Kevin Sullivan"	Kevin Sullivan

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/1/2022	Greetings! For almost 35 years, we have resided in our home at the corner of Hallmark and Wakefield Drive – just across the street from the entrance to Hallmark Park. We have enjoyed our neighborhood park and appreciate and support a refresh and repair work for safety concerns and restoration of our wonderful views. The asphalt pathways are unsafe and in great need of repair due to years of neglect and incursion from tree roots. Over time, our original expansive views from the benches above the tennis court have been obscured by fast growing non native pine trees. We support restoring the natural landscape by removing all non native trees and increasing maintenance in order to reduce the possible fire danger in our area and restore our views. We support keeping our natural landscape and wildlife habitat which provides us with access to wildlife viewing and environmental education. Interpretive signage should be added to enhance the learning experience. Walking paths in the meadow area would be helpful. The current tot lot is suitable only for toddlers and preschoolers. We support enhancing it to meet current standards and provide amenities for our neighborhood elementary school children, while maintaining a look and feel that blends into the park's natural landscape. We suggest that the playground have a local wildlife and environmental theme to enhance the environmental component of the park. We do not think we need additional amenities to Hallmark Park when the focus should be on the natural environment, a children's playground and a tennis court. We are concerned that adding additional amenities, such as a dog run area, will increase the traffic in our neighborhood, negatively impact the natural setting, and increase city costs for increased upkeep and maintenance. Sincerely, Michele Cohen and Lewis Scarpace	Michele Cohen and Lewis Scarpace
3/1/2022	To the Commission, I currently live across the street from Hallmark Park and have lived here for more than 30 years. I do not support making any changes to Hallmark Park. I feel if the City wants to build a bocce court, a dog run course and picnic tables, more man-made structures that they should look into the other parks in our area that have more space to build upon and add these new improvements. The Belmont Sports Complex has a gravel parking lot where a large play structure could be added. This would give another area for families to use while they are attending baseball games at the complex. Younger siblings could play on the new structures while waiting for their brother's or sister's games to end. Added picnic tables and native trees could be planted in the area by the bandstands. Barrett Community Center should have a fenced in dog run. Since this park is located in the middle of Belmont and is more centralized. Twin Pines Park could gain more popularity from the addition of Bocce Ball courts and a newly built play structure. People could enjoy playing bocce ball after having spent the day in the park barbecuing. The courts could be built in the shaded areas so it would protect them from the summer heat. They would also be able to hear the music playing from the free music concerts on Sundays while playing bocce ball. Children could play on newly designed structures in this park. I feel that Hallmark Park should stay the way it currently is. The cross country course, tennis court and play structures that are currently there do not need to be redeveloped with additional play structures, dog parks, or bocce ball courts. We need to keep this park protected from the wildlife and birds of prey that live there. This is our responsibility as fellow Belmont citizens to keep the ecological habitat of that area SAFE!!!! This park is for our children and future grandchildren to enjoy. If we add more structures and destroy the ground and fields where the open animals roam, we will be destroying our natural habitat. Please take my suggestions into consideration. We need to protect and preserve what space we have left in our small town. Thank you for your time. Theresa Gotshalk	Theresa Gotshalk

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/1/2022	Hello Belmont Parks Commissioners, I do NOT NOT support any new development at Hallmark Park. It is already heavily used by Belmont residents and cross country races. The tennis courts and existing path and playground should be maintained. The existing vegetation of monterey pines can /should be replaced gradually by native trees. Whenever I walk there I see TRASH on the ground and in the street gutters by cars parked by people who visit the area already, we do not need more! I pick up trash a lot! Bocce courts and dog park would only invite loud rowdy groups to congregate (also at night when our Police could not easily see from the street) and leave trash. Our residential neighborhood does not need any more that! Put a dog park and other development at Barrett school where it is more centrally located with parking and not in a residential area. PLEASE LEAVE HALLMARK PARK AS IT IS! Make it easy for our Police to patrol. Sincerely, Lynn Ashby	Lynn Ashby
3/2/2022	Hello, I am a resident of Belmont Heights on Wakefield Drive since 2013. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed plan for Hallmark Park. Neighborhoods are defined by certain characteristics, and this plan threatens to undermine and even destroy what makes Belmont Heights special. This is a quiet neighborhood that already attracts many people who live beyond its borders to enjoy the hiking and biking trails. Moreover, we and all our neighbors already experience the traffic congestion and related issues brought on by the frequent cross country meets. We were aware of the meets when we bought our home. This proposed plan, however, would irrevocably change the character of the neighborhood. When we purchased our home, our son was 4 years old. We knew that going to a playground would necessitate going to Fox School after school hours or driving to local park. However, we were drawn to the area for its quiet and for its easy access to nature as well as the excellent school district. We moved from Sunnyvale, which has numerous wonderful large parks, including one to which we we walked frequently as a family. But those parks have much dedicated parking and some separation from surrounding homes. Those parks have also been part of the landscape for a very long time. Even at a young age, we took our son down the path to Waterdog lake and he now at 12, enjoys bicycling the paths on his own or with friends. I am in favor of updating the tennis courts as as well as the tot lot without making it much larger. The path leading to the tennis courts is also in need of serious repair. I think Hallmark Park has no place for a bocce court or wider paved paths. Without additional parking, congestion would increase even further. Note the issues with parking and illegal U-turns and runners darting out into the streets that we already experience during country country meets. During the height of the pandemic when we were sheltering at home, I appreciated more than ever that our sidewalks offered us the opportunity to take walks at various times of the day. I don't see the need to create additional paths. These additional features also have the potential to attract late night gatherings. I hear from friends in San Mateo this is in issue at their parks. Please do not destroy what makes this neighborhood special. A neighborhood can't be all things. We knew when we moved here that we would be unable to walk to errands or to a large park, but the quiet, the extraordinary views, access to nature as well as the surrounding community and schools drew us to Belmont and this neighborhood in particular. Sincerely, Ines Salazar	Ines Salazar

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/2/2022	Hello Belmont Parks Commission, I DO NOT support the proposed plan to “renovate” the Hallmark Park area. Currently the tennis courts, children’s play structure, and walking paths are actively used, and enjoyed by Belmont citizens. The existing trees, other vegetation, and the open space should not be replaced with a dog park, additional play structures and bocce ball courts. Available funds should be put toward maintaining the tennis courts, existing vegetation, and walking paths. Older trees should be pruned, and parts of the walking paths have become dangerous trip hazards, and need to be repaired. Hallmark Park should remain as it is currently designed. Thank you for your consideration. Richard Ashby	Richard Ashby
3/2/2022	We are 36-year residents of the Belmont Heights residential area. Our draw to this area was the “”natural beauty”” and serenity of the landscape, watershed and preservation of vegetation and wildlife. The walking trails afford residents the rare opportunity to enjoy all of the above. The proposed plans to broaden, excavate, develop and populate one of the last remaining residential parks into a public community. This proposal will bring more automobiles into the area, and disturb the wildlife and peaceful community our families have enjoyed for years. Preservation of the unique and cherished gifts of nature we may ALL still enjoy without modernizing and injecting new development will destroy what has been preserved for years. We are one with nature here. Noise, cars, trash and disrespecting nature’s gift is unacceptable. The cross-country runs already bring hundreds of strangers and vehicles to our quiet community every Fall. Hallmark Park should not become a public recreation area. We are strongly opposed to the proposed changes to Hallmark Park. Thank you, Nace and Bonnie Passantino	Nace and Bonnie Passantino
3/2/2022	Hi there I am the resident of [REMOVED] in hallmark. Upgrading the play structure is very helpful for our family and the rest of families that have younger children. We are in favor of resurfacing the tennis court. I also think it is not a bad idea to have some seating area. This can be few benches. Having a looped walking path is a plus. I am not sure i support other ideas. Adding/replacing fountain to drink water is good idea too. The existing fountain was out of service some times back. Best Alireza razavi	Alireza razavi
3/3/2022	I just want to thank you all for your efforts and hard work on the Belmont Parks long term plans. Also, I very much appreciate that you are listening to residents of each community regarding what they consider important to their neighborhood park. As you heard last night and received through email, residents near Hallmark Park want to see the park remain in as natural state as possible, resurface the tennis courts and pathway there and possibly add something for 6-12 year old children. Also, they feel it’s important to leave the upper meadow in its natural state. Thank you again! Bob Stahl	Bob Stahl
3/12/2022	Hi Brigitte, As you and the Parks Commissioners are aware, I have done extensive research and collected lots of authoritative literature about the native habitat and wildlife of Waterdog and Hidden Canyon Open Spaces. I respectfully request this material be provided to the Open Space consultants for their consideration, and to inform their recommendations. This is email 1 of 4, coming separately because of the email attachment limitations. Attached please find the following PDF: Wildlife Habitat Impacts Waterdog Open Space.pdf California Tiger Salamander.pdf Rights of Nature for wcffg-1.pdf	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/12/2022 (con't)	Please confirm receipt and forwarding to the Open Space Consultant. Thank you Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
3/12/2022	Hi Brigitte, I respectfully request this material be provided to the Open Space consultants for their consideration, and to inform their recommendations. This is email 2 of 4, coming separately because of the email attachment limitations. Attached please find the following PDF: Environmental Damage Waterdog.pdf Waterdog Trails Overdeveloped.pdf Please confirm receipt and forwarding to the Open Space Consultant. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
3/12/2022	Hi Brigitte, I respectfully request this material be provided to the Open Space consultants for their consideration, and to inform their recommendations. This is email 3 of 4, coming separately because of the email attachment limitations. Attached please find the following PDF: Belmont Creek Riparian Habitat Report CDFW.pdf estern Hills Hidden Canyon.pdf Please confirm receipt and forwarding to the Open Space Consultant. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
3/12/2022	Hi Brigitte, I respectfully request this material be provided to the Open Space consultants for their consideration, and to inform their recommendations. This is email 4 of 4, coming separately because of the email attachment limitations. Attached please find the following PDF: Open Space Belmont's Stepchild.pdf PR 11072012 Open Space/pdf (staff report) Stewardship regional.pdf San Mateo Sugarloaf Management Plan March 2015.pdf Please confirm receipt and forwarding to the Open Space Consultant. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer

DRAFT

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/13/2022	Hi Brigitte, You will remember early in the PROS process I presented the John Brooks history powerpoint to you on Zoom. With the hiring of the City's Open Space consultants, WRA Environmental Consultants, I believe it is an opportunity to educate and inform them of important impacts and topics regarding Waterdog. I have attached the John Brooks presentation in PDF printable format for their consideration and trust you will forward it to them. In addition, under separate emails, I have sent 2 additional PDF printable format presentations on ""City Policies ignored"" (Past) and ""Sport of Mountain Biking"" plus related ""Media Reports"" which should also be of interest to the Consultants and PROS Committee. Thank you for your attention. Let me know if you have any questions. Let's treasure our Waterdog Open Space! Jennifer	Jennifer Lien
3/13/2022	Hi Brigitte, Attached please find my final printable PDF sent to you for the WRA Environmental Consultants to inform and educate them of the cumulative detrimental impacts to Waterdog trails, wildlife and habitat as well as endangerment of safety of hikers on narrow single-use trails. Also attached are several media reports that may be of interest to all on this topic. Thank you for your attention. Let me know if you have further questions. Let's preserve our Waterdog for generations to come! Jennifer	Jennifer Lien
3/13/2022	To Whom It May Concern, A warm thank you to the Parks and Rec Commissioners and Director for responding to our neighborhood's request not to have a dog park at Ralston Ranch Park. A neighbor shared the diagram of the proposed revised plans with me for the park which does not include the dog park. The plans do show picnic tables and a multi-purpose flexible space that says add seating space. Can you please elaborate as to the plans for the multi-purpose space and let us know how many picnic tables are planned? Our neighborhood does not want amenities that encourage loitering after dark which may increase the prospect of safety concerns. Also, Ralston Ranch Road can be incredibly windy and on trash day, the wind often blows the trash, as it is being dumped mid-air, down the street. If we have a picnic area where the trash cans are overflowing like they are at the Len Turner Memorial Vista Point, this will further add to the litter problem we are experiencing. Thank you, Yvonne Ong	Yvonne Ong
3/17/2022	Hi Brigitte, I was pleased to hear a consultant firm has been hired to provide an environmental evaluation of Waterdog. If I may, I'd like to submit this reduced summary of my Strava data review of biking activity done last year that I hope can be of value to the consultants. Instead the long Powerpoint, I condensed it down to some ride data on major trails, and a couple speed charts. Thanks, good luck with the process, and let me know if I can be of further help. Regards, Ed Mitchell	Ed Mitchell

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/19/2022	Dear Commissioners, Thank you for the information that was provided last week on the status of parks in Belmont. I was interested in hearing about all the parks but my major concern is Hallmark Park since I live in close proximity to it. I was pleased to hear that most commissioners were not in favor of expanding the park. I walk through it frequently on my way to walking the cross country course. The tot lot is used infrequently and really does not need to be upgraded for older children. It is now a facility that is not used often and I do not think that the addition of modern equipment will increase its use. The tennis courts are though and need to be renovated as well as the sidewalks. I was also concerned about adding a bocce ball court or creating a facility on the hill. If a bocce ball court is added, you need to address ADA requirements and this area is not easily accessible. The area on the hill looks down into people's homes and impacts personal space. In addition, we may be the only park in Belmont that does not have at least one designated parking space. The only parking is on the street. Street parking can be busy with individuals parking to access the cross county course. I hope that you will continue to support no additional structures and facilities to Hallmark park. It is a beautiful wild life preserve and should be maintained as such. I have also walked in the Hidden Valley area. I agree that safe paths need to be maintained for bikers and walkers. Bikers often come down quickly off the canyon path and can potentially be dangerous to people sitting or walking in the area. I agree that signage about the wildlife would be educational but it needs to be maintained. Weathering takes a quick toll on signage so that it becomes eyesore if not maintained. Finally, I was very concerned that comments were made by commissioners that they had not visited some of the parks. How can one vote on changes to a park if they have not seen it? As an educational administrator, I attended board meetings twice a month for over 20 years. I recognize and appreciate the time that a commissioner volunteers to support a program. But I also know that accepting to be a commissioner comes with a responsibility to understand what one is reviewing and voting on. I suggest a field trip to the parks. I frequently watched such activities by board members to visit construction projects in my school district. It provided them with a better lens to make decisions. I encourage all commissioners to visit the Belmont parks so that they can be informed about their needs. Thanks you for hearing my concerns. Dr. Patricia Kurtz	Patricia Kurtz
3/21/2022	Hi, While I appreciate the efforts to resurface the tennis courts and add pickleball (both of which are definitely needed), I have a number of concerns (and suggestions) below: Concerns: I was disappointed to see that there was no new tennis courts added in the plan, despite the benchmarks showing that we are definitely below the surrounding areas and the ""ideal"" number suggests adding at least 2 courts. Currently the courts at Alexander park are always full and despite living near the park, I often have to go to other courts in neighboring cities to find an open court to play. While pickleball would be a welcome add to the city, I think adding them to the existing tennis courts would exacerbate the supply/demand issue, as it would create further competition for an already scarce resource (pickleball and tennis players competing for the same courts, which are already in high demand). Furthermore, playing tennis next to pickleball is less than ideal, especially since there's no dividing fencing between the courts. While resurfacing the courts, are in definite need, I worry the money spent to do so will not be optimized due to people using the courts for non-tennis activities (in Alexander Park at least). I think due to the proximity to the playground, often times kids will use the courts to ride bikes/scooters etc. Also, Alexander Park has become a de facto dog park, and dogs will often go into the courts, especially if the field is wet (I've found dog poop left on the courts). Suggestions: Please consider adding more dedicated tennis courts to the city. Perhaps at the open space next to the Belmont Sports Center? I think adding something like 4 or 5 courts in a single location would help address the supply issue. I would strongly suggest having dedicated pickleball courts rather than combining tennis and pickleball onto a single court. Again, seems like there's some open space next to the Belmont Sports Center to have both as separate amenities, but anywhere really would be great. To help preserve the newly resurfacing of courts at Alexander Park would suggest: Adding a seperate skate park somewhere nearby so that kids can have a place to ride their skateboards/ scooters rather than on the tennis courts	William Wong

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
3/21/2022 (con't)	Adding a dog park in Sterling Downs to give dogs a safe and dedicated area to exercise so that Alexander Park (and the church parking lot) is no longer used as a dog park Could replace the gates to the tennis courts with the subway style gate to make it more difficult to bring non-tennis equipment into the courts Lastly, to enhance the tennis courts would suggest: Adding wind nets... this is definitely needed as it gets pretty windy there adding fencing to divide the courts (to keep balls from rolling onto the neighboring court) Adding lights to extend the hours for which people could use the courts Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback William Wong	William Wong
4/1/2022	We am looking forward to next week's PROS Advisory Committee meeting and want to reiterate my support for keeping Water Dog OS open for all: dog walkers, hikers, mountain bikers,etc. As avid naturalists, hikers, birders, and mountain bikers who have been using the trails at Water Dog for all of these activities for over 10 years, we believe Water Dog should continue to allow all of them. While we are aware there are a few very vocal activists who feel Mountain biking should be banned from most of the OS their arguments for doing so are flawed and over exaggerated. Animals and people are not being harmed by mountain biking. Actually it is the mountain bikers who make the trails safe and sustainable, if not for those of us putting in many hours of hard work every year, the trails would be in much worse shape. We are also very excited by all the improvements suggested for the parks in Belmont such as additional play structures, a place for teens, improved walking trails, a pump track and skate park, exercise space and a pool as well as keeping some spaces natural. It is clear that a lot of work has been done to meet the very diverse needs of the community. Thank you for all your hard work. Karen and John Moody	Karen and John Moody
4/1/2022	I have been to the Parks website and looked at plans. I still do not see any updates on when theTennis courts will be resurfaced.	Don Pierce
4/1/2022	I am a resident of San Mateo who has been very fortunate to use the Waterdog Open Space for 22 years. My wife and two boys also use this valuable community open space. I absolutely support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider: Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and residents of surrounding cities, such as San Mateo - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades. Sincerely, Simon North	Simon North

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/1/2022	This month, the commission will be discussing Belmont's open space as part of the overall PROS plan. At some point, we need to discuss what our Waterdog trail map should be in the future? Are there redundant trails to remove? Are there additional trails that would add to the experience of the open space? I wanted to humbly suggest the following ""Future Waterdog Trail Map"" as a starting point for discussion of the open space. The green lines are existing trails. The blue line is a proposed new trail. The red lines are existing trails that I propose to remove. You can view this on Google Maps and play around with it by going to this link: https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1iai29RPBIJMR8QFS0L1xM1fB-mbOpa8i&ll=37.505045261891965%2C-122.30845913638426&z=16 Here are the ideas: 1. Create a Belmont Creek Trail below the dam that follows the isocontour shown in blue. This would be good for a few reasons. First, it would allow folks to get from the Lyall Road entrance (bottom of Lake Road) to Hidden Canyon without having to climb out of the whole canyon. Second, it bypasses Carlmont Drive so one doesn't have to drive/cycle/bike along the houses on Carlmont Drive, improving their privacy. Third, it would allow us to clean up Belmont Creek below the dam (as suggested by our former director Jonathan Gervais). Fourth, it would spread out users more and decrease trail user density. Finally, it would complete a perimeter trail and allow many more permutations of loops for recreationalists to use. 2. Remove the Elevator redundant fall-line trail (red). This is a fall line trail and redundant with Elevator. It doesn't add anything to the park and is basically impossible to maintain. 3. Remove French Trail (red). This runs parallel to Ohlone. Although some like it and would like to see it preserved, creation of a Belmont Creek Trail (blue) would likely be an acceptable compromise to these users. Thank you for your continued support of our multi-use trail system at Waterdog. Jonathan Carter, MD Leader, Waterdog Trailkeepers Volunteers	Jonathan Carter
4/2/2022	Dear Sir/Madam, I regularly ride my mountain bike in Waterdog with friends and I am concerned about efforts to close it off to mountain bikers. My experience riding in Waterdog has always been positive and interactions with other users are always courteous and friendly. We are respectful of others and they always return the favor in kind. I trust that every effort will be made to keep the park opened to all users including cyclists. Thank you, Pierre Tremblay	Pierre Tremblay
4/4/2022	To Whom It May Concern: I am writing to express my support for continued bicycle access to Waterdog Lake Open Space. The community of bicyclists that frequent Waterdog–many of whom visit from surrounding areas–contribute both to the park and to the local community by: Volunteering their time to build and maintain the trails in the Waterdog OS. Patronizing local businesses, including: restaurants, bike shops, grocery stores, and gas stations. Not only does Waterdog serve as a fantastic outdoor recreation spot for Belmont residents; it also draws in cyclists from other communities around the peninsula who enjoy riding the trails as well. Waterdog is the cycling destination I visit the most, and I often will drop-in to a local restaurant for food and drinks after a ride with friends. Denying cyclists access to Waterdog would hurt the trails as well as local businesses. Sincerely, Eric Csongradi	Eric Csongradi

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/4/2022	Hello Belmont P&R Commission, I would like to voice my enthusiastic support and gratitude for continued mountain bike access to Waterdog Park, especially as you finalize the PROS Master Plan. Off-road cycling has been an ideal means to safely get my children off the couch and into the outdoors, while safely avoiding cars and traffic. Having access to mountain biking in a suburban setting on the Peninsula is a tremendous boon to the mid-Peninsula public, notably in San Mateo County as the county park system has largely marginalized the burgeoning cycling community. Belmont's leadership in providing equitable, thoughtful facilities to all user groups is a beacon on the Peninsula. I personally live in Portola Valley, where I also manage the town trail map and thus receive vocal input from many shockingly hostile user groups. The fortitude the commission has regularly shown in seeking openness and community throughout this process has been profoundly refreshing. Similarly the openness and good vibes my children and I have consistently experienced on Waterdog trails, from a diverse body of users, are a local treasure to be maintained. It is my sincere hope that trail access can be maintained for all, and that we can learn to embrace mutual community in the outdoors, rather than to seek the exclusion and division that some vocal minorities have been pushing for. May we all continue to safely have fun on trails together. I think the charter says it best! 4.4-4 Maintain and enhance trails in open spaces in Belmont. Continue to support opportunities for shared use of trails among multiple users, including pedestrians and mountain bicyclists. Promote knowledge, trail etiquette, and consideration of multiple users on trails through education programs and signage. Thank you for your consideration, and my best regards, Dave	Dave Evans
4/4/2022	I'm quite upset that we can't all get along and tolerate each other! I'm 64 years old and love to mountain bike or walk my dog at Waterdog. It's a great place and I have access from my house without getting into the car. I thought our son to mountain bike there and he had so much fun riding there with his friends. That is a great alternative to screen time. All the people that I have met on rides and walks are super friendly and respectful of each other. During COVID, it was almost the only outdoor park where one could go to and enjoy some exercise and nature. During the stressful times it was a sanctuary. My son had a routine to bike for 45 minutes in a free period in High school. It kept him in shape with no PT and only Zoom school. I hope for kinder people, that respect everybody and can enjoy Waterdog together as a community. Please keep Waterdog accessible for everybody. Sincerely Lotti Dunbar	Lotti Dunbar
4/4/2022	I am writing as a long-time (30+ years) Belmont resident to urge you to keep open space access open to all. Waterdog Open Space is the crown jewel of the Belmont Park and Recreation system and as such, we need to maintain inclusive access for all to enjoy. There is a small group of vocal citizens who want to restrict activities in the open space, but I do not believe their views reflect those of the wider community. The survey results support this view. Occasionally, I hear an anecdote about a "scary encounter" between mountain bikers and other trail users. I don't believe these are very common though we do need to work to make sure all users of the trails respect each other and share the trails responsibly. I do have an anecdote of my own to share. This past summer, I was riding in Waterdog and saw a number of people with dogs. I decided to count how many were leashed. On the Lake Road 3 dogs of 4 were on leashes -- good. On the other trails in the Open Space, I saw 8 dogs, none of which were leashed. Does this mean we should restrict dogs in the Open Space? Of course not! It means that trail users need to be educated, respectful to others on the trail. Thank you for your service to our community, Michael Munrow	Michael Munrow

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/4/2022	Hello, I am a 62 year-old retiree and wish to express my support for continued multi-use access to Waterdog Park. A former runner, I am now a cyclist (due to bi-lateral hip replacements) who appreciates the mountain bike trails the park provides. I also ride in many State, Santa Clara County and Mid-Pen Open Space parks and feel a multi-use approach has worked well over the years. Thank you. Andy Lott Sunnyvale, CA	Andy Lott
4/4/2022	Hello, My name is Jason Stewart. I am a mountain biker who frequents the trails at Waterdog lake. I first started riding there when I was a Carlmont high student back in the early 2000s. Waterdog is one of the few places that is close enough for those of us who live on the Peninsula to get a ride in after work or fit a quick ride in on a busy weekend. From my house on the San Carlos and Redwood City border, it is only a 15-minute drive to get to Waterdog. In order to get to similar trails in other open spaces, I would have to drive twice that distance if not further if Waterdog was closed to bicycles. We as mountain bikers do not have as many options to get out and exercise as hikers do. Please do not limit us further. Thanks, Jason Stewart	Jason Stewart
4/5/2022	I live just across Ralston from Waterdog, and wanted to drop a note that I'm in support of keeping Waterdog open to all recreational activities, including mountain biking. I've attended some of the City Council meetings and watched the PROS plan with interest. The handful of persistent local NIMBYs in Belmont Heights frequently dominate the meetings with their agenda of exclusion, but I hope the council sees through the fact that, although loud, these people are in quite a minority in the community, including their own neighborhood. I've heard about people "almost" getting all kinds of dramatic injuries, but haven't heard of any data about actual incidents. As a frequent user of the open space, I'm deeply skeptical that there is actually a problem here, and it sounds to me instead like people stirring fear, uncertainty, and doubt. Our trail system benefits from the trail maintenance the mountain bike groups donate, and I hope we keep Waterdog open to all. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider: Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. Thanks, Scott Hill Cipriani	Scott Hill
4/5/2022	Hello, As a resident of Belmont for the past 6 years, I want to voice my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider: * Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces * Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.	Sam Chao

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/5/2022 (con't)	* Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades. Thank you, Sam Chao	Sam Chao
4/6/2022	Hi Belmont staffs, I want to write to let you know about how awesome the trail access for mountain biker has been at waterdog lake. I commute from southbay to SF regularly, and always make a stop midway at Belmont's Waterdog Lake mid drive to get a morning workout in. It reduces my commute in half with this midpoint stop, and I am more energized for the workday afterword. Without this great and convenient access, I wouldn't normally stop in Belmont. Please continue to keep up the great access you offer to mountain biker like myself. Thank you Jacob Kwan	Jacob Kwan
4/6/2022	Please continue to allow multi use trail access at waterdog. Everyone has been getting along for decades there. please don't let a couple vocal neighbors determine the outcome and use of a park used by thousands.	Bob Estes
4/6/2022	I would like to tell you of my support keep Waterdog a multi-use trail system. It is a friendly place, close to home, to get outside for exercise whether on bikes or hiking with the dog. We frequently go out to eat or get food at Lunardi. I'd also like to remind you that many of the trails were built and are maintained by our mountain biking community. Sincerely, Judy Silverman	Judy Silverman
4/6/2022	Please maintain mountain bike access to Waterdog park. It is the only park that allows mountain biking that is easily accessible and nearby the local cities. Many of the trails in the park were built and continue to be maintained by mountain bikers. I have participated in both of these activities. I feel it is so unfortunate that a small group of citizens want to restrict access to this park. Please keep the park open to multi-user access. Thank You, Erik Cords	Erik Cords
4/7/2022	Dear Parks and Rec Commission, Thank you for always-thoughtful consideration of the issues, and I'm sorry that you have to endure so much abuse from the group of anti-recreation partisans who seek to close off access to our open space. I'm sure this is not what you had in mind when you volunteered to serve on the Commission, and I admire your patience. The anger in the voices of these public commenters was palpable. Perhaps they are frustrated that their narrative of environmental destruction by multi-use is simply without factual basis, and they are now resorting to name-calling and lashing out at the Commission itself. Generally, when a party to a debate resorts to name-calling and ad hominem attacks, that means they are unable to provide facts, evidence, reason, or logic to support their position. Attacking commenters who disagree with them as "ignorant" without providing any factual explanation of why the opposing party's position is somehow wrong does not add anything productive to the discussion. I wanted to make the below points during the meeting, but refrained since the meeting dragged on very late. I am writing mainly to correct some of the misinformation that came out in these public comments. First, it is unclear why it is "ignorant" to point out that one mile away from Waterdog open space, there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve at the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed which is a state-designated fish and game refuge, and a protected area within the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve.	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/7/2022 (con't)	While Waterdog can and should contribute to biodiversity, there is only so much it can do, given that it is 100% encircled by urban development and has a dam and a substantial amount of concrete storm drain infrastructure constructed within it to service those developments. WRA's preliminary analysis shows that anecdotal tales of environmental destruction are without foundation. Apex predators such as bobcat and mountain lion sightings at Waterdog are commonplace. When a habitat is in decline, the first animals to leave are apex predators. The presence of these apex predators demonstrate that Waterdog remains a healthy ecosystem. In his comments, Mr. Cuvielo lashed out at the cycling community for creating shortcuts and illegal trails. With regard to shortcuts, those are not a cycling-specific phenomenon. Unauthorized shortcuts are a problem in every trail system, whether or not they are multi-use. Hikers, runners, dog walkers, equestrians, and cyclists can all create them. What is unique about Waterdog is that volunteers from cycling community actively and successfully remove shortcuts on an ongoing basis. For example, on John Brooks trail, the hill behind Highlands Court became barren with trail braids, which can be seen in this Google Maps photo: https://www.google.com/maps/@37.5051375,-122.3052449,216m/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en Those trail braids worsened substantially during the Covid lockdown induced increase in trail use. Volunteers from the Waterdog have completely closed off and restored the trail braids, and re-vegetated that hill with soil and plant material from the concrete drainage culverts that were clogged. If you look at that hill now, the trail braids in the Google Maps photo are no longer visible. On the other side of John Brooks in that same area, a social shortcut trail developed between John Brooks and Chaparral. The Trailkeepers completely brushed over and closed the entrance to that shortcut, and it is no longer usable. The formerly barren area at Rambler near the origin of Finch is in the process of being restored by the Trailkeepers. All trail braids have been closed, and it is being restored with plantings of native species, including six new California Oak seedlings which are taking root. A steep shortcut from that area to Elevator was also closed off by the Trailkeepers. A major shortcut on Chaparral near Berry trail was completely closed off. The list goes on and on. Photos of some of this trailwork can be seen in this Google Photos album: https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPD33TSN5_i4S6knTGCo2k53KWizGsV2s7-Zja6zp-D1BN6iYq6nFoKttJ1z0wCqg?key=b3UxZ2NpREpSbTREckJ2VlhxcXp2cWxlaDE3UTV3 Although there is no factual basis for this, Mr. Cuvelo, Ms. Bolbol, and Ms. Mercer continue to characterize the Soho Circle/ ""Flow"" trail and ""Ensatina"" trails as ""illegal"" or ""rogue"" trails. As pointed out in the Waterdog Open Space Stewards' February 14, 2022 letter, these characterizations are wrong. Those are legacy trails, and both trails appear on the trail map approved by City Council in 1998 as and are identified in solid orange lines as "proposed single-use trail." (Original and highlighted maps attached here for convenience.) For whatever reason, these two trails did not make their way onto the published trail map back in the late 1990s. These trails have been there for decades and are sustainable. These trails provide variety, spread out trail traffic which increases safety, and in the case of Soho Circle trail, provides access for maintenance of storm drain infrastructure. In response to commenter Pat Cuvielo's accusation to the Commission of changing its process for this item, I very much appreciated Comr. Mittelstadt's setting the record straight by calmly explaining what the process was, and how it was identical to the process that is always followed. Thank you again for the substantial amount of time you volunteer to serve on the commission, receive public comment during meetings, and reading the additional written public input. Sincerely, Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng
4/7/2022	Hello, Hi all, my name is Jack. I'd like to first start with a big vote of thanks to the team running this process; I think you all are doing a great job. I'm a resident of San Mateo going on 4 years and I am also a volunteer with the Waterdog Trail Keepers and have helped to maintain the trail network, rehabilitate areas of the open space, and we have also closed off some trails that were not sustainable. Id like to voice my support for maintaining the inclusive and equitable multi-use designation of the trails in the open space, and for their ongoing maintenance and upkeep with the possibility of new growth to adapt to the changing conditions and needs of the area. Looking at the currently published guiding principles of this process, there are a few items that stand out in my mind; safe, inclusive and equitable access, facilitating activities across a range of interests, actively maintaining the spaces to sustain the natural environment, and adapting to changing conditions and needs.	Jack Gaynor

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/7/2022 (con't)	In my opinion the best way to meet these principles is to maintain the multi-use designation of the trails and to continue the great work being done to conserve the trail network, and to look to grow and upgrade the trail network so it can safely and sustainably be enjoyed by the many different people of our community for years to come. Well built and maintained trails facilitate ongoing and sustainable use of open spaces by a variety of users whether they be bikers, hikers, dog walkers, trail runners. There are proven methods that allow for clear sight lines, speed regulation, and proper drainage and sustainable use that also provide for an engaging experience for trail users and I'd like to advocate for additional efforts, both from volunteers and the city to maintain, upgrade and grow the grail network in the open space. Local organizations like the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship and the Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship have proven that multi-use trails can be built and maintained and such trail networks bring tangible benefits to the trail users and the local community and the team putting together the Open Space plan should reach out to these organizations to learn from their successful trail stewardship practices and to apply their practices to the Belmont Open Space. Actively maintaining the open space is in my opinion the way to achieve the guiding principles of this process; restricting access to certain user groups fundamentally goes against the guidelines to provide equitable and inclusive access. Given the changing conditions over the last 2 years I'd also like to advocate for additional facilities possibly in nearby park spaces to support the various users of the park and to enable inclusive and equitable access; permanent toilets, drinking facilities for people and pets, bike repairs stands, expanded parking I look forward to seeing the outcomes of this plan and continuing to enjoy the multi-use trails for many years to come. Thanks, Jack	Jack Gaynor
4/7/2022	Dear Parks and Rec Commission, At Tuesday night's PROS Advisory Committee meeting I was excited to hear from John Baas (PhD) and botanist and wetlands ecologist Ivy (I didn't catch her last name) from WRA Environmental Consultants. It was encouraging to hear their preliminary findings: the open spaces in Belmont including Waterdog and San Juan Canyon are currently in pretty good shape with regards to ecosystem health. Ivy mentioned two species in particular that she considered important in her assessment, the San Francisco Dusky Footed Wood Rat and a yellow blossomed shrub that is endemic to the San Francisco bay area, the Wester Leatherwood. Both appear to have healthy populations in the parks. My son and I were riding our bikes in Waterdog just yesterday (4/6/22) and while waiting for me to catch up on the Rambler trail, he spotted a bob cat sitting quietly on the trail ahead, about 50 feet away, watching him. It's common knowledge that apex predators prefer healthy ecosystems over degraded ones. The analysis done by an independent and neutral third party (WRA), although preliminary, clearly demonstrates that the ecological health of the open spaces is reasonably good and therefore compatible with current recreational usage patterns. Going forward, I hope that residents who continue to falsely assert that recreation is destroying the wildlife and the overall ecosystem in our open spaces are understood to be inconsistent with the professional ecologists. Furthermore, we hear plenty of complaints from the same residents that the trail density is too high in our open spaces. Since our open spaces are not nature preserves, the city is under no obligations regarding trail density. Our current open spaces are considered healthy by professional ecologists so trail density at it's current level appears sustainable. Frankly, I think the open spaces could use more trails. The public opinion poll conducted by Gates and Associates last year clearly shows that our residents like to get outside to hike, walk their dogs and ride bikes. What's wrong with priding ourselves on having abundant properly built and maintained trails? Sincerely, Scott Sisemore	Scott Sisemore

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/7/2022	Hello PROS plan advocates and commission, Today I am sending you a quick note as follow up to the two nights of meetings this week, both of which I attended and participated in with public comment. Thank you all for your time and effort on this important matter! I enjoyed WRAs presentation on Tuesday evening, and found their group to be well qualified given their extensive experience and credentials. It was great to hear from subject matter experts on the state of our open space. and was glad to hear that their scientists have already been out in the field for substantial time to catalog species and to gain a deep understanding of our recreational open space. And, I was heartened to hear WRA state that from their perspective the health of our forest and open space is quite good. This is what I personally believe to be true, but always nice to hear it confirmed by a real expert! I express my condolences that you and others continue to take abuse from a small anti-recreation vocal minority. I cringe every time they come on for public comment just to criticize, lecture, and name call - often times deliberately trying to spread misinformation. But this is democracy, and so they must be heard. Last night, after I made my personal comments in the public setting, I was derided by the next speaker Pat Cuvielo as 'ignorant, ignorant, ignorant....' Now, given the source of the criticism, I'm not feeling too hurt! But I would suggest that this is the sort of behavior we don't want to tolerate as a city, and it may be worthwhile setting more concrete ground rules at the beginning of each contested meeting to inform folks that this sort of behavior is not acceptable - if you agree. I also worry that the comments of myself and others who are in the camp of 'pro enviroment AND pro recreation' can also get repetitive. Personally, I tend to show up to these meetings in order to provide what I hope is a more balanced view. That said, I really appreciated commissioner Michaels comments last night. Paraphrasing, I heard that it would be appreciated if public comments would provide reasonable plans that incorporate both sides of the argument. Well said! I don't want the only public voices you hear to be from the anti-recreation group, because as we know from the citywide survey - the majority of our city is very supportive of recreational open space and multi use trail access. The challenge we have, is that the anti-recreation group seems to have lots of time on their hands, whereas most folks in the city have jobs and families to care for..... The issue we face at home, is much like we see on the national level and abroad. Issues are ever more hyper-polarized, and so groups feel like they can only get what they want if they argue extremes - and this can get very boring and repetitive. How can we change the conversation? I'm open to suggestions and feel free to reach out to me directly for a conversation. Last night I mentioned that our discussions feel like groundhog day - and they do! Its the same old arguments swirling around and around. The last speaker of the night, Mike, said it more eloquently. One statement he said I really liked. "we have to get to a point where we can make good use of this resource and be environmentally sound while we do it." I think that captures the issue perfectly in my mind. I don't have a great or concrete solution to the problem at hand, other than we have to work through a process that at times feels slow and inefficient. I do think that setting stronger ground rules at the beginning of these meetings would be helpful. Let folks know that name calling or bullying is unacceptable, and remind folks that first and foremost we are neighbors and we all want the same thing - a continued vibrant and healthy open space system. I would also suggest that you consider setting concrete boundaries to disallow agenda related comments during the general comment period. Last night we all sat through 30 minutes of agenda related comments which were allowed into the general comments, and this then pushed the dog discussion and PROS discussion later than they needed to be. So in summary, I want to thank you all again for your hard work and thoughtfulness as we approach this hot topic! I'm confident that we will get to a great solution for both the environment and for the entire community that loves and cherishes our beautiful open space. All the best, Thaddeus Block	Thaddeus Block

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/7/2022	Brigitte, Commissioners and PROS: On 4/5, I attended the Open Space PROS Advisory meeting but was dismayed to learn that this was the PROS Advisory's last meeting for the entire project! I believe a 5th PROS Advisory meeting devoted entirely to Open Space is absolutely necessary. Not allowing another PROS Advisory meeting for further discussion on our Open Space would be violating your last guiding principle to "Utilize a transparent Community Process to inform Decisions". This was the first opportunity for the PROS Advisory Committee to hear and see the WRA overview slide presentation on Open Space with no prior information given to the Committee for review. In a series of 30 rapid slides, John Baas, the project manager quickly covered the goals/policies which included the right ""buzzwords"", trail maintenance, habitat restoration, adaptive trail management, wildfire, environmental protection, visitor demand and safety and management, use of e-bikes, new unauthorized trails and protection of riparian resources which could have been used in any open space presentation. He provided no specifics or details regarding Belmont's Open Space leaving both participants and observers bewildered, scrambling to take notes as he spoke. Without presenting any relevant information specific to Belmont's Open Space, he asked the PROS Advisory Committee to help determine the allocation of his hypothetical pie chart which despite hypothetical, put a very low priority on important issues of Trail maintenance and Adaptive Trail Management which was not defined clearly. Both the PROS committee and Park & Rec Commission appeared confused and wondering what WRA expected from the Advisory Committee regarding each of these topics which could be an in depth discussion by itself. Several Advisory members even commented it was premature to assess any pie allocation before seeing a report with more information. One member asked for another Advisory meeting and I agree that this request should be granted, not only to determine the pie allocation but to discuss each of the goals/policies for our Open Space. To devote only one PROS Advisory meeting to the most important issue for Belmont, Waterdog Open Space and San Juan Canyon, after devoting so much time and effort to other parts of the PROS plan such as Neighborhood Parks is not only unfair, it appears to be attempting to bypass the proper process due for this important topic. Clearly, more specifics and information on each of WRA's goals and policies for Belmont as well as much more clarification on his 2 management alternatives briefly mentioned with no explanations are sorely needed before any assessment can be given. The PROS Advisory Committee deserves another meeting to discuss WRA's recommendations and alternatives before any decisions are made. The PROS process up till now has been fairly transparent and informative with proper focus groups and meetings providing guidance. Let's not mess up your hard fought process now by rushing through this most important topic of Belmont's Open Space without giving the PROS Advisory Committee their right to discuss and analyze WRA's recommendations and alternatives. Thank you for your attention. Jennifer Lien	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/7/2022	In the April 5 WRA presentation I was pleased to hear mention of several important issues long overlooked in Belmont; riparian habitats, redundant and poorly designed trails, benchmarking stewardship policies of other open space districts, and the concept of adaptive management. I'm optimistic that Belmont can create an enlightened vision for a sustainable, biodiverse and healthy native habitat for our open spaces. However Belmont's Conservation Element policies regarding wildlife and natural habitat were largely omitted from the WRA draft goals. As you are aware, the Conservation Element is the section of our General Plan that addresses management of Open Space in Belmont, and as such is the most critical input into the Open Space plan. This is why the City RFP specifically cited awareness of Conservation Element policies. Belmont General Plan section 4.1: "The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element bears a strong relationship to the Conservation Element, which is required to provide direction regarding the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element addresses open space for outdoor recreation, while the Conservation and Safety elements discuss open space for preservation of natural resources and open space for public health and safety, respectively." Belmont Conservation Element: "Human safety and recreation opportunities must be balanced with maintaining the proper functioning of natural systems….The habitats of the natural resources open spaces found in Belmont are discussed in more detail in the General Plan EIR." Goal 5.3: "Protect and restore biological and ecological resources in Belmont, including sensitive wildlife species and their habitats." Policy 5.3-4: Maintain functional wildlife corridors and habitat linkage in order to contribute to regional biodiversity and the viability of rare, unique or sensitive biological resources throughout the city and region. A mere focus on a few "species of special concern" is not adequate; the Conservation Element calls for a broad definition of functional habit for wildlife, including each of the sensitive natural habitat communities discussed in the Element. Belmont residents are counting on your influence. Please ensure these VITAL goals are incorporated into the Master Plan, along with proposed policies to achieve these goals. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
4/10/2022	Dear PROS Plan Commission, I am writing on behalf of about 40 neighbors who live in the Monte Cresta Dr area. We have a beloved neighborhood hiking trail which some of us have used for decades - literally since 1975, as one couple told me, and a few other families in the 40-year range as well - which a developer is proposing to turn into a road and housing development. We walk our dogs on it every day, we have raised our families hiking on this trail. Given the lack of sidewalks in our area, this trail is one of the few protected areas where we can safely walk without worrying about getting hit by traffic. Its loss or diminishment would materially negatively impact our quality of life, not to mention cause ecological damage in disturbing the native flora and fauna of the area, especially given the excessive grading that would be required given the steep slope of the lots. Can you give us any advice as to how to preserve access to this trail, possibly by having it recognized as protected open space? This trail is the "paper road" or "unimproved section" of Monte Cresta Dr. Would love to set up some time to chat on this matter. Best, Jen Lai	Jen Lai

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/11/2022	Dear PROS Committee and Park Commissioners, At the April 5 presentation by WRA, the PROS committee appropriately refused to speculate on resource allocation for our Open Space until they see the written assessment of the current ecological conditions (to know our needs). While our open space may seem healthy to the casual observer, there are many issues that have degraded the natural habitat – some in the past and some continuing. To omit, and thus ignore, these known issues will be simply greenwashing; we can't tackle our issues until we acknowledge them and agree they need fixing. Some of these issues reflect a lack of standards, and others constitute vandalism pure and simple. Belmont lacks standards for trail construction, defined trail use policies, and enforceable laws against vandalism of public lands. So long as we allow damaging practices we will be stuck in a cycle of constant repair and maintenance – working harder yet falling behind. However, if we first put a stop to ongoing damages, then we can free up future resources to invest in restoration and recreation. This is a principle of adaptive management, which WRA urges for Belmont. I expect to see the following issues included in the WRA Open Space assessment: Trails, geology, hydrology: Poorly designed trails; straight down slopes (causing erosion gullies, safety concerns), across steep cross-slopes (destabilizing slopes), encroaching on streams, and crossing mapped debris flows, Unsanctioned trails allowed to proliferate unaddressed, Active debris flows/landslides, Dumping of soil and cuttings into creeks, diverting natural flow, increasing silting and spreading invasives, Blockage of creek by wet crossings, Drainage culverts (concrete) clogged or overgrown, Exposed soils and destabilized slopes resulting from clear-cutting for fire breaks, Habitat and vegetation: Excessive trail density fragmenting habitat (2-5 times more miles per acre than comparable open spaces), Unnecessary removal of native vegetation far beyond the trail width, including native white yarrow, sticky monkey, sage and oaks, Abutting homes' vandalism including: topping public trees, stairs and paths from gates, invasive species from back gardens, dumping of brush cuttings, broad spraying Roundup on open space, drainage pipes/culverts discharge into open space, Soil and cuttings shoveled downhill onto vegetation below, Encroachment on riparian habitats and vital water sources for wildlife, Sudden oak death, Invasive species, most notably broom but also thistle, pines, and pampas grass, Drainage diverted directly onto oaks, leading to the decline and death of the tree, Trails and shortcuts undermining or compressing tree roots, leading to instability and decline of the tree, Improper branch cutting destabilizing the tree or introducing pathogens, Lumber and tools from unknown sources unmonitored, bringing pathogens and invasives. I hope WRA, PROS representatives and City officials will ensure the new master plan addresses these issues. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
4/13/2022	Hello Kelley, In follow-up to both the most recent PROS meeting and P&R commission meeting, I, too, would like to recommend to WRA that they review what the Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship (https://santacruztrails.org/about) organization does. This group was just in the SJ Mercury news this week about their partnership to build more trails in newly obtained public land. I know that the LA and Marin county plans were used as a resource, but this is closer to home. Also, any mention of the San Francisco garter snake by a non-herpetologist needs to be verified. It is a beautiful snake that also has others that look similar. I learned this years ago at a meeting of the Bay Area Amphibian and Reptile Society :-) Thanks so very, very much for bearing with us in the community. Best regards, Lynn Bell	Lynn Bell

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/14/2022	Please do not limit mountain bike access in the WaterDog park. I really enjoy riding there during the weekdays as it is close to my house, the trails are well maintained, and it has a very good diversity of easy to technical trails. I personally try my best to be polite to all trail users, dog walkers, and whatever kind of animals I see and share the trails with. It is my personal belief that mountain bikers should give way to all other trail users, which is something I practice each and every ride. WaterDog also is a relative haven for young people who may not have access to drive long distances to enjoy outdoor activities, such as hiking and mountain biking. These outdoor activities should be encouraged and supported rather than discouraged and made impossible by a select, albeit very vocal, elites minority. I believe most trail users share the same philosophy whether on bike or on foot. I also do hike those trails and walk my dog there on occasion and I've never had a bad interaction with any one yet. I also enjoy riding to the higher elevations, getting off the bike and admiring the views. As for making it a nature preserve, what good is that if people aren't allowed to enjoy nature first hand? There is precious little open space left in the Bay Area where people can personally enjoy and interact with nature, especially on a mountain bike, please don't limit this further. I have lived in San Mateo County my entire 63 years and have seen too much land taken away from residents in the name of 'progress' and conservation. We need to have someplace to ride, hike, and walk. Sincerely, Russell Roeckel	Russell Roeckel
4/20/2022	Hi Brigitte, I wanted to let you know that I had a Zoom meeting with Craig Michaels last nite and presented the attached Powerpoint and video (Plse continue scrolling twice after the video to see my suggestions for Policy Actions and Goals). I want to be transparent and honest with you as I believe you have been with those of us that are trying to help preserve the future of Waterdog Open Space (I didn't want you to think I was going over your head by responding to Craig's invitation at the last P&R meeting to talk directly to the public). I made it clear to him that my number 1 priority is Fairness and Equity which are the first and third guiding principles of the PROS plan and in order to accomplish that, Hikers need their own narrow trails to enjoy secluded, peaceful, nature walks without having to worry that a mountain biker will be whizzing by forcing them to rush to the sides of the trails to let them pass. Many of our neighbor residents have let it be known to us that they no longer walk Waterdog trails because they are too dangerous and have instead driven their cars to other parks to enjoy nature. How is that Fair and Equitable to Hikers when Mountain Bikers from all over the Bay Area are allowed to run uncontrolled on All our trails forcing Hikers to have to go elsewhere? Thank you for your attention. Sincerely, Jennifer (You need to download the attached Powerpoint first and then you can watch at your leisure) Powerpoint Show https://mega.nz/file/fxpCDIIT#uUoD0PX8qoZe0WJZSaKa6-SHmCUbTwfYwWHB13s4DU4	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
4/22/2022	Hi PROS Team, Brigitte suggested I forward you my presentation and email that I sent to her and made to Craig Michaels over Zoom this week. Below the links to the Powerpoint presentation in PDF and the KCRA video separately because the video is too big to play in the original link. Link to presentation in pdf format https://www.dropbox.com/s/d32qz2prf9sg34a/Craig%20Presentation%20v2.pdf?dl=0 Link to KCRA 3 video referenced in the pdf https://www.dropbox.com/s/w1e7tz3rbayu9uk/Illegal%20Trail%20Bike%20Jump%202%20-%20KCRA%20SOHO%20Low%20Low%20Res.mp4?dl=0 Thank you for your attention. Jennifer Lien	Jennifer Lien
4/29/2022	Dear Commissioners, I recently read the comments made during the April 6 Parks and Rec meeting and was both encouraged and disappointed. I am glad that the consultant, WRA, Inc., seems to be providing unbiased information. However, I noted that there continues to be two competing factions and that an appropriate compromise may not be reached. I am concerned that in an effort to appease a vocal group of mountain bikers, the true intent of the land gift will be dismissed. In regard to reaching a compromise, I believe the comment made by Jennifer who "called for all unauthorized trails to be closed, for some trails to be designated for hiking only (per the 1992 Plan), and for e-bikes to be banned," is a very fair and sound approach. While the city does want to encourage biking, it should be clear that biking to stores or work is different from recreational biking. E-bikes do not belong in the Open Space. I do not appreciate the buzz of a motor anywhere near me in what should be a quiet and peaceful place to enjoy nature. I do not want to worry about a cyclist trying to negotiate past me on a narrow trail. I do not like to worry about bikes whizzing by, but I can put up with that provided the path is wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic. Thank you for your attention. Regards, Connie Tettenborn	Connie Tettenborn

DRAFT

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
5/4/2022	I would like to comment on the WRA presentation presented in April and also ask about the revised plans for Hallmark Park. First, regarding Hallmark Park. During the discussions of various park redesigns and future plans, it was discussed and I believe pretty much agreed that there is not a desire for a bocce ball court or an "event structure" at the meadow above Hallmark. The current website does not show any revision to the original proposed plan. When will the revision be posted on the PROS Plan website? Regarding the Water Dog Open Space, I want to make several comments. The presentation by WRA was extensive and overall well done but I feel several points need to be made. As an Advisory Committee member, long time Belmont resident of 30+ years and daily hiker on the John Brooks, Rambler and Chaparral trails, I feel that the surveys done missed several things: 1. Currently there are very few animals seen in the Open Space compared to prior years. In the past, it was common to see deer, rabbits, quail, coyotes and other wildlife. 2. Due to bikers now coming from all over the Bay Area as a mountain biking destination, many of my Belmont neighbors do not hike the trails as they consider it too dangerous. My wife and I have been nearly hit over a dozen times over the last 2-3 years by speeding bikers coming around blind curves. Many of the trails are only 24-36 inches wide which is not wide enough for a biker and a walker/hiker to pass safely. Certainly, many bikers are careful but many are not and view the trails as a mountain bike race competition. It's interesting to note that many residents feel it is literally safer to walk on the streets than walk on the WD trails! 3. The bikes have ravaged the trails in many cases destroying tree roots, cutting the roots and in many cases making the trails so slick that it is difficult to walk or hike them. 4. Some of the Open Space(John Brooks) was specifically granted as a donation with the proviso that it be a "preserve". Obviously this is not taken into consideration anymore and I don't understand why. Currently it is almost impossible to have a quiet "nature" walk there with bikers or the fear of bikers running a person over. 5. Many illegally constructed trails have been cut into the Open Space by the biker community. Let's close these. 6. I strongly recommend that there be a separation of biker or multi purpose trails from hiker/walker trails. I truly believe it's important to allow bikers-young and old- to bike the area but keep these two areas separate. Bikers should only be allowed on trails 48 inches or more wide. As you probably know, many local open space parks do not allow bikers at all. I'm very concerned about the future of this beautiful resource we have. Let's use it but protect it so it remains a sustainable habitat for nature and wildlife in our city. Thank you! Bob Stahl"	Bob Stahl
5/9/2022	Dear Parks & Recreation Commission, I watched the 5/4/22 Meeting and it seems to me that the consultant WRA is doing a very thorough and reasoned assessment of the open space. Their presentation was very informative, and validates what most community members have been saying all along, which is that the forests in Waterdog and San Juan are healthy, and contrary to what a tiny group of partisans keeps saying, the sky is not falling. It's becoming obvious now that the same four people in the community are the only ones who are making comments against shared multi-use access: Deniz Bolbol, Pat Cuvielo, Kristen Mercer, and the woman who has the screen name of ""ennifer" or "Jenn Jenn." I feel badly that both you and the consultant have to endure their tirades at every meeting. Please know that the community as a whole appreciates your all the time and effort you've been putting into this monumental task. I was really taken aback at a public comment Kristen Mercer made. She said something to the effect that children and seniors can't use the Waterdog trails because they're too scared of bikes. No evidence to support this was cited of course. That is the complete opposite of my experience. I ride and hike Waterdog on at least a weekly basis, and I see plenty of seniors and young children on the trails. She tried to claim it was an equity issue, but couching an ageist statement like this in equity terms is beyond the pale. Seniors can and do ride mountain bikes. You don't need to take my word for it, please see the attached letters (which I got from the PROS plan resource page) from seniors and near-seniors who cycle the trails and support multi-use.	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
5/9/2022	"Jenn Jenn" lodged some grievance that the consultant is failing to consider the impact of "all the mountain bikers from all over the bay area who ride all the trails." This over-the-top statement belies a complete misunderstanding of the role Waterdog plays in the local trail resource system. Waterdog is a small trail system and is good for maybe a two hour or so ride. It is not a "destination" trail system. Yes, cyclists from out of town will ride Waterdog every now and again, but there's not enough there to make it a major attraction - it's not worth driving an hour plus to get to. If cyclists drive all the way from the South Bay, North Bay, or East Bay to the Peninsula, it's much more worth their while to ride the exponentially larger trail networks in the MidPeninsula Open Space District such as El Corte De Madera, Russian Ridge, Skyline Ridge, Saratoga Gap, and so on. For example, in Santa Cruz County, there is a small trail system at De La Vega Park, similarly sized to Waterdog. I've ridden there once or twice, but if I'm going to drive all the way to Santa Cruz County, It's much more worthwhile to ride the much larger trail systems at Soquel Demonstration Forest, Wilder Ranch, and so on. Anyway, if cyclists from out of town want to ride our trails, we should welcome them just as parks and open space areas in other areas welcome us. "Jenn Jenn" does not seem to understand the first two guiding PROS principles, which are to provide equitable access to resources and activities across the entire city, and promote inclusion to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability. I always wonder if there is an undercurrent of racism behind these "locals only" attitudes. We saw this when this same group of folks were demanding that the Crystal Springs Cross Country Course be limited to local athletes only, which would shut out high school athletes from more diverse school districts from the East Bay and Central Valley. "Locals only" seems like a racist dog whistle for "whites only." It wouldn't be a Parks & Rec Meeting if Deniz Bolbol and Pat Cuvielo didn't make public comment about some perceived environmental disaster, but what was unusual about this meeting was that they both made comment on the agenda item on the consultant update, and later in the meeting, after comment for that item was closed, and public comment was opened up for items not on the agenda. As soon as that comment period opened, they both took the opportunity to make public comments about the consultant report. During Ms. Bolbol's comment, a commissioner started to say "with all due respect this time is for comments on items not on the agenda..." but Ms. Bolbol talked over the commissioner and bullied her way into completing her comment. If feel the Commission should take stronger action when public commenters are abusing the process like this. The Commission would be well within its rights to cut these comments off. It is unfair to the public, when someone who has already made a comment on an agenda item takes a "Mulligan" and gets further comment in, during a period with others are not expecting those comments to be made and are not prepared to respond. I would respectfully suggest that the Commission consult with the City Attorney on how to handle this situation in the future, because it is certain to happen again. Thanks again for everything you're doing, and keep up the good work. I think both the Commission and WRA are doing an excellent job of moving this process to the finish line in a measured, transparent, and considerate way. Regards, Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng
5/15/2022	Dear Commissioners and PROS committee, I was frustrated to hear WRA consultants deny that Belmont's open spaces serve as a wildlife corridor. It appears they confused the terms "wildlife migration" (long-distance seasonal movement of entire flocks or herds) with the correct term "connectivity corridors" (daily individual travel between interconnected open spaces). All Belmont residents know we have wildlife in our canyons – we see them daily on trails and meadows, and our cameras capture their nocturnal ventures into our yards. And we also intuitively know they cannot survive within these open space pockets alone – they travel between canyons by crossing streets, yards, and even alleys. These open spaces are not isolated islands – they are part of a large habitat archipelago. The consultants who wrote the General Plan Open Space and Conservation Elements, and 1992 Open Space Master Plan, as well as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife all recognize Belmont open spaces as part of a network of connected open spaces, important in preserving the biodiversity of our native species. To familiarize you with these authoritative sources, and how wildlife corridors work, I've put the facts into a few slides, below, and attach here the USDA Information Sheet on the topic. The presence of nature and wildlife is what drew us to live in these hills. Residents decry the saddening trend of fewer and fewer wildlife sightings, as human activity increases in their habitat. We entrust you to create plans and policies that embody our General Plan and preserve the habitat and connected corridors critical to our native wildlife. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
5/18/2022	My name is Richard Newhauser. I live on Wakefield Dr. in Belmont and my backyard butts up to the Waterdog park. I support continued multi-use access to Waterdog. Waterdog has been successfully managed as a mutli-use trail system for decades, and the trails have been sustainable based in large part due to volunteer trailwork by cyclists, through the Waterdog Trailkeepers. My family, which includes my two sons, wife, and a dog, enjoy the trails daily through hikes, dog walks and Mt Biking. We love getting into the park as well as looking at it from our backyard. Please continue to allow multi-access to Waterdog. All the best, Richard "Rick" Newhauser	Richard Newhauser
5/26/2022	Brigitte, Park & Rec Commissioners and PROS Committee: After more than 2 years, you will be concluding the PROS Master Plan analysis and provide recommendations regarding our Open Space. During this time, many Belmont residents have provided informational reports, photos, videos and public comments on Waterdog summarized on our Belmont resident website (www.waterdogpreserve.org). The goal of all our efforts has been to guide this new Master Plan toward more Equity and Sustainability than past practices. This email presentation below summarizes the 4 main Waterdog trail issues with their solutions that allow All users to "Love Waterdog". Please take time to read it and think carefully regarding the important decisions you will make that impact us and future generations for years to come. Thank you for your attention. Jennifer Lien P. S. Brigitte, please forward this presentation to WRA consultants.	Jennifer Lien
5/27/2022	Hello, I plan to attend the Belmont PROS Advisory Committee meeting #5 on May 31. As the time provided for public comment is short and I am not a Belmont resident, I would like to provide some comments via email and let the local folks speak live. I'm a hiker and mountain biker in Santa Clara County. I visit Waterdog periodically as I have friends in the area. I enjoy the preserve and value the opportunity to ride and hike there. I strongly believe that it should continue to support multiple use including cycling. More and more, we are seeing that joint engagement from multiple user groups is leading to better open space opportunities. I am an active trail advocate and a frequent volunteer with the Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship. SCMTS evolved from a mountain biking advocacy organization into a multi-use advocacy and trail building organization, and we are seeing huge benefits from the partnerships the organization has developed with land managers and between user groups. The new trail system developments at Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods, as well as completed projects such as Glenwood Preserve, use modern thinking in trail system and trail design to manage multiple uses. The Trail Stewardship harnesses the power of hundreds of volunteers to do great work for all types of trail users, and works to ensure that all users can have good experiences simultaneously – meaning that goal interference and user conflict is minimized. While the mountain biking advocates in Belmont may not be quite this organized, I see them consistently advocating actively for better behavior, to honor the requests of the land managers, and to maintain trails. My point is that the route to better open space interaction and experience is to engage the broad community constructively to build better trails and systems, maintain the systems for optimal experiences, and appeal to users to interact respectfully. Mountain biking communities are often the most active and engaged in trail building and maintenance, because they care deeply about quality of trails and have historically been shut out of many trail systems. I believe that Belmont's best path will be to partner with the trail users including mountain bikers to do work in the system (maintenance; retrofitting for better experience and user interaction; or new trail building where appropriate) and to broadcast and promote the land managers' requests (trail interaction; respect for the environment; etc.) to their larger user groups. Thanks very much for your consideration.	Craig Gleason

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
5/31/2022	To Whom it May Concern, I just want to express my support for mountain bike access to Waterdog. Unbiased data shows very limited trail damage by mountain bikers. Data also shows minimal disruption to wildlife. Continuing access to Waterdog not only encourages a healthier lifestyle, the presence of mountain bikers also help the local economy as they support local businesses and restaurants. Ron	Ron Martin
5/31/2022	Dear PROS Committee, I have lived in San Mateo for 10 years and now in San Carlos for 3. I regularly ride my bike at Waterdog for recreation and fitness 3-4 times a week. I have never had an encounter with anyone in the park that was negative. Hikers, Bikers and Dog walkers all get along great. Limiting access to any of them would greatly impact the local economy in my eyes. From the local bike shop to the starbucks and Lunardis all within minutes for a post ride snack. I just took my 7 year old for his first mountain bike ride last Saturday and he was hooked. Waterdog is an absolute gem and I would love to continue to ride there for years to come. Thank You, A Concerned Citizen	Chris Bushman
5/31/2022	Dear Ms. Shearer, Parks commissioners, and staff: Can you please point me to the 2035 population projections that were used as inputs to the current draft PROS master plan? I am specifically concerned that the updated draft Housing Element, which won't be released until June 8 and won't be finalized until late summer, includes much higher population figures than those in the current General Plan or even the 2017 Belmont Village Specific Plan. It would be good to confirm that the PROS work was done with the most up-to-date population figures. Thank you, Joanne Adamkewicz	Joanne Adamkewicz
5/31/2022	Dear Ms. Shearer, Thank you very much for getting back to me promptly! I really appreciate that. It makes sense that the PROS planning process started with the 2017 population projections. However, it is not finalized yet, and I very strongly hope that the latest figures can be incorporated somehow into this 2022 version of the PROS plan update, for two reasons. First, the new number is much higher than the old forecast of 30,500 residents in 2035. The current population of Belmont is 28,360 per the recent Districting process. The Housing Element projects an additional 4500 (RHNA target build out) to 8250 (full build out) residents, for a total of 32,860 - 36,610 residents by the year 2030. The total by 2035 is unknown but will be even higher - likely more than 25% greater than the 30,500 forecast. Second, the new population will not be evenly distributed throughout the city. In fact, 99% of the 4500-8250 new residents will be added to the eastern area of Belmont, raising the existing population of 7100 to as many as 15,000 people, with only nominal growth in the remaining areas of the city. Such lopsided development is a challenge for any city plan, including roads, sewers, schools -- and parks. I understand that the General Plan and the BVSP can and will be amended to address the growth envisioned in the Housing Element. But those documents deliberately leave the details up to the supporting elements, which includes the PROS master plan. But a plan based on a population forecast that is 25% too low, and with no consideration for geographic distribution of the growth -- such a plan will be obsolete within a year or two, and will fail at its goal of providing a useful blueprint for the future. I acknowledge that the entire planning exercise unfortunately cannot be re-done with the correct population forecast. It's too late. The table entitled ""IDEAL AMENITY QUANTITIES FOR 2021 AND 2035 POPULATIONS"" will remain unadjusted for the City's latest and most accurate population forecast, thus creating an obstacle to accurate planning by other City departments. So what I am requesting is that the text of the PROS plan acknowledge this disconnect. A statement should be added to the effect that the plan was developed with population forecasts from 2017; that the updated 2022 forecast shows growth to be faster, more dense, and more geographically concentrated than envisioned in the PROS plan; and that therefore, future modifications to the PROS master plan, the General Plan, and the BVSP should be pursued as appropriate to match this growth. Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for passing this on to your consultants as well.	Joanne Adamkewicz

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/1/2022	Dear Park Commissioners, At the PROS meeting David Braunstein rightly called out the elephant in the room. To paraphrase: both sides repeat the same arguments without listening to the other – we've missed an opportunity to build community. I have listened and I propose an equitable compromise solution; a trail use plan that provides space for a safe experience for users of differing interests and abilities, while protecting sensitive habitat. Seniors, families with little children, and those seeking tranquil nature are displaced by speeding bikes on narrow trails, and this imbalance is not equitable. On our streets, pedestrians are not asked to jump off the sidewalk for oncoming bikes. I have never suggested banning bikes – only that they be limited out of respect for the majority of residents who are NOT mountain bikers. ALL visitors have a right to use trails, but bikes are machinery for a sport that requires appropriate trails. I think this plan checks all the boxes! But I hope to inspire discussion with "the other side", who also have a right to enjoy their hobby in a safe and sustainable manner. I hope this compromise plan can move us forward to a solution that is equitable for all abilities and interest groups. Thank you Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
6/1/2022	Dear Commissioners and Committee members, I spoke briefly after the PROS plan advisory committee meeting last night and thought it might be helpful to provide the following link. As I mentioned, the WRA, Inc., consulting firm neglected to review the documentation regarding the land gift of Waterdog Open Space. A discussion of it at a council meeting can be found here: https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/brooks-contact-violated There were two requirements: That it be named something like ""The John S. Brooks Memorial Preserve"" and that it be retained in perpetuity as open space with perhaps trails that are low use as at that time. Considering ""Habitat protection emphasis"" an alternative is simply wrong. It is not an alternative option--it is the PURPOSE of an open space. ""Preserve"" is in the actual name that was suggested! Any consideration of new trails must take this into account. For example, putting in a connecting path for bikes would possibly create an unacceptable increase in usage levels. No e-bikes should be permitted because they are motorized, including pedal-assist bikes. (Except for officers enforcing the leash law!) I did not have time to clarify my concluding remark about single-use trails. I would only be willing to allow bikes on the narrow trails if they slowed WAY down to pass and did not make me step close to poison oak to let them by. Thank you, Connie Tettenborn	Connie Tettenborn
6/4/2022	Hi John and Robin (please forward to Robin as I don't have her email) Thank you for your OSMP plan presented to PROS Advisory meeting on 5/31. You have asked for feedback and I have some suggestions since I have been involved with this process for over 2 years as a resident hiker living in Belmont for over 40 years. I have reviewed Category 2 of your plan (P19-34) ""Balancing recreational uses and Trail Management""; both your Base Plan ""must haves"" and your supplemental Recreational Alternatives Implementation (Easy, Medium or Hard) of the OSMP. PROS Advisory Committee members and Commissioners indicated that the OSMP appeared very general and vague and I agree. Rather than using general words like ""design, improve, prohibit, diversify, modify, adopt, diminish, add and develop"", the Base plan needs more specific implementation actions related to Waterdog. Below are ""must haves"" implementation specifics that would provide transparency and clarity in your final plan. 1. Clarify Single and Multi-Use Trails Are your definitions and criteria the same as defined in the 1992 Master Plan listed below? Over the past decade, these official guidelies for single-use have been discarded by recreational bikers making All trails unofficially multi-use. To this day, the City 2020 Trail map uses the term Single-Track trail and Wide Trail with no clarification, definitions, guidelines or criteria to distinguish each trail type. Sierra Club Guidelines for off street Biking	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/4/2022 (con't)	2. Designate Single-use for Hikers Only, Multi-use for both Bikers and Hikers (P20) Add definitions, guidelines and criteria for single-use and multi-use trails. Single-use trails for hikers are necessary because aggressive biking behavior on trails not designed for safe passing without long site-lines and on steep slopes create a public safety hazard for ALL users. Safety concerns have marginalized non-bike users which are the majority of residents. 3. Clarify that this statement is for authorized trails only. (P21) 4. Add "Balancing Recreation with Preserving Functional Ecosystems" (P23) Nowhere in your Base Plan is there a policy statement regarding the need to balance recreation with maintenance of natural systems, however, Belmont's General Plan clearly states "Human Safety and Recreation must be balanced with maintaining the proper function of Natural Systems" (Sec. 5.3). 5. Add criteria and conditions for closing existing unauthorized, unsafe and damaged trails and modification of altered trails (P27) Define and include criteria for legacy trails. P27 addresses future modification and approvals on open space lands but lacks policy on closing existing unauthorized, unsafe and damaged trails. Specifically, close Soho trail, illegally built in 2017 and the Riparian trail that damages the riparian habitat as they both violate the John Brooks donation contract (John Brooks contract and the 1977 Belmont City Council minutes attached below). Specifically, realign Canyon Creek trail that crosses the riparian habitat and Finch East to its original plan along the canyon rim to protect the wildlife and natural vegetation; away from all sensitive habitat and special status species located in the valley. Define and provide criteria for legacy trails that includes public review, engineering studies and environmental impact analysis. John Brooks Donation Contract: "Maintain as an unspoiled wild area or "green belt" in perpetuity" Belmont City Council acknowledges John Brooks wishes and conditions. 6. Add "no group activity permit should be issued if it involves noise that would disturb wildlife or other users" (P30) Change E-bike recommendation to allow for public discussion prior to conducting any policies and studies. Motorized E-bike noise is unnatural amplified sound that disturbs natural tranquility. 7. Add maximum 15 mph bike speed with enforcement Signage (P31) Delete equestrians as they are not allowed in Waterdog "Focusing on slowing travel speeds, maintaining safe speeds and adding calming features" can easily be accomplished by imposing a maximum 15 mph bike speed that many other parks and Sierra Club guidelines have already recommended. Without noting an actual speed, "safe speed" is purely subjective and meaningless. Sierra Club policy observes a maximum speed limit of 15mph for all bicycles. I hope the above suggestions for Base Plan Actions will assist you in providing more clarity, specifics and details regarding balanced recreation with ecosystem conservation in your final OSMP. Thank you for your attention. Jennifer Lien	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/5/2022	Hi John and Robin (Please forward as I don't have Robin's email), Thank you for your OSMP presented to Belmont's PROS Committee on May 31, 2022. Our region is rated as a "Biodiversity Hotspot", and Belmont's Open Spaces are an integral and connected pocket of natural habitat essential to continuing biodiversity. But our open space is also essential to resident health and education. So achieving a sustainable balance between protection and recreation is the most important objective of this Plan. I thus object to the sly, but significant, replacement of "maintenance" for the actual General Plan priority of "maintaining the proper function of natural systems." Throughout my comments, attached, you will find balance between environment, recreation and natural hazards woven into the objective, policy and action. Decision makers need WRA to help craft clear criteria to weigh this balance. As observed by the PROS committee and Commission, many items are vague or lack specifics. Differing interpretations of current City Plans has led to conflict and inaction, so it's essential that the plan help clarify, not muddy the waters. Thus, I submit for your consideration very specific edits intended to provide clarity and avoid misinterpretation, to reduce future disputes. Thank you for your consideration, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
6/10/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. My son and I have both worked on maintaining and improving trails in waterdog (at organized trail work days). The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Best, Nigel Ray	Nigel Ray
6/10/2022	As a long time Belmont resident, Advisory Committee member, and an individual who hikes the Water Dog trails 200+ days per year, I was very shocked and disappointed that the majority of Park & Rec Commissioners have already stated that they will recommend "multi use" trails in the Water Dog Open Space. This was stated at the Park & Rec meeting last week. I feel this decision does not take into consideration the numerous Belmont residents who feel that the most trails are unsafe due to the preponderance of bikers on narrow trails. It also is in conflict with the recommendation of the WRA report which lists on Table 9 to "Implement single-use and one-way trail segments in areas identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following sufficient public outreach". The WRA study also states that the trails should be designed and improved to facilitate safe trail use by all visitors. The decision to make all trails multi use violates this WRA recommendation in section P20. In section P21, WRA states "the City may prohibit certain trail uses or apply increased trail use restrictions within certain areas to enhance safety, minimize conflicts between trail users, and protect natural resources areas"". Why can't a certain number of trails be designated for hikers/ walkers only and this be implemented so that hikers do not have to worry about their safety and being run over by bikers? These should be the following trails: Berry, Chaparral, Raccoon Run, Rambler, Ohlone, Canyon Creek and Raccoon Run. As I stated, I and my wife hike the WD trails 200+ days per year and have done so for many years. We have been nearly hit by bikers 6 times in the last 12 months. The bikers have stated: "show us the statistics of injuries or accidents caused by bikers". Obviously the near misses to me and my wife do not show up in records but I can guarantee you that these near accidents have happened. Many of these near accidents occurred when bikers came around blind curves. They could not see us and we could not see them until the last seconds. We had to jump off the trail to avoid being hit. I must also say that numerous residents we meet walking on Belmont streets will no longer hike the WD trails due to the danger posed by the bikers. Many residents say it is not enjoyable or conducive to a peaceful walk anymore as they have to constantly watch out for bikers.	Bob Stahl

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/10/2022 (con't)	In the past two years we see less animals(deer, rabbits, quail, etc.) than in the past. Whereas we used to see deer on a weekly basis, we've seen only 3 deer since the beginning of this year. In addition, many of the trails are damaged by bikers who have worn down the trails and made it so slick it is hard to climb some of the hilly areas. The bikes have also damaged many tree roots. I must also request that you restrict the use of E bikes on the trails. E bikes go up to 28 MPH. Even Class 1 E bikes go 20 MPH and that can cause a severe injury if someone is hit by an E biker going 20 MPH. E bikes usually are 45-50 pounds and if someone is hit by an E bike at 15-20 MPH, they will be severely injured. Many are designed just like motor cycles and do not need pedal assist. These bikes are not safe for other users on the trails. Please take these ideas into consideration before finalizing your recommendations to the City Council. I believe it is your duty to represent all trail users. So far, you have shown favoritism to the bikers-many of them who do not even live in Belmont. Thank you. Bob Stahl	Bob Stahl
6/10/2022	Hi, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails (Ensatina and Labor of Love), and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Best, Nara Balakrishna	Nara Balakrishna
6/10/2022	Hi, In addition to the template below, I also want to add that mountain biking is a fast growing sport that promotes responsible outdoor use and that the Bay Area as a whole should embrace the recreation desires of its users. As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thanks for your consideration, Max Vaillant	Max Vaillant

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/10/2022	Have been biking water dog for 26-years and just rode my favorite loop this morning. I strongly support the plan to keep all trails all access, including ebikes as I see the day not far off when I'll have to switch! Water dog is my favorite place to ride in California. I support the following. As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come	Frank Babbitt
6/10/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thanks, Norman	Norman Fong
6/10/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Lencioni Construction Inc	Chad Lencioni
6/10/2022	I've read the recently released draft Recreation Use Assessment, and wanted to thank you all for the thoughtful approach to these recommendations. I'm a member of the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree with their positions on the recommendations in this draft posted at https://waterdogstewards.com/articles/update-on-recreation-at-waterdog. I'm a frequent user of the park, and volunteered when many of the trails we enjoy there were being built. I'm thrilled at the recommendation to officially recognize the trails that are currently not on the maps, but are well-built and enhance the open space. I also support the erosion remediation recommendations. I also support the WDOSS position that the trails at Waterdog should remain open (there are no redundant trails!) and multi-use. Waterdog has a wonderful community, and we should continue to embrace and foster it! Thanks again for your patience and thoughtfulness in this process. I know that the vocal minority who want to shut users out of Waterdog have been loud, and I'm happy to see that they have largely been unsuccessful in their hateful campaign here and at the Cross Country Course. --Scott	Scott Hill

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/10/2022	Hi As a user of the Waterdog open space, (mostly enjoying the space as a responsible mountain biker) I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Regards, Mark Lefebvre	Mark Lefebvre
6/10/2022	Hi, I live in Emerald Hills and have been involved with trail building (Lake Loop trail) as well as routine trail maintenance at Waterdog over many years (I started mountain biking at Waterdog in 2006). As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community - me personally included, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you for your time and effort and support of trail use at Waterdog! Best regards, Jill Henrich	Jill Henrich
6/10/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space for the past 20 years, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I enjoy both biking and hiking with my family and our dog in this park and feel this is a place where we can all enjoy the various recreational opportunities the park has to offer. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Brian Stevenson San Mateo County Resident	Brian Stevenson

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/10/2022	Hello. For the past 30 years or so, I've been a user of the Waterdog open space, and I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community (including by myself in years past), and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I do oppose the use of e-bikes, as those are more like motorcycles, and do not fit into the people-powered ethos of waterdog, IMO I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you—Tom S, San Carlos CA	Tom S.
6/10/2022	Hello, As a hiker, dog owner and mountain biker my family and I love and use the Waterdog open space area several times a week. I am writing to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Sincerely, Rob	Robert Labatt
6/10/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, and bikers, as they always have been. I think that further enforcement of on-leash laws is needed for dog walkers. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. I also agree with allowing e-bikes, as they are limited as to speed and generally do not go any faster than normal bikes. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.	Nicolas Olivares
6/10/2022	Dear Parks and Rec Commission, I reviewed the draft Recreation Use Assessment prepared by WRA Consultants for the PROS Plan, and I think overall the consultant's approach is very balanced and reasonable. For the most part I agree wholeheartedly with their assessments and recommendations, and I think they're both commonsense and based on solid science. I disagree with a couple of their recommendations though. WRA recommends making Ensatina trail a hiker-only trail, and the trail known as ""Labor of Love,"" ""Flow,"" and ""Soho Circle"" trail cycling-only. I agree with the comments Commissioner Michaels made at the last P&R Committee meeting, to the effect of ""we should allow as many people as possible to enjoy all of our trails."" For convenience, the recommendations from the report I'm referring to are pasted here: "Trail recommendations for designating as single use. Number 1 on the map below, trail connecting the John Brooks Trail with the Waterdog Lake Loop Trail. This trail could be a good candidate for designating as pedestrian use only due to the low tree branches and unique shady experience that may encourage slow travel through this area. There are also two parallel trails so access to trailheads would not be restricted. This trail may need additional improvements like realigning trail away from the creek in areas.	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/10/2022 (con't)	Number 2 on the map below, loop trail to the south of the John Brooks Trail. This trail could be a good candidate for designating as cycling only due to its winding alignment and banked corners. Because this trail is a loop branching off of the John Brooks Trail, trailhead access would not be restricted. Users of this trail may already be encouraging a single direction of travel (see photo below) which they City may choose to codify and install official signage. However, this decision should rely on assessments of the need for a single direction of travel and visitor surveys." Making single-use trails (hiker-only or cycling-only) fosters division and resentment in the trail user community. Belmont doesn't have a dedicated park ranger, so in designating trails single-use, there's really no way for the City enforce the rule. It doesn't make sense to impose a rule that can't be enforced. Unfortunately, we have a few unhinged individuals in our community who have been known to physically accost and confront cyclists on the trails. I fear that if trails are designated single-use and a cyclist wanders onto the wrong trail, some self-appointed vigilante enforcer will confront or assault him or her. Single-use trails are essentially a solution in search of a problem. All of the trails in Waterdog have always been multi-use, and there's no compelling reason to segregate them. The two trails in question were built by volunteers from the cycling community, not exclusively for themselves, but for everyone to use and enjoy, including hikers, runners, and dog walkers. The basis for WRA's recommendation to make Ensatina (Number 2) hiker-only was "the low tree branches and unique shady experience that may encourage slow travel through this area." This doesn't seem like a good reason to systematically exclude an entire user group, and break with decades of Belmont's tradition of allowing all user groups to use and enjoy all the trails. The federal Bureau of of Land Management has a publication, Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience, that makes some excellent points about shared multi-use trails: • Sharing helps build a trail community. Visitors are encouraged to cooperate in order to preserve and protect a common resource, and encountering other types of users on a trail helps to establish mutual respect and inspire courtesy. • Shared-use trails take better advantage of available space and trail mileage. Quite simply, they provide more trail for everyone to enjoy. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Guidelines-for-a-Quality-Trail-Experience-2017.pdf Ironically, some public commenters at the last P&R meeting were critical of the consultant and Commission for "not bringing the sides together." However, these same people are demanding single-use trails which literally do the opposite of bringing people together. Sharing is what brings people together, and sharing is what creates a sense of community. That's always been our tradition and practice, and I hope you will preserve that in the final voting and implementation of our PROS plan. As always, keep up the great work you're doing and thank you for taking the time to read my email. Regards, Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng
6/10/2022	Hi all, For the past 15 years my wife and I have enjoyed Waterdog for both hiking and mountain biking. We consistently go hiking there together every week or two, and I have biked there once or twice a week until I retired three years ago, and now I bike at Waterdog three times a week. I strongly support multi-use access to all the trails, in particular Ensatina and Labor of Love. These trails both provide unique challenges and joys for both hikers and bikers. I've never had a moment of "conflict" on the Labor of Love trail, either with another biker or with a hiker. I have had moments on the Ensatina trail where I had to yield the right-of-way to an uphill biker, or, as a biker, to a hiker going either direction. In all my interactions on Ensatina, there has never been an uncomfortable moment—I cheerfully and insistently give the right-of-way to all hikers, always encourage them to have a "great hike", and frequently offer advise on route selection (as someone who has been in Waterdog probably almost 2000 times!).	Michael Wright

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/10/2022 (con't)	I personally see no reason not to keep all trails open to all users. It is true that in our use over 15 years that I have had maybe 4 moments (either as a hiker or a biker) where I felt uncomfortable by the behavior of a mountain biker. Things being what they are, I've had at least as many moments where I felt that hikers were discourteous or acted in an unsafe manner. In maybe 2000 times using the resource, this is pretty negligible. I feel that if anything should be done to make Waterdog more enjoyably and safely usable for all users, it should be an education campaign. The existing signage is useful, but could be made more explicit with regards to right-of-way and suggestions for courteous behavior. I truly think that this would almost completely solve any issues that come from multi-use, and would leave all the trails open to all users. Thanks you, Mike Wright	Michael Wright
6/10/2022	Hi, I live in Redwood City and have been involved with trail building (trail at the end of the dam) as well as routine trail maintenance at Waterdog over many years (I started mountain biking at Waterdog in 2012). As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community - me personally included, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you for your time and effort and support of trail use at Waterdog! Sincerely, Pamela James	Pamela James
6/10/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. -Ryan Hollowell	Ryan Hollowell
6/10/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space for the past three (decades), I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. While to population has grown over the last e decades the open space has also improved i workers with Passion Trail bikes (Charles) to help fund , maintain, and build trails for all. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come	Michael Schocket

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/10/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Regards, Sam Chao	Sam Chao
6/10/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, We are the Stucky family and we live next to Water Dog Park. We enjoy walking with the kids and grandma, running, biking and strolling with our puppy Emil. As users of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. Please keep all the trails open for all of us. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Sincerely, The Stucky Family - Lora, Linda, Lorna, Lyla, Lexy & Paul	Lorna Stucky
6/11/2022	Good Morning! As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you, Marc	Marc Siddens

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/11/2022	Hello team! As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thanks and best regards :) Fabio	Fabio Mincone
6/11/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Russell	Russell
6/11/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Brian Bishop	Brian Bishop
6/12/2022	I'm a 63-year-old Mountain Biker/Hiker born and raised in the area. My wife and I, our children, and our grandchild have been using the Waterdog open space for over 40 years. I support the multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I'm seeing better communication than ever between Hikers and Mountain Bikers on the trails. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All the trails should be available for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision-making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Regards, Chuck Spiteri	Chuck Spiteri

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/12/2022	I've been biking amd hiking at Waterdog park for 15 years and have always been impressed by how well everyone gets along. I wish there were more such areas in the Bay Area. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. - Bob Estes	Bob Estes
6/12/2022	Hello, Please maintain access to waterdog for cyclists. These trails are well built, have a ton of amazing history, and enable low-cost recreation for anyone with shoes or a bicycle. Belmont should expand and embrace this regional gem. Thank you for your consideration, Ryan Kauffman 20+ year user of WaterDog (arriving by bike, not car)	Ryan Kauffman
6/12/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails and leave them open to all users. On a personal note, my 65 year old father and I (39) have greatly enjoyed riding e-mountain bikes (eMTB) at Waterdog. Waterdog is one of the only parks on the mid-peninsula that allows eMTBs and it is a game changer for my dad who can ride single track again. Being able to relive the nostalgia of my childhood by riding bikes with my dad is truly special, and I have Waterdog's support for multi-use recreation to thank for that. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Sincerely, Nolan Nichols	Nolan Nichols

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/12/2022	Hello, I lived in Belmont for many years and enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog park and continue to do so. It's great fun to go for a ride there and then have dinner at the Waterdog Tavern afterwards. I have also been involved with trail maintenance there starting in 2005. As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, including me, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for everyone to enjoy as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you for your time and effort and support for trail use at Waterdog! Best regards, Sally Schroeter	Sally Schroeter
6/12/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails and leave them open to all users. On a personal note, my 65 year old father and I (39) have greatly enjoyed riding e-mountain bikes (eMTB) at Waterdog. Waterdog is one of the only parks on the mid-peninsula that allows eMTBs and it is a game changer for my dad who can ride single track again. Being able to relive the nostalgia of my childhood by riding bikes with my dad is truly special, and I have Waterdog's support for multi-use recreation to thank for that. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Sincerely, Nolan Nichols	Peter Salkowski

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/12/2022	Hi Robin and John (please forward this email to Robin), 1. I couldn't agree more with WRA assessments that visitors to San Mateo County parks as well as Belmont Open Spaces reported walking/hiking and running are the predominant reasons for their visits while a much smaller proportion reported biking as their reason. This clearly indicates that OSMP should be focusing more on Pedestrians than currently is the case and WRA's recommendation to "designate trails as single use to improve feelings of safety by increasing predictability by allowing activity type" should be implemented. All visitors can share all trails but bike speeding is not appropriate use on narrow trails which should be reserved for purposes of "exercising, communing with nature and experiencing peace and quiet" No amount of passive bells, loaner bells, proper etiquette and signage will improve the pedestrian safety when mountain bikes speed past at 30 mph and take away from the natural experience of peace and quiet and improvement of mental well-being. Just on Canyon Creek alone, over 40% of Strava bikers report an average speed of 15-27mph on the entire trail while over 90% report maximum speeds up to 30 mph on portions of the trail putting pedestrian safety at risk with absolutely no peace or quiet. ED - Speed Distribution Strava.jpg 2. I vehemently disagree with designating Soho (labour of love), a previously unmapped trail as a one way bike trail. This is legally in flagrant violation of the John Brooks Preserve donation contract to preserve it in its natural state. For WRA to recommend that this unauthorized, unmapped trail be legalized for bikers only (no hikers) is a contradiction to their recommendation that previously unmapped trails (which have the highest number of categories of erosion) should be decommissioned or closed. Bikers want this trail as a one way downhill trail for speed racing, an active and competitive sport; hardly passive recreation. It sets a very bad precedent for allowing bikers to continue to build illegal, unmapped trails in anticipation they will be approved in the future. The Soho trail should be decommissioned and closed. 3. I agree that Waterdog has the highest trail density per acre at .04 miles per acre for both mapped and unmapped trails. It has 2.5 times the trail density of other local comparable small preserves which contributes to erosion, fragmented habitat and disruption of wildlife. Waterdog is already overbuilt with mapped and unmapped trails. 4. I agree with the use of remote motion activated cameras for gathering more data and information regarding pedestrian and cyclist activities, monitoring wildlife and monitoring a maximum 15 mph speed limit for cyclists. This additional data will be helpful in providing missing information to P&R for a complete analysis of the Open Spaces. 5. I disagree with E-bike approval for Waterdog as WRA failed to acknowledge that different classes of E-bikes are visually impossible to distinguish: therefore allowing Class 1 E-bikes means allowing ALL classes of E-bikes. The higher classes have larger, heavier motors and wider tires that will damage trails as their report clearly states that ""motorized trails experience most soil loss and erosion"". There is no need to authorize E-bikes when they currently already violate our open spaces! 6. I agree with passive recreation ideas such as P&R sponsored nature photography contests (particularly for kids), nature-led walks identifying vegetation and wildlife and weekly hiking trips by trail; all are ideas that support the predominant reasons why visitors visit our Open Spaces. Thank you for your attention. Jennifer Lien	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/12/2022	Good afternoon, I live in San Mateo near Hillsdale High school and have been involved with trail building (Berry trail) as well as routine trail maintenance at Waterdog over many years. As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails. Waterdog has given us hours of mother-son times, enjoying the outdoors on our bikes, building skills, starting from our front door. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, me personally included, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for. The exceptions would be any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am a mountain biker, hiker and dog walker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy and that we need to respect the different user groups and use it with tolerance and harmony. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you for your time and effort and support of trail use at Waterdog! Sincerely Lotti Dunbar	Lotti Dunbar
6/12/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and PROS committee I am a resident of Belmont for over 30 years, and have enjoyed the Belmont Open Spaces over all of that time. Hiking, Running, and Biking in those spaces has been an incredible experience for me. Over those years, I believe the conditions of Waterdog Open Space have improved greatly. I have been attending Parks and Recreation Commission meetings for the past couple of years, and have heard all the arguments over and over again. With the publication of the Draft Report, we have an unbiased appraisal of the condition of the Open Spaces and some recommendations for improvement going forward. This document, along with the results of the survey taken earlier in the planning process, and the results of the past city council election all point to the following conclusions: The open spaces are in very good condition, though there is room for improvement Wildlife are generally in good condition in the open spaces People really enjoy the opportunity to make use of the open space Restrictions on biking in the open spaces are opposed by a large majority of the public (data from the survey and results of the last city council election) Trails should be multi-use and we should encourage all to use the resources Some improvements mentioned in the Draft Report, including closure of the highly eroded “”fall line”” section on Rambler, and improving the riparian crossings with bridges, make a lot of sense to me. I hope that they will be implemented. I was heartened to hear several Park and Recreation Commissioners voice support for keeping the trails multi-use. This seems very much in line with the values of the Belmont community. The draft report does endorse making one trail one-way bike only and one trail hiking only. I think this is a recommendation that should not be implemented. Starting to designate trails as accessible to one group and not another is counter to the inclusiveness we strive to maintain in Belmont. Also, once this president is set, I can imagine a never-ending series of calls for evermore restrictive policies in the future. While this suggestion may appear to be a fair one-for-one trade, I do believe it would be a mistake to implement it. There was also a vague recommendation to close “”redundant”” trails. I’m not sure this is a good idea either. In some instances having more than one way to walk or bike may enhance the experience for all. We will see different things on different trails, and spreading out the users over more trails can make the trip more enjoyable for all. There has been a lot of work done to get to where we are today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parks and Recreation Commissioners for their service to the community. I am hopeful that we can come away with a Master Plan that will continue to keep the Open Spaces great places for everyone to enjoy over the coming years. Respectfully, Michael Munrow	Michael Munrow

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/12/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and PROS committee I am a resident of Belmont for over 30 years, and have enjoyed the Belmont Open Spaces over all of that time. Hiking, Running, and Biking in those spaces has been an incredible experience for me. Over those years, I believe the conditions of Waterdog Open Space have improved greatly. I have been attending Parks and Recreation Commission meetings for the past couple of years, and have heard all the arguments over and over again. With the publication of the Draft Report, we have an unbiased appraisal of the condition of the Open Spaces and some recommendations for improvement going forward. This document, along with the results of the survey taken earlier in the planning process, and the results of the past city council election all point to the following conclusions: The open spaces are in very good condition, though there is room for improvement Wildlife are generally in good condition in the open spaces People really enjoy the opportunity to make use of the open space Restrictions on biking in the open spaces are opposed by a large majority of the public (data from the survey and results of the last city council election) Trails should be multi-use and we should encourage all to use the resources Some improvements mentioned in the Draft Report, including closure of the highly eroded “”fall line”” section on Rambler, and improving the riparian crossings with bridges, make a lot of sense to me. I hope that they will be implemented. I was heartened to hear several Park and Recreation Commissioners voice support for keeping the trails multi-use. This seems very much in line with the values of the Belmont community. The draft report does endorse making one trail one-way bike only and one trail hiking only. I think this is a recommendation that should not be implemented. Starting to designate trails as accessible to one group and not another is counter to the inclusiveness we strive to maintain in Belmont. Also, once this president is set, I can imagine a never-ending series of calls for evermore restrictive policies in the future. While this suggestion may appear to be a fair one-for-one trade, I do believe it would be a mistake to implement it. There was also a vague recommendation to close “”redundant”” trails. I’m not sure this is a good idea either. In some instances having more than one way to walk or bike may enhance the experience for all. We will see different things on different trails, and spreading out the users over more trails can make the trip more enjoyable for all. There has been a lot of work done to get to where we are today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parks and Recreation Commissioners for their service to the community. I am hopeful that we can come away with a Master Plan that will continue to keep the Open Spaces great places for everyone to enjoy over the coming years. Respectfully, Michael Munrow	Rob Anagnoson
6/13/2022	I am reaching out to you as an avid user of the Waterdog open space area. I’d like to share my position to continue to support the multi-use recreation for all of the trails for all types of users to enjoy. I am also an advocate for the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and appreciate the policies that have been established for the well being of this area and the community. I ask that you please reconsider the proposal of certain trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails included in the open space. I would very much like to see this trail system, that was built and is being maintained by the community, remain open on a fully inclusive basis for all hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy. I look forward to enjoying this open space with all of my various community members for many years to come. Respectfully, Chris Miller	Chris Miller

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/13/2022	As a resident of Belmont living in the Belmont Heights neighborhood and frequent user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I regularly hike, bird watch and explore nature in the Waterdog OS and occasionally bike the trails. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Regards, Karen Moody	Karen Moody
6/13/2022	I'm hoping to attend the open house this evening at Waterdog/Hidden Canyon. However, if I don't get a chance to speak, I want to get some of my thoughts out in advance. I've been enjoying Waterdog for close to 20 years, and a resident of San Mateo for a little over 10 years. In those 20 years, I've worked with Charles Jalgunas and Patti Ciesla (formerly of Passion Trail Bikes) and now the Trail Stewards of Waterdog during many trailwork days. One of the projects I'm most proud of is helping Patti construct the new lake loop trail, bringing my son on several occasions when he was maybe 3-5 years old. He's 14 now, and just finished his freshman year at Serra HS. During the pandemic, we got much more involved in mountain biking as a safe, social outdoor activity and found the Woodside Beasts. What we found with the Woodside Beasts was such a welcoming group who are passionate about the outdoors. Kids of all types and abilities are welcomed with open arms and provided the opportunity to enjoy many of the parks and open spaces in the Bay Area, incentivizing them to get outside and off of their devices. For me, this was so important during the pandemic, and will continue to be a great life lesson moving forward. Sadly, it appears there are a small, very vocal minority that are trying to limit access to trails for cycling in Waterdog. I've seen first hand how these teens and pre-teens have fallen in love with being outside, meeting new friends, and learning new life skills (first aid, trail maintenance, philanthropy, civic duty, etc.). However, there are people in our community that brand these kids as criminals or outlaws, and portray them in a negative light. That message can't be further from the truth. What infuriates me is that during a trail maintenance day, working alongside the Belmont Parks and Rec, the neighbors called the police on us (and the kids). It was so frustrating trying to explain to my son why the police were questioning the work we were doing, and that it was approved by the city. How can the city help change the neighborhood's perception of these young kids? They spend countless hours working to maintain trail systems and better communities from San Francisco down to Santa Cruz, only to be told they aren't welcome and are often scolded on the same trails they help maintain. Please keep Waterdog open to all users. It's such a beautiful space that should remain accessible for everyone to enjoy. Kind regards, Matt Leonard	Matt Leonard

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/13/2022	Council Members, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Jamie Morgan	Jamie Morgan
6/13/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thanks, Thad	Thad Trent
6/13/2022	I regularly use Waterdog open space, so wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. Specifics to your draft recommendations: I do not support the restriction to hiking only on Ensatina Trail, the low hanging tree cover is a uniquely beautiful charm that my soul loves. I choose to enjoy while riding my bike, and would deeply like to continue to use this trail. I do not support changing Labor of Love into a bike only trail, it too has a really fun, low tree cover, but maily oak trees that I love. Please leave this open to all users. I do support making this trail one-direction only. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Best regards, Ryan	Ryan Fell

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/13/2022	Dear Community Officials, I bike in Waterdog park approximately three days a week year around. It is an amazing multi-use park that needs to remain accessible to all. I wear bells on my bikes and always yield to others on the trails and have had no issues with walkers, runners, etc. I've found people to be very hospitable, especially when bikers are careful and thoughtful like most are. As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Kind regards, David Johnson	David Johnson
6/13/2022	To whom it may concern, As a local resident and frequent user of the Waterdog open space, I strongly support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all the trails should continue to be available for hikers, dog walkers, and cyclists to enjoy equally. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exception that I am opposed to any trail closures and to the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. Thanks, Chris Strahorn	Chris Stranhorn
6/13/2022	Hello, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision-making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Sincerely, Miro Miklos	Miro Miklos

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/14/2022	To Belmont City Council, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Best, Devin Sezgen	Devin Sezgen
6/14/2022	Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation, and City Council, I know you're in the planning stages of the open space master plan for Belmont Parks and recreation for the next 15 years, and as an avid mountain biker in the community I appreciate the opportunity to share my feedback. My name is Reid Brozek. I'm a 17 year-old mountain biker, and live 3 miles from Waterdog Lake Park. I have been riding at Waterdog for over 5 years, on average about 2 times per week. My first experiences at Waterdog was when I was completely new to the sport at around age 13. One day when my friends and I were at Waterdog trying to learn skills on the trails. One day around this time, three mountain bikers came down the trail. They were members of the Woodside Beasts, a local mountain biking team. The coach, Jarrod Ristow, made a friendly introduction and let us know about the team. I later joined, and so much of my positive mountain biking experiences and beyond have come from my development with the Beast organization, including the team practices at Waterdog Lake Park. Throughout my years with the Woodside Beasts, I have learned many aspects of trail riding etiquette that I follow and role model at Waterdog. These include being respectful to people passing by, letting our group know when we pass a group of hikers or fellow bikers by saying "hiker" or "rider" up, giving the right of way to people going up the trail, and pulling off to the side when there are larger groups of people. In addition, as part of the Woodside Beasts, the team organizes trail maintenance days at Waterdog, where we go out and clear the trail of debris including litter and we repair hazardous sections of the trail. These volunteer efforts improve the riding experience at Waterdog Lake Park for all riders, and also provide fun bonding time for the team, and instill a sense of pride in our sport. Some of the best aspects of riding at Waterdog are the short climbs, the technical sections on trails like Rambler, and how Waterdog is a multi-use space. But the very best thing about Waterdog is its location, because it is the only place with this size and type of terrain on the mid peninsula. I urge the City of Belmont, when considering their Open Space Master Plan, to preserve all existing trails at Waterdog and restore trails that have been recently blocked. The second issue I want to raise is the development of a pump track. In the Draft Recommendations for the Open Space Master Plan, the addition of a pump track was among the top amenities requested by the community. Currently, the closest pump track is in San Jose. A pump track in Belmont would have supported the development of my biking skills as a new rider, and I would still enjoy it today as an experienced rider. I want to advocate for younger riders in my community to give them opportunities when I was starting out. A pump track in Belmont would provide opportunities for people to get outside and be more active. Sincerely, Reid Brozek	Reid Brozek

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/14/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Sincerely, Mike Barad	Mike Barad
6/15/2022	Hello, I am writing in support of multi-use recreation on the trails at the Waterdog open space. The trail system was built, and continues to be maintained, by the entire community. All trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. The singular group that is trying to change and remove access to the park for a much broader segment of multiple user groups is a niche segment of the community that does not represent the actual diverse population of Belmont and the broader population that enjoys Waterdog. Please keep this in mind when making a decision that could potentially prevent children, adults and families from enjoying this park as they have been, for generations to come. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thanks, Justin Carr	Justin Carr
6/15/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, As a local who was raised in Belmont (Fox Elementary, Ralston Middle School, Carlmont High School), a current local resident in neighboring San Carlos and as a lifetime time user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I was first introduced to Waterdog open space by my parents in the mid-1970s as we would enjoy weekly family hikes. As I grew older, I started riding the Waterdog trails and have enjoyed them for over 30 years! I am now a father and enjoy the same hiking and riding with my own family that I grew to love over the years. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been for as long as I can remember! I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Regards, Matt Herman	Matt Herman

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/15/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Sincerely, Chuck Becker	Chuck Becker
6/15/2022	Dear Parks & Recreation Commission, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you very much for your attention in this matter! Peter	Peter Coward
6/16/2022	Hello, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you Lindsay	Lindsay Helmuth
6/16/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you, Eduardo	Eduardo Llach

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6/16/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. -Shelby Golan	Shelby Golan
6/17/2022	Hello Belmont/Waterdog decision-makers, Please retain multi-use trails at Waterdog. I have ridden my mountain bike at Waterdog for years. It is truly a great park to ride and wouldn't want it to change in any way, if possible. I know that mountain biking has become more popular in recent years and amidst the pandemic, and this has brought new users to the park, and possibly some riff-raff. Here is the copy/paste version: As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Regards, Jonathan Lamb	Johnathan Lamb
6/17/2022	Hello, As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you, Susannah Calvin	Susannah Calvin

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
6/17/2022	Dear Belmont City Council and PROS Commission, I am a frequent user of Waterdog open space, and I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I also support the use of e-bikes there and don't see them as making any impact on the trails or other users due to their quiet operation and very low power compared to a dirt bike. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Sincerely, Joel Wilson"	Joel Wilson
6/19/2022	Hello, As Belmont resident and an avid user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write in support of multi-use recreation of the trails in Water dog. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree with the draft recommendations published recently with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. I've been hiking and biking in Water dog for over a decade hand never felt a situation where trails had to be restricted for enjoying a nice outdoors. In the decade we have been living in Belmont, we love the city for all it has to offer. I am committed to doing my part to make Water Open Space safe an inclusive to all. Please leave all trails in the park open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Best Regards Tushar	Tushar Nair
6/21/2022	Hello Belmont, Waterdog was the origin of a great ride tradition where I formed some of the best friendships in my life. As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. Thank you, Brook	Brook Burley

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/1/2022	Dear Commissioners and Councilmembers, An article in the San Francisco Chronicle (Electric bicycle ban on trails staying put--Per report, e-bikes could impact safety and environment) was brought to my attention today. I have copied some pertinent information regarding this decision, which I think is relevant to the Waterdog Open Space here in Belmont. Yes—some regions have opened up trails to e-bikes, but I think there is a big difference between recreational areas or parks, which have the primary purpose of recreation, and nature preserves with a primary purpose of preserving the natural environment. Below are quotes taken from the article. I added italics to emphasize the last statement. “Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District voted to uphold its ban on e-bikes on the majority of its trails.” “Observing that e-bike use has exploded in the region, the district undertook a thorough two-year policy review that looked at the potential impacts of allowing e-bikes on its nature preserves. In an exhaustive report, the authors assessed noise impacts to nearby bat populations, potentially excessive uphill speeds, fire risk, soil impacts, and the potential for conflicts among e-bikers and other visitors.” “The four directors who voted to keep the ban largely in place noted that Midpen’s mission is to balance healthy natural ecosystems with agricultural and recreational uses and view its preserves as distinct from parklands in that way.” “‘What I want to emphasize is our job is to properly care for nature preserves, and it’s a very different approach required by agencies that are managing parks,” said Midpen Director Curt Riffle. “I’ve concluded that I just cannot support allowing motorized or motor-assisted bicycles into our preserves.’ Director Karen Holman echoed that rationale, describing possible unknown negative impacts to wildlife wrought by e-bike riders who might venture down Midpen trails farther and faster than mountain bikers.” “Overall, directors expressed trepidation about a lack of scientific research on e-bike impacts in natural areas. ‘One consideration … is that based on our past history, once a use is allowed in an area, it becomes more difficult to restrict that use if we find that negative impacts are indeed occurring,’ said Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz.” This last point is critical to consider in the implementation of a pilot policy, as suggested on page xvi of the draft Open Space Master Plan. Also, it is apparent to me that opening up trails to e-bikes is not required to adhere to ADA regulations, given that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District voted to uphold its ban. Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue as you move forward. Regards, Connie Tettenborn	Connie Tettenborn

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/3/2022	Hi Brigitte, I want to call your attention to three significant errors on the PROS Drafts released June 28, 2022. These are not differences of opinion, but factual errors. I respectfully request these errors be corrected prior to submission of the drafts to City Council, and that these corrections be conveyed to the Commission in the July 6 discussion on the topic. I would greatly appreciate an e-mail acknowledgement of receipt of this notice, and confirmation that the errors will be corrected. Thank you, Kristin Mercer Unauthorized Trails incorrectly identified as authorized (WRA Draft Final Open Space, pg. 6 and 20) On the WRA trail maps, six illegal trails are mis-labeled as authorized (solid black line). As you can see on the most recent City trail map below, these trails are NOT authorized and were not approved by the City for good reasons: Ralston School – poses a security risk to students, was steep and badly eroded. This trail was closed by City actions in 2021. Berry shortcut to Brooks – dangerously steep, redundant because it connects two trails that intersect just a few yards to the east. Chaparral to Brooks at Highlands Court – redundant because it connects two trails that intersect at the Somerset entrance, dangerously steep and eroded, bisecting chaparral habitat. Elevator down to Chaparral – dangerously steep and eroded 2 ft ditch, causing widening yearly, bisecting chaparral habitat. From Ohlone to Ohlone – redundant, dangerous slope and cross slope with trail width less than 1 foot, undermined roots and killed two previously healthy oaks, bisecting sensitive oak and fern forest and introducing invasive species. Hastings Drive to Upper Creek – redundant, dangerously steep, highly eroded and widened beyond 10 feet. Many of these trails were identified by residents in 2020 when the City was asked, and promised, to close them. Ralston trail was closed at that time. Ohlone appeared in 2020-21. Hastings has been closed or not-used for many years. Taken together these mistakenly mapped trails add to about a mile. On top of these we have the 1.5 miles of illegal trails in the Brooks Preserve (not shown here). All totaled, illegal trails account for an added ~20% more trail miles than the City acknowledges. None of these trails have trail signage because the 2020 Trail Signage Committee acknowledged that these are NOT official trails. Illegal trails are a significant management issue that is totally omitted from the WRA assessment and recommendations, and should be documented as an area of focus. There is no justification for sanctioning these dangerous, redundant, unsustainable, unplanned and illegally created trails. Please revise the WRA maps to remove these trails. And again, please take action to close these illegal trails. E-bike policy -MidPen Open Space does not permit e-bikes (WRA Draft Final Open Space, pg.43) The WRA Draft Open Space Management Plan implies, on pg 43, that MidPen is poised to permit e-bikes on trails. In fact, at their June 29 meeting the MidPen board voted to ban e-bikes from narrow natural surface trails. This decision was based on an exhaustive study of impacts and policies of other open space stewardship agencies. It is thus reflective of the emerging “best practices” in light of the rapidly evolving e-technologies and growing use impacts from bike activity. The WRA draft needs to convey this recent ruling and correctly assess this emerging policy trend in order to avoid misleading Belmont decisionmakers. Pg 43. “More recently, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) -which does not allow e-bikes on trails - commissioned a set of studies to investigate visitor perceptions and ecological impacts of e-bikes. A report on these studies to the Board of Directors submitted in March, 2022 included a recommendation that e-bikes be allowed wherever bikes were allowed (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 2022), however, the matter remains under consideration by the District at the time of this report writing.” Attached is a recent Chronicle news article on the ruling, and you can also view the MidPen meeting online to verify this report (minutes not yet published). https://www.openspace.org/about-us/meetings/bod-20220629	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/3/2022 (con't)	Errors on Figure ES-3 Park Access Radii Map (Gates Belmont PROS Plan Final Draft, pg.xi) The Park Access Radii map on the PROS PLAN FINAL page xi incorrectly identifies six Neighborhood Parks as Community Parks (shaded teal instead of green). Park typology does not change on account of access radii. Despite the fact that these parks serve a larger neighborhood, they are still neighborhood parks, not intended to provide amenities to serve the entire community. Misrepresenting the type classifications will lead to decisions adversely impacting those neighborhoods and overburdening the area. Please change the key-colors of the following parks to indicate they are Neighborhood parks (green), not Community parks (teal). The KEY for this graphic lacks the Community Park (orange dot) identifier. The Undeveloped parks (blue dot on the KEY) do not appear on the map.	Kristin Mercer
7/3/2022	Dear Brigitte, Park and Rec, City Council and PROS, As reported in WRA's final draft Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) the majority of visitors to open spaces seek nature: "exercising, communing with nature and experiencing peace and quiet" was cited in the 2021 Belmont survey as the leading purpose of visiting the Open Space. "walking, hiking and running while a much smaller proportion reported biking" was also the response to a survey of visitors to San Mateo County parks. Yet in Belmont's Waterdog, these purposes have been totally reversed with biking now the predominant activity, preventing residents and others from walking, hiking and running in peace and quiet, and communing with nature. The PROS guiding principles call for equity and inclusiveness, but currently the majority of residents are denied equitable access and inclusion; they don't feel welcome and safe and don't feel that their health and well being are advanced. Bikers have argued that pedestrians are equally welcome to use the narrow trails and insist they are inclusive, but this argument is disingenuous because bikes on trails meant for hiking are forcing foot traffic out of Waterdog. We have an exclusionary, regional bike-dominated destination. By creating dangers to pedestrians with competitive speeding up to 30 mph on the curves of narrow trails; seeking ever steeper slopes and jumps for excitement, and building berms around narrow curves for enhanced speed they have scared away neighbors with small children, driven away avid senior hikers and created an environment of fear of walking in Waterdog. And this exodus is being encouraged by a San Mateo bike leader's audacious public comments telling Belmont residents to go take a hike elsewhere other than Waterdog (click video link). https://mega.nz/file/asxDTBDK#bwOhYtyDj9uiPYbQBl3vpGMY27wOLjz03N4zNUXw1LU Let's be honest; no amount of "trail calming features" (bells, greetings, flat landings, slower speeds, reminder signs) will be enforceable and none of them will improve biker/hiker compatibility. Hikers walking at 1-5 mph seeking peace and quiet cannot compete with speeding 2- wheel machinery traveling up to 30 mph, whizzing past within inches on a 3-foot wide trail. This is neither safe nor conducive to either user group attempting to enjoy Waterdog, and is an accident waiting to happen. The compromise solution is to make the 5 following narrow trails - Lake Loop, Berry, Chaparral, Canyon Creek and Ohlone - off limits to bikes while all other authorized trails can be used by bikers (8 trails). All 5 of these narrow trails designated by the 1999 City Council for hiking only, are very steep or winding, have blind curves and few safe passing zones. Many slippery areas need staircases to make them safe for pedestrians, and stairs are not compatible with bikes. ALL trails can be open to all visitors on foot – without allowing access by machinery. Designate these 5 trails off limits to bikes and build safety staircases where necessary to enable the majority of park visitors who are now displaced from our trails. As you finalize your recommendations to City Council for approval, please keep in mind your guiding principles for the majority of users. Waterdog needs separate trails for separate users because peace and quiet, communing with nature and most importantly, pedestrian safety are just not compatible with speeding bikes. Don't let Belmont's Waterdog continue to be known as one of the only 2 local open spaces that allow bikes on every single trail; forcing hikers to go elsewhere, because such a City policy is truly neither equitable nor inclusive at all. Jennifer Lien	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/5/2022	Dear Park Commissioners, I certainly know that the last two years spent reviewing the alternatives on the WD Open Space has been challenging and yet very worthwhile. As I have been an PROS Plan Advisory Committee member, it has also been enlightening and challenging. As I have noted previously, my wife and I hike the trails 200+ days a year and have done so for many years. Over the last two years, many more bikers have biked the trails. Through social media sites, the WD trails are featured as a great place for mountain bikers to come from all over the Bay Area. Unfortunately, many come to race and if not race, they still make it extremely unsafe for hikers and walkers. Now many walkers and hikers fear for their safety due to the bikers. In fact, many nearby residents to my home have personally told me they no longer walk or hike there due to the unsafe conditions. These include families with small children. Many of the trails have blind curves and steep hills which lead to these unsafe conditions. In addition, many of these trails are only 24”-30” wide. A walker and biker cannot safely pass one another without one party jumping off the trail. I would like to make the following request on behalf of myself and all residents of Belmont: Please make the following trails for hikers only: 1. Lake Loop 2. Berry 3. Chaparral 4. Canyon Creek 5. Ohlone This is only 5 trails. All other trails can be multi use. This gives everyone the satisfaction of enjoying what they want to do. The five trails mentioned above can be controlled with gates, turnstiles, stairs or other devices that would prohibit bikes from entering the hiking trails. As the WRA consultants state in the study, most visitors to the WD area want exercise but with peace and quiet. In addition, I strongly request that E bikes be prohibited from the trails. Even class 1 E bikes can go 20 MPH. These E bikes weigh 45-50 lbs. and if they hit someone going 20 MPH, that person will be severely injured. As I hope you are aware, the Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors spent 2 years studying this matter and decided AGAINST allowing E bikes. They cited the noise factors, excessive speed, soil erosion, fire impacts and conflicts with other trail users(I.e.hikers). Please make this same decision for the WD Open Space. I hope you will consider these requests for the many walkers and hikers who want to use the beautiful open space in Belmont. Thank you. Bob Stahl	Bob Stahl
7/5/2022	Please find the article in San Francisco Chronicle on the Mid Peninsula Open Space Board’s decision on E bikes. Thank you.	Bob Stahl
7/5/2022	Brigitte and P&R Commission, I just recently learned that the PROS Plan Final Draft has been issued. At the beginning of this process, you repeatedly stated that you would keep interested parties abreast of developments in this process. I signed up for the PROS email list and to date this PROS Plan Final Draft has not been disclosed to the public who specifically submitted comments and signed up for PROS updates. I request that all interested parties be notified of the City’s release of the PROS Plan Final Draft and be given sufficient time to review the new document in order to provide meaningful comments. The issuance of such a final draft without adequate public comment time is not in conformance with best practices for public involvement. I only learned over the 4th of July weekend of this issuance of the PROS Plan Final Draft and understand was only made public on July 1, 2022. The 4th of July weekend is clearly not sufficient time for members of the public to provide meaningful comments. As a part of your and the Belmont P&R Commission’s commitment to transparency and keeping the public informed of this PROS process, I request notification be sent to all interested parties and to be given sufficient time to review the document. Thank you for your attention to this issue, Deniz Bolbol	Deniz Bolbol

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/5/2022	Cannot access plan. Requires app or creating an account on gates website. Why ?	Dirk Flote
7/5/2022	The major harm that mountain biking does is that it greatly extends the human footprint (distance that one can travel) in wildlife habitat. E-bikes multiply that footprint even more. Neither should be allowed on any unpaved trail. Wildlife, if they are to survive, MUST receive top priority! What were you thinking??? Mountain biking and trail-building destroy wildlife habitat! Mountain biking is environmentally, socially, and medically destructive! There is no good reason to allow bicycles on any unpaved trail! Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: https://mjvande.info/mtb10.htm . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking.... A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see https://mjvande.info/scb7.htm). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions. Mountain bikers also love to build new trails - legally or illegally. Of course, trail-building destroys wildlife habitat - not just in the trail bed, but in a wide swath to both sides of the trail! E.g. grizzlies can hear a human from one mile away, and smell us from 5 miles away. Thus, a 10-mile trail represents 100 square miles of destroyed or degraded habitat, that animals are inhibited from using. Mountain biking, trail building, and trail maintenance all increase the number of people in the park, thereby preventing the animals' full use of their habitat. See https://mjvande.info/scb9.htm for details. Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT? To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: http://vimeo.com/48784297. In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: https://mjvande.info/mtb_dangerous.htm . The latest craze among mountain bikers is the creation of "pump tracks" (bike parks). They are alleged to teach bicycling skills, but what they actually teach are "skills" (skidding, jumping ("getting air"), racing, etc.) that are appropriate nowhere! If you believe that these "skills" won't be practiced throughout the rest of the park and in all other parks, I have a bridge I'd like to sell you! ... For more information: https://mjvande.info/mtbfaq.htm . The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks). The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks. Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.	Mike Vandeman

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/5/2022	Hello Kelly and Brigette, At the last minute, I'm offering a summary of my (scattered) thoughts regarding the Belmont PROS Plan. You both have invested a tremendous amount to time and energy shepherding this endeavor and I am so grateful to live in Belmont because of efforts such as yours. I believe my primary input to the panel was to be slanted towards our OSP which is fine since I hike in San Juan Canyon, Waterdog and or Hidden Canyon on a weekly basis; twenty plus years ago you would find me on my bike. To that end, my opinions are both as a biker and hiker, as well as a mother to an avid cyclist. Belmont enjoys the unique situation of having access to bike bridges spanning both 101 and 280 - I am not aware of another City on the Peninsula which has that feature. Add to that our wonderful open space for mountain biking, the presence of Belmont Bike shop, plus easy access to restaurants and shops along Ralston Avenue, and we have a city that should be a cyclist's destination. Perhaps the City could officially declare that we are bike-friendly in both access and safety. Bike-friendly does not mean that mountain bikers can rule the trails. I think the our OSP should be viewed for mellow, after-work or -school rides and a place to learn safe skills. This can be communicated via social media on various biking websites with the emphasis that our OSP is not where you bomb down the trail, but where you share it with flora, fauna and those not on bikes. I believe this message may be being shared already. I would ask that the City keep an open mind to reviewing the trail system to add an additional trail or two in an effort to better connect the OSP and, more importantly, to spread out the trail users. A thoughtfully placed and designed trail can ease over-use of an area, enhance enjoyment and potentially decrease any user conflict. For instance, there could be benefit to connecting Lake Road with Hidden Canyon via a trail towards Elevator. I was very pleasantly surprised that the WRA assessments found that our OSP is in good shape, especially considering the amount of use. I have personally seen the results of various volunteers clearing non-native brush and decommissioning unauthorized trails/shortcuts. The land looks better. Addressing the erosion on trails will further enhance the robustness of the system. The water crossing have always been a concern since I realize the importance of keep feet and wheels out of water as much as possible. Unfortunately, these water crossings that do not have a good overpass are mostly on unauthorized trails in both Waterdog and San Juan Canyon. To address the water crossing, the City of Belmont needs to decide whether to recognize the two Waterdog trails that are currently unauthorized, but appeared in a decades earlier City document, as well as the trails in San Juan. I realize this puts the City in a bit of a sticky wicket since I have no doubt some type of action will be instigated by a few anti-bike activists. However, the City needs to make the decision so we can move forward on management of our open space. That is what I have felt all along in this PROS process, the City needs to make the decision on what trails will be authorized. Only then can we move forward to safe guarding our open space. I am guarded on designating trails for a certain user group; instead I wold rather see all trails be able to handle all users. Thank you for allowing me to participate. I so wish we could have met in person as Zoom can be such a barrier to seeking common ground, but nevertheless I appreciate the opportunity to join the process. Best wishes for the Summer to you both. Sincerely, Lynn Bell	Lynn Bell
7/6/2022	I long ago signed up with PROS to be on the email list to receive updated information on PROS actions but don't seem to be receiving any updates but do get the City manager's updates. I definitely did not receive the final draft plan report that PROS Advisory and other residents received yesterday. Luckily, I am able to navigate the City website and found the draft plan myself beforehand but just wanted to let you know that there appears to be a glitch regarding communication of PROS actions to residents that signed up. Although we are almost at the end of the process, I want to make sure that I am on the email list to get all communications regarding the OSMP from here on please. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Jennifer Lien	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/6/2022	July 6, 2022 Director Brigitte Shearer and Commissioners Belmont Department of Parks and Recreation 30 Twin Pines Lane Belmont, CA 94002 The recently released Belmont Draft Open Space Management Plan June 2022, submitted by WRA Inc. contains a statement about the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MidPen) e-bike policy that requires correction: Pg 43. "More recently, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) -which does not allow e-bikes on trails - commissioned a set of studies to investigate visitor perceptions and ecological impacts of e-bikes. A report on these studies to the Board of Directors submitted in March, 2022 included a recommendation that e-bikes be allowed wherever bikes were allowed (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 2022), however, the matter remains under consideration by the District at the time of this report writing." At their June 29, 2022 meeting, the MidPen Board of Directors voted to uphold its ban on e-bikes on the great majority of its trails. They did approve class 1 and 2 e-bike access on 6.5 miles of improved (paved or wide hardened) trails in Rancho San Antonio Preserve in Cupertino and Ravenswood Preserve (Bay Trail) in East Palo Alto. This policy conforms with that of other open space entities that allow bikes in general only on paved roads and former ranch and logging roads. Please find our full comment letter attached. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this Draft Open Space Management Plan, and hope that Belmont will continue notifying the community to enhance stewardship with the goals of preserving habitat, species, and equitable access. Sincerely, Gladwyn d'Souza Conservation Committee Chair Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club Cc: James Eggers Executive Director Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club Mike Ferreira Executive Committee Member Political Chair, Coastal Issues Chair Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club sent by: Barbara Kelsey she/her/hers Chapter Coordinator Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter	Barbara Kelley
7/6/2022	FOR THE RECORD: Attached is a document that was included in the California Fish and Wildlife Journal-Recreation Special Issue 2020. This same issue included an article co-written by John Baas from WRA. The attached article, written by Elizabeth Lucas, concludes that the default scientific position is that recreational trails fragment habitat and have a negative impact on wildlife, and the more trail density the more negative impact. Just the opposite of what WRA concluded in its Final Draft of Belmont's OSMP, p. 46.	Pat Cuviello
7/8/2022	Dear City Council, The Open Space Element of the PROS plan has not received the transparent and public review that the Developed Parks section received. The PROS Park Specific process was discussed and revised over 2 years, whereas the Open Space draft was only released in June, and never fully reviewed. The Commission should have recommended only the Parks section and continued public discussion of Open Space policies at their July 6 meeting.	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/8/2022 (con't)	The PROS Open Space process officially started on March 5, 2022 with WRA initial recommendations, lacking the promised trail assessment. The report was vague and incomplete, and thus the committee deferred discussion. On 5/27 that WRA assessment was published – 2 days before the 5/31 PROS meeting, allowing no time for the committee to read or absorb the content. The OSMP final draft (136 pages) was not published until the day before this July 4th holiday weekend, and readers are now discovering serious oversights and missing key elements necessary for a basic framework for a Master Plan. I could see that the P&R Commissioners were struggling to make an approval decision just a day after receiving the "final" drafts totaling approx 300 pages. They openly expressed concerns, but felt pressed to act in order to meet your July 12 City Council meeting deadline. Under pressure to make a decision the Commissioners reluctantly approved the entire plan and at the last minute resorted to narrating multiple amendments to the Open Space element on the fly before recommending this inaccurate and incomplete document to you. The Open Space process was crammed into a 6 week period while the Park Specific process had over 2 years; neither equitable nor transparent and the result is half baked. Serious issues in the Open Space that need to be addressed now are being swept under the rug in this OSMP. I reexamined the current 1992 MP Open Space policy (Section VIII) to make some comparisons to this Open Space policy in the new OSMP. Ironically, the 1992 Open Space plan has more concrete policies and direction than the new plan. Two core issues that need to be addressed now are being kicked down the road as "future amendment projects". Trail Use and Design Guidelines: The 1992 Open Space plan (pg 45) established clear policy guidelines with definitions of multi-use and single-use trails. The City has failed to enforce these policies for two decades, and as a result this issue is at the core of all current conflicts. Instead of addressing this issue head on, as promised to residents at the outset of the plan process, this draft dodges the issue, and leaves the city without any clear trail use policy. The 1992 Master Plan designated 7 single-use trails for hikers only; why won't the P&R just designate 5 of these trails off limits to bikes so pedestrians can be safe? These 5 narrow trails (Lake Loop, Berry, Chaparral, Canyon Creek and Ohlone) are the most narrow, winding, lacking line of sight, steep, and deep in the valley which make them the most dangerous for hikers and bikers to share. Why are our P&R commissioners willing to believe bikers over hikers? Safety is a key objective of the plan, yet here it is totally ignored, as new Commissioner Simpson stated. Continuing to allow all trails to be multi-use is increasing serious safety issues and liabilities the City can least afford. With increasing bikers from all over the Bay area descending on Waterdog for competitive speeding/entertainment, biker/hiker accidents are going to increase, as indicated by last night's public comments and my previous video emailed to you. This very core issue is dividing our community; families, seniors and residents now avoid walking Waterdog, and instead drive elsewhere. In public statements, the bike-volunteer organizer even had the audacity to tell residents to go hike elsewhere! This policy needs to be addressed and established in this document now, not as a future amendment project. Illegal Trails: This issue was not a concern in 1992, before the advent of mountain biking, but is a serious issue now. For decades bikers, in the name of volunteer trail maintenance, have built unauthorized, illegal trails beyond the official 13 trails listed on the City map. Illegal trails and shortcuts have added an estimated 20% more miles to the official approved trail system. In particular, in 2017, bikers illegally built their "Labor of Love" trail in the valley below Soho Circle, plus a trail bisecting the Brooks Preserve protected marsh habitat. Bikers repeatedly claim they are justified in riding every Waterdog trail because they volunteer to do trail maintenance. Volunteers should not be getting special benefits and immunity from vandalism laws as payback because of their efforts. Do we sanction graffiti vandalism because of the effort put into it by the artist? This draft proposes to establish a policy of sanctioning illegally created trails without consideration of trail safety standards, environmental impact compliance, or public process, a completely irresponsible policy. Back in June of 2020, Brigitte stated that illegal trails like this one behind Soho Circle would be addressed in the new Master Plan. It has not, and it is a core issue that needs to be addressed now, not as a future project. Frankly, these two issues have been concerns for decades and never properly addressed. With the opportunity to approve a new 15 year Open Space Management Plan, now is the time is to address these serious issues instead of kicking the cans further down the road. Jennifer Lien Belmont	Jennifer Lien

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/11/2022	Dear Belmont City Council members I am writing to you to comment on the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. All of the background information looks good but I agree the policies are too soft. For example just the first two: P1 - Limit trail construction, and facility development in riparian and other wetland areas. What does limit mean? How many trails and facilities do you consider limited? From what the consultant said in their comments I thought you would want to prohibit new trails in these areas. P2 - Monitor open space conditions with an emphasis on documenting the location, distribution, and abundance of special-status plants and plant communities, native grasses, wildflowers, and other native flora. What would you do after you monitor it? This doesn't tell us what to do with it – or not do with it – when it's identified, or measured, or whatever this is instructing us to do. Most of the policies are very vague and easily interpreted any way you want. For all the words written in this policy document, it really gives no guidance. I can imagine how it could easily be interpreted to support pretty much anything you want to do or build in the open space. So pretty quickly, staff and residents will be arguing over the definition of these terms and whether a project should be approved or not, depending on how they choose to interpret the words. Also, I don't know how you would measure if the plan was completed or was successful or not. A plan should have a list of actionable tasks that can be completed, or rules to be implemented and followed. I'm not sure this document will be of any use, and I agree with the commission that these policies need clarification. Respectfully, Frank Mercer	Frank Mercer
7/11/2022	Hi Belmont City Council, and Belmont Parks & Rec Department, Just wanted to send a quick note to you all before heading out of town for a couple of days. I'm writing in support of the Belmont PROS Plan and the process that got us here. It's been a long and comprehensive 18 month process and I support the conclusions for Waterdog open space, including maintaining all trails as multi-use, doing trail work to reduce erosion and protect the waterways within the park. It was great to meet Brigitte, the consultant team, Councilmember Lieberman, and others in person for the first time through all of this at the 'meet and greet' community engagement event back in June. I had a lengthy discussion with Brigitte about the whole process, and with the consulting team about their environmental backgrounds, and their approach to the process. I was impressed with how thoughtful and intelligent every discussion I had there was. I attended (virtually) the presentation of the plan to the Park & Recs Committee on July 6th and was dismayed to hear the same group of folks that have been so vocal about all that they don't like during the entirety of the last year and a half, complaining that the process was being rushed and somehow clandestine. They impugned the scientific approach of the consultants, and made several demonstrably incorrect assertions about environmental concerns, the process itself, and the goals and purposes of the Plan. In my view the process has been transparent, there have been several public meetings along the way, in which they all participated, as I heard them time after time. Thank you for your consideration, Joel Klein	Joel Klein
7/11/2022	Hi, We are Belmont homeowners and residents near the Waterdog Open Space, as well as frequent users of the Open Space. We support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for outdoor recreation, but in a manner that is inclusive, suitable, and safe for ALL users. 1. We believe the proposed Open Space Management Plan does not adequately evaluate, plan for, or address the major issues with multi-use in the Open Space and how Belmont will manage it. We found the plan to be lacking in this area and ask for revisions to properly address some of the points below.	Alan Tsai

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/11/2022 (con't)	2. We also believe there has not been sufficient time for Belmont residents to review the details of the extensive doc before it is finalized. We ask that the city's vote on this plan be postponed until there has been enough time for review and feedback -- very few have had the opportunity to digest the recently published doc with the actual plan details, after 18+ months of process and input from the community. Our personal experiences: The trails in the Open Space are mostly narrow and steep, single-track trails which are already difficult to share by nature -- combining with the continual increase in bikers and general high trail usage density has made it more and more difficult to fully enjoy the trails, especially as a frequent hiker/dog walker. Personally, we avoid hiking in the Open Space at many times (such as weekends and weekday evenings) since it is often not an enjoyable experience as a hiker given the bike traffic -- anecdotally this is a common theme and we expect many other hikers to have similar experiences. Despite generally pleasant and courteous interactions with bikers, we still end up having to actively avoid bikes or step off of narrow trails frequently, especially for groups of bikers. Unfortunately when conditions aren't suitable for multi-use, it's usually hikers who end up primarily excluded from safely and fully enjoying this outdoor resource. Our concerns with the current Open Space plan include the following: It does not include adequate evaluation on the safety, suitability, and practicality of the current shared-use trail structure throughout Waterdog. This should have been conducted on a per trail basis and evaluated against well-established best practices and standards on shared use. It does not address how Belmont plans to manage safe, multi-use trails, especially at its very high usage volumes. There is minimal detail provided on how to manage multi-use beyond reducing speed and best effort user education; the few points that are included are fairly generic. There is also no real mention or consideration for usage volume -- the plan suggests to "Measure recreation use in open spaces" but this does not seem like it was actually done, though it should be a critical input into the final plan and policies. It does not actually provide useful policy decisions or guidance on important points like single-use trails or e-bikes. Even the 1992 Open Space Master Plan provided more specific details in terms of trail guidelines (and it specifically designated multi-use as gravel 10-12' wide trails). It has a section on "Trail Design Features Specific to Mountain Bike Trails", pointing to Chapter 6 in the CA State Parks and Rec Trail Handbook. This chapter is specifically about designing "designated mountain bike trails", "specifically for cyclists" (quoted directly from the handbook), which should not be a primary consideration in designing our Open Space and shared use trails. Belmont's Open Space should not be focused on designing mountain bike trails, but rather continue to emphasize preserving open space as originally intended, while allowing and supporting multi-use and mountain biking where appropriate. The Open Space plan puts more detail into mountain bike trail design than actual guidelines on how multi-use should be effectively managed throughout to provide a safe and inclusive shared used open space. Overall, we found the proposed Open Space Management Plan to be very hand-wavy with inadequate detail on trail management and specific policy recommendations. It does not sufficiently address the concerns around multi-use voiced by many Belmont residents, and over-indexes on mountain bike trail design while not preserving the spirit of the original Open Space Master Plan and the goals of Belmont's Open Space. If the PROS plan is intended to guide our parks and open space for the next 15 years, we expect that it thoroughly addresses the major concerns and contains actual policies and guidance. As is, it feels like the city is rushing to adopt a long-term plan that is incomplete and missing critical evaluation/studies and details. Thanks, Alan and Shirley	Alan Tsai

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/11/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, I live with my wife and three children (ages 10, 13, and 15) in the Cipriani neighborhood. When we moved to the city in 2005, we chose this city above others because of its natural beauty, abundant trees, great schools, and its multi-use open space trail system. Every day we are grateful to live in a city that had the vision to preserve the open space for our hikers, bikers, trail runners, and dog walkers to enjoy. Regularly we hike with our dog, and at other times we ride our mountain bikes throughout this trail system. We are a happier and healthier family, by virtue of this amazing resource. Over the past 18 months, I have been involved with the PROS plan effort as a community member, attending and speaking in favor of multi-use trails at several public meetings in this very transparent process. Many community members got involved when we learned that there was a small vocal minority looking to shut down trail use to mountain bikes, and potentially to other user groups as well. When the city conducted a high-quality survey, we learned that the vast majority of community members strongly wish to preserve our multi-use trail system access as is. We want to keep our trails open for everyone to enjoy, and this is reflected in the opening principles of the PROS plan – to promote inclusiveness and equity. I have been impressed with the Parks and Rec Commission, Parks and Rec Department, City Council, and our consultants Gates and Associates and WRA. Our city representatives have been very thorough and professional, even when verbally attacked by certain community members. The Parks and Rec Commission has now voted to support the current PROS plan. I have included a few of the points I found most interesting below: 1.) Both Waterdog and San Juan open space are in good environmental health (flora and fauna). 2.) Mountain bikes are not causing erosion or significant damage to the trails 3.) The open space trail system should be maintained as a multi-use trail system, based on community feedback and scientific evaluation by WRA. 4.) WRA did identify some issues with creek crossings, erosion, trail congestion, safety – and suggested that these can be mitigated by measures such as building appropriate bridges, fixing the trail lines of the old erosion-prone fire roads, providing calming features and pull outs for passing hikers and bikers. 5.) There may be opportunities to build additional trails to better serve our user groups and reduce potential congestion on the trails. I fully support the PROS plan that comes to Belmont City Council for review tomorrow, but wanted to address a couple of specific items in this letter: First, there is a question of whether or not to consider one or more trails as ‘hiker only’ or ‘biker only.’ Focusing on our PROS principles of inclusivity and equity, in a park that has long cherished its multi-use traditions, keeping the trails open to everyone seems to be the natural path forward. Trying to segregate certain user groups from certain trails is likely to lead to more user conflict in my opinion, not less. The current, simple, multi-use system is inclusive, equitable, and it is clearly working for the community. Lets not change this! Second, there is discussion about a pilot study for evaluating e-bikes on the trails. I support this study, because we don’t know enough yet about how e-bikes impact the park. I think it is likely that the study will show that e-bikes do no additional harm to the trails. At that point it really just becomes more of an aesthetic choice… Do we want these in the park? We’ll find out after some more evaluation and thought….. Lastly, certain members of the community complain that this process of developing the PROS plan was rushed, and non-transparent. They will complain bitterly that this was pushed through with insufficient time to review documents. But as you also know, the city elected to extend the process from a lengthy 12 months to an even lengthier 18 months specifically to accommodate more scientific study and to allow for a truly amazing amount of community outreach. It is clear to me, and many others, that the city has done a remarkable job on this extensive, transparent and scientific PROS plan. Delaying a vote in order to continue the debate will not provide additional gains in terms of further knowledge, but it will detract from much needed efforts elsewhere in the city. Thank you for your time in reading my lengthy letter! But more than that, thank you for your dedication to our city and our community. Sincerely, Thaddeus Block	Thaddeus Block

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/11/2022	Dear City Council, I wanted to offer some comments about item 9A on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting (Review and Adoption of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan). I'm sure you're receiving a lot of feedback so I wanted to briefly (for me) address some main points: 1. The staff recommendation to keep all trails multi-use, preserving the status quo, is the most reasonable path forward. The draft plan references looking into designating one unmapped trail cycling-only and one pedestrian-only, but otherwise does not recommend making any existing trails single-use. I'm well aware that a handful of people from Belmont Heights are demanding hiker-only trails. It might seem tempting to designate a few single-use trails as a compromise to a perceived conflict. However, designating single-use trails would represent a wholesale and radical change to the trail policies that have worked successfully for 30+ years. All of the trails in Waterdog have always been multi-use, and there's no compelling reason to segregate them now: The unbiased scientific study by the city's consultant (WRA) concluded that the existing recreational use (i.e. full multi-use) is not having a significant impact on the environment. So from an ecological perspective, there is no reason whatsoever to designate any trails single-use; Designating any single-use trails (whether pedestrian-only or cycling-only) fosters division and resentment in the trail user community; Belmont doesn't have a dedicated park ranger, so there's no practical way for the City enforce the rule; Unfortunately, we have a few angry individuals in our community who have been known to physically accost and confront cyclists on the trails. If a cyclist intentionally or unintentionally rides onto the wrong trail, a self-appointed vigilante enforcer may confront or assault him or her; Commissioner Michaels made an excellent point at the last P&R Committee meeting, to the effect of "we should allow as many people as possible to enjoy all of our trails," which is consistent with the PROS principles of providing equitable access to resources and activities across the entire city and promoting inclusion to people of all backgrounds; The federal Bureau of of Land Management has a publication, Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience, that makes insightful points about shared multi-use trails: (1) "Sharing helps build a trail community. Visitors are encouraged to cooperate in order to preserve and protect a common resource, and encountering other types of users on a trail helps to establish mutual respect and inspire courtesy." (2) "Shared-use trails take better advantage of available space and trail mileage. Quite simply, they provide more trail for everyone to enjoy." There are no documented instances of a bicycle vs. pedestrian collision in over 30 years of multi-use. To the extent some individuals have safety concerns, those can be remedied by respite bulb-outs and trail calming features, which the consultant has already included in the plan. 2. The draft plan's e-bike policy - a pilot program - is sensible and should be implemented. The draft plan recommends a pilot policy allowing Class I (pedal-assisted) e-bikes on Waterdog's trails for at least one year to allow for further assessment. This is a rational and sensible way to deal with the relatively new phenomenon of e-bikes. The City is a small land manager and doesn't need to reinvent the wheel, The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), which manages 65,000 acres of open space, is currently conducting e-bike studies and experimenting with e-bike policies The City can keep an eye on what MROSD is doing while simultaneously gathering its own data about how e-bike use is (or is not) affecting the Waterdog open space trails. After gathering enough data, the City can then get public input and make informed decisions, rather than kowtowing to people who are clamoring for an immediate ban without any justification. I don't think e-bikes should either be allowed in perpetuity or banned in perpetuity at this point - we don't have enough data to make an informed decision, so why not let the pilot program play out? Again, it may be tempting to implement a pat, "compromise" solution by limiting e-bikes to certain trails, but that will only result in limited and inconclusive data upon which to base future decisions for more permanent policies. 3. The PROS process was not rushed and there has been robust public input and consideration; there is no need to delay the decision.	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/11/2022 (con't)	I think the city has done an outstanding job of making this 18-month process transparent and inclusive. The City did online outreach, sent physical mailers, and created a dedicated PROS plan website with regular updates. There has been ample opportunity for public input through surveys, many public meetings, and the convening of a PROS committee. A group of activists paid for their own study with their own biologist, which was read and considered by the consultant. In addition to traditional public comment, members of the public were even given an opportunity for a back-and-forth dialogue with City staff and WRA at the open house event. The PROS committee included a vigorous anti-cycling activist, David Braunstein. Every person on every side of each issue had plenty of opportunity to have their voice heard. Some people may complain that the plan is comprehensive and the Parks & Rec Commission had less than a week to review it before their meeting. However, the P&R Commission was integrally involved in the plan from the beginning, and when the final draft was presented to them, it was not brand new information. Rather, it was the final refinement of a living document the Commission was intimately familiar with for many months. This process was robust and comprehensive. There is no need to drag it out for further study and debate; there are just a few individuals who don't like what the plan says, and they just want more time to tilt at windmills. The City has taken ample time to let this process play out, and there is no justification to kick the can down the road. The City has a lot of work to do - such as building a new community center - and it's high time to bring this comprehensive process to an end so the City can move on to other things that need attention. Thank you for considering my input. Sincerely, Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng
7/11/2022	Dear Council, I have been following the PROS process since it began in 2020, but I didn't even realize the Open Space section was published when I heard you are ready to vote to finalize it on Tuesday. I think the public needs more time to read and discuss these very important policies that will guide the future of our treasured Open Spaces. Please delay your vote and allow more discussion. I was promised by two Council Members and Director Shearer that this Plan would address the many illegal trails as well as the speeding bikes. I notified the city 2 years ago that someone – city officials will not admit who – carved over a mile of trail through the forest behind my home for a downhill bike racecourse. This area used to be pristine and sheltered forest – exactly as John Brooks was promised when he donated this land. We used to have deer, quail and bobcat that visited my yard; now they are all gone and I blame the bike traffic for making this habitat insecure for them. How can you excuse this vandalism and not even offer an explanation? I no longer walk in Waterdog – even though it's my own back yard – because of the bikes. They speed down hills and around curves and never yield. Hikers instinctively jump out of the way into the poison oak or mud because it's better than being struck by a bike traveling 20 miles an hour. Plus hundreds of wheels have eroded the trails so that the footing is dangerous – the ruts and slippery steep gravel slides make it too easy to twist an ankle or slip and fall. Many of my neighbors share similar feelings but since we don't hike there anymore our comments have been disregarded. We are still waiting for an answer from you about how you will manage this dangerous and damaging situation. Mimi Iversen	Mimi Iversen

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/11/2022	This is just a quick note to voice my support of the PROS plan ahead of the vote. While I know we'll hear from the loud, negative voices drummed up by Deniz Bolbol, Pat Cuviello, and Kristin Mercer (who've been trying to stir the pot as much as they can around this), I'm thrilled that cooler heads have prevailed. As part of Waterdog Open Space Stewards, I can tell you that the positive voices that have reached out through our channels has been tremendous, and we now have a few thousand people registered to show their support for multi-use access to Waterdog's trails. To hear the negative people tell it, this has been sprung upon them, when we know the truth: this process was extended many months to ensure that everyone had a chance to have their voices heard. And the voices have been heard: despite the narrative of the few who complain at every meeting, the trails are for everyone, and will continue to be under this plan. I want to thank the Parks & Rec Commission, the PROS members, Gates & Associates, and everyone else who has lived through this lengthy process. To the City Council: Please vote in favor of the plan so we can move forward with a clear vision for our open space. --Scott	Scott Hill
7/12/2022	I am writing to encourage you to FULLY ADOPT and APPROVE the Proposed Use and Management Plan for Waterdog Lake Park to include keeping the trails open to mountain bike access. I personally committed close to 500 hours of labor in the building and maintenance of those trails working alongside dozens of other cyclists. It would be a shame to allow a vocal small group who provided no labor and who do not use the park to shut out the group that helped develop the trail system. Please adopt the use and management plan and protect equal access to Waterdog Lake Park for cyclists, hikers, runner, and other trail users. Todd McGee	Todd McGee
7/12/2022	My understanding from many, many rides in Water Dog is that it was built, maintained, and improved by mountain bikers. It is a treasured trail offering technical riding so close to where we all live. I first learned to mountain bike at Water Dog when I lived nearby in Belmont. I was an avid member of the local mountain bike community, which shares a long history of community service and camaraderie. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed There has been an unfortunate history within the Bay Area of hikers/walkers taking aim at mountain biking as if we are the enemy. In my book, the more people we can get outdoors the better, and my love of mountain biking makes me a better trail steward and a better citizen. Please don't let the naysayers drown out the common sense approach that the city has created. We have successfully used the trail for multi-use for years, and we can continue to do so now. Thanks, Sandee Sheldon	Sandee Sheldon

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, [NAME] **SENT ON 7/12/2022:** Michael Jaron, Chris Hagedorn, Josh Rowe, Norman Fong, Daniel Langmaid, Douglas Campbell, Brent Tokarchuk, Nathan Yeakel, Tracy Usher, Chris Wilder, Gerard Horan, Vasisht Raghavendra, Nelson Wong, Luis Vera, Jim Van Sickle, Allison Woo, Allan Lopez, Jaret Butler, Vince Lau, James Deitrich, Lars Thomsen, Mike Peng, Trent Poltronetti, Akshay Verma, Rix Liu, Ray Alvarez, Joseph Corbin, Lindsey West, Chris Ligtenberg, RJ Ligtenberg, Steve Braat, Jason Woo, Roger Howe, Jason Blodgett, Richard Sequeira, Astrid Johanson Block, Gareth, Monica and Laurel Stamp, Ishaan Nerurkar, Soumya G B, Amit Pandey, Jamie Hoffacker, John Stuart, Jeff Jonah, Josh Greene, Basil Moutsopoulos, Chris Kujat, Robert Beckman, Christophe Muller, Jerry Fan, Jonathan Garzon, Mike Jaron, Mitch Barrie, King Tang, Peter Tsang, Katie Cromie, Line (Lynn) Moisan, Mike Riddell, Brent Blanchard **SENT ON 7/13/2022:** Thomas Cottereau, Paul Teyssier, Julien Salanon, Brian C. Long, Derek Loh	
7/12/2022	Hi, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Waterdog is a special and precious place and I remember how delighted I was to discover it when I moved to the Peninsula in 2012. Thank you, Julian Bill	Julian Bill

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Good morning, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed It is important to keep the trails open to the current user groups. We moved to the Cipriani neighborhood for its access to the fantastic trails at Waterdog which we hike, ride and help maintain on a regular basis. Thank you, Jason Bromfield	Jason Bromfield
7/12/2022	Please keep Water Dog open to Mountain Bikes as well as all other users. The mountain bike community built the trail system and should not be shut out. Mike Prinvale	Mike Prinvale
7/12/2022	Hi Council members, I am a Belmont resident. I've heard that you are going to scrap the ban on e-bikes on the Waterdog trails. I think this is a dumb move. Please watch this short video on the website Singletracks. To be fair, these guys are more skilled than our local bikers, but the damages are the same. You must understand the damage this sport can do to the environment and eventual erosion to the trails. Plus, the speed these riders go on a trail is a hazard to others on the same trail. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gt_iPMtPHM How To Ride Singletrack Faster | E-Mountain Bike Skills Sincerely, Frank M	Frank M.

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Hello, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. My family enjoys using Waterdog park as a multi-use space. We hike, walk or dog, ride bikes and enjoy Waterdog in so many ways today and do not want to have one of the few remaining true multi-use parks constricted in any way. For those that prefer hiking only there are many, many parks where they can practice that activity. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Rob	Rob Labatt
7/12/2022	Dear Council, I am a Belmont resident. Having only just been notified that the Open Space Draft is published I am shocked that you intend to vote to finalize it just a few days later. I think the public needs more time to read and consider these policies and what they mean for our open spaces. I ask you to delay the vote and answer public questions before rushing ahead. Residents of Hallmark were promised by two Council Members and Director Shearer that this Plan would address the many illegal trails as well as the speeding bikes. But I don't see any policy for that; in fact what I read sounds like status-quo, meaning anarchy on the trails and continued rogue trail making. Residents are increasingly aware of the importance of the natural habitat surrounding us, and setting a policy to intentionally disregard damages and trail safety sends a very regressive message – come visit the unregulated wild west of Belmont. This is why Hallmark drive is crowded with cars with bike racks every day of the week. This issue has been overlooked for a decade and the trend to more and more bikers will just make it worse. I urge you to reconsider the removal of all regulations, and do the hard work of setting and enforcing rules.	xsrider
7/12/2022	Hi Please adopt the open space plan in it's current form. Thanks Regards, Chris Ketner	Chris Ketner
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I am an avid hiker, biker, and outdoorsman. Waterdog is without a doubt a space that should be open to multiple forms of recreation. Hiking, biking, and dog walking should remain OPEN to the public. Waterdog is the only location on the peninsula that is close by and offers a multitude of activities. It is also one of the few places on the peninsula where bikes are allowed to ride on all trails. This space is crucial to the mental and physical wellbeing of the local community. Limiting access to this park would undoubtedly harm the community and limit those who use it daily. I strongly believe the new PROS management plan is exactly what the community needs, and the park should remain open to all forms of trail use. Thank you, Jeret Shuck	Jeret Shuck

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, I'm writing to affirm the Belmont PROS Management Plan in its current form. It's my humble opinion that the Belmont Parks and Recreation Department helmed by Brigitte Shearer has done a masterful job convening a democratic and efficient process to garner scientifically supported facts about the state of Belmont's Open Spaces. Moreover, Brigitte's team has provided ample opportunity for diverse voices to be heard and accounted for in the development, distribution, and certification of the Plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on safety, trail maintenance, and erosion control New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Eli Latimerlo	Eli Latimerlo
7/12/2022	As a long time user of Waterdog, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog s trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, David Skinner	David Skinner
7/12/2022	Hi, I have for a long time enjoyed the Waterdog Open Space for recreation as mountain biker and walker. I have only had positive experiences over the years with other users and enjoying the many trails. I understand there is a vocal group that has a negative opinion on mountain bike access, wanting to restrict it to their own narrow vision of the space and robbing others of the opportunity to enjoy this community space. I disagree with this narrow view and plead that access remain open to all, which I understand the proposed plan does. Thank you for your efforts. Regards, Mark Lefebvre	Mark Lefebvre

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Hello I'm a resident of San Carlos, and I've been riding my mountain bike in Hidden Canyon for as long as I've lived in San Carlos – 17 years. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you. All the best Joe Paluska	Joe Paluska
7/12/2022	Hi, I am a long time supporter and user of waterdog park for running, biking, and hiking. It is a wonderful place for people to be active and outdoors. Changing the usage of Waterdog would be very detrimental to a large group of people and take away the benefit of young and old alike to get outside! I very much support the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Dylan Howes	Dylan Howes

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	As a decades-long trail user in Waterdog, I'm writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Rich	Rich Schwerin
7/12/2022	Hello- I just wanted to drop you a short note to tell you that I enjoy recreating, specifically riding my mountain bike on singletrack trails in Waterdog Park. I strongly support the draft Parks, Rec and Open Space Management plan that would allow the STATUS QUO of CONTINUED MULTI-USE (including mountain bike) access to all trails including singletrack. I also support the conversion of unofficial legacy trails to officially sanctioned and supported multi-use trails. I enjoy the unique trails at Waterdog, and when I visit the park I also spend money in the local community. Thank you for your time. Frank Giraffe	Frank Giraffe
7/12/2022	Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council, I'd like to offer my strong support for keeping the Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I particularly support the following: Retain the existing (and unofficial legacy) trails for multi-use - hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise and connecting with nature Train and educate the trail users to ensure safe and sustainable use Maintain and preserve the trails in continued collaboration with community groups and volunteers to ensure our trails get healthier every year Improve Stream and Waterway crossings Add calming features to single track trails in order to decrease speeds while increasing the challenge for riders Expand the Open Space with new trails that make sense Open space recreation is so beneficial to Belmont locals - an oasis within silicon valley for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, community pride, and quality of life improvement. Waterdog has served this public need for many years and can continue for many more with the support from me and many others like me. Please keep Waterdog multi-use and sustainable. Thank you, Neil	Neil R.

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed I've been riding the trails at WaterDog for over 15 years and hiking them with my kids. I hope to continue both of these activities in the years to come. Thank you, Jay Maloney	Jay Maloney
7/12/2022	Hi, I'm a Belmont resident and I'm unable to attend the meeting discussing the PROS Master Plan. I wanted to say I support, and want to reiterate, the equal access to, and multi-use of, parks and open spaces for all. I know in the past (and currently) there are people who wish to restrict access, or use to particular groups or activities, and I don't think that's right. I look forward to the city of Belmont enacting the plan and following its guiding principles. Thank you, -Andy	Andy Wong
7/12/2022	Hello- As a long time respectful mountain biker and trail builder, please keep the park open for wise use. Pedal power yes. Battery assist no! E-bikes should not be allowed due to increased speed. Trail conflicts and erosion increase. Please do not have a pilot program to test e-bike use I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space Happy Trails Kevin Schmidt	Kevin Schmidt

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Good day, As a 23+ year resident of Belmont and 20+ of them a mountain bike rider and trail steward in the Waterdog trail system, I want to support the PROS plan to continue the open space to be a multi use trail system. I would caution that making new trail rules on what you are not allowed to do within the open space would not be my recommendation until the current rules of what you are not allowed to do are enforced. There are obviously not enough resources to enforce the current rules (litter, e-bikes, off leash dogs, etc) so making new rules would be moot and essentially a waste. Water Dog Open Space is a fabulous resource and I applaud your efforts to maintain and improve the beautiful space! Regards, Steve Welter	Steve Welter
7/12/2022	As a next door neighbor to Belmont in the Laurelwood area, I'm a frequent user of Water Dog Lake Park. I'm writing in support of the plan. In particular I support the multi-use nature of the trails in Water Dog, having used them as a hiker and biker for the last decade. I think the e-bike policy is a step too far, but it's better than the NIMBY stuff happening from those who oppose it. Overall very much in support of the plan, the improvements, and the spirit of multi-use-trails. Thanks for your consideration. Chris Fox	Chris Fox
7/12/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, As a weekly user of Belmont's open space at Waterdog Lake and San Juan Canyon, I wanted to write to support the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. The plan continues our community's support for multi-use trail recreation, as it should, and I'm happy to see the science-based approach employed by the city in the development of this plan. In addition to the designation of local trails as multi-use, I particularly appreciate the proposal of unofficial legacy trails to be officially recognized with new signage, and the potential for future new multi-use trails added to the open space. The proposed trail improvements and pilot program for Class 1 e-bikes is also appreciated. Thank you for continuing to keep open spaces open for many types of recreation! Sincerely, Rob Anagnoson	Rob Anagnoson
7/12/2022	[Body of three emails are blank with attachments]	Pat Cuviello
7/12/2022	I am a regular visitor to Waterdog Park and I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Peter Tsang	Peter Tsang

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Hello Belmont P&R Commission, I would like to voice my enthusiastic support for ratifying the proposed PROS Master Pan, particularly as it codifies multi-user access on the vast majority of trails. May hikers, bikers, dog walkers and all continue to learn to share the trails at Waterdog under the proposed plan! The level-headed and inclusive response of the council to various user groups has been consistently excellent. Belmont's leadership in providing equitable, thoughtful facilities to all user groups is a beacon on the Peninsula. I presently live in Portola Valley, where I now manage the town trail map and thus also receive vocal input from many shockingly hostile user groups. The fortitude the commission has regularly shown in seeking openness and community throughout this process has been profoundly refreshing. Similarly the openness and good vibes my children and I have consistently experienced on Waterdog trails, from a diverse body of users, are a local treasure to be maintained. I am pleased to see the official reports supporting those experiences with data! For our family, off-road cycling has been an ideal means to safely get my children off the couch and into the outdoors, while safely avoiding cars and traffic. Having access to mountain biking in a suburban setting on the Peninsula is a tremendous boon to the mid-Peninsula public, notably in San Mateo County as the county park system has largely marginalized the burgeoning cycling community. It is my sincere hope that trail access can be ratified and formalized for all, and that we can learn to embrace mutual community in the outdoors, rather than to seek the exclusion and division that some vocal minorities have been pushing for. May we all continue to safely have fun on trails together. I think the charter says it best: 4.4-4 Maintain and enhance trails in open spaces in Belmont. Continue to support opportunities for shared use of trails among multiple users, including pedestrians and mountain bicyclists. Promote knowledge, trail etiquette, and consideration of multiple users on trails through education programs and signage. Thank you for your consideration, your patience, and your fortitude. My best regards, Dave Evans	Dave Evans
7/12/2022	Hi there, I am writing today because I believe in accessible recreation for all, and strongly support the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. It is disappointing to hear that a vocal minority of community members could derail plans that would benefit the vast majority of residents of and visitors to the area. I am happy with the science behind the plan, and look forward to the community connections that multi-use trails create. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Katy	Katy Poniatowski

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Dear City Council, As Belmont is embarking upon a new Open Space Management Plan for the next 15 years, E-bikes is a topic brought up by WRA consultants for a Waterdog trial. Belmont has already done a couple of decades of unmonitored trials, resulting in resident hikers being driven away from Waterdog into the parks and open spaces of neighboring cities. E-bike, mountain bikes, and the biker culture are not compatible with the relaxed natural atmosphere expected by hikers. The Mid-Pen just banned E-bikes on natural surface trails and many surrounding Open Spaces ban E-bikes and mountain bikes from their natural trails. Do they know something we don't? What are the E-bikes doing in Waterdog? What 's going on in Waterdog? Please click the 2 videos below to appreciate what hikers have to confront while hiking in Waterdog. https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/ebike-speeding https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/what-is-going-on Best regards, Ken Lien	Ken Lien
7/12/2022	I support the Plan. I ride, run and hike Waterdog a couple of times a week, and i want to see the status quo for all those activities. Thank you, Mark Harnett	Mark Harnett
7/12/2022	I am writing today in concern for the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. While I support multi-use trail recreation, I have personally witnessed the increasing amount of trail decay and destruction from misuse of our irreplaceable Belmont preserve. Mountain biking is extremely fun, but the fragile clay soils are not ideal for the long term high volume use that we see today (especially since the advent of e-bikes which are in heavy use on the trails even today despite restrictions). This is especially true on our wetter days (as infrequent as they are these days), where I have observed frequent new-impact from what I must presume are novice mountain bikers who may not know better. So many embakements, corners, and trail edges have seen needless destruction from banking, carving and short-cutting to make them more exciting. Further, many of the steeper ascents are so deeply rutted from overuse that it will take years for these trails to begin to rehabilitate. That said, I am in favor of further recognition of many of the unofficial legacy trails to be incorporated into the official park plan for pedestrian access. I think efforts to improve erosion control and recovery will be greatly improved if we were to do even put a temporary suspension to MTB activity for a duration (maybe 5 years?). Finding a way to quantify that effort would be paramount to reconsidering such a supension in the future. In my mind the biggest risk to any of this mattering is a matter of enforcement, and regretfully I do not know much about how to go about that at an open space with so many points of ingress/egress. Thank you, - Michael Lehew	Michael Lehew

DRAFT

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed I frequent these trails quite often along with many friends. All of use use trail bells to alert bikers, hikers, and dog walkers of our presence in the area whenever doing any downhill riding. If we do come up on any of these on the trail, our speed is greatly reduced and come to a complete stop. Hikers and dog walkers are given the right away unless they insist we pass them. We make sure to greet, thank them, and also let them know of any other riders in our group to try to keep everyone safe and enjoy our time outdoors in nature. Many people thank us for our courtesy and use of these bells to help keep everyone safe. I know many of the people who help maintain the trailers are bikers themselves and would hate to see what would happen to these trails without their efforts as well. Thank you, Davide Mazza	Davide Mazza
7/12/2022	Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Christophe Juncker P.s: a further suggestion would be to mandate bicycles to use a cow bell so hikers can easily hear them.	Christophe Juncker

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, I am a Belmont resident living in the Hallmark neighborhood. I no longer visit Waterdog trails because they are so damaged and so over-trafficked with bikes that it is not enjoyable. I think that in order to restore our park to the pleasant setting it once was you should: Stop the volunteers from digging up and widening the trails. I liked walking on the quiet little trails on the forest floor and enjoying the lush ferns and flowers. Volunteers hack back the plants to make it wider for their biking, and kill all the native flowers along the trail. And then they push the cuttings down the hill and they die there in piles on top of the other bushes. They dig ditches, leave useless planks, and cut back trees just so they won't bump their head. It's a depressing dead mess. Keep bikes off all the trails in the canyons and on the slopes – Chaparral, Ohlone, Rambler, Finch, and along the hidden canyon creek where they have widened it into a freeway. There is no passing room on a 3-foot wide trail and you can't widen the trail when it's on a steep cross-slope. The plants are trampled by people getting out of the way of bikes, bikes skidding off of the tight turns, taking shortcuts on curves or switchbacks, and even on occasion sliding off of the sloped trails. The ferns and wildflowers are covered with dust from their skidding, the tree roots are exposed tripping hazards. The stairs that used to be on steep sections to make it safer to get down without sliding on your rear, have all been completely eroded away and pushed down the hills by the bikers. Close the unmarked trails – the woods are torn up by random shortcuts, and bypasses. People make these trails for thrills so they are usually steep and straight downhill. One trail that began off of Elevator a few years ago turned into a 2-foot gully and now there is a second trail next to it, and both are so steep and graveled that they are dangerous to hike or bike. I have met hikers who are lost because they ran across some trail that is not planned and they got turned around. Get rid of the e-bikes. I talked with a group with e-bikes and they were bragging about how many more miles they cover in a day of riding. One guy said he rode twice as far with his ebike because he doesn't get tired. Covering distance is not the point of our trails – enjoying nature is the point and they certainly aren't doing that when they are flying as fast as they possibly can. I think that if they want an aerobic workout they should use their muscles, not a motor. Or go to a gym and leave the nature trails for those who appreciate nature. In short, someone needs to do something to manage the trails because it's a free-for-all now. When visitors see it so run down I think it sends a message that they don't have to respect nature here. Frank M	Frank Mercer
7/12/2022	I am a Belmont resident living in the Hallmark neighborhood. I recently noticed this post from the organizer of the Waterdog "Trailkeepers" group, who by the way is not even a Belmont resident. I have to wonder how he gained access to the "barrage of hatemails" that you have received in the past 3 days? Is someone from within the Belmont government sending out information on private letters received by city employees or members of the city council? Trailkeepers got the info from someone.. It seems to me that the only hate is this from the Trailkeepers organizers, calling residents haters for submitting input to their own city council. You should be made aware that the contact list of this post on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/2079772678916626) goes out to mountain bikers from the entire bay area, maybe beyond. And that it was at the urging of Jonathan Carter that over half of the respondents to the Belmont Parks Survey were NON residents who specifically ranked biking top priority. The voices of these non-residents have biased the entire public discussion on management of Belmont Open Space. Thank you	xsrider

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed I've been biking at Waterdog for more than 20 years. It's a gem on the peninsula that has been multi-use "forever." Nothing will satisfy everyone all of the time, but multi-use will, by far, make the largest number of people happy. Thank you, Greg Gavalakis	Greg Gavalakis
7/12/2022	Hello. I've biked Waterdog's trails for almost 15 years now and it is one of my favorite biking spots in the Bay Area. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Brian Donnellan	Brian Donnellan

DRAFT

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Dear City of Belmont: I'm a long time Mountain Biker and started Mountain Biking at Waterdog back in the early 90's where my appreciation for the Sport began. I am advocating to maintain Multi-use access at Waterdog. I believe Multi-Use is thriving but would excel further if additional safety measures for all are implemented: 1. Signage: There is not enough of this. I feel this would improve any safety concerns users may have. I feel it is essential to place signage in strategic locations such as the "Three Witches" - a series of hills with exposure - to remind trail users to be attentive and also walk on the Right side (adhere to the rules of the road). Furthermore, other blind areas where exposure is present. 2. Education: I think it would be valuable for the City to implement a class (in-person or virtually) to educate users on guidelines for trail use. This class would serve also as a reminder for trail etiquette and safety. For instance, refraining from using headphones while on the trail, staying alert and attentive, respecting the various flora and fauna, etc. The tricky part with this would be to incentivize people to take the course. Perhaps the City can work with the local shop: Belmont Bikes, to create a discount for taking the course, or discounts at other local shops like Village Host Pizza. I would be willing to volunteer some time to create a class like this. Lastly, I strongly feel maintaining Multi-Use access is imperative for our community here in Belmont. Like myself, there are various residents that enjoy Waterdog for biking and hiking. Many, including myself, find it therapeutic to go on a ride or hike after work to relax and unwind from the stresses of our days. Hence, full inclusion should be maintained. If you would like to contact me regarding ideas for Educating on Waterdog I would be happy to discuss and participate. Otherwise, I greatly appreciate your time and consideration with reading my input regarding Waterdog trail use. Sincerely, -Norbert Demanuele	Norbert Demanuele
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I have been a regular user of Waterdog Park for many years and support multi-use trail recreation. I am pleased the city has taken an in-depth look at the parks and come up with an exceptionally well reasoned plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control New trails to be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed I believe the plan is comprehensive and ready for implementation without further delay. Please vote FOR the plan tonight. Thank you, Olli Blackburn	Olli Blackburn

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Hello fine public servants - your efforts to continue to meet all the trail users needs are much appreciated! I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed. Thank you, Frank Babbitt, a water dog frequenter since 1996…	Frank Babbitt
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan which is up for a vote of approval tonight. I live locally and can walk and also ride my bike to Waterdog and Hidden Canyon Parks. I thoroughly enjoy the proximity to such a high quality outdoor experience so close to hime. I urge you to vote to approve the plan which includes: multi-use trails, maintaining & improving existing trails, and incorporating the legacy unofficial trails. One of the things that I appreciate about the trail network is that there are so many options and different ways to connect loops within the relatively compact space. I have previously volunteered constructing and maintaining trails and look forward to future opportunities to contribute to this valuable recreational open space. Thank you for your consideration, Tim Louis	Tim Louis
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation and am happy to see the approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space *Continued unlimited access for Class 1 e-bike* Thank you, Nicolas Olivares	Nicolas Olivares

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	To all it may concern, I am a bay Area Native, born and raised in Burlingame and longtime resident of Belmont, on Carlmont Dr.. Waterdog has been and is an amazing resource for all to share. Losing the recreation aspect of WD would be a tragedy to Belmont, the county and the Bay. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular. I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Devin Sezgen	Devin Sezgen
7/12/2022	Dear City Council, As I have written in the past, I want to again reiterate my strong support for the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space Thank you, Lawrence Shubert	Lawrence Shubert
7/12/2022	I am writing today in full support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings to be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space Thank you! We love Waterdog and always find bikers to be courteous and considerate around others. John Dougery	John Dougery

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	I'm writing to provide support for the Belmont PROS management plan. More specifically, for continued multi-use trail access, and calming features for single-track trails and increased safety. I am a regular trail volunteer, and would love to assist with building new trails to the open space. I'm ambivalent about the Class 1 (20mph/no-throttle) e-bike policy, but feel a 1 year pilot would be a worthy test. Thank you kindly for your attention. Robert Escamilla San Mateo County Resident and frequent cyclist and runner at Water Dog	Robert Escamilla
7/12/2022	Hi, i'm writing to you today as a Waterdog trail user in support of the PROS management plan. Waterdog is an oasis of natural recreation and its accessibility from the urban areas of the peninsula is incredible, even in the context of the Bay Area's many parks and open spaces. Please proceed with the plan and keep the park open to all users: hikers, trail runners, and cyclists. The more people that enjoy the outdoors, the happier and healthier our community will be! -Peter	Peter Tennessen
7/12/2022	Hello. As a 25+ -year user of Waterdog, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space To be clear, I do NOT support: A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Tom Sharp	Tom Sharp
7/12/2022	Dear Belmont City Council and Park Commission Parks are one thing, but Open Space requires a different skill set and ethos. It needs to be approached environmentally with respect for the wildlife it supports, not as a race track for bicycles to careen off the tree roots over the ground nesting birds and whatever else just to fly down the hillside as fast as possible. In response to my email, you said, "Let's build our back yard." I am a resident of Belmont and OUR back yard was a beautiful forest already "built" just in need of respect to the environment it provided for the wildlife. Go build YOUR backyard in YOUR back yard, NOT OURS! Mimi Iversen	Mimi Iversen
7/12/2022	Hi - As an regular cyclist and runner who uses water dog on a regularly I wanted to voice my support for the Pros plan and the Water Dog Stewards position. Please keep this amazing resource open to all types of recreation. Thank You, John Paradine	John Paradine

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Hello Belmont Representatives, I know the PROS Management Plan is scheduled to be voted on tonight and I'm writing to let you know my family strongly endorses it. I ride my mountain bike weekly all through the park. I've recently gotten my son and daughter into mountain biking and they absolutely love it. We love doing it together. Thank you for your efforts to make this happen. Arie Jongejan	Arie Jongejan
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. When I go to Waterdog I routinely spend money at local restaurants and merchants. Without the multi-use designation, I will not have a reason to visit and spend money at local businesses. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Tammy Estes	Tammy Estes
7/12/2022	Dear officials, I wanted to write in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. We like to see continued use of the trials and feel the city has already taken a thoughtful approach in their proposal. We're not in favor of opposition and are ping time residents of Belmont who frequently use the space. In particular, We hope to keep Waterdog's trails as multi-use and To officially recognized unofficial trails with new signage Were also in support of the proposed improvements and looking forward to volunteer in the parks. Please feel free to contact me if you have any follow-up questions. Thank you, Tom Seoh	Tom Seoh
7/12/2022	Hello, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I enjoy many hours every month hiking, jogging, and biking at Waterdog and Hidden Canyon and I have pleasant interactions with everyone I've come across on the trails, no matter their chosen activity. I hope to see that open access continue and I fully support the PROS plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Jim Tay	Jim Tay

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	Hello, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. As an individual who has grown up in Belmont and been a long-time enjoyer of the community's outdoor spaces, I strongly support continued multi-use trail recreation. It would be a devastating loss to have Waterdog's trails become closed off to those many individuals who have enjoyed them for so long. I find these recommendations of the Plan to be particularly beneficial to Belmont as a whole: - The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use. - The construction of new trails and improvement of existing ones. - Guidelines and volunteer opportunities regarding trail maintenance. Thank you, Sava Iliev	Sava Iliev
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed PROS Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation. I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control New trails be added to the Open Space I do not support the following however: A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Ethan Benton	Ethan Benton
7/12/2022	Dear City Council, Attached please find my more comprehensive list of comments on the omissions and shortcomings of the OSMP draft under consideration July 12. The attached document details the following list of concerns about this Plan: Claim of exemption from CEQA (Categorically Exempt) is wrong Inconsistent with the General Plan Contains factual errors. Fails to consider City management ability and resources Fails to benchmark trail use, habitat protection and stewardship policies of other agencies. Eliminates the ban on motorized vehicles Unsupported claims regarding wildlife and habitat Fails to address trail safety Lacks quantifiable visitor volume assessment Omits General Plan considerations for the Wildlife Corridor Fails to address cumulative impacts of trail density on habitat I urge you to send this Plan back to the Commission to address these issues. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
7/12/2022	I bike the trails at Water Dog lake 2-3 times a week in winter or summer. It is one of my favorite things about living in San Carlos/Belmont. I am now teaching my kids to bike respectfully and with care on the trails. I support mixed use trails - I believe it is critical to address any conflicts in shared resources thoughtfully, and would be devastated to see changes that completely prevented biking in such a wonderful park. Sincerely, Peter Liske	Peter Liske

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space Thank you, Bruce Storms	Bruce Storms
7/12/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed In addition, mt bikers like myself have been volunteering and randomly cleaning up the trails. I have not witnessed any other groups of people doing their kindness. Thank you, Ernie Cusi	Ernie Cusi

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/12/2022	To whom it may concern, I am writing today this email to express my support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan for the, waterdog park. I am glad to see the systematic approach that is taken to improve the conditions of the park and the experience one will live when enjoying the park. In my view it is important to assess evolving situations and set up the necessary actions to keep improving to make our park enjoyable for most people and at the same time preserve our beautiful environment. Protecting the environment does not necessary require to close the park. It is important to educate a maximum of people and I believe that waterdog park is a very good case given its location, its geology and its variety of features that seduce bikers, hikers, dog walkers, runners … I am in favor of the multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thanks for your attention, Pierre-xavier Thomas	Pierre-xavier Thomas
7/12/2022	Hello Parks and Rec. Team - Today I am writing in support of your proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space - the (PROS) Management Plan. I am a user of this park - love hiking and MTB riding and support multi-use of this area for trail access. I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Mike Timpano	Mike Timpano
7/12/2022	hello and thanks for listening! I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation and specifically: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders New trails be added to the Open Space much thanks! Luke Wroblewski	Luke Wroblewski

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Tonight you heard lots of misinformation from the mountain bikers, for example: 1. They claim that banning bikes keeps them off the trails. Of course that is a lie: they can all walk on the trails. Banning bikes is not discriminatory, because the same rule applies equally to everyone. 2. They claim that narrow trails slow down the mountain bikers. Watch any mountain biking video! Mountain bikers see all trails as a challenge to ride as fast as possible, including over the speed limit. 3. They claim that hikers cause as much erosion as mountain bikers. That is a lie. All of those claims ignore speed and distance travelled. Even if they caused the same amount of erosion per mile, mountain bikers travel much farther than hikers, and therefore cause more erosion. Knobby tires are perfectly designed to tear up the soil. Shoes are not. This was elucidated in my review of the scientific literature, https://mjvande.info/scb7.htm 4. They claim that mountain bikers help maintain the trails. But that is simply attempting (not successfully) to fix the damage that they themselves have caused! Isn't it better not to do the damage in the first place? And there is no way to restore soil that has been eroded away. 5. They claim that no one can detect a difference between erosion caused by mountain biking and e-biking. But that's obviously not true: an e-bike allows one to travel much farther, thus causing that much more erosion. Their greater speed also increases the amount of erosion per mile.	Mike Vandeman
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Council Members, We were hoping to comment via Zoom at yesterday's city council meeting on topic 9A regarding Waterdog trail access, but it got too late for us. We just wanted to say that we support continued access to Waterdog for mountain bikers on all trails. We ride the single-track trails for exercise and recreation as a family regularly. Mountain biking is one of the few activities that we can all enjoy together. We have been (and are) Belmont residents for over 13 years now and ride to the trailhead. We have also hiked the trails, but for one of us (William) hiking is much harder on the knees and there is much less exercise involved. As hikers and bikers, we have had a few encounters with fellow mountain bikers (and e-bikers) on some of the tighter single track trails. We worry mostly for our 12 year old son (who has been riding the trails for at least 5 years now). We have also had some interactions with hikers while we biked. We now ride with bells which has helped minimize encounters tremendously with other trail users, especially hikers (we have been thanked for having the bells by hikers on countless occasions). We try to be as courteous as possible to hikers, always stopping to let them have their right of way. Based on our experiences as both bikers and hikers, we wouldn't be against implementing some rules for bikers AND hikers on the trails: 1. Bikers need to always ride with bells. 2. Bikers need to ride without headsets on so they can hear other trail users (bells and voices). 3. Hikers and Bikers should always understand the trail rules with regards to right-of-way and NOT waive their rights. (Imagine the confusion at a 4-way stop if the driver on the right insists on relinquishing their right-of-way to the driver on the left!) a. We often see hikers, out of courtesy, move to the side of the trail and wave oncoming bikers by. This creates confusion and an expectation on the biker's part for similar behavior by all hikers. b. We love the challenge of being able to climb a difficult section of trail and are often frustrated when the downhill rider refuses to relinquish the right of way and tries to squeeze by, creating a dangerous situation. Many uphill riders in similar situations will automatically pull to the side out of 'courtesy' for the downhill rider. Again, this just creates confusion and an expectation on the downhill biker's part for similar 'courtesies' from all uphill bikers. 4. We wouldn't be against having a small set of trails designated 'hiking only', but no more than, say, 25-30%. 5. We are all for a ban on e-bikers, excluding those who ride e-bikes because of disabilities. Apologies for the long email, but we are passionate about biking and Waterdog access is one of the main reasons we chose to live in Belmont. Best regards, William, Nina, and Voneth	William, Nina, and Voneth

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear City Council, I am writing to tell you that hiker's safety at Waterdog Lake needs to take priority over the thrills of racing up and downhill on Mountain Bikes while supposedly "sharing the space", or creating illegal trails. I can't attend the City Council Meeting this Tuesday, but please put my position on the record, and please do the right thing to mitigate this issue. This is a Hot Mess right now. Respectfully, Roberta Stauffacher	Roberta Stauffacher
7/13/2022	Hi city council I am a Belmont resident and I am just learning that city is about to vote on 1600 page document that was released just a few days ago, Just before July 4, for the park and recreation committee meeting on July 6. NO ONE had time to read it! The public doesn't know and the plan is not even on the city website. The plan does not address most of the issues we brought up over the PROS process - including single use trails for safety. This is unacceptable. We want you to postpone this vote and to allow time for the public to read it and provide feedback to council and the PROS committee. Thank you Keyuri	Keyuri Shah

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	I agree with the points raised in the email below. Please do not approve the master plan without addressing these deficiencies. Brad Lewis Dear Belmont Friends and Neighbors, Our City Council is poised to approve a fatally flawed Open Space Master Plan, just days after its publication. I'm asking you to email NOW to tell them to stop! The Plan does not resolve the most controversial issues that are driving hikers out of Waterdog; safety and illegal trails. Residents have not been heard. The plan allows biking on ALL trails regardless of safety or nature. Mountain bikers from the entire region flock to Waterdog because it is the only open space that does not regulate biking on narrow dirt trails, regardless of safety and trail damages. Bikers run timed speed competitions, build jumps and modify trails to increase speeds. Hikers on narrow and sloped trails jump out of the way into the shrubbery. Seniors, families with children, and anyone less agile are displaced by this imbalanced bike-centric climate. The plan proposes to sanction 3 miles of illegally forged, unsafe and damaging trails - none of which meet the safety or environmental standards recommended in that same document. These are steep, eroded, and dangerous for both hikers and bikers. Sanctioning this vandalism is irresponsible stewardship. The plan eliminates the ban on motorized bikes, leaving our trails wide open to all types of powerful e-bikes that are banned from dirt trails in other open spaces. For two years Belmont council members promised the Open Space Master Plan would address these dangerous and divisive issues. It doesn't. It kicks the can down the road, stating that the city should study or consider trail policies. Two wasted years does not excuse a flawed and hollow plan to guide us the next 15 years. We insist our Council address these issues NOW: 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district – why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. At a recent hearing, a mountain biker from San Mateo suggested if Belmont residents don't like the bike traffic they should go elsewhere to hike! Visit waterdogpreserve.org to see the facts and links to documents for yourself. Your voice is urgently needed now. Emails are mandatory! Voices are even more powerful. Please do BOTH. Email link: CityCouncil@Belmont.gov and PRComm@Belmont.gov or go to waterdogpreserve.org ZOOM on Tuesday July 12, at 7 PM (Agenda) ZOOM ID 95745673035 Visitor safety and the health of our Open Space are priorities; the sport of mountain biking should not be allowed to endanger either. Thank you for speaking out, Kristin Mercer	Brad Lewis

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear City Council, As a Belmont native and frequent walker in Waterdog reserve, I was very disappointed to hear that you are considering to allow mountain bikes on all the trails. If you walk or run on the trails, you may be familiar with the fact that the bikes are constantly running walkers off the road, even causing collisions. However, far more distressing than this is learning that motorized dirt bikes are being considered. This decision will vastly change the landscape of this open space - forever. Motorized dirt bikes go incredibly fast - to the point that walkers and runners (which include families!) will no longer be safe (people will get run over and the city WILL get sued). They cause abundant noise pollution and air pollution. Worse over, I am concerned that Waterdog will become a mecca for motorized dirt bikes, because they are not allowed in most other reserves - for good reason. Please make the responsible decision and maintain the beautiful open space the way that it is- a shared space for walkers and cyclists. If you want to make a change to the area then I suggest dredging the lake to make it more safe and usable. Thank you, Becket Feierbach	Becket Feierbach
7/13/2022	We suggest: 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district – why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails.These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails exceptLake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. Marjorie & Dobson Lo	Marjorie and Dobson Lo
7/13/2022	Att: City Council Members: You answer to US, not bikers that don't live here. Do YOUR JOB! We insist our Council address these issues NOW: 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district – why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. Michelle & Paul Speert	Michelle and Paul Speert

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Council members I am writing to you to comment on the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. All of the background information looks good but I agree the policies are too soft. For example just the first two: P1 - Limit trail construction, and facility development in riparian and other wetland areas. What does limit mean? How many trails and facilities do you consider limited? From what the consultant said in their comments I thought you would want to prohibit new trails in these areas. P2 - Monitor open space conditions with an emphasis on documenting the location, distribution, and abundance of special-status plants and plant communities, native grasses, wildflowers, and other native flora. What would you do after you monitor it? This doesn't tell us what to do with it – or not do with it – when it's identified, or measured, or whatever this is instructing us to do. Most of the policies are very vague and easily interpreted any way you want. For all the words written in this policy document, it really gives no guidance. I can imagine how it could easily be interpreted to support pretty much anything you want to do or build in the open space. So pretty quickly, staff and residents will be arguing over the definition of these terms and whether a project should be approved or not, depending on how they choose to interpret the words. Also, I don't know how you would measure if the plan was completed or was successful or not. A plan should have a list of actionable tasks that can be completed, or rules to be implemented and followed. I'm not sure this document will be of any use, and I agree with the commission that these policies need clarification. Respectfully, Frank Mercer	Frank Mercer
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Council Members, I am a Belmont resident and I heard that the council is scheduled to vote on The Belmont Parks and Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan tomorrow. I am worried that the plan doesn't address the issues of contention around the use of the Belmont Open Spaces (bikes on narrow trails, e-bikes, illegal trails). I also find it concerning that a document of this size is released a few days before it is to be voted on. It almost seems like the process is rushed on purpose so folks cannot provide feedback on contentious issues. The representatives in the PROS committee need more time to communicate the plan to their respective neighborhoods and collect feedback from the residents. For these reasons, I am asking you to postpone the vote. Thank you, Tzvetelina Tzeneva	Tzvetelina Tzeneva
7/13/2022	Dear Council Members, Please be advised that our hiking trails in Water Dog Park should not be used by very powerful electric bicycles. We are a family that not only has bicycles, electric bicycles, and hike the water dog trails. To open up the trails to incompatible uses would not only eliminate our ability as seniors to safely hike on these trails or use them as they were initially intended. Being a longtime resident of the wonderful community of Belmont, and are very familiar with the area and what it is suited for. We truly understand the incompatibility of what you are proposing in the plan. PLEASE RECONSIDER and study further your "OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN". It can have long lasting negative consequences as it is currently proposed. Sincerely, Dale and Marilyn O'Harra	Dale and Marilyn O'Harra

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/202	Hi Belmont City Council, and Belmont Parks & Rec Department, I'm writing in support of the Belmont PROS Plan. Congratulations on getting this plan through the process, I am aware that it's been a long 18 months. I want to thank you all for your dedication to this process, in particular, your willingness to listen to all sides, obtain comprehensive survey data, get expert scientific input from an external organization, and create a plan that meets the needs of the overwhelming majority of people who utilize the open space. I support the conclusions for Waterdog open space, including maintaining all trails as multi-use, doing trail work to reduce erosion and protect the waterways within the park. One last note. Throughout the process I attended many of the meetings in which you had to endure aggressive verbal attacks from a very uncooperative small group of individuals and I was continually impressed by your ability to listen and respond with composure and professionalism. Thank you for your dedication to Belmont, Karen Moody	Karen Moody
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Councilmembers: It has been brought to my attention that the Belmont parks and Recreation and Open Space plan is on the agenda for this Tuesday. I would like to ask City Council to postpone voting on a document that people are not aware of and have not had time to read or to provide input on. It would be quite beneficial to allow the people of Belmont to study the proposal and to make suggestions or voice ideas prior to the vote. Thank you. Sandra Raskin	Sandra Raskin
7/13/2022	Belmont Mayor and City Council Members, I've become aware that the City Council will be looking at the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. For the many years that I have lived in Belmont, I devoted much of my time to saving our open space especially the San Juan Canyon. Historically speaking, there were many other council members before me, who have saved part of Hastings development for open space (part of the Western Hills open space), and others who have saved the Western Hills, by allowing some development at the end of Carlmont Dr and saving the rest in open space and too many others to thank. After reading the many pages of the Plan, I have four serious concerns: 1. All unsanctioned trails need to be closed to protect the open space from vandalism. No city policy should sanction vandalism, 2. Bikes should keep off narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikers can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. 3. E-bikes should be banned from dirt trails except for Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. 4. Bikers should not be rewarded for creating new roads for themselves to use as they wish. This has been a practice for years. Please have the Park and Rec commission look at these four concerns as quickly as possible. Our open space is too important to be ruined by a few and the damages may not be reversible. Thank you, Coralin Feierbach Former Belmont Council member	Coralin Feierbach

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear City of Belmont officials, Our wooded spaces make Belmont unique. As a commuter on Ralston who connects with CalTrain, and as walker who enjoys Pine Knoll, Holly, as well as our wooded spaces, *please reconsider allowing our trails to become a free-for-all speedway.* Once trails are opened for more extreme use, it will not be possible to easily reclaim them — they'll be widened, and wet conditions + eBikes will make for muddy trenches that'll get deeper with time. Belmont is a welcoming place. Making our beloved woodlands an extreme biking Disneyland, however, is BAD for our residents and there is no benefit to allowing this. Bikers aren't going to pay an entrance fee or anything. Why would the City allow the quiet enjoyment of OUR woodlands to be given away to non -Belmonters who'll ruin our environment? Thanks for hearing that many of us are ANGRY that current leadership even thinks that this a good idea. Regards, Tracy Turner	Tracy Turner
7/13/2022	I understand that there is a resolution to be voted on July 12 by Belmont City Council concerning Waterdog Open Space that will allow cyclists to use all trails with no or very minimal controls. I have had many very dangerous close encounters with cyclists on the very narrow steep trails in the Belmont Open Spaces. It is to the point where I have to walk on other trails where other cities have tight controls on cyclists. As an example last week, I was walking in Laurelwood in the Belmont section, one responsible cyclist pulled to one side and let me safely walk past him, the other I had to leap to one side to avoid being run over, this was on a steep section where the cyclist had little or no control. There is no problem in this regard in the San Mateo City controlled paths in Laurelwood. There is a potential too for major legal liability costs for the inevitable accidents that will occur through Belmont City Council's failure to address this issue. Belmont City Council must address this issue to allow safe walking in all parks for which Belmont City Council is responsible.	John Aynsley

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear City Council, On this week's Council agenda, the Parks and Rec Commission and Department will present you with a finalized Belmont Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan. This plan represents the culmination of 18 months of community outreach, an extensive public survey, focus groups, an advisory panel, two separate and independent consultants, and month-after-month of discussion and public commentary. The process has been exhaustive, transparent, and inclusive. Please vote in favor of the plan so we can move forward with a clear vision for our open space. I want to take the time to commend the Parks and Rec Commission and Director Shearer's Department for their leadership and effort in getting this plan together. They conducted one of the most successful public surveys ever performed in Belmont and truly took the time to understand how the public uses our open space and what was desired in the future. They also brought in recognized experts in ecology, open space management, and habitat preservation in order to analyze the state of our open space and tell us how we have been doing. The PROS Master Plan incorporates both the science and the public will into a plan that we can all be proud of! Now there are always haters, and as the saying goes, "the haters are gonna hate." You will hear from them this week: Deniz Bolbol (yes, the same Deniz who almost destroyed the beloved Belmont Cross Country Course access last year), her husband Pat Cuviello (failed City Council candidate), Kristen Mercer, (another failed City Council candidate) and Jennifer "Jen-Jen". We have heard from these four in every meeting for 2 years now. First we heard about how the open space was in shambles, the animals had been run off, the bikes had completely eroded the trails, and Waterdog was an ecological disaster. In truth, our expert consultants found that Waterdog is in pretty darn good shape - the flora and fauna are quite healthy, invasive species are lower than comparable open spaces, rogue trails and cut-throughs are less prevalent than comparative open spaces (for instance, in Marin), and the singletrack trails (made by cyclists) actually have less erosion than the old dirt roads (John Brooks, Rambler, etc) we inherited from the past. Next we heard that Belmont residents wanted a nature preserve. In truth, our Belmont PROS survey found that the majority of Belmont residents used the open space for recreation, and the majority actually desired more trails and more recreational opportunities. I would also remind the council that this survey reported results separately for both Belmont residents and non-residents. It turned out that both Belmont residents and non-residents agreed - the majority wanted to preserve and expand recreational open space access. Next the haters told us that Waterdog is unsafe for hikers - a claim used to justify restricting cyclist trail access despite the fact neither Parks and Rec, nor Belmont Police, have received significant reports of collision with injury. Out of desperation, at one point Deniz took to standing around a blind corner, while her husband Pat filmed, in hopes of entrapping a cyclist and documenting a collision. This bizarre behavior was reported to the Council earlier. No collision occurred. Although I can understand that hikers may want to have an experience without dogs or cyclists around, hikers have a plethora of nearby hiking-only trails to choose from: Crystal Springs Cross Country Course (17 feet from the Upper Lake Trail trailhead, 299 acres, 3 miles of trails), Big Canyon Park (16 acres, 1.7 miles of trails), Pulgas Ridge Preserve (366 acres, 6 miles of trails), Edgewood Preserve (467 acres, 10 miles of trails), Eaton Park (158 acres, 2 miles of trails), Mills Canyon Park (1,500 acres, 1.4 miles of trails), Phleger Estate (1,000 acres, 4.6 miles of trails), Huddart Park (973 acres, 28 miles of trails), and Foothills Park (1,400 acres, 15 miles of trails). In contrast, there are no cycling-only trails to serve the recreational needs of cyclists. For every mile of mixed use trails like Waterdog, there are over 5 miles of hiking-only trails within a 15 minute drive of Belmont, and no cycling-only trails. How could further restricting cycling access be fair? Finally, the haters, sensing their own defeat, will tell you this plan was sprung upon them, and the public has not had the proper time to read and digest it. In truth, the Commission and Department has done a fabulous job socializing this plan - we've had monthly Commission meetings, advisory board meetings, scope planning meetings, surveys, web campaigns, meet-and-greets in the park. The draft plan has been available for months and the finalized plan, incorporating even more input, contains no surprises. These haters have sought to sabotage the PROS process since day one. The haters, who seem to only know how to destroy a community, have had their say. Now, after two years, it is time to move forward. Belmont residents have a beautiful open space to hike, cycle, exercise the dog, enjoy the flowers and trees, get some fresh air, meet friends, and build community. It is a place of joy, peace, and fun. Thoreau wrote "Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." I think the reason people get so emotional about Waterdog is that they feel a little bit of Thoreau's Heaven under their feet when they visit. I know I do. Please help us preserve Waterdog and vote in favor of the PROS Open Space Master Plan. Jonathan Carter, MD Lead, Waterdog Trailkeeper Volunteers	Jonathan Carter

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	As a 40 year resident of Belmont, and someone who loves walking near Waterdog Lake, I was appalled to read the so-called “Master Plan” for this beautiful area. Clearly, the bike lobby is very influential in Belmont politics but I had no idea that cyclists come from outside the city to Waterdog Open Space to get their kicks and thrills in this area. We walk all over the Bay Area and have never come across such unregulated trail systems as we have in Belmont. When we walk in San Carlos, Portola Valley, Woodside, parts of the South Bay, East Bay and Marin, we never feel at risk of being bowled over by some thrill seeker on a bike. In other cities, it’s always very clear which trails cyclists may and may not use and they do not share narrow trails with hikers. Unfortunately, because some cyclists have a sense of entitlement when it comes to using trails, the reality is that bikes and hikers simply cannot share steep, narrow trails. Apart from the inherent dangers, why do you ignore the obvious environmental damage in places like Waterdog Open Space? Many of the cyclists degrade the trails and the surrounding areas and we have a responsibility to protect these areas for future generations. As for opening the trails to unregulated use by motorized bikes, there are no words to express my absolute disgust. Have you all lost your collective minds?We have come close to being knocked off the trails in Waterdog Open Space - are you going to wait for someone to get badly injured before you impose some sensible controls? What is it going to take for Belmont City Council to finally understand it has a responsibility to protect ALL users of the area? We see many older people walking the trails, children on bikes or walking, mothers with babies in strollers and many runners. It would seem that you are simply not concerned about about the “silent majority” and are obsessed with the idea of making Waterdog Open Space an adventure playground for cyclists from all over the Bay Area. I am very disappointed and saddened by these proposals and I hope they end up on the trash heap of Belmont history. We can do better. Eryl Aynsley	Eryl Aynsley
7/13/2022	Hello- I just wanted to drop you a short note to tell you that I enjoy recreating, specifically riding my mountain bike on singletrack trails in Waterdog Park. I strongly support the draft Parks, Rec and Open Space Management plan that would allow the STATUS QUO of CONTINUED MULTI-USE (including mountain bike) access to all trails including singletrack. I enjoy the unique trails at Waterdog, and when I visit the park I also spend money in the local community. Thank you for your time. Frank Giraffe	Frank Giraffe
7/13/2022	My husband I have lived in the Hallmark area since 1985 and we have always immensely enjoyed the open space. Our son and his friends would bike the trails in the summer months and they were often the only ones on the trails so they felt like explorers. Hiking on the trails was always so relaxing as you felt you were really in the wilderness, experiencing wildlife and wildflowers. Fast forward to 2020: The trails became like a freeway for speeding bikes and we often had to jump off to the side of the trails into poison oak to avoid getting hit by a biker coming around a curve or down a hill. It was no longer peaceful nor did you experience the wildlife as in the past. Unfortunately some of the trails on hills have become so slippery as they have been worn down by the amount of cycling on them that they are very slick and difficult to maneuver on. I understand why the cyclists love this area but it has increasingly become unsafe to share the trails with them. I know why they come here as they are not allowed on other trails in other Bay Area parkland. Since the pandemic my husband and I have started to enjoy Big Canyon in San Carlos because they do not allow bikes and where it is steep, they have stairs. Unfortunately it is quite a hike for us to even get there unlike the trails in the Water Dog open space. My husband often still wants to walk the trails and in the canyon but I often talk him out of it when it is a time we know there will be lots of bikes. I really hope Belmont makes some of the narrow trails hikers only and bring the safety and peace back to our lovely canyon. Let the bikers enjoy themselves on separate or multi use trail but please designate some trails for hikers only. I suggest the Berry trail, Lake Loop, Chapparral, Ohlone and Canyon Creek. Thank you. Pamela Stahl	Pamela Stahl

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Hi! I wanted to email and signal my strong support for the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan for Waterdog Lake & Open Space. I am an avid hiker and mountain biker, and have loved having this amazing resource so close to enjoy with me and my family. As a physician I know how critical healthy recreation is for physical and mental health, and we are so lucky to have this amazing open space as a resource. I have personally never seen conflict between users, and think that we can all get along as we enjoy Waterdog. Please vote accordingly! Best, Justin	Justin Krogue
7/13/2022	To Our Belmont City Council Members. I feel it is time for the Council to listen to your constituents that you took allegiance to represent and NOT to bikers from all over our county and state. Our Waterdog Canyon should be enjoyed by your local residents and not be overtaken by a group of fun loving fanatics. Listen to your people and not to outsiders. The back of our property runs concurrent to an illegal bike trail. We hear voices, dogs barking, roars of bikes, etc. What happened to our quite neighbored from years ago. Why does Belmont have to become a sports arena? What happened to our beautiful and peaceful city, The Gem of the Peninsula. Again, please pay attention to your constituents and not a bunch of outsiders. Consider an Open Space Plan that befits The People of Belmont. Thank You Ken Lebovitz	Ken Lebovitz
7/13/2022	Dear Council Members! I lived in Belmont Heights for 31 years before moving to Oregon. During those years, we had no problems with this open space. Seems to me an easy compromise: one trail system for hikers and one for cyclists. Why is that so difficult? Please see the following: For two years Belmont council members promised the Open Space Master Plan would address these dangerous and divisive issues. It doesn't. It kicks the can down the road, stating that the city should study or consider trail policies. Two wasted years does not excuse a flawed and hollow plan to guide us the next 15 years. We insist our Council address these issues NOW: 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district – why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity.	Dennis Taugher
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Council Members, Please postpone voting on the PROS plan so the public can have more time to learn and provide input about the final document. As residents in the Bay Area, we appreciate the freedom to hike without being cautious to watch out for motorized bikes and regular bikes. In the past, we've witnessed bikes speed down paths which could be dangerous to hikers. Please postpone this issue to allow people to read and consider how the hiking trails in Belmont can be safer for hikers. Sincerely, Tony Chan	Tony Chan

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Council Members, Please postpone voting on the PROS plan so the public can have more time to learn and provide input about the final document. As residents in the Bay Area, we appreciate the freedom to hike without being cautious to watch out for motorized bikes and regular bikes. In the past, we've witnessed bikes speed down paths which could be dangerous to hikers. Please postpone this issue to allow people to read and consider how the hiking trails in Belmont can be safer for hikers. Sincerely, Kathy Chan	Kathy Chan
7/13/2022	Dear Members of the Commission, As a Belmont resident of 30+ years, I am quite familiar with the trails at Waterdog Lake. For a while, I hiked them regularly but the continued and increased use of speeding mountain bikers on the narrow trails have left me fearing for my safety. Having to jump out of the way at a moment's notice takes the enjoyment out of a hike. In addition, I'm upset about the disastrous consequences to the trails, the surrounding sensitive habitat and the wildlife caused by erosion of the existing trails and the construction of illegal trails. Speeding mountain bikes, bike jumps, night biking and illegal trail construction are not in line with the goals stated in the Plan for Belmont's Open Spaces, such as making all users welcome and safe, Environmental Resource Protection, Balanced Recreation Uses and Trail Management and the Trail Standards and Guidelines. A quick search for prime mountain biking locations in San Mateo County reveals that Waterdog is near the top of the list. It is described as a singletrack mountain bike trail, and while the person in the introduction points out that it is a multi-use trail system and requests fellow riders to be courteous, the reviewers talk about the technical difficulty of the trails. These difficulties, such as exposed roots, were not part of the original trails which were meant for hikers, and now they pose a long-term danger to the trees themselves and also to the safety of hikers. Before you adopt the Open Space Master Plan, you must include the following: Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails to prevent further erosion and to make them safe for hikers. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. Do no sanction this form of vandalism. It will only encourage additional illegal trails. Instead, all unsanctioned trails should be restored to their original state, if that is even possible considering the damage that has been done from both the construction and the use. E-bikes should only be allowed on Lake Road. Part of what makes Belmont such a wonderful place to live is the proximity to a place like Waterdog Preserve. Yes, there are plenty of other preserves in the area, but why should Belmont residents be forced to drive out of town, so that mountain bikers can use the space and continually degrade it? Please make sure that Waterdog Preserve will have trails that are for hikers only so everyone can enjoy this precious resource. Sincerely, Birgit Merian https://www.singletracks.com/bike-trails/region/california/?city=San+Mateo	Birgit Merian

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Council Members: My name is Karen Geer and I have had the pleasure of living in Belmont since 2016. It has come to my attention that the Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) plan is slated to be voted on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. In learning more about this document and the issues surrounding it, I am perplexed that it is so quickly up for a vote! The report was delivered just before July 4 for the Parks and Recreation meeting on July 6 and it is going to be voted on by the city on July 12? While I approve of swift decisions, I think it is premature in this situation. I learned the report is 300+ pages with 1,600 pages of documents! Has the PROS Committee read or commented on this document? Have you had time to read this document? I have not had the opportunity to read it. Where is it on the city website? I could not find it. Since this is the first revision of the document in 30 years, I implore you to postpone the vote! It needs a proper review so the scope can be understood and errors corrected. Sincerely, Karen Geer	Karen Geer
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Council. I am si yum and have been residing at carlmont drive since 1997. I used to love this city because of the beautiful open space and peaceful walking trails. In the recent years, increasing numbers of mountain bikes basically took over all trails. Finally, I became the victim of this situation. Nov. 11, 2020, while my husband and I were walking on the water dog trail, I saw 3 bikes side by side running toward us. To avoid being run over, I quickly left the trail by crossing over the ditch (water drain) and up onto the slope. When I tried to return from the slope and over the ditch to the trail, I fell because of the slippery sands on the trail making me lose my balance. My right foot and ankle were injured, and I could not walk. I called the city and the park service and left a message and asked for someone to open the trail gate/bar so that my husband could pull his car in and take me home. No response at all. I called my daughter but she and her husband were in Oakland. I had to wait couple hours for them to drive over, find me on the trail and carry me back home. I spent almost 3 months on a wheel chair and slept on a sofa and took no bath. (Bed and bath are on second floor). X-ray, taken by dr. Rachel Wood in March 2021, showed my lower leg bone had a crack. Thought I feel my feet was somewhat recovered but swelling and paint are still existing. My right leg has no strength to support body balance. I am afraid of falling. I have physical therapy for a year. Lately, I received a steroids injection and will receive another dose soon. Dr. Wood says my foot most likely will stay in pain for the rest of my life. Lately, I get back to the hiking trails nervously. I kept thinking of how to protect myself, carrying a stick or/and a pepper spray… Or you tell me what kind of effective defensive tool I should carry with me to prevent another injury? Hikers on foot who want to enjoy our trails cannot defend themselves from a bike especially when they travel so fast. As we all know, on Ralston st, there are pedestrian way, bike lane and auto lanes. Pedestrians have the priority over all others. All others have to yield. Why not on the trails? Now, my husband loudly yells to warn me if he feels a bike approaching. Here, I demand the city to designate hiker trails and biker trails. If it is difficult to do, designate time, for instance, Monday and Wednesday for bikes and other days for hikers. A bike speed at 30 miles per hour can run a person to death. Until that happen one day, you will regret if you have human hearts. I have heard the plan that you have have been working on is supposed to be done but I am confused that there were no discussions on separate trails or safety measures. I waited and gave input a year ago and was told there would be separate discussion on the issues on our trails. How can this plan be done when I have not seen it or had time to tell our block person what I think ? What did the traffic study show? There are so many cars that bring bikers to our small park — I see this because my house is the one closest to the canyon ? What are the trails you are making so I can not get hurt again? I would like to see the plan and give you my feedback to make sure you are listening. Please do not vote and make final this plan until we can make sure it guarantees we can all be safe. Thank you for listening Sincere, Si yum	Si Yum

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear City Council, I'm requesting that you postpone the vote on the PROS document. As I understand it, the consultant released the document on July 4th, for the July 6th Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on July 6th. Therefore, there has been no or negligible time to comment on the 300-page report with 1600 pages of Appendices. Since we haven't had an update in 20 years, it seems very reasonable to allow 1-2 months for the report to be reviewed and consensus generated. We want to be able to provide feedback to you and the PROS committee. All the best, Paul Kotturi	Paul Kotturi
7/13/2022	Good morning, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed It is important to keep the trails open to the current user groups. We moved to the Cipriani neighborhood for its access to the fantastic trails at Waterdog which we hike, ride and help maintain on a regular basis. Thank you, Jason Bromfield	Jason Bromfield
7/13/202	Dear members, I feel strongly that e-bikes must be banned from dirt trails except for Lake Road. Bikes must be kept off the narrow, steep, and sloping dirt trails. I am not able to attend the meeting tonight, but please remember that hikers' safety and the health of our Open Space must be of prime importance. Sincerely, Shiela Cockshott	Shiela Cockshott

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Hello I am a current resident of San Mateo, near laurelwood. I am a hiker/biker outdoor enthusiast. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular. I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Travis Roberson	Travis Roberson
7/13/2022	I am writing in favor of leaving Waterdog a multi use area. Hiking and biking. Thank you, Bill Balestreri	Bill Balestreri
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Council Members, My husband and I have been Belmont residents for almost 13 years near the Waterdog Park entrance at the end of Carlmont Drive. We enjoy hiking, trail running, and safe mountain biking. I am writing to you to request deferring the vote on our Belmont PROS plan scheduled for tonight, July 12th. This will allow the needed due diligence time to review the final, recently available, document to pose questions and concerns. Deferring the vote will also allow time to spread the word, so more folks are aware and have the same opportunity I am asking for myself. Many things changed over 30 years and we request the opportunity to thoroughly read and comment on something that will have an impact on our lives. Thank you for your consideration. Let's keep our Belmont PROS plan the fabric of our community. Best, Audrey	Audrey Sato
7/13/2022	Good day. I wanted to express my support today for the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Management Plan. I and my family are avid hikers and mountain bikers, and I believe multi-use trails are the best approach for this key part of our local trails infrastructure, recreation opportunity, and wilderness access. I'm sensitive to the needs of hikers — I am one — when riding at Waterdog. I try to exercise courtesy and haven't had any difficulties with hikers when I'm riding my bike. That said, I support explicit measures like the recommended calming measures to encourage cyclists' best behavior. I also support the plan's handling of erosion control and trail maintenance. My son and I have volunteered for trail maintenance work elsewhere in the region through the Trail Center and would happily help with trail maintenance closer to home, too. I'd also like unofficial legacy trails to be recognized and, where possible, new trails to be added for more exploration opportunities and lower density of trail users. Thank you for considering my views as you try to find the best use for this marvelous patch of wilderness in our midst. Stephen Shankland	Stephen Shankland

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Motorized bike use at Waterdog? Are you kidding me??? Please, please rethink the environmental impact and act NOW to prevent irreversible damage. The safety and health of both Bay Area residents, and of the limited open space available for our use, should be of paramount importance and protected NOW. Serious action on the equitable and ethical use and preservation of Waterdog is required NOW. Think about the future impact and not about pleasing the desires of one sporting interest group. Thank you, Mike and Linda Gold	Mike and Linda Gold
7/13/2022	(Dated 6/17/2021) Hi Brigitte. Happy to help. There are two documents relative to the intended uses of Hidden Canyon: Attached is the grant deed for Hidden Valley for Blackwell Developers, including the parcel maps showing the land designated as open space easement. In the owner's statement, the 4th paragraph describes the conditional use of the open space easement: WE FURTHER HEREBY DEDICATE ·AN·EASEMENT FOR OPEN SPACE OVER THOSE AREAS DESIGNATED AS 'OPEN SPACE EASEMENT': CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE EASEMENT AREA SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING: NATURAL OPEN SPACE. LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS. FOOTPATHS, UNDERGROUND UTILITIES AND UTILITY EASEMENT AREAS, DRAINAGE FACILITIES AND SYSTEMS AND LAWFUL FENCES. This grant is consistent with the stipulations of the Western Hills Area Plan, adopted prior to this 1993 grant deed, which lists goal and objectives (pg 26) #9: Encourage a Public Greenbelt and Trail System: Pursue creation of a continuous greenbelt of publicly owned open space that will be appropriate for passive recreational uses as well as for walking trails. So there are in fact TWO references specifically limiting Hidden Canyon trails to walking/feet only. This is why I continually assert that Belmont has not complied with it's own planning documents. One of the primary stated purposes of the Western Hills Area Plan was to address geological instability in the canyon. By the 1990's the City had already completed the San Juan Canyon Plan specifically to address the geological instability of that canyon. Hidden Canyon – just half mile away -- is similar soils on even steeper slopes. The plan also addresses protection for the riparian and woodland ecology of the canyon. The background information in the Western Hills Plan, and the geological mapping included, are absolutely critical to evaluating any proposed trails in the canyon. In fact, today we see the failure of Rambler and Finch trails that were built without regard to the adopted 1998 Trail Map and the mapped geological instabilities of the canyon. We made these mistakes once – our hope is that we can now correct those mistakes and implement a more sustainable plan going forward. I continually remind residents that Hidden Canyon is in fact the single largest open space in the City and accounts for over half of all City open space. It comprises 65% of the total Waterdog area open space (Waterdog = 50 acres, John Brooks = 49 acres, Hidden Canyon = 187 acres). Western Hills was also the subject of a city-wide land use initiative – Measure F – in which voters formally adopted by majority vote a land use policy to prevent development on this land. A voter initiative is the most affirmative form of "user opinion survey", thus asserting the public opinion to protect and preserve these lands. Please ensure that ALL parties involved in the discussion and development of the Open Space Master Plan are fully aware of the important Western Hills documents and the relevant history and geology critical to any decisions about use of this open space. Thank you for guiding the master plan toward fact-based decisions to ensure sustainability of Belmont's valuable open spaces. Kristin	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear Council member, As a long time Belmont resident and an avid hiker, I urge the City Council to close the biker built trails and to limit trail use for bikers. I have had several dangerous encounters with bikers on - what used to be - hiking trails. One encounter resulted in road rash on my face and knees and another in a bad case of poison oak. In both of these cases, I was forced to jump off the trail as the bikers were going much too fast to stop. For the bikers, it's all about the thrill of the ride. To most hikers, it's about a quiet, meditative experience in a natural setting. Please do the right thing and restrict bikers to designated trails and close the illegal biker built trails. Sincerely, Michael O'Neill	Michael O'Neill
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Councilmembers: I heard that The Belmont Parks and Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan is on the agenda for this Tuesday. As a Belmont resident, I would like to ask city council to postpone voting on a document that many other residents haven't had time to read and/or provide feedback. The plan does not address most of the issues we previously brought up over the PROS process - including single use trails for safety. We personally use the Hidden Canyon Park trails several times a week. There have been a number of occasions where we could not safely get out of the way of on-coming bikers. Allowing bikers to share the very narrow trails with walkers is dangerous! Additionally allowing E-bikes spoils the natural ambiance of this lovely open space. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter. Marie & Stan Crouch	Marie and Stan Crouch
7/13/2022	My family has lived in Belmont for almost 50 years and we have enjoyed using the trails in Waterdog Park for most of that time. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I am an avid trail runner and I support multi-use trail recreation and appreciate the work that has gone into this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use (I have never encountered an issue after hundreds of hours on the trails.) Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control for direction when I volunteer New trails be added to the Open Space Thank you, Ron Cheechov	Ron Cheechov

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	To the Belmont City Council: Please, please stop this plan from proceeding. It does not resolve the most controversial issues that are driving hikers out of Waterdog; safety and illegal trails. Residents have not been heard. My family has lived in the neighborhood since the 80s and the open trails have become overrun with bikers, damaged from all the tracks, and are not a high risk for walkers (ESPECIALLY young children and older individuals). The plan allows biking on ALL trails regardless of safety or nature. Mountain bikers from the entire region flock to Waterdog because it is the only open space that does not regulate biking on narrow dirt trails, regardless of safety and trail damages. Bikers run timed speed competitions, build jumps and modify trails to increase speeds. Hikers on narrow and sloped trails jump out of the way into the shrubbery. Seniors, families with children, and anyone less agile are displaced by this imbalanced bike-centric climate. The plan proposes to sanction 3 miles of illegally forged, unsafe and damaging trails - none of which meet the safety or environmental standards recommended in that same document. These are steep, eroded, and dangerous for both hikers and bikers. Sanctioning this vandalism is irresponsible stewardship. The plan eliminates the ban on motorized bikes, leaving our trails wide open to all types of powerful e-bikes that are banned from dirt trails in other open spaces. For two years Belmont council members promised the Open Space Master Plan would address these dangerous and divisive issues. It doesn't. It kicks the can down the road, stating that the city should study or consider trail policies. Two wasted years does not excuse a flawed and hollow plan to guide us the next 15 years. We insist you please address these issues NOW: 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district – why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. Visitor safety and the health of our Open Space are priorities. The sport of mountain biking should not be allowed to endanger either. Thank you, Marisa A. Passantino	Marisa A. Passantino
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City Councilmembers, My comments pertain to Agenda item 9.A for your meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. I believe there are serious concerns regarding sharing of trails between hikers and bikes in the proposed Open Space Master Plan, and believe this issue deserves more discussion and should not be rushed. Please allow more time for consideration and do not make a decision tonight. City Clerk, please retain this email and entire email string with the official records for the meeting, and in accordance with your filing system for correspondence from residents. Sincerely, Tim E. Strinden	Tim E. Strinden

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	I agree with Deniz 100%! Belmont unfortunately hasn't protected its native wildlife. Mountain bikers can enjoy all trails just as everyone else does: on foot! There is no good reason to allow bikes on any unpaved trails. Hi Mike, Perhaps you can login to the City Council meeting TOMORROW (TUESDAY) night to give public comments on management of Belmont's open spaces -- where mountain bikers dominate. Right now the open space agenda item 9A is at the end of the meeting. Unless the Council changes the order, 9A will likely not be heard until after 9p. If you can give public comments, it would be great if you emphasize that you are calling on the Council to: Add a measure in the resolution that acknowledges, as the General Plan and last Master Plan did, that our Open Spaces (Water Dog, Hidden Canyon and San Juan Canyon) are wildlife corridors and actions should be taken to protect wildlife and this important habitat and corridor. 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district □ why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Prohibit e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity.	Mike Vandeman
7/13/2022	Dear Belmont City council members, I would like to ask city council to postpone voting on this document that the majority of people are not aware of/or not had time to read and understand yet. Thank you, Mark Greenbaum	Mark Greenbaum
7/13/2022	Please find attached my comments for the Council meeting on July 12, 2022 agenda item 9a (PROS Master Plan). Attachments 1-4 are included in this email. Additional attachments will be sent separately. Please contact me if you did not receive any of the emails or attachments. Thank you Deniz Bolbol [Three emails with attachments]	Deniz Bolbol
7/13/2022	[Body of email is blank with attachment]	Kristin Mercer
7/13/2022	Dear City Council Members, I just found out about Parks Master Plan on City Council's agenda, and am extremely concerned that council is voting on such a major policy constitution that is supposed to drive our philosophy on open space and parks for the next two decades -- when people have not had a chance to read it, digest it, and provide feedback to their PROS representative or council. I strongly encourage you to delay the voting so the residents can provide their feedbacks. Thanks Shuguang Ma	Shuguang Ma

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/13/2022	Dear City Council members, I am a 28-year resident of Belmont. I have just learned today that this vote is schedule to be taken in the meeting tonight after the plan being available for public review only 10 days. Please slow down this process. The plan has over 300 pages and 1600 pages of appendices -- and there is not sufficient time for anyone to read or provide feedback. It's too soon to vote on this plan. The PROS document needs review and time for amending. Please do not take action on this item tonight. Thank you, — Lillian Svec	Lillian Svec
7/13/2022	My vote is keep it open	Russ St. John
7/13/2022	The link for the "Draft Open Space Management Plan" button on the main page of https://belmontprosplan.com/ is broken. Have Belmont residents and users been able to access this to review the contents?	Alan Tsai
7/13/2022	Dear City Council, I am a hiker and mountain biker, I have visited Waterdog on numerous occasions and have been very courteous to bikers and hikers. My overall experience has been very positive. I would like to request to please consider keeping it a multi use park. I do believe adjustments need to be made order to keep everyone safe. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Best, Kurin	Kurin Tu
7/13/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. I have been part of this trail since 1990 as well as trail recovery from wash outs. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Rian Hart	Rian Hart

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/14/2022	Dear City Council and planning teams, I wanted to write a short note regarding the go forward vote and plans for Waterdog park. There have been many recent discussions and focus on proposals to shut down Waterdogs multi-use trails. Please take the consideration to keep the park open to multi-use trails as this is so fundamental to the community. I have grown up close to Waterdog and have lived here for 52 years. I understand and appreciate what the local community parks do for our community and for people of different ages and activities. There are so few parks locally that provide the benefits that Waterdog provides to groups such as mountain bikers. I've ridden at Waterdog for years and find it to be a wonderful place to enjoy for exercise and respectfully sharing with other bikers and hikers. So many other parks are available for only hikers and equestrians (i.e. Edgewood and Huddard parks) which are larger and available. I would ask that the team look at the bigger picture around availability and access for the community as there is NO reason that hikers/bikers can coexist. I've never seen the park over capacity and appreciate all the respective manner by which I see hikers/bikers interact. I have never seen speed as a large concern due to the switchback nature of the trails and (up/down) nature of trails which creates a natural reduction in speed for most. If E-Bikes are an issue that is one area that should be considered as restriction due to the motorized nature of the bike. As a long time community member I ask that you please consider the vote to continue to keep Waterdog trails as multi-use in the same fashion as they are used today. No need to fix something that isn't broken. Best Regards, Daryl Elvander	Daryl Elvander
7/16/2022	I'm a Belmont resident and live on Yosemite Drive. My family has enjoyed walking the trails in our area, playing soccer on the fields and are looking forward to the future plans come to fruition. I would like to see the City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. It is time to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center. Thank you.	Jill Massa
7/16/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, I'm a Belmont resident in the Plateau-Skymont neighborhood and I would like to see City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move on, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center, whose revonation is a decade overdue! Some of the Belmont Heights homeowners who are a small but loud group have consistently displayed NIMBY(Not In My BackYard) syndrome. The city of Belmont needs to really take any input from them with a grain of salt. They tried to close down the Crystal Springs Cross Country Course last year. They steadfastly refuse to open up the artificial barrier between the end of Hallmark Dr and the end of Crestview Dr (of San Carlos) to eliminate any traffic through the Hallmark Dr. No other neighborhood in Belmont gets to enjoy such privilege. The city residents should not consistently give them special treatment! Regards, Sherice	Sherice Lee

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/16/2022	THIS says it all for me: I'm a Belmont resident, and I would like to see City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center. Frank Casale	Frank Casale
7/16/2022	I'm a Belmont resident, and I would like to see City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center. Sincerely Ralph McNall	Ralph McNall
7/17/2022	As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come. I have been biking and hiking these trails for 20 years now. I know many of the regulars by name. I have worked on several of these trails over the years. I love this area and want to continue to be able to bike and hike there. Sincerely, Darren Don	Darren Don
7/17/2022	Hi! I'm a Menlo Park resident, who loves exploring the various parks and recreation areas along the Peninsula. Over the years, I have enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog park and was pleased to see the city's draft PROS plan, which maintains those opportunities. I would strongly encourage City Council to adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. I was particularly impressed with consultant assessment of the park and the associated findings - indicating that the park is in good shape. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. Best, Tara Moran	Tara Moran

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/17/2022	Dear pros plan team, As a Belmont resident, I've been following the PROS plan evolve over the last 18 months. The current draft PROS plan provides in my opinion a great framework for our parks and open space policies. I would like to see City Counsel adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming Jily 26 meeting. I would like to share my thanks to the Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants for taking time to get it right. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. The framework offers a clear direction to take, while leaving enough options open to tackle specific details toghether down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move on, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center. Regards, Robert Brouwer	Robert Brouwer
7/17/2022	I'm a Belmont resident who lives in the Belmont Height neighborhood on Yosemite Drive. I would like to see the City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. I firmly support open use of Belmont's park resources, most notably Waterdog Lake. A visit to Waterdog lake along the trail from Hallmark drive is a highlight of any visit from our friends and family. On those visits, and those made with just our family, we will often bring a dog, kids on scooters or bikes and others walking. It is just so great to have a multiuse park, literally right in our backyard. I am pleased to hear that the Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get the PROS plan right. I'm satisfied with how the process has played out. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center. Thanks, MJ Edwards	MJ Edwards
7/17/2022	Dear City Council, I'm a Belmont resident, and I would like to see the City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center. Sincerely, Diana Berger	Diana Berger
7/17/2022	I'm a Belmont resident (for the past 16 years), and I would like to see City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center, which would be of great benefit to my family and children. Thank you, Ava Hristova	Ava Hristova
7/18/2022	Dear to whom it may concern: I live and own here in the Peninsula (San Mateo County) and an avid rider/fan of Waterdog for my mountain bike. I ride here on a weekly basis and really appreciate this beautiful resource. I vote respectfully to keep this trail system open for multi uses including mountain bikes. Thank you, Sung Chung	Sung Chung

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/18/2022	Please see my feedback below: Reserve narrow trails off limits to bikes, for hiker safety, peace and quiet. Close illegal trails; vandalism and thrill-riding should never be rewarded. Ban e-bikes from all trails except the wide Lake Road (for connectivity). Those unable to ride under their own power can hike like everyone else. Plus lithium batteries bring a fire hazard.	Saurin Shah
7/18/2022	I support all trails for everyone. Lived here 33 years overlooking the trail system (at Somerset Ct entrance). I watched the bikers and hikers carve out the trails and maintain them. Not sure why a certain group compares building the trails with graffiti and with selfish self-gain….that makes NO sense. The bikers and hikers put the trail system in for hikers and bikers who come from anywhere. There was never any question about this from day one. It was an effort for everyone, and I thanked them for their hard work and for helping us all. I didn't see the City pitching in money/help and now the City (or perhaps it is a group of "interested citizens") wants to dictate who uses the trails and exclude bikes from half the trails. Again, this was hard labor, maintenance labor, etc. by hikers and bikers. It helped far more than the individuals building those trails….if you are using the trails, thank those that built those trails! Bob Rush maintained the Crystal Springs Cross country trail for many many years. He was a coach and runner so do you call that being selfish? I don't. I used to run those trails and thanked him every time that I saw him. Not sure who the group is that is spreading a video of a rude cyclist. I thought that video misrepresented the way I experience bikers on the trail systems. Sure, a few inconsiderate bikers and HIKERS who don't share but most of the time I find that bikers wait for me as a 70-year-old hiker. And, as a slower hiker, I move out of the way for the faster hiker or biker when I have a clearing (not into poison oak). No one has ever forced me off the trail! Not once. I hear the bike brakes engaging and I look over my shoulder to check they are indeed stopping. They always do as they don't have the right of way and they know it. So, widen ALL the trails, increase the line of sight for all, and don't make "hiker only trails". And, enforce no hikers/bikers at night and no dogs off leash or on long leashes that trip hikers and impede cyclists as well. Sorry I cannot make the July 26th meeting. You may quote any of the above. Thank you! A concerned Citizen Karen Brunke	Karen Brunke
7/18/2022	I been riding the park or almost 25 years it is quite a jewel a of the Mid Peninsula. It is to only park I know of near metropolitan area that has quality single tracks . thanks	Tommy Kuo
7/18/2022	Hello, I'm a Belmont resident, and I would like to see the City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone has had an opportunity to give input. The 18 month timeline has been more than sufficient to develop this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center. It is a complete shame that a very small, selfish, group of homeowners with a NIMBY approach to the world are seeking to delay the process and potentially ruin the good use of our excellent Belmont outdoor space, despite data backing the proposed plan. I urge you to act on July 26th for the good of ALL Belmont residents, not a loud minority seeking to protect the interest of few. Thank you, Elisabeth Sargeant	Elisabeth Sargeant

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/19/2022	Dear Councilman Lieberman, When I saw this article in the Daily Journal https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/belmont-to-discuss-parks-master-plan/article_ef4a6b76-0199-11ed-b960-c338f624b0c3.html my takeaway from it was that you're leaning towards delaying the plan to accommodate David Braunstein, Kristen Mercer, and a handful of other people in their small circle. I understand their position, I know they want to do anything they can to enshrine restrictions to open space access in the PROS plan. I am writing to respectfully ask you to consider (1) whether this is in the best interests of the community as a whole, and (2) whether aligning yourself with this group is a wise political move. But first, I want to address the implication in the article that the PROS process was somehow rushed at the end. It was not. Hundreds of pages of new documentation were not suddenly dropped on the public in the last three weeks. As Parks Director Shearer pointed out at the July 6 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, nearly all of the information contained in the final draft has been part of the publicly available documents for more than a month, and in some cases, several months. Also, the individuals calling for delay are almost exclusively focused on the open space element. (Except for Mr. Braunstein, who consistently lobbies against any development of the fallow Hidden Canyon city park lot down the street from his house.) That open space element of the plan is 139 pages, and if you exclude the tables, it's only 87 pages - and within that 87 pages there are plenty of pictures and charts. I truly believe that adopting the PROS plan now is what's best for the community. The City's consultant WRA concluded that existing recreational use can continue on the existing mapped and unmapped trails without causing environmental harm. (By the way, the community has been using the two unmapped trails in Waterdog for years, and while WRA recommended improving stream crossings on one of them, it found neither trail has significant erosion, and found no justification for closing either of them.) The plan shouldn't be delayed - and the city shouldn't spend tens of thousands more in staff and consultant time to conduct many months' worth of meetings and focus groups so a handful of dissatisfied homeowners can keep beating a dead horse. Those individuals will never be satisfied unless and until they make the open space so exclusionary and unwelcome that it keeps their streets clear of park visitors. That is just never going to happen. And what would the ultimate result if the plan is modified for their desires? There will be a lot of Belmont voters who won't get to enjoy the open space as they have for the past 30 years, and they will be extremely unhappy about it. In exchange, a few affluent homeowners may get the marginal benefit of a small reduction in visitors to the open space next to their houses. The needs of the many should outweigh the needs of the few- especially when the "few" voluntarily chose to purchase homes knowing full well they were next to a popular community asset. When I read the quotes attributed to you in the Daily Journal that the PROS plan "needs more work," the public "[doesn't] feel the government is working for them" and we need to "clarify the policies," it sounded to me like a continuation of Mr. Braunstein and Ms. Mercer's quotes in the article, in an echo chamber completely detached from the PROS process I participated in. I'm sure you didn't intend it that way, but it also read to me like a slap in the face to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks staff. I have been following this process closely and have either attended or watched nearly every meeting. The Commission and Department worked extremely hard, poured their hearts and souls in to the plan, and the process gave everyone more than enough opportunity to provide input. I think the plan is meticulous, amazingly well thought out, and provides a beautiful vision for our parks and open spaces over the next 15 years. I think it would be very disdainful to the hardworking commissioners and staff if the plan is sent back for a "do-over" just because it didn't give a few well-heeled and politically-connected constituents exactly what they wanted. I just don't understand what is vague about the plan. It's a framework, not a blueprint. The intent of the plan is not to resolve every disagreement between every member of the community about every use of every trail. Of course, City Council is the ultimate decisionmaker on the plan, and it has the prerogative to modify it. But allowing unelected political allies to dictate the process at the end is an affront to those of us who patiently participated in the process over the past 18 months. It feels like Lucy pulling away the football from Charlie Brown as he's about to kick it. It also sends the message that the council doesn't have confidence in the Parks Commissioners it appointed or Parks staff it hired. It's not a good look if council is willing to just toss aside the recommendations of the very staff and commissioners it entrusted with creating the plan if a few well-connected constituents don't like what it says. It makes Council look indecisive and ineffectual if it can't make a simple decision on a thoroughly-vetted plan that has already gone 6 months into overtime. When I read the article, it made me wonder, who's really in charge of our city, the current council, or members of prior councils?	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/19/2022 (con't)	During this process, the commissioners and staff had to endure what seemed to be, in my opinion, baseless accusations of misconduct, threats, abuse, and disrespect from the same crowd who are now demanding delay in adopting the plan. Don't take my world for it. Please watch the footage of P&R Commission's 7/6 meeting and fast forward to 105:57 for an example. https://belmont-ca.granicus.com/player/clip/818?view_id=1&redirect=true While the opponents to this plan conducted themselves, in my opinion, in a very reprehensible way, the Commissioners and Parks staff were very professional, kept their composure and focus, didn't take it personally, and took their substantive input into consideration when crafting the plan. The Commission created the plan based on comprehensively collected data, public input, and input from qualified experts, rather than emotions and unsubstantiated anecdotes. The Commissioners and Parks staff deserve to be congratulated, not denigrated. The people of Belmont are tired of hearing the same demands from the same handful of political operatives when it comes to the PROS plan and trail policies. While many Belmont residents are avid users of the open space, many are not. All of Belmont's residents, whether avid trail users or not, don't want to see this process dragged out any further, and we don't want pointless debates about the PROS plan sucking all of the oxygen out of the room. There's been talk of a pool and community center at Barrett Park for years now, and it seems like progress on that has come to a complete standstill. If you polled the entire city and asked "Would you rather have the Parks and Recreation Commission debate the PROS plan for another 6 months, or would you rather have it get to work on Barrett Community Center?" It's pretty clear what the result would be. Most of the individuals demanding delay are the same ones who made the wildly unpopular effort last year to have the Crystal Springs Cross Country Course's (CSCXC) permit revoked. Take a look back at this Nextdoor thread that started the whole controversy, and look at the outrage this sparked in the community: https://nextdoor.com/p/6m9z_N_b7LJg?utm_source=share&extras=MzI1NTM4Ng%3D%3D At the SMCCCD's 8/25/21 meeting on the CSCXC issue, there were 22 public speakers that made public comment against closing the course and/or limiting the number of events. By contrast, four public speakers, most of whom were BHCIA board members, spoke in favor of limiting access. (if you want to see it for yourself, go to https: /smccd.edu/boardoftrustees/meetings.php, click on the link for the 8/25/21 meeting part 1, and fast forward to 2:12:00. If you watch that video, go to 2:21:16 to see an impassioned comment by a Belmont Heights resident who gives an excellent breakdown of how the BHCIA board did not represent the views of the neighborhood. I was thankful when you, along with the rest of City Council, unanimously voted for a resolution in support of keeping the CSCXC course open. That course has strong parallels with Belmont's open space - both areas are very popular with the wider community, and there is no groundswell of support to restrict access to them. As you know, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors subsequently passed a resolution in favor of preserving access to the course. The CSCXC issue and Pros Plan process have both shown us that the widely-held view of almost all voters in Belmont is this: we want to keep our open space recreational use policies basically the way they are. At every meeting, it's always the same half-dozen or less people who are demanding drastic changes to these policies. I know that Ms. Mercer, Ms. Bolbol, Mr. Cuviello, and Mr. Braunstein are politically connected and perhaps they can mobilize some votes in elections. But when it's so abundantly clear at this point that their desires are totally out of whack with what the community wants, I don't see the benefit of delaying the PROS plan to secure the support of that small voting bloc. When Mr. Cuviello ran for City Council in the 2020 election he lost, getting only 7.16% of the vote. When Ms. Bolbol ran for City Council in 2018, she lost by a wide margin as well. That tells you something - their platforms don't resonate with the vast majority of voters. I don't understand the logic of delaying the plan to cater to a group of people whose agenda is objectively out of step with just about the entire community. Also, following the outrage they sparked in connection with the CSCXC issue, the BHCIA has imploded. While the BHCIA may have been a political force to reckon with in the past, its board members went a bridge too far when they tried to get the CSCXC permit revoked. As a result, the Belmont Heights neighborhood woke up, realized what the BHCIA was doing in their name, and took action to put it to a stop. There are far more people who want to preserve recreational access than people who want to shut off access. I'm not saying that individuals with contrary viewpoints should be ignored or marginalized, they should absolutely be listened to. But when it's this clear-cut what the vast majority of the community wants, it doesn't seem fair to subsume the interests of the overwhelming majority of voters to a few politically-connected individuals. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. The experience you bring to the council is a great asset, and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the issues when deciding whether to adopt or delay the plan. Sincerely, Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/20/2022	To Whom It May Concern, This is to address some of the serious problems caused by the bikers at the Waterdog area. The bikers on Soho Trail behind the backyards of 5 Soho Circle and 10 Soho Circle, are creating disturbances to the homeowners of the above addresses! These homeowners constantly hear noises which have taken away the peace from them. They pay their property taxes, and they deserve the tranquility at where they live! In addition, some of the bikers use Ebikes which are operated with lithium battery. According to an Apple engineer it could cause fire, especially in this dry season! We don't want to have any fire to burn down houses!!! Furthermore, there are too many bikers on those narrow trails. Injuries can occur! A Belmont resident got injured with broken bones! She is still on pain medication. We don't want to see this happen again! Therefore, let's be considerate and wise not to let any disaster happen! Close those illegal trails to prevent noises at the backyards of some homeowners as well as to protect the City of Belmont from fire risk, and our residents from any injury! Your attention to these issues are greatly appreciated! Sincerely, Bessie Ip	Bessie Ip
7/20/2022	To the members of the Belmont City Council, We recently received an email notifying residents that once again, Belmont has a plan that caters to non-residents to the detriment of the homeowners and tax payers in our city. This time, it's the mountain bikers who have been making it very difficult and dangerous for residents to be on the trails in the Water Dog open space. On top of that, We've seen first-hand the trails, jumps and berms that have been illegally cut through the open space and experienced the dangerous way that mountain bikers have been making it virtually impossible to enjoy the trails in the open space that our taxes support. On top of that, the fact that the arrogant and dismissive attitude of mountain bikers and their organizations have for the residents of the area is not being addressed by our own city council is very disappointing. We have also seen first-hand mountain bikers carrying tools and building materials from their vehicles to build illegal trails. We have also seen mountain bikers on the cross country trail several times where it's clearly marked that bikes are not allowed. When confronted, their attitude is to be angry that the residents and tax payers are trying to stop them from destroying our open space. We urge you to reject the proposed Open Space Management Plan in its current form and instead develop a plan in collaboration with residents, homeowners and tax payers of our city instead of a special interest group who is actively destroying our open space at the expense of our environment and residents. The City Council and the City government also need to take definitive action aimed at removing the illegal trails that are damaging the environment and destroying the open space. Action on this issue is long overdue and it's bewildering how long this has gone unresolved. Sincerely, Lester Boeh	Lester Boeh

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/20/2022	Dear Belmont City Council, I am writing to urge you to adopt the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. This plan is the result of over a year's study and research by a qualified professionals. It reflects both the usage of the park and open spaces and high qualify environmental analysis. As a visitor a few times a year to ride bicycles in the Waterdog area, I have been impressed by the city's welcome to the multiple types of users. It sets it above many other cities in the area. The process was thorough and well executed. I reviewed the plans and attended one of the open houses. As a long time trail maintainer and observer of on other systems, I see the general qualify and opportunities to improve the trails and habitat, which the report covers well. Please approve the plan which keeps this gem of a system open to the current users and will improve it. It is well loved and used largely by the close neighbors and an asset to the City of Belmont. Thank you, Matthew Blain	Matthew Blain
7/20/2022	I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation and am happy to see the approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space *Continued unlimited access for Class 1 e-bike* Thank you, Nicolas Olivares	Nicolas Olivares
7/20/2022	Dear City Council and Parks & Rec, I'm writing to request that you provide adequate time to assess the PROS plan that is up for vote tonight. I understand that this is a significant proposal that will have impact for decades to come, and it feels like the decision is being rushed with not enough time to make an informed decision. Given the very recent availability of the very long proposal, the community members have not been given nearly enough time to read it and share their thoughts and concerns with the decisionmakers. I'm deeply concerned about the safety aspect. I am a homeowner on Carlmont Drive, and I live very close to the open space. I purchased my home 8 years ago and expected that my small children would have a safe place here to ride their bikes on the street and hike peacefully on the trails. Instead, I'm too afraid to allow them to do these things due to the traffic and the fast bike riders on many of the trails. I understand that the proposal may bring an increase to traffic and may encourage more dangerous use of trails -- and I would like to see those concerns addressed. Thank you, Sherry Johnson	Sherry Johnson

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/22/2022	Dear Belmont City Council members, As a resident of Belmont ([REMOVED]) and a frequent visitor (2x to 3x per week) to the Waterdog open space, I would like to express my sincere and strong support for the Open Space Master Plan (PROS plan) that was presented by the Parks & Recreation department (and their outside consultants) to the City Council at your last meeting. Before I begin to discuss why I support the open space plan, I'll share some of my stats. I'm a 58 year old male who has used running as a form of recreation and exercise and who has been riding mountain bikes in the Bay Area for the past 20 years. I've run the NYC marathon 5 times and the LA marathon 1 time, so I suppose it's more than just a hobby. I'm a college educated professional with a Master's degree in Curriculum & Instructions (I taught high school mathematics in Wisconsin for 10 years) and have an MBA (currently work in finance at a cyber security company based in Sunnyvale). I've lived in Belmont for over 3 years and have been a frequent visitor to the Waterdog open space over the past 20 years. During this time, I've been a hiker, runner and mountain biker on the fire roads and single track trails. I've seen numerous junior high and high school kids riding the trails. It is great to see these kids choosing a recreational option that is something they will be able to do well into their 60s (I'm hoping even later for me :-) while also having a group experience. It's been great to see. I've also had the opportunity to ride with a group of guys all in the 70s. I'd like to address some of the concerns that others have expressed in opposition to the Open Space Master Plan as it relates to the riding of mountain bikes in Waterdog. The bikes are scaring away the wildlife: In the past month, I've seen multiple deer grazing on the side of the trails, had a fawn run up a fireroad some 20 feet in front of me (we were both very surprised to see each other), had a baby quail literally run between the two wheels on my bike (again, we were both very surprised by this) and have seen numerous cottontail rabbits, quail and lizards (if that is what they are) dart across the trail. Earlier in the year, my friends and I came across a rattlesnake in the sun at the top of the 18 switchbacks, fortunately the snake moved on without any issues. Speed. Technology these days can tell us a lot of things. My normal ride is 8 miles. Over the course of these miles I climb 1,300 feet. I find the challenge to be a great workout. One of the concerns being expressed is excessive speed by mountain bikers. I'd like to point out a couple of things. First, according to my garmin watch, my average moving speed during my 8 mile ride is 6 mph. The single track trials are very windy, which reduces speed and the hills...well, they are steep in several places, again reducing speed. Second, I am able to ride faster on the fire roads, taking into account other traffic (hikers, bikers and other mountain bikers). The opposition is asking that the mountain bikes be only allowed to ride the fire roads, but that is where bikes would be going the fastest...not to mention, the variety is in the single tracks. Other users. I encounter other users of the park every time I'm in the park on my mountain bike. All users have been very courteous and careful to respect each other. I follow the rules of engagement, which is that bikers yield to hikers and runners and downhill riders yield to uphill riders. I've never had an incident or even a complaint leveled at me. The only issue I've ever had has been a hiker with a german sheppard. This dog is terrified of bikes and has tried to attack me a few times.I don't see this as the dog's fault, but the fault of the dog's owner who knows of their dog's fear of bikes. Fortunately, I was never injured and it's been a while since I've seen the woman and her dog on the trails. All bikes should be banned because I had an incident. Although the inconsiderate ones are very few, I'm sure something has happened along the way. That said, there are also very bad drivers on the freeways and streets of Belmont, and yet we do not ban all cars. I see no difference here. All parties can co-exist on the Waterdog trails if proper etiquette is followed, don't blame everyone for the bad behavior of a very small minority. Given the years and years of riding that has been happening on Waterdog's trails, I would like to see a police (or maybe it's fire) department report of the number of reported injuries/collisions within the park that has occurred due to an encounter with a mountain bike. I've not heard of any, but if the data exists, it would be good to know I attended several of the virtual meetings that were held by the Parks & Recreation department over the past 18 months. I believe the work that was done by P&R and their outside consultants was very complete and they heard from the public (including the opposition) several times during the process. The same people who have stated that they only just learned about the plans or haven't been able to express their concerns have been speaking at these public meetings. I've enjoyed the trail variety, the vertical nature of the park, and the uniqueness of this great recreational areas surrounded by the Belmont community. Waterdog has been successfully managed as a mutli-use trail system for decades.This special park should continue to be available for all users who have been able to co-exist within the ecosystem of the park. Thanks for your time and I welcome any questions. Regards, Peter	Peter Salkowski

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/24/2022	Dear City Council and PROS Committee, I am a long-time Belmont resident, and I would like to see City Council adopt the PROS plan at an upcoming meeting. I understand the July 26 meeting agenda item has been deferred again which is unfortunate. A plan delayed is a plan denied. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right with many meetings, community input opportunity, and professional advisement. I am completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move on, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center and other pressing priorities. Brian Bishop	Brian Bishop
7/22/2022	Dear City Council and Parks and Rec Commissioners, I have attended every P&R and PROS meeting regarding the OSMP for the past 2 years and my observations should be of interest to all of you elected officials that represent us. The Developed Park Specific plans were discussed thoroughly and in depth with focus groups that involved each community for the past 18 months (kudos where kudos are due). For the past 18 months, I have participated in some of the Park Specific plans including my own Hallmark Park where the major resident theme was clearly: Let the NATURAL beauty flourish with the least amount of development and man-made amenities added to our local parks. However, the Open Space portion of the OSMP was crammed into a very short process (3 months) with an appearance of attempting to sweep the illegal issues that have dominated our Open Space for the past 30+ years under the rug yet again. I patiently waited 15 months for the outsourced OSMP consultants' reports that were finally hurriedly presented in March, 2022 with no specifics. At that time the WRA assessment was not even available, and the PROS advisory meeting had nothing to review. I subsequently sent several emails to all the P&R entities contradicting their vague and incomplete assessments. I commented on them at every public comment meeting after the March 5 initial assessment, obviously to no avail, because when the 136 page Final draft was released on July 6, I realized that no comments were incorporated – the draft was exactly as the original. I could see that P&R commissioners struggled at the July 6 meeting to approve this plan, most of them not having read it entirely. They finally approved sending this incomplete and inaccurate outsourced plan with vague "amendment recommendations" to CC on July 12. I am coming to you, City Council with the same issues I diligently presented to the entire PR team. You are the ultimate authority for the City of Belmont to argue against the powerful biker lobby (mostly non residents) that have illegally taken over Waterdog for the past 20+ years by their own admission; bikers being allowed on ALL trails instead of the multi-use designated trails as designated in the 1992 plan (https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/city-policies-ignored-1), bikers being allowed to build illegal trails anywhere in the Open Space with no City authorization or geological safety trail assessments (https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/brooks-contract-violated) and bikers illegally using E-bikes already on Waterdog trails for many years (https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/ebike-speeding). Nearly 2 years ago,I personally presented my carefully researched John Brooks Preserve PP to Brigitte to highlight the illegal Soho trail violations including violations of the 1977 donation contract to the City. At that time, Brigitte told me, she was the "new sheriff in town" which gave me hope because all this illegal activity was done before her watch. But to date, none of the three issues I mentioned above have been properly addressed and in particular, this illegal trail in the JB Preserve is audaciously being considered as a one way downhill slalom bike trail.	Jennifer Lien

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
7/22/2022 (con't)	I always use my precious 2-3 minute public comment time to address the relevant concerns and issues while bikers use their time to continually reiterate the same obsequious comments arguing that ALL trails should be multi-use; never even considering the safety, habitat and environmental damages that have occurred from their constant use. Two of the leading local biker advocates (Thaddeus Block & Kevin Sullivan) were actually Belmont Park and Rec commissioners during the time when all this illegal activity occurred. Ad nauseam, they repeat that because they help maintain the trails, they should have access to ALL trails. They fail to mention that they have been the ones building all the illegal trails for their own enjoyment and entertainment because no other local parks allow it. (This begs another question; why is Belmont one of only 2 Open Spaces in the entire Peninsula allowing it?) How is volunteering to clean up the trails they damaged and building illegal trails without authorization justify their reasoning? One of my neighbors even asked if " Belmont gets kickbacks from outsiders"! As elected representatives to our City of Belmont, we residents expect you to address taxpayers' concerns and issues before catering to the powerful non-resident biking lobby. Contrary to biker "fake news", residents do not want to ban bikes from Waterdog and residents do agree with equitable use for all and inclusiveness from all over the Bay Area. But the pendulum has swung too far in the wrong direction and now residents need safety on narrow trails for hikers only, residents need illegal trails such as Soho trail (Labor of Love) closed and E-bikes banned except on Lake road for transit connectivity. In a time where citizens have the lowest confidence in our government, now is the time for you as elected officials of Belmont to step up, spend the time on the proper process and address these important issues to regain credibility and transparency among your constituents. I trust you will. Jennifer Lien P. S. I have just received notification that the OSMP discussion will be delayed until September. This will allow you time to properly craft a Master Plan that takes community resident feedback into consideration. I urge you to keep this email in mind when you restart the process in early September. Thank you.	Jennifer Lien
7/25/2022	Pedestrians taking evasive action to avoid collision with cyclists on Waterdog Berry Path. Waterdog Open Space Plan (OSMP) (These remarks pertain to to the John Brooks Trail and not necessarily to the Waterdog Lake Road Trail. However, it is evident that any plans that include all trails must be complex and not rushed.) Having lived for 44 years in my house on Wakefield Drive bordered by the upper John Brooks Trail, I have observed our serene source of direct communication with the wonders of Nature devolve into a sometimes disturbing conflict between strollers or joggers with one or more bicyclists vying for a position on the trail, especially on narrow or 'blind' portions of the path. I have fond memories of strolling walkers, some with young children or animals in tow, without the interruption of competing bicyclists or occasional powered bicycles. Lately, I see or hear conflicts between hikers and bicyclists because two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Currently, the strollers, children and animals (sometimes perilously) are required to step off the trail to allow the bicyclists to pass. Having trained locally for 6 months to walk in the Anchorage Midnight Sun 26.2-mile marathon in the past, I am familiar with most local trails—some can easily and safely accommodate hikers, joggers and bicyclists, some cannot safely. For example, the nearby six-mile paved Sawyer Camp Trail was designed and built to safely allow foot and bike traffic, the John Brooks Trail, mostly dirt along perilous precipices, was designed for walking or jogging, not to commingle both foot and bicycle traffic. I urge you not to despoil our precious Water Dog John Brooks Trail and nature preserve (designed for us as our access to immerse ourselves in the wonders of Mother Nature) by designing it to also become a bicycle path in opposition to its original intention by our wise City officials 50 years ago. Perhaps the bicyclists can use the Waterdog Lake Road Trail or the Sawyer Camp Trail, nearby and designed for multi-use. Both of these alternatives are safer for our citizens and minimize costly civil damage claims. Thank you, Joseph A. Brennan	Joe Brennan

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
8/30/2022	Dear City Officials, Belmont residents are losing the faith and trust in our local government. Please review the short PDF and embedded video link to understand why. Jennifer and Ken Lien	Jennifer and Ken Lien
9/6/2022	Hi Brigitte, Yesterday, I went for a ride before the heat of the day and snapped the following image… Thanks for everything you and your team does to maintain and protect our open spaces. Cheers! Eli	Eli Latimerlo
9/7/2022	Dear P&R Commission and Director Shearer, Thanks for the informative update on the PROS process at tonight's meeting. I almost raised my hand to speak, but I think you all deserve a little break from the exhaustive public comments you received at meetings over the past two years. I think you should all be proud of both the plan and the transparent process that led to it. By setting up the PROS website, doing the survey, and going through the exhaustive process of holding 35+ commission and committee meetings / focus groups. You went above and beyond to ensure the public had plenty of opportunities to be heard. The consultants have prepared an extremely well thought out plan, and the public has had ample time to read and digest it. I'm completely satisfied that you listened to and considered everything the public had to say. I especially appreciated having the opportunity to have two-way interaction with city staff and the consultant team at the open house event. The way you conducted the process is a testament to your diligence and out-of-the-box thinking. Our city is fortunate to have such a dedicated and insightful Parks and Rec Commission. Environmental review is an arduous process, and I'm sure the plan is in the good hands of the City Attorney and appropriate consultants/experts to ensure the plan is in full compliance with all of the complex environmental laws and regulations. Now that the plan is off to the experts and then Council for decision, I'm glad this will free up the Commission to focus on other important Parks and Recreation business. Given the weather lately, I think the public would like to see the community pool at Barrett be put at the top of the agenda! Best regards, Paul Sheng	Paul Sheng

DRAFT

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
9/9/2022	Submitting copy of this comment and study directly to PROS for the administrative record. Kristin Mercer Dear City Council, At the outset of the Parks Master Plan project residents were promised benchmarking of policies and best practices of neighboring Open Space areas. WRA did not deliver. Instead they provided half a page citing cherry-picked examples, and misrepresented those as comparable to Waterdog-San Juan Open Space. They are not. San Carlos Big Canyon supports their high trail density by banning bikes; their trails are less impacted and in far better condition than Belmont's. San Mateo's Sugarloaf allows bikes on service roads only. MidPen's Corte de Madera is eight times the size and 1/3 the trail density, with full-time rangers and a huge budget to combat mountain bike impacts, and they ban e-bikes explicitly to limit mountain-biking reach and impacts. WRA then went on to invent a new and meaningless statistic of "trail area", without justifying its relevance or providing any benchmark for the statistic. The correct benchmark, trail density, is widely recognized by the ecological community as a gauge for habitat fragmentation. Dozens of authoritative studies suggest that high trail density fragments habitat beyond its capacity to functionally sustain wildlife. It defies credibility that WRA is not aware of this body of knowledge. WRA's deception should not be legitimized in Belmont's Master Plan documents. The attached survey of every Open Space area in the entire San Mateo region (Trail Use Policy Benchmarking) tells the whole story. I shared this study with Parks staff and Commission in 2020, but now I have incorporated San Juan Canyon data, confirmed/updated all data, and expanded upon the analysis. I ask that Council direct Staff and Park Commission to revisit the Draft Open Space Plan to: Remove WRA's misleading, irrelevant and flawed statements, and Provide a data-based policy discussion, utilizing meaningful and valid benchmarks such as those in this survey. Belmont residents deserve honesty and transparency in City policy-making. Thank you, Kristin Mercer Attached are also 3 publications cited in the study and the 4th can be downloaded at this link https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/61721	Kristin Mercer
9/9/2022	Submitting copy of this email and study directly to PROS for the administrative record. Kristin Mercer Dear Council, Early one spring morning in 2020 I was walking Lake Loop trail and spotted a lizard sunning himself on the trail. A mountain biker approached from behind, rang his bell and passed at a reasonable speed. But as he did he ran over and squished the lizard, right before of my eyes. That biker was not even aware that he killed a living creature, and if you asked him he would likely claim that he has never done any harm riding our trails. His perception is not accurate. For 20 years City officials have clung to the perception that the sport of mountain biking is "passive recreation." That perception is not accurate. In fact, we have a preponderance of evidence demonstrating that the sport of mountain biking (MTB) is not passive. Since the General Plan requires that "open spaces should include more passive uses" the sport of MTB is inconsistent with our General Plan. Bicycling can be practiced in a passive manner when riding the levies of the bay trail or paved level paths of Sawyer Camp trail. But the sport of mountain biking (MTB) is a different class than passive bicycling. MTB is marketed and practiced in Waterdog Open Space as a fast, rugged, skilled and competitive sport. MTB employs highly specialized, technically advanced equipment and gear. Participants seek specialized tracks with technical challenges, and disdain "sanitized" trails designed for sustainability and hiker safety. MTB as it is practiced on Belmont Open Space trails is an active sport, and is not consistent with the General Plan intent of passive use. Attached please find the arguments and extensive evidentiary record supporting this assertion. Due to file size limitations, attachments will be sent in a series of 3 emails with subject lines accordingly. Thank you Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
9/9/2022	Submitting copy of this email and study directly to PROS for the administrative record. Kristin Mercer Attachments supporting document “Sport of MTB is not Passive” which was submitted in email 1 of 3 Thank you Kristin Mercer [Two emails with attachments]	Kristin Mercer
9/22/2022	Dear City Council and Parks Commissioners The 2021 community PROS survey was intended to inform city policies for the new PROS Master Plan. Sadly, the survey methodology was flawed and the questions were generalized, thus yielding data of questionable use. More importantly, the process was hijacked by thousands of non-residents attempting to impose their demands upon Belmont residents. Upon introduction of the PROS survey at least one city official solicited non-resident participation by circulating the survey link via mountain-biking activist groups with a regional social media reach. As a result, 53% of respondents admitted being non-resident. Further the number claiming residency was inflated, suggesting additional falsified responses. What a shame; City credibility has been undermined and resident trust in the process dissolved. I know this council stresses the need for a planning perspective of regional cooperation. However ceding decisions about our priorities for Belmont’s Open Space and the use of Belmont taxpayer funds crosses the line. Yes, we consider the suggestions of those visiting our home, but it’s OUR home and we get to make the rules. Our guests don’t tell us how to spend our money and what amenities to provide. The public PROS discussion of the priorities for our Open Spaces has brought to mind the film Parasite. I appreciate the City’s’ disclosure of the raw survey data. I took a deep dive into Excel, and the attached paper highlights some of my findings. In short, I find that the inherent survey flaws make any interpretation of the data suspect. Only meta-trends can be regarded as reliable, and even then you should seek to validate such findings by comparison with other reputable sources. For example, three reputable survey sources- regional, state and national –confirm the finding that hikers and nature seekers far outnumber those seeking the active sport of mountain biking. If referenced in recommendations, the inherent survey bias should be transparently disclosed in the documents. Planners should be cautioned against basing important policy decisions on flawed and biased findings. Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
9/22/2022	Dear City Council and Park Commissioners, Everywhere I look is evidence that other cities and agencies prioritize sustainability and visitor safety over the sport of MTB. This 37-slide Sierra Club presentation was shown at a public hearing of the East Bay Regional Parks District in 2021. The District affirmed their policy: “Bikes are allowed on most multi-use (wide) trails and prohibited on most narrow trails of allowing bikes on service roads only, not single track trails.” https://www.ebparks.org/recreation/biking If the public was allowed to see this presentation – if Belmont residents understood what’s really going on in the canyon trails – they would overwhelmingly support regulation (not banning, just limiting to wide trails!) When Belmont banned smoking it took courage to be the leader. In Open Space management Belmont is the laggard. It is not a controversial decision to follow best practices of every other open space district in the region. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
9/23/2022	Dear City Council and Park Commissioners, Over the past 2 years residents who have been displaced from Waterdog trails have submitted hundreds of pages of scientific and government research and policies supporting every aspect of our position. Some of it's posted on www.waterdogperserve.org. The Commission was presented with all this evidence but chose to ignore General Plan policy* and "best practices" of every other open space steward. Faced with thousands of MTB activists, resident voices were lost in the din. Regulating the sport makes sense from every single angle: General Plan conformance, environment, safety, social equity, fiscal, staff resources, legal liability, climate change and more. There is no MTB argument that holds up to scrutiny in the face of the facts. Attached is a summary of 10 facts and arguments that all support regulation (NOT ban) of the sport of MTB on our trails. I have extensive research material supporting each topic if you are interested. These are followed by 4 policies that would begin to address the inequitable and unsustainable status of our Open Spaces. I ask that the Commission be directed to return with a Master Plan that conforms with the General Plan by incorporating these 4 policies. * General Plan Action 4.4-5a: Ensure that the updated Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan includes: • Identification and implementation strategies for trail maintenance and design standards for trails through open space lands. • Measures to improve the visual quality and safety of trails and bikeways. • Identification trails that are no longer necessary or are causing resource damage such as erosion and implementation strategies to remove them. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
9/30/2022	As long time hikers on the Water Dog trails, my wife and I would like to make our views known on what we feel is an equitable solution to the controversy over the past 2+ years concerning use by hikers and bikers. We believe it is impossible to satisfy everyone on this matter as bikers want all trails to be multi-use and hikers are against this. Hikers know that bikers create unsafe conditions as many speed on the trails and around the blind curves plus endanger walkers and hikers as many of the trails are too narrow for a biker and hikers to pass safely. One party has to get off the trail to pass, often in poison oak. Environmentalists have noted the damage to tree roots, erosion and worn down trails from bike tires, scaring off of wildlife previously inhabiting the open space. E bikes have made the trails more unsafe as they can speed up to 28 MPH on level ground and at higher speed on hills. They are also heavier, 45-50 lbs. and do greater damage to the trails. Bikers have also created illegal and unauthorized trails and these should be closed(Soho and Riparian). My wife and I believe it is extremely important that Belmont City officials(City Council and Park Department) create a Master Plan which is designed to protect, preserve and maintain the Water Dog Open Space as a natural habitat for future generations but that does allow for users to enjoy it in a fair and equitable way. Call it a compromise but why not designate the following trails for hikers only: Berry Trail Chapparral Canyon creek Lake Loop Ohlone Rambler All other trails can be open, multi-use trails. Lake Road would be multi-use and be the only trail which would allow E bikes. We believe this is a fair compromise which provides all users with safe and fun enjoyment of the beautiful Open Space. Thank you for your consideration. Bob and Pamela Stahl	Bob and Pamela Stahl

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
9/30/2022	Dear City Officials, Increasing misinformation and myths surrounding the Open Space hiker-biker debate continues to circulate in newspapers, on social media and biker blogs. This FAQ slideshow attempts to succinctly clarify the misconceptions and correct the inaccuracies regarding this contentious issue. As you assess trail use solutions in the new OSMP, please take the time to review these crucial issues of hiker-biker conflicts. This is a very important concern for many Belmont residents. Thank you for your attention. Jennifer Lien	Jennifer Lien
10/11/2022	Dear CC members and P&R commissioners, I found this important and informative video that should interest the City regarding proper and sustainable trail design that I believe should be incorporated in our new Open Space Master Plan. Coming from an engineering background, I value and appreciate the importance of thoughtful trail design for sustainability and to minimize future maintenance costs. This smart and refreshing approach should be applied to all of the open space trails in Belmont. I hope you will take the time to review this quick 5-minute video, and think about how it applies to our Waterdog trails. Our trails are mostly designed by mountain bikers based on their own criteria for speed and challenge for the past 25 years, and they don't contribute to sustainability and safety. Watch this trail design video explained by Vox: https://youtu.be/cFIdIVngeYA Thank you for taking this issue into consideration. Ken Lien	Ken Lien
10/26/2022	Dear Director Shearer and City Manager Oskoui. Subject: Belmont's Draft PROS Master Plan 2022-06-28 and OSMP 2022-06-24 WaterdogPreserve.org was created by a group of Belmont residents concerned about the declining health and safety of Belmont's Open Space. The San Francisco Peninsula is part of one of 36 global biodiversity hot-spots; defined as a biogeographic region with significant levels of biodiversity that is threatened by human habitation[1] . Preservation of earth's natural diversity is critical not just for plants and wildlife but for human health and well-being. Waterdog is one of the few remaining natural places in urbanized Belmont, but its functional ecological balance is impaired and visitor safety is threatened by poor maintenance and failure to adhere to adopted trail-use policies. The PROS Master Plan presents a unique opportunity for the City to correct this unsustainable path and restore a disciplined balance between recreation and conservation. We herein submit comments on the Draft PROS Master Plan dated 6/28/2022. Respectfully, Concerned Community Representatives of WaterdogPreserve.org Bob Beaulieu, Pat Braunstein, Joe Brennan, Corrine Cho-Beaulieu, Ray and Pauline Chau, Chris Collins, Coralin Feierbach, Laurent and Dana Gharda, Mimi Iversen, Bill Kurtz, Jennifer and Ken Lien, Kristin Mercer, Seid Alireza Razavi Majomard, Pam Rianda, Carol Rossi, Jeanette Sacco Belli, Sarah Sharafkandi, Michelle Speert, Bob and Pamela Stahl Cc: Scott Rennie, Belmont City Attorney Belmont City Council Belmont Parks Commission Gates + Associates (info@belmontprosplan.com) WRA Environmental Consultants [1] Center for Biological Diversity https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/about/contact/	Preserve WaterDog

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
11/10/2022	November 10, 2022 Brigitte Shearer, Director Department of Parks and Recreation 2 Twin Pines Lane Belmont, CA 94002 RE: Comments on Belmont PROS Plan Final Draft dated 06-28-2022 Dear Director Shearer, Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Belmont PROS Plan Final Draft dated June 28, 2022 and associated Open Space Management Plan. Our comments in the attached letter address those sections of the documents concerning Open Space policies. California is world renowned for its biological diversity and its unique plant and animal species. Approximately 40 of the state's 770 native wildlife species and about 2,100 of its 6,300 plant species are found nowhere else. Our region is one of the world's 25 biological hot spots, places of greatest biodiversity and greatest threat. Belmont's new PROS Open Space Master Plan offers an opportunity for Belmont to contribute to Federal, State and local goals to conserve these valuable biodiversity hotspots. Sierra Club endorses the comments of the WaterdogPreserve.org letter "Requirements for Belmont's Open Space Master Plan" dated October 26, 2022 (also attached with this letter). Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully Yours, Gladwyn d'Souza Conservation Committee Chair Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Cc: James Eggers Executive Director Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Sent by: Barbara Kelsey	Barbara Kelsey

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: INFO@BELMONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
12/13/2022	Dear Director Shearer and Commissioners, The good news is Belmont received 3 inches of rain between Friday and Sunday morning (Dec 9-11). The bad news is the mountain bikers were out just hours after the last cloudburst to ride the open space trails in the mud. Attached is a video of six bikers entering Hidden Canyon at the unapproved Hallmark Parklet entrance on Sunday. This video illustrates two issues the City has failed to address: 1. Damage to muddy trails. Rain can be damaging to trails, but it's the rutting from wheels and traffic on muddy trails that really exacerbates drainage and erosion problems. Even mountain bikers denounce use of muddy trails, yet bikers are always the first ones on the trails following a heavy rain. In the video you can see the 5th biker slips and falls midway down this steep and slippery trail. At the bottom of the trail you can see the large puddle and generally muddy condition of the trails, as you would expect after prolonged rain. While the City discourages use of wet trails, Belmont has no clear or enforceable trail protection policy. Many open space agencies routinely close wet trails; some automatically, and others unilaterally by ranger judgment. Arastradero has pre-identified "seasonal" trails that are automatically closed following only 0.5" of rain and not reopened until after 48 hours of no rain(1). It's time for the Commission to establish a clear, practical and enforceable policy to close trails in muddy conditions. 2. Unauthorized trailheads. The trail shown in the video is not an approved trailhead, but large groups of bikers enter here, including night-riders entering after dark. In response, the City recently installed a log barrier, which only led the bikers to create a new trail around the adjacent tree, or to ride straight down the hill from the other end where no logs were placed. Additional logs might be needed to prevent increasing damages. In addition, signs such as those placed elsewhere indicating "Not a designated trail" or "closed for restoration – Do Not Enter" may be another way to alert users that this entrance is illegal. This location is just one of at least 6 unapproved open space access points. The uncontrolled access to trails sends a message that our open spaces are not valued enough to warrant respect and protection, and that illegal activities are not enforced. Residents want our Commission to assert control of our open spaces by adopting clear and enforceable laws against night-riding and entering through unauthorized trailheads. It is the role of the Parks Commission to deliberate and recommend policies for the protection of our open space. Thank you, Kristin Mercer (1) https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/News-Articles/Community-Services/Pearson-Arastradero-Preserve-Seasonal-Trails-Closed Arastradero Seasonal Trail Closures Published on November 28, 2022 All seasonal trails are CLOSED. Seasonal trails are Bowl Loop, Woodland Star, Woodrat, Wild Rye and the western part of Meadowlark. All other trails remain open year-round. For daily trail condition updates, please check the bulletin board in the preserve parking lot, or call the ranger office in Foothills Park at (650) 329-2423 to ask for the latest trail conditions in Pearson-Arastradero Preserve. How We Decide to Close Trails: We close the seasonal trails if rainfall exceeds 0.5 inches over 48 hours, or exceeds 1 inch within 7 days. Rainfall is measured in Foothills Park, near the headwaters of Arastradero Creek. Visit the Creek Monitor page to see the rainfall gauge that decisions are based on (note that the 24-hour total is a trailing total). How We Decide to Open the Trails: At the earliest, trails are evaluated after 48 hours of no rain. They are reopened only when dry. Which Trails are Subject to Seasonal Closure: In general the trails in the higher elevations on the western side of the preserve are the seasonal trails, plus Wildrye Trail in the lower part of the preserve. On the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve Trail Map(PDF, 288KB), the trails shown as dashed lines are the seasonal trails, with the exception of Bay Laurel which is now a year-round trail.	Kristin Mercer

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DATE	COMMENT	COMMENTER
1/3/2023	Hi Brigitte, The heavy rains this week led to multiple mudslides and flooding, and it's quite obvious that the open space trails are dangerous in these wet conditions. Further, even bikers acknowledge that they should not be riding on muddy trails as it damages the surface and leads to channeling of water that further erodes trails. Yet by noon on Sunday - 12 hours after record rains and flooding - the bikers were back in number, entering the trail system at the Hallmark Parklet – an unauthorized entrance. 2 weeks ago I sent video of numerous bikers entering via this unauthorized trail and even falling on the steep and muddy surface. On Sunday Jan 1 – hours after flooding and landslides, I took this video and photo of a parent who dropped off a teen to ride alone, knowing the trails were flooded and in places simply gone. Many others entered throughout the day. The fact that the City posted trail closure at other sanctioned entrances only drove bikers (no hikers) to this unsanctioned entrance in larger numbers. The lack of clear policy and enforcement is damaging our trails and endangering the public. We are in for two more rain events this week. I strongly urge the City to adopt a clear and enforceable policy immediately and to close trails at ALL entrances including the unsanctioned ones. Thank you, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer
1/3/2023	I'm pleased to hear that. However there is no indication of that at the numerous unsanctioned entrances. I addition to the 7 sanctioned trail entrances to Waterdog/Hidden Canyon but I can point to at least 4 others. Thanks, Kristin	Kristin Mercer
2/28/2023	Palo Alto backs e-bike ban on Baylands trails | News | Palo Alto Online | Please see the ban on e-bikes instituted on the Baylands trails. I certainly hope that Belmont will also have this policy for the Water Dog Open Space Preserve. Thank you, Bob Stahl https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/02/28/palo-alto-backs-e-bike-ban-on-baylands-trails?utm_source=express-2023-02-28&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=express	Bob Stahl
4/6/2023	Dear Park Commissioners, I watched Director Shearer's April 5 report of trail damages in Hidden Canyon with great interest, but no surprise. The areas where these trails failed were identified as unstable in the 1980's, mapped by a professional geologist, and documented in the 1990 Western Hills Area Plan (maps attached; click this link for the full Western Hills Area Plan). These failures were predictable because these trail segments were built across known active or potential debris flows. The first Waterdog trail system was designed by an engineer and approved by the City Council in 1999, based on the Western Hills study and the mapped geo-instabilities. His map did not include the 2 sections of Rambler trail that are now failing. These sections were built by "volunteers" without engineering study and with little understanding of the potential hazards. In fact this is not the first failure of Rambler in those unplanned sections. Rambler east had a significant slide (Rambler failure#1 attached) not long after it was built. The improvised "bridge" on Rambler west was necessitated by an erosion culvert that grows yearly; that culvert was not there when the trail was built. The slippage reported on Finch trail was predicted too; in 2021 I shared the attached photo of the sink-holes appearing on Finch where excessive brush clearance had increased erosion. The simple fact is these trail sections never should have been there to begin with. I have repeatedly implored the Commission to respect the Western Hills Area Plan, not just for principle but for economic pragmatism; some trails are both environmentally and economically unsustainable. The City invested good money in professional and science-based geological studies, then chose to ignore them. Now your choice is to either admit that these trails were inappropriate to begin with and close them permanently, or spend enormous sums on extensive man-made engineering in a canyon that was intended as natural open space. Respectfully, Kristin Mercer	Kristin Mercer

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PRIORITIZE WILDLIFE AND HABITAT AT WATERDOG LAKE & OPEN SPACE

Dear Belmont Belmont,

As a local resident, someone who is concerned with wildlife and wilderness protection, and a supporter of In Defense of Animals, I am writing to urge you to prioritize the protection of wildlife and habitat at Waterdog Lake & Open Space in the PROS Master Plan.

Belmont offers many recreational opportunities, but Waterdog is its primary natural open space, and only by prioritizing protection over recreation will we leave future generations of all species the same beautiful and essential wild land we witness today.

While opportunities for outdoor recreation and simply being able to enjoy nature are important, with increasingly little habitat in the Bay Area, this open space is critical for wildlife, and provides an invaluable and much-needed corridor that many species rely on and benefit from.

Protecting spaces like this is also important to residents, who see and respect the value of conserving natural spaces and habitat; Belmont and San Francisco Bay Area residents care about the environment, and they care about protecting wildlife.

If the area is given over further to recreational purposes, it will cease to function as it should. I am also extremely concerned that trails will be further opened here to mountain bikers, who have been damaging trails and running over wild animals.

I sincerely hope you will put conservation first when planning the future of this open space, and prioritize the need to protect it over development.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

DUPLICATE EMAIL RECEIVED AT INFO@BELMLONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	QUANTITY	FROM	
5/10/2021	18	QuinceMatt DeLuca Shiela Cockshott Danielle Christensen Melinda Lord paula goldberg Laura Nardozza Brad Beldner Nan Matthews Vera Loewer, PE EP	Kendra Knight Karla Valenz Lisa Warden Reevyn Aronson Monica Wiesener Carol Taggart Kate Ague Kathleen Wilson
5/11/2021	2	Mara Vejby	Evghenia Greiner
5/20/2021	8	Ji Montgomery Catherine Thomas Judith Roberts La Tasha Wells	Diana Rodgers Carole Tardif Ji Montgomery Debra Rodgers
5/21/2021	31	Sally Setaro Shannon Hunter Nancy Porcine Tracy Phillips Susan Esposito Lauren Winn-Dallmer Virgina Frick Michael Henderson Ophelia Monica Weller Joyce Dannheim Natalie Bailey Roth Woods Giuseppe Belletti Irene Feldman Toby Powers	Yvette Shelton Maureen Wheeler Jordan Glass Henry Mobley Jose Manuael Berber Jenny Dallas Catehrine Lagaris Isabelle Golion Brenda Carey Katie Yu Lori Quigley Mindy Marin Diana Sanchez Dogan Ozkan Vanessa Escamilla

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DATE	QUANTITY	FROM	
5/22/2021	18	Elaine Becker Claire Sacre Marc Van de Waarsen M R Hughes Hall Misa Cajnko Rod McCabe Jean Ladnier B LD Paulina Villanueva	Sal Bobow Sabina Pinto Sabina Pinto Sue Warrener Donna Heaton Natalie Van Leekwij Jodi Igard Ji Montgomery Nikki Dennis
5/23/2021	5	John David Stevens Pauline Alexander Elke Kunz	Chinanan Bradish A D
5/24/2021	4	Jim Takahashi Carol Collins	Clara Zahadek Michel Fletcher
5/25/2021	4	Ji Montgomery Germana Pimental	Darlene Middleton Raleigh Koritz
5/26/2021	3	Loredana De Paoli Anna Gudis	Passaraporn Phumradi
5/27/2021	3	Gail Bowers Cynthia Skandis	Ji Montgomery
5/28/2021	9	Barbara Poissant Colette Wilson Giustina Damiano Rama Bharadwaj Bridget Yankowitz	Lisa Wright Alexis Todd Cheryl Lechtanski Zoe Day
5/29/2021	8	Mey Lemba Anne Lebas Maria Soria Tony Williams	Jennifer Robinson Jill Tew Toby Powers Jacquie Robinson
5/30/2021	6	Janneke Ros Ethel Cokely Cathy Oppedisano	Claudia C. Debi Chernak Parice Johnson
5/31/2021	3	Brigitte Gommel Olivia Saachi	Lili Raekhi
6/2/2021	1	Ji Montgomery	
6/3/2021	1	Passaraporn Phumradi	
6/4/2021	5	Duangphorn Van Stri Rene Leonic John Berkland	Vanessa Rodrigues Tina Godlove
6/5/2021	3	Mey Lemba Sandra Whitley	Wendy Whyko
6/6/2021	1	Susan Wheaton	
6/8/2021	1	Brianna Bennett	
6/10/2021	2	Janette Klein	Jeff Hopkins
6/11/2021	2	Jenna Miles	Maureen Wheeler
6/12/2021	1	Josiane Caillat	
6/15/2021	4	Rodney Leamy John David Stevens	Dj Ceja Jenna Allen
6/16/2021	2	Tatum-Isabel Bronte	Sandrine Haustrate
6/17/2021	1	Naomi Cohen	

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DATE	QUANTITY	FROM	
6/18/2021	11	Passaraporn Phumradi Rachel Rakaczky Duangphorn Van Strien Chinanan Bradish Debra Lichstein Roth Woods	Amanda Stonebank Nora Coyle MaryAnn Metrunec Maureen Wheeler Michele Veiga
6/19/2021	5	Saly A. Julie Nicholls Pauline Simpson	Marie Michl Tamara Noël Swart Swart
6/21/2021	4	Dj Ceja Rebecca Bower	Stephanie Carpenter Ellen Ribolla
6/24/2021	1	Sylvie Darmon	
6/25/2021	6	Belinda Winfield Diane Sheheen Martha Herrero	Denise Carvalho Jordan Glass Marilyn Koff
6/26/2021	2	Paula McCarthy	Passaraporn Phumradi
6/27/2021	4	Judy Stufflebeam Shilo Adams	Jerily Rushworth Duangphorn Van strien
6/28/2021	3	Lisa Trendall Debbie Earley	Françoise GIL
6/29/2021	1	Caroline Williams	
6/30/2021	4	Chinanan Khurasee Jimmy Rivera	Carmely Guizar Carles C. Healy Jr.
7/1/2021	2	Michelle Babian	Wendy Callicoat
7/2/2021	2	Tina Godlove	Donna Schneider
7/3/2021	1	Veronique Giraudeau	
7/4/2021	4	Kay Roberts Jacquie Robinson	Carol Kotcher Jenny Dallas
7/5/2021	3	Donna Oliver Nora Coyle	Cynthia Huspeka
7/6/2021	5	Christy N. Rachel Finnegan Sharon Frank	Robin Medley Sharon LeVine
7/7/2021	1	Shirl Simkins	
7/8/2021	8	Tina Sahlstrom Jennifer Clemente Cheryl McNamee Sonja Nielsen	Amanda Cate beth forshee Ulrich Spauschus Brianna Kohlenberg
7/9/2021	4	Victoria Sola Lesha Thornton	Roth Woods Diane Thomas
7/10/2021	9	Carla Fullerton Carol Jones Joanne Bergeron Chinanan Khurasee Jenna Allen	Lynn Hamilton Claire Sacré Eileen Fazzini Anne Bond
7/11/2021	2	Angela Buckley	Debra Curci
7/13/2021	3	Ji Montgomery Nina-Maria Walker	Fiona Le Denmat
7/14/2021	3	Elizabeth Conlan Jessica Claudio	Cherie Lewis
7/16/2021	6	Buddy J. Passaraporn Phumradi Diane Hestich	L ROE Ken Martin Kareyl Vatlestad

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DATE	QUANTITY	FROM	
7/17/2021	3	Kimberly Miller David Lowell	Eleni Demetriou
7/18/2021	4	Jane Knight Gilava Falah	Virginia Greggi Lisa May
7/20/2021	3	Kimberly Duggan Stacey Liguori	Deanna Feher
7/21/2021	2	Anita Youabian	Kris Rueda
7/22/2021	1	Sophie Laulik	
7/23/2021	2	Janet Bennett	Passaraporn Phumradi
7/24/2021	3	Christopher Romanowski Vanessa Bartley	Janneke Ros
7/26/2021	2	Demetria K.	Eva Dayan
7/27/2021	3	Carlos Otero Shannah Praus	Thomas McVay
7/28/2021	1	Dionne Toye	
7/29/2021	1	KA Sandholm	
7/30/2021	3	Tina Godlove Suzanne Wolfe	Nancy Perlaza
7/31/2021	2	Lesha Thornton	Beckie Wood
8/1/2021	8	Passaraporn Phumradi Dawn Broadbent Elaine Ponciano Ana Schroeder	Linda Ronconi Duangphorn Van strien Chinanan Bradish Tom Doll
8/3/2021	2	Tupu Seppänen	Chantal Ward
8/8/2021	2	Charles C. Healy Jr.	Kattaleeya Kent
8/13/2021	2	Passaraporn Phamradi	Eliza Gibson
8/14/2021	1	Marina Ris	
8/15/2021	2	Sheila Hrabal	Barbara Tacker
8/16/2021	2	Passaraporn Phamradi	Eliza Gibson
8/17/2021	1	Nancy Siebert	
8/20/2021	1	Mary Fedullo	
8/31/2021	1	Jenny Anthony	
9/10/2021	8	Kim Wilkins Marina Ris LeeAnn Jennings Betty Porter	Diane Kalil Gustiana Damiano Duangphorn Van Strien Rhonda Robinson
9/13/2021	1	Vanessa Rodrigues	
9/15/2021	1	Jan Repp	
9/18/2021	1	Lavaune Guenther	
9/24/2021	1	Chinanan Khurasee	
9/27/2021	1	Lucette Bally	
10/2/2021	1	Duangphorn Van Strien	
10/3/2021	1	Natttha-Eag Pumradi	
10/9/2021	1	Maria Soria	
10/10/2021	1	Nattha-Eag Pumradi	
10/23/2021	1	Ian Pearson	
10/24/2021	1	Gen Campos	

DUPLICATE EMAIL RECEIVED AT INFO@BELMLONTPROSPLAN.COM

DATE	QUANTITY	FROM	
10/25/2021	3	Christina Berry Noori Petri	Hanna Monola
10/26/2021	2	Terrie Phenicie	Sorina Casandra Ionica
10/28/2021	1	Callie Cromie (Livermore, CA)	
10/30/2021	1	Loretta Bolton (Bethel, OH)	
11/14/2021	1	Jelica Roland (Buzet, Istarska)	
11/17/2021	1	Dionne Toye (Van Buren Twp, MI)	
12/6/2021	1	Stefanie Meyer (Duesseldorf, NRW)	
12/19/2021	1	Lenore Black (Markham, ON)	
1/1/2022	2	Martha Herrero (Costa Mesa, CA)	Ati Mojdehi (Montreal, QC)
1/6/2022	1	Anne Leung	
2/19/2022	1	Bernadette Dra	
2/20/2022	2	Karola Windweh (Hainburg, Germany)	Lenore Black (Markham, OH)
2/25/2022	1	Annah Jetha (London, UK)	
2/27/2022	1	Tatum-Isabel Bronte (Spilsby, UK)	
4/3/2022	1	Melinda Tran (Shawnee, KS)	
4/12/2022	1	Chris Leverich (Playa del Rey, CA)	
4/12/2022	1	Susana Soares (Braga, IN)	
4/13/2022	1	Michael Henderson (Huntington Beach, CA)	
4/15/2022	1	Magdalini Loranido	
11/18/2022	1	Valérie Cassé (Pierrefonds, QC)	
11/27/2022	1	Daved Wachsman (Edgewater, FL)	
12/21/2022	1	Sonia Romero Villanueva (New York, NY)	
1/2/2023	1	Michelle Krueger (Merrillville, IN)	
1/18/2023	1	Teresa Maylone (Muscatine, IA	
1/26/2023	1	Colleen Olson (Williston, ND)	
2/25/2023	1	Martha Herrero (Costa Mesa, CA)	
6/3/2023	1	Sonia Romero Villanueva (New York, NY)	

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 3:52 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: Brigitte Shearer; Karen Clark
Subject: Park& Rec Priorities 2021 - give Open Space it's fair share
Attachments: Park Expenditure History 2014-2021.pdf

Hello Commissioners,

Belmont officials frequently exclaim how much they love Belmont's Open Spaces. Master Plans cite how open spaces contribute to our quality of life, and how they distinguish us from surrounding communities. Reports verify that without our open spaces Belmont would be ranked ***deficient*** in park area per capita. But the shameful truth is that this glowing praise has never translated to funding – Belmont has woefully underfunded Open Spaces and has never put its money where its mouth is. Open Space is Belmont's neglected stepchild.

The attached table shows expenditures for the Parks and Open Space accounts over the past 8 years. The data says it all. Open Spaces receive less than 1% the amount we spend on the other city parks – less than $17,000 yearly. We spend 5 times as much on just *athletic fields* as we do on our entire 300+ acres of open spaces. Is it any wonder that our trails are eroded and dangerous, our creeks and forest in decline, and we have resorted to volunteers for maintenance. For decades we have short-changed our open spaces and now this "pride of Belmont" is showing the neglect.

As commissioners your role – spelled out by City Code 2.166 - is to *"Advise the parks and recreation department in the preparation of the annual budget and long-range recreation and park capital improvement program."* Commissioners, now is the time to step up. I urge you to fulfil your role, and advise our Director and City Council that our park budget is seriously out of balance. Your budget should reflect our City priorities, and for years this plain fact has been ignored.

Setting priorities, as you are tonight, cannot be done without first considering funding. A necessary part of home ownership is the cost of taxes and upkeep; you don't buy a home without budgeting for payments and maintenance. So, while I admire the new "*love Waterdog*" campaign, I remind you that no program comes without cost. As commissioners, you have *no business* recommending programs to *increase* park use without first funding the maintenance to *mitigate* that use.

Until the City is willing to put it's money where it's mouth is, our Open Spaces will continue in decline, and the blame for the shameful degradation of Belmont's "*jewel*" will lay with the Commission. It's your JOB - your leadership is needed. Your *assigned role* is to advise in the preparation of the annual budget and capital improvements, and to ensure that *budgets align with priorities*. Please learn about the budget that you oversee. Then I urge you to advise the Director and City Council to correct the longstanding imbalance and **give Open Space it's fair share**.

Thank you,
Kristin Mercer
Belmont resident

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Chelsea Stewart <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 8:00 AM
To: P&R Comm; x-Parks/Recreation Office
Subject: Local Artist Mural Proposal
Attachments: ChelseaStewart_CV (1).pdf; ChelseaStewart_MuralProposal.pdf

Hello Belmont Parks and Recreation board,
My name is Chelsea Stewart, and I am a local emerging contemporary artist. I would like to pass this mural proposal onto the Parks and Rec team, as well as those in charge of the Belmont Public Art Master Plan. I have copied my cover letter below for easier viewing. Thank you in advance!

-———

Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation Department & Public Art Master Plan team,

My name is Chelsea Stewart (she/her/hers), I am an emerging contemporary artist born and raised in Belmont. I am sending you this proposal in hopes of your consideration of seeing this public art project idea through. I would like to propose a mural design for a location in downtown Belmont. In this proposal, you will find 3 finalised possible mural designs, alongside research, inspiration, mockups and an estimated budget template. Below is a bit more information about myself as an artist and why I am sending this plan to you.

I am a Belmont local, and I graduated with a BFA in Studio Art from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. For those that don't already know, a few years ago I did the Utility Box on the corner of Alameda de las Pulgas and Ralston Ave. This project was definitely a highlight as an artist, and the positive feedback I received has been so gratifying. The inspiration for the box was "public places of Belmont", in which I made a wayfinder sign surrounding the box to highlight local parts of Belmont, or places of interest, such as the Belmont Historical Society, Waterdog Lake, local parks and the Community Center. I did this idea because I wanted to highlight and promote the features that make Belmont, Belmont. And that is exactly why I am sending this to you, to further propel these values forward.

When I was in 6th grade at Ralston Middle School, for three years straight I would walk down to the Barrett Community Center to take art lessons with local fine art artist, Kevyn Warnock in Studio 17. There, I was able to see just how vibrant the local art was, meeting other artists such as Kay Podolsky and Ruth Waters. Sadly, these studios are no longer, but these three women were few of the many that had studios in the center and they made me realise that becoming an artist as an adult was something I wanted to pursue. I then took teen classes in Burlingame at Art Attack 911, and after Carlmont High School, where I was President of the Studio Art Club and helped finalise the installation of the mural behind the Performing Arts Center, I went on to graduate from Cal Poly SLO where "Learn by Doing" is now something I can't go a day without thinking.

This mural proposal is for the wall space next to Lorenzo's and the Village Cobbler shop, two places that I have grown up driving past and frequented weekly to order sandwiches from, so much so that at one point during my AYSO career, they had my family's orders memorized down to the avocado.

I hope that you take serious consideration into this proposal, as Belmont as a whole is a town I hold near and dear to my heart. As an emerging contemporary artist, I want the opportunities that Belmont has provided to be the catalyst of my career as a working artist. Lastly, I want to give back to the town that I love so much. I look forward to your reply and welcome any feedback you have regarding this proposal.

———

Thank you in advance for any consideration, and I am attaching the full Mural Proposal, along with my CV to this email. I look forward to hearing from you!

All the best,
Chelsea Stewart

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Karen Clark
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:18 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Public Comment Follow-Up

Good Morning Commissioners,

Please find the follow up on a public comment from last night immediately below.

Thank you,
Karen Clark, CPRP
Administrative Assistant
Belmont Parks & Recreation

Pronouns: she/her/hers (why use personal pronouns)
Main Office: (650) 595-7441 I Direct Line: (650) 595-7470

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From: Karen M <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:59 AM
To: Karen Clark <KClark@belmont.gov>
Subject: Re: P&R Meeting information

Hi Karen,

Here is the Mountain biking Impact review study I referenced in my comments last night. It was done by a group of scientists from UCSC. I have found the FAQs to be really helpful.

On Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 11:45 AM Karen Clark <KClark@belmont.gov> wrote:

> Hello Karen,
>
> Of course, you are always welcome to do so! Please refer to the top of the agenda for directions on how to speak through Zoom.
>
> Thank you,
> *Karen Clark, CPRP*
> Administrative Assistant
> Belmont Parks & Recreation

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Pronouns: she/her/hers (why use personal pronouns)
Main Office: (650) 595-7441 I Direct Line: (650) 595-7470

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From: Karen M [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:35 AM
To: P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>
Subject: P&R Meeting Item 6 D Master plan update

Hi,

I will be attending tonight's P&R meeting and I would like to address the Commission on Item 6-D Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan Update.

Thank You
Karen Moody

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Paul Sheng <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 6:59 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: public comment on item 6(D) (Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan Update)

Hello, I would like to make public comment on item 6(D) at tonight's meeting via Zoom.

Thank you,

Paul Sheng

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Deniz Bolbol <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 6:43 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: public comment for Nov 4th Agenda #6D

Good evening,

I would appreciate if you would share this email with all commissioners & the director. Since public comments is limited, would you please read the **bold text** below on the record? I hope it's not too long. Thank you!
Deniz

Hello Commissioners and Director:

In an effort to ensure the Master Plan process is a highly responsive process, I urge you to consider and incorporate the following ideas when working with the consultant.

- Hold separate public engagement meetings to solely address the Open Space component:
The Master Plan covers a wide variety of activites -- from summer camp activities to construction of play parks. Open space management is a highly specialized area that includes various expert practices from protecting endangered and threatened species to ensuring uses are designed and regulated to protect the natural environment, wildlife and asthetic beauty. To adequately address this unique feature, it would be helpful to provide a separate forum for this public engagement.

- Provide platform for different user groups to address their concerns & preferences:
Because Belmont's open space allows multiple uses, it is important that the MP process provide residents with a variety of perspectives and information. **It would be helpful if the MP process provides opportunities at Master Plan meetings for different user groups to present information/data and answer questions. Allowing user groups to present at the meetings will ensure that Belmont residents are aware of varying options and make informed decisions.**

- Ensure open process and engagement:
When soliciting input from residents, it's important to present open-ended questions in order that residents' true preferences are captured. Consultants often want to create close-ended questions often forcing residents to pick from a poor set of options. Consultants often seek to create a process by which a desired outcome can be achieved, rather than an open process that allows the public engagement to lead the decision-making process.

- Belmont Master Plan process should prioritize Belmont resident input:
While Belmont welcomes all to enjoy our open space and ammenities, it is important that the P&R Department prioritize the Belmont's taxpaying residents. While asking for a street address is a violation of privacy, the Department should have a policy that Belmont residents should identify themselves so the Department knows when Belmont residents are providing input. Since Belmont residents are paying for this - their opinions should be prioritized.

Lastly, if this has not already been provided -- would the director please tell us if the City plans to engage an open space consultant -- if so, who is that?

Thank you very much.

[redacted]

Deniz Bolbol
Belmont resident

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Karen M <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 7:36 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: P&R Meeting Item 6 D Master plan update

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi,

I will be attending tonight's P&R meeting and I would like to address the Commission on Item 6-D Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Master Plan Update.

Thank You
Karen Moody

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Bill Kurtz <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 10:27 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Trailkeepers

Commissioners

In looking at a document prepared by Jonathan Carter on the "Waterdog Trailkeepers " site on Face Book. It showed proposals to be made throughout the open space preserve. I have a few questions.

1. Why does this document have the City of Belmont logo at the top of it? Is this organization now a certified part of the P & R, or is this a blatant misrepresentation? I would certainly like a vivid clarification of this.

2. Who reviews and certificates approval of these requests as I feel most are designed to improve biking? Is there anyone reviewing the environmental impact of these projects?

3. Does anyone from the City oversee the work being done from a structural viewpoint? I have notified you of one dangerous bridge that has resulted in my being hurt on it as well as other hiker/runners being hurt as it's very slippery when wet, not to mention a couple bikers my wife and I have had to assist who slid off of it. It has never been changed, repaired or addresses.

4. I feel if there was a committee that reviewed and asses trail proposals, that was made up of entities other than just the biking community it would be more beneficial to all, as it seem that P&R let's this group do as they please.

Regards,

Bill Kurtz

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Kevin Sullivan <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 5:38 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: ksullyman@gmail.com
Subject: The First Trail Markers are installed!

Hello and Congratulations!

Daniel and his team successfully installed the first handful of Trail Markers this week.

I'm extremely excited about it. You can make plans and have dreams but sometimes getting projects in the ground is elusive. But we have put the first few in and are working on the rest of them.. I've been helping the team fill in the details since I have lots of hours on the trails.

Congratulations to the committee that worked so hard on this. A simple design is a complicated place to arrive. There were a lot of choices to be made and the committee was awesome in their energy to get it right.

Obviously it is dear to my heart. But it is also great timing to show the Commission and the Department are taking action to enhance the efforts of the volunteer trail working force. This is a clear example of the city devoting the efforts needed to improve the park for all its users. There will be more to come.

Thank you,

Ps. If you are detail oriented, the small angled wood at the base is temporary while the cement cures.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



Kevin Sullivan
[redacted]

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Adam Woodbury <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:14 AM
To: x-Parks/Recreation Office; P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Incident at Waterdog

I'm writing today to report some disturbing incidents at Waterdog park.

I live here in Belmont and my backyard is directly adjacent to the open space. I hike and bike in the park multiple times per week.

A few weeks ago (November 20th) I was riding my bike clockwise around the lake trail and as I came down a steep hill into a corner I noticed Pat Cuviello holding his phone up as if to take photos or videos of me. He was standing right at the corner but slightly off the trail. As I came closer to the corner I saw Deniz Bolbol standing directly in the middle of the trail, right around the corner. I immediately recognized them as I've encountered them in the park in the past. As I slowed, almost to stop, Deniz just stood there silently in the middle of the trail, blocking the trail, with her phone out. I said something like, "Excuse me, I'd like to get by." She didn't respond, or move from blocking the trail, so I just sort of scooted to the side, off the trail a bit and went on my way.

It struck me as a very odd encounter, but as I continued to think about it, I realized they were intentionally placing themselves in a position where they could be hit by a cyclist, which would explain the strange behavior. At the very least it seemed like they might be trying to bait someone into getting angry and starting an altercation, or they might be just stirring up trouble with the intention of using the video recording later to justify their complaints about the other park users. At worst they might even be intending to cause an accident or injury with the purpose of suing a cyclist or the city.

I respect their right to express their views about park use, but at some point I think they have crossed a line where now they are just harassing other park users, and potentially endangering themselves and others.

- Adam Woodbury

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Karen Clark

From: Marcelo Quiroz <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 9:40 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Lake Park Visitor Harassment and Concerns

Hello Belmont Parks and Rec Commissioners and Director,

My name is Marcelo Quiroz and I am a resident of Mountain View, CA and have lived in the Bay Area my entire life. Waterdog Lake Park is a special space and is where I first learned how to mountain bike back in 2005. I have grown up visiting Waterdog Lake Park and have been a regular visitor. The experiences, friends made, and memories are what make this space special, and I am sure other folks feel similarly. In my 15 years of visiting Waterdog Lake Park I have not had an unpleasant experience, despite the occasional poison oak rash.

It is my understanding that Belmont open space is not just for Belmont residents to access and enjoy.

From an August 5th City of Belmont Commission Regular Meeting meeting,

"Belmont's asset is its open space, The goal here is to try and make Belmont's open space system safe and enjoyable for all visitors. That is, and should continue to be our goal"

Earlier this week I had an encounter with 2 Belmont Heights residents when exiting Waterdog Lake Park on my Mountain Bike. Both residents were waiting and engaged me in an aggressive way, yelling that I "was not supposed to ride here". Confused and alarmed, I proceeded to leave the area on bike, unaware that I was being followed in a vehicle by the 2 Belmont Heights residents. I arrived at my destination 4 miles away, with the both Belmont Heights residents arriving shortly after. They had followed me. I have learned that the 2 Belmont Heights residents are Pat Cuviello and Deniz BolBol (President of the Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association). What followed was a concerning and unsafe verbal attack by Pat and Deniz that resulted in calling the police. Belmont PD is aware of this encounter and assured me that the behavior of Pat and Deniz was unacceptable.

This whole experience has shaken me and has me questioning if I am welcome at Waterdog Lake Park. I have learned that there is a vocal effort by residents of Belmont Heights to prohibit mountain bikers from Waterdog Lake Trail and that residents have engaged in similar encounters with other park visitors. I hope that in the future, Waterdog Lake Park can continue to be an inclusive and welcoming park where visitors can access and move about freely and safely without harassment from local residents.

Best,

Marcelo

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ken Lien <
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 1:13 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks & Recreation Commissioners,

Apologies, my blank email was accidentally sent last night while composing using a different software.

In reading the Jan 13, 2021 staff report on the Trails Committee Update, I feel compelled to send you this email.

I am concerned about the reliance on volunteers for trail maintenance, especially without prior approved plans and close supervision. These volunteers have a dubious record in the past few decades, resulting in the dismal condition of Waterdog Preserve today. If we continue on the current path, we will not have a Waterdog Preserve and we will end up with a Waterdog amusement bike park instead.

Volunteers were never able to do adequate amount of maintenance to offset the damages done by their mountain biking activities. These volunteers consisted mostly of bikers that made use of the opportunity to construct new illegal trails instead of doing real trail maintenance. Berms were constructed in an arc shape to allow bikes to go around sharp corners without slowing down.

For example, the Soho Trail with berms was not constructed by bare hands in one day. Tools were brought into the park to construct it over a period of time. These volunteers legitimately brought these tools into the park under the guise of doing maintenance to construct illegal trails with features for mountain biking downhill thrills.

Berms construction requires removing the top layer of organic matters to expose the dirt layer. Mattocks and hoes are used to bust the ground up and loosen the dirt. Shovels or hoes are used to move the dirt into the turn to create a berm. Often the berm needs to be supported with the construction of a wood retaining wall. If any tree trunks, branches, roots or other vegetation are in the way, they are removed and tossed down the canyon to create wildfire hazard.

All these activities went on without the knowledge of the City or possibly with silent tacit approval. Do you know the nickname given by the bikers for Soho Trail is "Labor of Love"? This is the amount of misdirected efforts put into Waterdog Preserve. In this case, such construction activities are in direct violation of the John S Brooks land donation contract with the City.

Before Waterdog Preserve deteriorates to a point of no return, I hope you will be bold enough to stand up to special interests to save Waterdog Preserve for the future. Climate change is working against us. Vegetation is drying up and wildfires are raging. Wildlife habitats are damaged and the endangered wildlife are seeking refuge in our backyards. The number of wildlife species are reduced everyday. We cannot save the Amazon forest or the North Pole ice cap. The least we can do is to save the Waterdog Preserve in our little town.

Sincerely,

Ken Lien

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:55 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Rare and Endangered SF Garter Snake in Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Park Commissioners,

With as few as 1,000 remaining, this beauty below is the rare and endangered **San Francisco garter snake,** christened "the most beautiful serpent in North America."
It is found ONLY in SF and the peninsula, and needs a riparian (pond/wetland) habitat for survival.
I have seen *one* in Waterdog, and they *are documented on the General Plan Conservation Element* as present in Waterdog, but they are very rare and are protected under the Endangered Species Act (U.S Fish and Wildlife Service).

If you are not aware of this beautiful creature, and our legal obligation to protect it, I highly recommend visiting this website to fully appreciate the importance of the disappearing riparian habitat that supports the few remaining animals; https://sfgartersnake.wixsite.com/dhsseadisc/why-should-you-care:

Moreover I urge you to take immediate action to **close the illegally built trail,** cut by bikers, that bisects Waterdog marsh, trampling and fragmenting one of the few remaining habitats of this rare and endangered snake.
That trail violates both the existing Park Master Plan (which stipulates no development in that marsh) and the John Brooks Contract, and it contradicts the General Plan Conservation Element.

Respectfully,
Kristin Mercer

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



DRAFT

https://sfgartersnake.wixsite.com/dhsseadisc/slithering-for-survival

Due to the rising human population in the San Francisco Bay Area in the past 100 years, the delicate wetland habitats relied upon by the snake and its co-evolved prey is not only fragmented, but in many cases destroyed.

"The habitat of the San Francisco Garter Snake is unfortunately restricted to the highly developed San Francisco Peninsula, with all known populations of this beautiful snake inhabiting scarce wetlands in San Mateo County (Miller, 2006).
Originally, its habitat would have stretched south from San Francisco into the Santa Cruz Mountains, but because of human-induced habitat loss the species is now isolated to a meager fraction of their previous range (US EPA, 2010).
The principal food source of the San Francisco Garter Snake, the California Red-Legged Frog, is also severely endangered. Populations of the frog have declined 75% leaving its predators with less and less prey to sustain their own population (Kay, 1995). The boom in the invasive bullfrog populations which prey on the snake and its prey are largely because pet owners release their bullfrogs into local riparian corridors and wetland locations allowing their populations to rapidly multiply with other released pets, and leech into the niches of other native animals. In this way, the bullfrogs have affected San Francisco Garter Snake by creating interspecific competition, overeating and diminishing the California Red-Legged Frog populations resulting in little food left for the snakes. The endangerment of the native frog had a great influence on the endangerment its predator, the San Francisco Garter Snake (Swenty, 2016)."

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ron T
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:04 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: From Ron Tussy-Waterdog Trails and Jump Situation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Brigette,

I was able to walk the Canyon Crest trail yesterday (1/19/21) at 5 PM to the jump and found that about 2 inches had been scraped off the top of this multi cubic yard jump, and not much else. The jump still is there and needs to be removed for the very reasons it violates the guidance of this open space area in that it completely alters the original terrain and creates a hazard on the steepest part of this trail where bikers are speeding the fastest. It is not a water bar. It is not a small bump in the trail. Yards of earthen material have been displaced from other parts of this trail to create this exclusively for the entertainment of more skilled bike riders. In essence, it is a landscape alteration to our open space further becoming "a terrain park" for bikers, to the detriment of all other users.

While walking up at the bottom, I encountered a downhill biker on a blind turn going at least 20 mph. He did not slow down one bit and was headed straight at me. I did not have time to throw myself out of his way so I held my arms up over my head for him to see me. He skidded his bike right up to my body and stopped. He then threw down his bike and started to verbally assault and threaten me for being in his way. I walked away, but this is an typical common occurrence from a large portion of bikers visiting our open space. I know I am only one of the many that used to walk that trail on my street (Carlmont) because of the threatening nature of bikers on walkers on that trail. I am ashamed to say I am a former bike racer. This has got to stop. The signage is ignored, only about 20% of bikers wear masks on the single track trails, and now bikers are thinking that the city wants them to have a terrain park exclusively for them, because of this terrain altered jump. It used to be that bikers and walkers coexisted peacefully on these trails. That stopped 10 years ago when the trails were altered by bike groups to be more speed friendly to bikers. I strongly urge you to take action on this terrain altered jump at your earliest opportunity. No where in all of San Mateo County parks or any San Mateo County open space does one find this kind of terrain altering jump purposefully put on trail systems. It is shameful this is allowed to happen. I welcome your response and I do want to show appreciation for the positive work to the trail that was accomplished. Thanks.

Ron Tussy

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jeremy Johnson com>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 10:41 AM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Re: Drainage on Elevator Trail
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks, Brigitte!

On Fri, Jan 29, 2021, 10:33 AM Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov> wrote:

Jeremy

Thank you for being alert out on the trails! We've notified parks and public works staff.

Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer

Parks & Recreation Director

City of Belmont

650-595-7488

bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department

"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

From: Jeremy Johnson <
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:03 PM
To: x-Parks/Recreation Office <parksrec@belmont.gov>
Subject: Drainage on Elevator Trail

Hi,

I've attached a picture of one of the storm drains along Elevator Trail in Hidden Valley Park. The drain is blocked enough that it's overflowing into the hill behind the houses in the valley. Any chance you could take a look?

Thanks,

Jeremy

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Steve Welter
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 5:20 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Looks like the Belmont Heights curmudgeons are trying to rally their forces (if there are any) to keep the Waterdog trail system for their-selves (see the email below). If they were SO interested in the perceived damage being done in the trail system, you would think they would have at least one picture of dog crap (given there are thousands of pounds left in the trail system)! I am a dog owner, so nothing against dogs. I just want to point out where this group is coming from. This group has one goal and one goal only and that is to try and prohibit bikes in the Waterdog trail system. The same trail system that was build by bikers and continues to be maintain substantially by bikers, but I digress.

Go ahead & beat your drums, it seems to give you something to do in your retirement.

Below is an email sent from "Karen" Mercer - I mean Kristen Mercer

Belmont's Waterdog and adjoining open spaces are what drew many of us to make our home here. But this "jewel of Belmont" is threatened by widespread environmental damage and serious safety issues stemming from poor management. How can we claim to value the environment while allowing destruction of precious natural habitats here in our own community? Waterdog needs us to speak up for its preservation, and right now we have the perfect opportunity.

The Belmont Parks and Rec department is drafting a new Parks and Open Space Master Plan that will guide the future of Waterdog and all our open spaces for the next 20 years. Resident input is needed to ensure this plan prioritizes preservation, and puts in place concrete and meaningful policies to enshrine this priority.

I have collaborated with a large group of concerned residents to assemble a website – www.waterdogpreserve.org - to help the public understand the unique and valuable natural ecosystems in our backyard, and to expose the extensive damages. Please take a moment to learn about these issues that affect us all. Then please click on the "Take Action" tab at the top of the page and email your opinions and concerns to the Park and Rec Dept and City Council via the website.

As stewards and stakeholders of our little town, your voice in saving Waterdog Open Space from environmental destruction is so important to us, as well as to future generations.

Thank you for caring
Kristin Mercer

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: JoAnn Berridge
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 12:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Open Space Mater Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Members of the City Council,

As Belmont residents of some 55 years, we unequivocally support efforts to see policies prioritizing conservation and habitat protection incorporated in Belmont's new Open Space Master Plan. From our observations of activity in the Waterdog Open Space in particular, policy considerations should include:

Prohibiting bicycles on narrow hiking trails; prohibiting e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails

Destroying illegal trails, and restoring damaged ecosystems and wildlife habitat

Enforcing the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise

Allocating park spending to equitably fund Open Space maintenance

Vigilant enforcement of all policies

Thank you for listening carefully to the voices of the general public as you deliberate appropriate uses and stewardship of Belmont's open spaces.

Respectfully,
JoAnn and Ron Berridge

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Keyuri Shah
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:42 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Best,
Keyuri

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Linda Murphy
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a residents of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators

  Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Linda and John Murphy

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: bobbieken
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 11:58 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

We are Ken and Bobbie Lebovitz, 10 Soho Circle.

The back of our property is now called the Soho Bike Trail. It is a man made trail, narrow and is illegal from our point of view. In addition, we feel that the illegal Soho Bike Trail could be on part of our property.

We have lived here for 48+ years and always enjoyed the peace and tranquility of our property. With this illegal bike trail, we are now confronted with noise, dogs barking and people talking. This is not what we originally planned for when we moved into our home.

In addition, on weekends and holidays we are also now confronted with an abundance of cars, people, kids and bikes on Lake Rd and Hallmark. It has become a parking lot with people walking across the street not in a crosswalk with lots of kids and not paying attention to drivers. It is our concern that one day there may be a serious accident. Its a challenge to drive thru this area on weekends and holidays.

We realize that during these times people need open space but it is unfair to the Belmont Heights Residences to subject them to the unwanted noise, congestion of the General Public.

It is necessary that the City Council and Parks and Recreation of Belmont develop a plan to minimize this congestion and not put all the burden on one small area of our City.

We would appreciate being kept informed at all times of your plans.

Thank you
Ken and Bobbie Lebovitz

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michelle Speert
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 10:35 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Sincerely,
Paul & Michelle Speert

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sammy Bastaki <
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:55 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
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- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Esmail Bastaki

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laura Draxler
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 7:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Only allow bikes on multi use trails at restricted times of days (e.g. 10 AM - noon or 4 - 6 PM) to allow time for hikers only
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan.

Thank you -
Laura Draxler

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Carol Cherkis
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 3:16 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As residents of Belmont, we support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!
Thank You

Carol and Kenneth Epstein

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryen Motzek <
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:02 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Skateboarding In Belmont

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings,

My name is Ryen Motzek. I was raised in the town of Belmont in the 80's - 90's and started skateboarding then as well. I have been involved in the Bay Area skateboarding community for decades and about 14 years ago I co-founded Atlas with some good friends. Over the years we have seen a gradual uptick in skateboarding and various communities in the Bay Area have embraced the activity due to the many benefits it holds for the youth as well as a very broad age range. Now with skating in the olympics, and Covid skateboarding is growing at an unprecedented rate which is why I am reaching out to you. The city of Belmont is the home to many skaters and is in need of a skate friendly space. I realize there's other concerns that need to be addressed, it's something I'm very accustomed to hearing, but I'm really hoping to speak with you and have a chance to present the case.

Please let me know what works best for you... perhaps a zoom meeting this week or next?

Thank you for your time, talk soon.

-Ryen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 5:44 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Stefan Zuckut, Vice President

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karen M
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 3:13 PM
To: City Council; info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As residents of Belmont, we support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, we request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Exploring options for new trails to spread people out and relieve congestion
- Installing additional benches at key view spots

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inculcation of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Kind Regards,

Karen & John Moody

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Bishop
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:57 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Brian Bishop

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Esther Kim
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:59 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Hidden Canyon/Waterdog open space inclusive

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dearest City Council Members and Parks and Rec Commission,

My family and I visit Waterdog Open Space on a weekly basis, whether it's hiking together or biking together. It's literally our backyard, or right beyond the border of our backyard. As a resident and homeowner in Belmont (1100 Lassen Drive), I support keeping Waterdog Open Space accessible for the various use groups already allowed to use Waterdog for multi-purpose use.

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but unfortunately it seems I need to keep emailing in to voice my opinion. An added advantage of recreating at Waterdog is also the opportunity for us to participate in volunteer trail work and it's a great educational opportunity for our kids to learn about responsibility, volunteering and helping our community.

I know typically the loudest voices come from the unhappiest voices in the community. I wanted to email in and say I'm a happy voice, love the current multi-use aspect and I hope that the Master Plan will continue to serve oru recreational needs by continuing to allow and take into consideration the multi-use access of Waterdog. Thank you for your time.

-Esther Thomas

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Christina Bonnington
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:22 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue to keep Waterdog Open Space free for multi-use recreation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I just wanted to voice my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

The Open space has been particularly helpful through COVID and during quarantine, when I was able to get out into nature while still remaining 5 miles from my home. The fire road is also a pleasant and safe alternative for bike riders looking to avoid the cars and traffic of Ralston Avenue. The fire road is amply wide enough to accommodate all manner of outdoor recreationalists.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan,
Christina Bonnington

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sarah Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:00 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space | Keep Multi-use!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont Heights since 1978, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Sarah Elliott

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robert Brouwer
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:39 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Open Space Master plan considerations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I moved to Belmont more than five years ago from outside the country. Living here I increasingly enjoy the Waterdog Open Space. It is great to have such a great piece of nature close to home. Especially this covid year it's great to be able to hike around the neighborhood and connect with nature. It is great to see the wide range of outdoor activities exercised in the park. It allows me to learn new activities from others and find new ways to enjoy nature. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Regards,
Robert Brouwer

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jay Wells
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:44 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont for the past 4 years, I absolutely support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jay Wells, Belmont Resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Clifford Ng
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:42 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: Marisa Thorne
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan Considerations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As an active Belmont resident(and former Cub Scout Den leader) with several young children and small dogs, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Cliff Ng and family

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Vance
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:01 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- *Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- *Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- *Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*
- *The growing youth community needs these outlets, now more than ever. As we progress to a more digital life-style, our fellow citizens need these, but even more critical, our youth need more (not less) opportunities to connect with the outdoor community.*
- *Rather than reduce opportunities, increase them. Get our youth involved with connecting and maintaining these open spaces. Involve our youth groups and build a model in which our youth can play key roles with restoring, repairing, healing, and expanding these outdoor areas. We all need to be custodians of the outdoors and what better way than to get our youth involved sooner.*
- *As we deal with the current pandemic issues, these outdoor outlets are ways that we as a community can use as a way to reconnect with each other.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Chris & Julie Vance

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sarah Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:26 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Open Space | NATURE PRESERVE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kim Bishop
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:50 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog Open Space Open!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Kim Bishop

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Thaddeus Block
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:27 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space - for the entire Belmont community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission,

I have lived in the Cipriani neighborhood for the past 16 years with my wife and now three children aged 14, 11, and 8. As a family we enjoy so many wonderful aspects of the city, from the fantastic library, to the rich parks and recreation programs, to our beautiful multi-use open space trail system. I volunteered as a Belmont parks and recreation commissioner for the city from 2012 to 2020, and I served as chair for one of those years.

Now is the time for the city council and parks and recreation commission to revise and redefine the parks and recreation open space master plan (PROS), as our currently operating master plan is from the 1990s. This broad reaching document will have an impact for decades to come on many parts of our city, and I am writing today to comment specifically on the future management of our beautiful recreational open space known as Waterdog. As you know, many of us are regularly out there hiking and biking, walking our dogs, and enjoying the fact that within just a few minutes we can depart the busy bay area and enter a beautiful and peaceful trail system for exercise and fresh air. The vision put forth in 1992 by the city to define this open space as recreational open space with a multi use trail system has served our community incredibly well. I believe that part of the reason our city is prospering and full of young and active families is due to the accessibility of our open space. I moved to Belmont in part because of the easy access to Waterdog open space for hiking and biking, and I know many people and families who have made similar choices in calling Belmont their home. I have met several people on the trail system who have decided to take jobs in the city of Belmont specifically because of the proximity of the trail system for hiking and biking.

For decades, our open space at waterdog has been a successful example of multi-use recreational trail systems. Any day of the week, you can see families hiking the trails with their children, folks walking dogs, hikers and trail runners, and mountain bikers. All, with big smiles on their faces, enjoying our amazing resource. I personally use the trails several times a week for hikes, dog walks, and bike rides. I can see that these trails build community, and that there is good understanding and respect among the different user groups – from dog walkers to hikers to bikers to trail runners.

So, it is my strong recommendation that while the council and commission review the important topics ahead for the PROS, we can rely on continuing a successful history of multi-use trail stewardship. We are all aware that one small but highly vocal group wants bikes removed from the park for unclear reasons. Why would we shut down the trails to one vibrant user group and keep it open to another? How would one even choose which group to eliminate? The answer is of course, continue our winning plan of embracing the entire community, allowing everyone to use their beautiful recreational open space trails. We can continue outreach and education to all trail users and groups to ensure continued safe and sustainable use of our trails. And of course, as a city I suggest we continue to support the wonderful volunteer groups that keep our trails safe, sustainable, and fun for all user groups.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus Block

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Garrish
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:27 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for Waterdog as a multi-use open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont and avid cyclist, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for multiple forms of recreation including cycling, connecting with nature and building community.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining and improving the trails for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
  - I have mountain-biked in Waterdog since we moved to Belmont in 2002 and believe that this is a treasure on the Peninsula.
  - Even with the many uses, to me it is an example of how we can all recreate in harmonious ways - I've never seen or even heard of instances where all the various uses of the park could not peacefully co-exist.
  - Quite the opposite - my experience in the park is one of courtesy and friendliness.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
  - The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
  - I love Waterdog and I think everyone who has experienced it loves Waterdog! :)
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont Parks and Rec workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
  - Nothing comes for free, and that includes safe and environmentally friendly trails.
  - The great part about Belmont, and Waterdog, is that we are a committed community of volunteers.
  - I think it would be amazing to find ways to energize volunteerism around the park so that those who benefit from the open space also have a stake in its preservation for the future.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
John Garrish

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Christina Gil
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:37 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Regards,

Christina Gil

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Alice Yam
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:33 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Alice Yam

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mark Kramer
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:32 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Redwood Shores, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Mark Kramer

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Wendy Gradek
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont since 1980, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Wendy Gradek

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Gavin McMichael
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:09 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Park Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

-Gavin McMichael

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rusty <
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: WaterDog Multi-Use Importance

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont for the past 15 years (and longer if you consider that we live in the house my wife grew up in), I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. Our entire family uses the Waterdog open space frequently via a variety of modalities and have never had any trail conflicts with other users, whether they be walkers or pedalers.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Hopewell Family

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jill
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:09 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: Jill Henrich
Subject: Open Space Master Plan: Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Emerald Hills and a long-term volunteer of not only maintaining the trails but also heavily involved with the construction of the Lake Loop trail, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers such as I to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in and around Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Fondly,
Jill Henrich

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tom Boyd
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 2:34 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent mountain biker and resident of Redwood City, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, **biking,** dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best regards,
Tom Boyd

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jeff Shelton
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:03 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Keep Multi-Use access at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Redwood Shores resident who enjoys mountain biking in the area, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jeff Shelton

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Hoffman
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 11:04 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog open space & Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks & Rec commissioners and City Council members:

I just learned about the ongoing open space planning process and of an effort to eliminate bicycling from Water Dog Open Space. As a Belmont resident and voter for the last 16 years, I think this would be a poor choice and not in the best interest of the community. I haven't been on a mountain bike myself in several years and have never ridden in Water Dog. But I enjoy walking and running in Water Dog routinely and I have no problem sharing the trails with cyclists. Although she'll never write you a letter about it, my daughter rides there often.

Eliminating cyclists from Water Dog would be a serious mistake and will be bad for both Belmont and for Water Dog itself. The way to keep our environment and our parks cared for is to keep them open and used by as many people as possible. Every person kept out of an open space is one less person to care for and advocate for that open space. I have no data, but it seems fairly likely that the demographics of mountain bikers skews significantly younger than those who would restrict the park to pedestrians. That means that this change would disproportionately impact younger people who won't have the same fondness for Water Dog that many of us do. The step from an excluded disenfranchised population to a neglected, not-valued open space is small. It's also the case that this younger group isn't going to engage in letter writing and speaking at meetings as much as those who would have you ban cycling. So please don't be misled as to where the community stands due to a vocal minority.

Restricting the use of Water Dog because of a vocal few would be a mistake which will have implications for many years to come. It would be bad for Belmont and would make Water Dog less secure in the future. Please keep Water Dog open and accessible to as many people and as many uses as possible.

Sincerely,
David Hoffman

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nicolas De Keijser
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:12 PM
To: P&R Comm; citycouncil@belmont.gob
Subject: Waterdog Open Space accessability

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a former resident of Belmont, and now San Carlos, I'm a very frequent visitor to the Waterdog open space. In fact, the Waterdog park was a big contributing factor to move to Belmont. While I moved to San Carlos, I'm in fact even closer to the Waterdog park compared to my Belmont address. The park is a place where I hike with friends, ride my mountain bike with friends and my kids on a weekly basis. And of course a place where my dog loves to come for runs, hikes and of course swimming in the lake.

As such my family (and all my friends and close community) support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I would like to request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is exactly what we need!
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. The Trailkeepers group does an outstanding volunteer job to keep those trails in good shape, both for hikers and mountain bikers
- Exploring options for new trails to spread people out and relieve congestion
- Installing additional benches at key view spots

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live near the park- a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inculcation of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

As few more thoughts, when it comes to wildlife, I'm always amazed at what I see. Rabbits, deers, squirrels, the occasional rattlesnake and the elusive bobcats. How blessed are we to have this fauna in such a residential area. Even with the increased popularity of the park during Covid times, those creatures are thriving in the park. And having my youngest 8y old kid always ask to discover new trails on his little mountain bike is really making me smile! A lot better then all this screentime they are getting subjected too! Just recently he really had a blast on encanada (aka Poison Oak Trail) - so nice to be able to let kids discover these nice natural area's just a stone throw away from our house

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Kind Regards,

Nicolas De Keyser

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Carter
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 2:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please preserve Waterdog as recreational open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

As we embark upon the Master Open Space Planning processes, I write to encourage the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission to reaffirm Waterdog Lake Park and Hidden Canyon's ongoing success as recreational open space.

I am a physician and avid outdoorsman. I live next to Waterdog and frequently cycle to, and through, the park for exercise. My daughters and I "plike" (pick up litter while hiking) in the park regularly – to exercise, to teach them community service, and to cultivate environmentalism within them. I also lead the Waterdog Trailkeepers, a volunteer group that donates about 500 hours a year to the park for trail maintenance. I do all this out of a genuine love for the park.

Many of us refer to Waterdog as a "gem" of nature and recreation. It is a place to walk, jog, run, cycle, and exercise in a beautiful natural environment of trees, flowers, and wildlife. Recreational open space reduces stress, provides relaxation and revitalization, builds community, increases awareness of the natural environment, fosters environmentalism, and serves the public good. Many of us have moved our families and settled next to the park specifically because Waterdog is an oasis within the densely populated Bay Area. As a physician, I can attest to the need for community recreational open space for our mental and physical well-being. We all need a place to exercise in a natural environment. If not Waterdog, where would we go?

From a land use point of view, Waterdog's best use is continued recreational open space. It is small – 200-300 acres depending on how you measure – and ringed with suburban development. Although some have proposed re-designation as a nature preserve, the truth is that Waterdog is far too small, and has far too many humans around, to seriously be considered for this purpose. Even if we removed every trail and tried to keep humans out, the animals in the park would still be impacted by the dogs, cats, and humans who live around the perimeter of the park. Humans have a need for open space, too. When you consider that we have already protected the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed's 23,000 acres of oak woodlands, coniferous forests, and serpentine grasslands as a preserve, it is reasonable for the public to allocate 300 acres, just 1% of what has been preserved already, for open space recreational use.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

With current recreational use, the park abounds with finch, towhees, quail, deer, bobcats, wild turkeys, rabbits, lizards, woodrats, snakes, and, yes, waterdogs! I personally have seen each of these in the past 12 months alone. These animals have adapted to human uses of Waterdog for over 100 years. There is no crisis here; the ecosystem of the park has been in a steady state for decades. Don't fall for the false narrative of others looking to weaponize environmentalism as a means to kick cyclists, runners, and other active users out of the park. These narratives serve only destroy community and pit neighbor against neighbor.

When I visit Waterdog, I see a community of hikers, dog-walkers, joggers, and cyclists enjoying the open space, respectful of one another and the wildlife that abounds. It is a place of joy. Waterdog is a testament to successful multiuse open space serving the public good. Please support the continued open space recreational use of Waterdog Lake Park.

Warmly submitted,

Jonathan Carter, MD

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tomas M
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:05 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Belmont Parks and REC

My name is Tomas Miyazono and I am a junior at Carlmont high school living in Belmont. It has come to my attention that several people are advocating to ban bicycles from waterdog. I started mountain biking about 2 years ago, largely because of a Waterdog being near my house. Waterdog has taught me many things. From trail etiquette to respecting nature, I have fallen in love with Waterdog. Many of these people advocating against mountain bikes make baseless claims such as mountain bikes cause erosion and trail damage, among other things. These people have no scientific evidence to back up their claims. Rain water streams going down trails is the primary cause of trail erosion. In reality, mountain bikers are the primary people helping maintain the trails because we love the park so much. It would be unwise to ban bikers, one of the main reasons the park is as beautiful as it is, from riding there. I hope the committee of parks and recreation looks at the science and not at the baseless claims these people advocating for the banning of bike make.

Thanks for your time,

Tomas Miyazono

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Sisemore
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:25 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Advocating For Mixed Use Trails in Waterdog Lake Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners,

I'm a home owner in Belmont since 2006 and I relocated my business to Belmont in 2014. I have two kids. One just started at Carlmont and the other is in a BRSSD middle schooler. For seven years I managed my older son's little league baseball teams for the BRSLL so I am familiar with many of the outdoor park resources and playing fields in Belmont. My wife is currently the parliamentarian for our middle schoolers PTA. All of us are avid users of Water Dog Lake Park as hikers, dog walkers, trail runners and mountain bikers.

In fact, the close and easy access to trails for outdoor recreation are what brought us to Belmont. When we were shopping for a house on the peninsula in 2006 my one stipulation was to find something near trails. One day we visited an open house near Alexander Park in Sterling Downs and then drove around to get a feel for the neighborhood. On Old County Road we saw a sign pointing to a new bike shop. Behind the counter at Passion Trails we met Barry Stevens, an incredible Waterdog Lake Park advocate, who showed us a map of the park and described the local mountain bike community that had formed around the bike shop and Waterdog. When we got back in the car, I turned to my wife and said Belmont works for me. We quickly put an offer in on the Sterling Downs house and have been here ever since.

Having tuned-in to city council and parks and rec meetings over the last couple of months, I've heard a small yet vocal group complaining about mountain bike caused erosion and threatened wildlife along the trails in Water Dog Lake Park. I'd like to go on the record saying this is not my experience in the park.

Frankly, in my 15 years of hiking, birdwatching, dog walking and mountain biking in WDLP I don't think it's ever looked better. Thanks to the local Waterdog Trailkeepers there's been numerous improvements to the park this winter like converting wide segments of trails to narrow single track with vegetation restoration, maintaining the bridges as well as repairing vandalism.

On Pat Cuviello's new waterdogpreserve website he consistently juxtaposes pictures of old roads that are washed out due to erosion from rain with pristine sections of trail and infers that the erosion is 100% due to mountain bike riding. This is misleading at best and also a great example of "cherry picking". In fact, more mountain bikes are probably ridden on the pristine trail than the eroded sections (not all mountain bike riders are daredevils like Pat would like the public to believe).

My wife and I are sustaining members of the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy and Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). We value the environment and support the preservation of wild places. If I thought I was tearing up the ground and disrupting the animals that call Water Dog Lake Park their home I wouldn't be in there on my mountain bike. Furthermore, cycling is an amazingly positive response to our global climate crisis and a great way for youth and adults to safely get exercise and get outdoors during the pandemic.

Please count me as a meaningfully involved community member that cherishes the trails and nature in Water Dog and believes that we can have both. They are not mutually exclusive. I want to work with city officials, Gates and Associates and community members during the PROs process to keep the open space open to all that use it respectfully.

Thanks!

Scott Sisemore

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nathan Yeakel
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:23 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Multi-use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council,

I have lived on Hillman Ave since 2013. I am proud to call Belmont home, and that is the birthplace of our children, now age 3 and 6. Waterdog holds a special place in our family's hearts. We spend hours in the park weekly hiking, biking and walking our dog Scooter. There is abundant wildlife considering this is such a developed suburban area.

Now it seems a small, but very vocal group wants to assert influence, right at the time the Council is considering parks and recreation open space master plan (PROS). The group, most of whom own large houses that border the park, seek to strip our park and trails of their multi-use status. I first became aware of this anti-biking group while volunteering in a city-approved trail maintenance group, where we were harshly confronted and filmed without permission.

While I don't understand the motivation of this group, I do know that they stand in stark contrast to almost all other park visitors. People like us are out here every day. We welcome those from outside of Belmont. We say hi to those we pass on the trail. We pick up trash (and other gross stuff) that isn't ours. We respect the trails, the hikers, bikers, and dogs. We wear a mask.

Cycling in the park has brought so much richness to my life and my family. It is healthy and fun. Through group rides and volunteering, I have met so many of our neighbors that would have otherwise been strangers. My son took his first trail ride a few months back. I am greatly looking forward to biking with both my children all over Waterdog for years to come.

Kind Regards,
Nate Yeakel

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lotti Dunbar
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 8:31 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog access for all

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As I have easy access via Laurelwood Park and my whole family uses it multiple times a week, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for all recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits as a local park for stress reduction, exercise, bringing families together, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. More on a personal note, I thought my son to mountain bike there and spent many happy days together with him, even as a teenager. The close by location served us well as one could just hop on the bike and ride right from the house, without getting into a car. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades and even more during COVID.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan

Sincerely
Charlotte Dunbar

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Fry
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 12:49 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space Accessible

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a parent in our school district, volunteer in the community, and outdoor sports enthusiast, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Chris Fry

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mike Crusick
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 1:56 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

People come to Belmont just to mountain bike at Waterdog. It is probably the best "attraction " we have as a city for other people come to visit. I really can not think of too many other activities that would bring visitors to Belmont aside from games Sports Complex but i've seen most/all of the fans don't stick around just get back on 101 and go back home.

As a life long resident of Belmont I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining, improving and expanding the trails
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Mike Crusick

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: M Mitchell
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 2:44 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog open to all, including mountain bikers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Redwood Shores, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and surrounding areas, a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Mike Mitchell

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nickalus Ketcham
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 5:02 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am writing to support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for multi-use recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Building and opening more local multi-use trails to better distribute the increased usage seen in recent years.
- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for biking, hiking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the community - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Katie Liu
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 6:40 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Multi-use recreation in the master plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am writing to support multi-use recreation in the new Master Plan. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you consider:

1) Building and opening more local multi-use trails to better distribute the increased usage during the COVID pandemic.
2) Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
3) Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
4) Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the local community - stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inclusion of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.
Sincerely,
Katie Liu

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Alex Abbas
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 9:34 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Lake & Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I recently became aware of a community action movement, waterdogpreserve.org, aiming to restrict mountain biking at Waterdog Lake & Open Space. I'm writing to oppose this position.

I love mountain biking, and I've been riding my mountain bike at Waterdog for fifteen years. I moved to Belmont back then in part because there were wonderful local trails that I and my family could ride. Keeping the park wide open to mountain biking makes Belmont a wonderful place to live.

I'm also an Eagle Scout and a PhD Biologist. I care about preserving the park... I've volunteered to maintain the park trails. Mountain biking does cause wear to trails, but not extreme wear, and the volunteer and city efforts to maintain the park seem largely effective.

I'd just encourage the city to continue to pursue a reasonable, balanced approach. Perhaps narrow trails should be closed right after heavy rain, like Arastradero Park does. Perhaps efforts should be made to contravene any illegal trail construction. Perhaps E-bikes should be restricted. But mountain biking is a positive recreational activity that should be encouraged, and it can certainly be allowed without compromising the important goal of stewardship of the park and its wildlife for future generations.

Thank you,
Alex Abbas

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Sheng
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 6:51 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Open Space Master Plan input

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

With the Open Space Master Plan process underway, I wanted to give my input as a Belmont citizen of nearly 10 years. My wife and I married in 2002 and had our first apartment together in the Carlmont Heights apartment complex on Hastings Drive. One of the things we loved about that apartment was that we could access the Waterdog open space right across the street and go hiking, mountain biking, and trail running almost right out our front door. We would have liked to stay in Belmont when we purchased our first house, but no good opportunities came up, and we bought a 2 bedroom / 1 bath house just over the border in San Mateo. We started our family in San Mateo, our first son was born in 2007, and our second son was born in 2009. When our daughter was born in 2011, and all three kids crammed into one bedroom, it was time for a bigger house.

The housing market was tough in 2011, and we were fortunate enough to get an opportunity to purchase a 3 bedroom / 2 bath house in the Cipriani neighborhood that year. A major factor driving our decision to make our permanent home here, instead of many of the other neighboring cities was the Waterdog open space. There is no where else on the Peninsula where one can live in such close proximity to such interesting and physically challenging multi-use trails.

When our kids were small, we spent many hours pushing strollers up and down the Lake Road Trail and going to the lake. As our kids learned to ride bikes, many of the trails were too hard for them, but we were able to introduce them to mountain biking on the easier trails in the park. Now our kids are 14, 10, and 9, and one of the greatest ways we can spend quality time together as a family is to ride our bikes to Waterdog and enjoy a real singletrack mountain bike ride together. As our kids have grown, having this resource available gives us the opportunity to teach them about trail maintenance, sustainability, and stewardship, and we hope they will pass these values down to the next generation. Once my kids get further into their teens, we look forward to them riding out there on their own with their friends.

I'm providing this personal example to illustrate how vital Waterdog is to Belmont's families. There are many other families like mine in our community of over 30,000 people. It is not just families, single people, dog owners, seniors, and people from all walks of life benefit from this recreational access. I am confident that the vast majority of Belmont's citizens support the continued successful existence of multi-use recreational trails. As long as it's managed in a sustainable way (which has been the case for decades), multi-use recreation is the highest and best use of the park.

Multi-use recreation at the park also fosters a real sense of community. I regularly run into friends and neighbors in the park. The other day I was biking and crossed paths with another dad I knew from the cub scout pack years back who was out there trail running. I ride on certain mornings and tend to see the same hikers and dog walkers and enjoy a friendly exchange with them.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

I know there is a small but vocal minority clamoring to restrict recreational access to the park and demanding to have it designated as a nature preserve. From an ecological perspective, there is no rational basis for this. The park is surrounded on all sides by urban development. There is no need for this 300 acre park to serve as a restricted-access nature preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve less than a mile away (the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed). There is no scientific evidence that the park has been in anything less than an ecologically stable condition for decades. Based on my nearly 20 years experience as a park user, I feel the trails are less erosion-prone, and much better maintained now than when I first started riding them in 2003. This is due to our fantastic Parks department, which as been able to leverage the substantial volunteer resources of community groups such as the Waterdog Trailkeepers, which is mostly comprised of mountain bikers.

Hopefully I've illustrated the tremendous value that multi-use recreation brings to the community. I ask that the Council and Commission recognize this value during the Open Space Master Plan process and keep the success story of multi-use recreational access at the forefront during this process, so the generations to come will have the ability to enjoy this amazing recreational resource as we do now.

Very truly yours,

Paul Sheng

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rob Anagnoson
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 1:01 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Please support multi-use recreation in the master plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

I'm writing to encourage the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission to reaffirm Waterdog Lake Park and Hidden Canyon's ongoing success as recreational open space, as part of the master planning process.

I enjoy Waterdog for mountain biking, hiking with my family, and walking my dog. I have volunteered for trail maintenance with the Waterdog Trailkeepers. I can leave my home on my bike and be on the trails within minutes, providing a welcome respite from the stress of suburban life. I have introduced my children to the enjoyment of nature there, and shared my love of cycling with my teenage son.

Waterdog is unique and cherished as local open space in its commitment to multi-use recreation and its proximity to our homes. Although there are large amounts of undeveloped land on the Peninsula, vast amounts of it are closed to public access, such as the SFPUC watershed, or closed to bikes and dogs, as with most of the San Mateo County park trails. But people need recreational outdoors opportunities, which is what Waterdog and Hidden Canyon provide our community. It is relatively small and surrounded by homes on all sides - it's our local recreational outlet, not a nature preserve.

The stress and lockdowns during the COVID pandemic have driven more people than ever to recreate in one of the few open possibilities - parks. Usage is way up at open space all along the Peninsula. To accommodate this, we need to be finding ways to open more natural land for humans to recreate outside, not excluding some groups in favor of others. The Peninsula needs more multi-use trails, to spread out the increased usage better. I encourage the master plan to take this into account.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rob Anagnoson

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Frank
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:05 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog !

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

PLEASE keep Water Dog OPEN to Cyclers !
There ARE NO safety concerns!
I'm a LOVER of nature, (the purest thing on the planet) and the environment will not be harmed in continuing to have bicycles allowed on the trails !
Frank S Casale

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Hallock
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:11 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space: Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. Multi-use trails are valuable and important not to close off with broad strokes due to the acts of a few. Mountain biking has been a staple part of the area and a beacon of fun since I first learned to mountain bike. I grew up in Redwood city, lived right across the street from the Racoon Run trailhead for years, and now live in San Francisco but still visit Waterdog at least once a month, as Covid/travel restrictions have allowed. I support maintaining the multi-use access and allowing for all types of users to recreate. If however, there are restrictions for safety placed to aid blind turns, choke points, and convergences, with guidance, trail working crews can make interactions between different forms of transportation safer and not restrict anyone's access. An example can be to designate directionality of certain trails. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope to continue riding at waterdog for years to come.
-David Hallock

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karen Kvale
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:12 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: letter in support of multi-use trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident (10 years) of Belmont, I support keeping Water Dog Open space open for all users: hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, nature enthusiasts.

I have 3 children, ages 13, 11, and 9, we have enjoyed hiking, biking and walking our dog at Water Dog lake since my first child was a baby in a stroller. My sons attended the fishing class through the Parks and Recs and really enjoyed that class and have helped pick up trash through the Footsteps summer school camps.

The "Love Waterdog" campaign is doing a great job in ensuring our trails are safe. I attended your last virtual parks and rec meeting and have been impressed with Love Waterdog's recent endeavors. Keep it up, this is all about our community working together to preserving our trails for all to enjoy.

In fact, today as I write this letter my daughter (9 years old) will be biking with her friend (also a Belmont resident) at Waterdog lake. It is her friend's first time mountain biking and she is so excited. Their dads will be biking with them. They live in an apartment and do not have a backyard, but are very close to the Waterdog lake. I am hoping this chance to mountain bike with her friend will increase her confidence and foster a love for the outdoors for her whole family (including her 5 year old sister).

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new open space master plan.

Regards,

Karen Sheng (Belmont resident and mom of 3 children).

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bryce Sluman
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:59 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Mountain biking at waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that there is a movement to close parts of Waterdog to mountain bikers. As an avid mountain biker and hiker this causes me great distress. Mountain biking is a great family activity which involves fitness and being in the great outdoors.

As one of only a couple of mountain bike accessable trail networks on the peninsula Waterdog is very important to cyclists of all types. Mountain bikers are trail advocates often building and maintaining trail systems. Mountain bikers bring commerce to Belmont in the form of bike shops, coffee shops and eateries.
During these covid times mountain biking is a healthy activity which does not involve close contact with other people. This is vital to the mental health of many.

Mountain bikers and hikers CAN coexist on trails.

Regards,

Bryce Sluman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jamie Morgan
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:35 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Support Waterdog as multi-use open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent visitor to Waterdog open space for 15 years, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, we request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- I volunteer to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. The groups I support, are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Exploring options for new trails to spread people out and relieve congestionContinuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Installing additional benches at key view spots to encourage more hikers

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inculcation of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jamie Morgan
Resident, Menlo Park

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:04 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Maintain multi-use trails in Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident and home owner in Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Elisabeth Sargeant

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Boone Spooner
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:36 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep water dog open for all!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Justin Mauck
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:43 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have been a resident of Belmont for nearly 10 years and my family and myself love Waterdog Open Space. My three kids (16, 14, and 9) are growing up hiking and biking at Waterdog and it's been a memorable experience that will be with them for the rest of their lives. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best Regards,
Justin Mauck

Belmont, CA

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jean-Pierre Dijcks
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:09 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep waterdog as is

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Hansen
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:49 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water Dog Open Space
Attachments: Dear City Council Members and Parks_Water Dog.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi City Council and Parks & Rec Board Members,

Please see my attached letter on the upcoming Master Open Space plan. Feel free to email me if you have any questions or need anything.

Best,
Scott

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Dear City Council Members and Parks & Recreation Directs,

As a member of the Belmont community and frequent user of Hidden Canyon Park and John Brooks Trail (to be referred to as Water Dog going forward) I just wanted to reach out and share my thoughts on the Master Open Space planning process. Every time I go to Water Dog, I see bikers, hikers, runners, and nature enthusiasts all sharing and enjoying the park together. My general impression is that the vast majority of the community wishes to keep Water Dog as the multipurpose recreational Open Space that it currently is. I have heard rumblings that a small, but very vocal, group wishes to *completely change* Water Dog from a recreational Open Space to a Nature Preserve. While I am no ecologist, I would think the size and location of Water Dog would not suit it to being changed to a nature preserve, and instead would only serve in denying members of the community a place to enjoy outdoor recreation. As I am sure you are aware, during the past year Water Dog saw a vast increase in use as people turned to outdoor recreation to help cope with all the stress that the pandemic had induced. I truly believe that taking away such a needed asset to the community would be a devasting blow to Belmont; and all others who travel to Belmont to enjoy Water Dog.

I would suggest in the Master Open Space planning process, instead you look into adding more trails at Water Dog to help facilitate the increased use and popularity of the park. Working with groups such as the Water Dog Trail Keepers and other engineering and environmental consultants, I am sure new trails could be developed to further enhance the Water Dog experience and enjoyment for all.

I truly appreciate your service to the Belmont community. I hope that whatever you decide, it is in the best interest of the community and not the interest of a few, but incredibly vocal and disruptive, individuals who in my opinion wish to hurt the community for their own self interests.

Kind regards,

Scott Hansen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Keisuke Takemoto
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:16 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent visitor of water dog park I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for mountain bikers.

I have been biking in your great city for years and always support Belmont businesses on my visit there.

Thank you,
Kei Takemoto

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Andrew Nourse
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:03 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Waterdog should remain open to hiking and mountain biking, as it has been for years.

It is in a residential area which makes use of it for recreation, as does the rest of the region.

Thank you

Andy Nourse

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sherri Sunahara
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:48 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Love MULTI-USE access at WaterDog Lake - Great Selling Point - Please keep open to all!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners and Council,

I am writing to ask that as the new Open Space Master Plan is developing, you please keep Water Dog Lake trails open to all for multi-use purposes!

I have lived in Belmont for almost 30 years and have been a frequent and consistent user of the Water Dog Lake Trails. We use the trails mostly for walking the dog and hiking/exercise. Our son loves to take the occasional bike ride there. In my experience, a VAST majority of the bike riders on the main trails have always been very courteous (much more so than many of the dog walkers). I love to see that others are out enjoying a nice day, each in their own way.

I am also a local real estate agent and I can tell you that the question of local parks and trails comes up all the time when buyers or renters are looking for something else to distinguish Belmont, other than our great schools! It is a huge community selling point to have such a wonderful and close by open space that everyone can use and enjoy (and that many can walk or ride to... without the need to get in the car!). Water Dog open space has served the local community need for trail diversity for decades. Everyone can share! Please don't cut out the many uses, to subsidize the wants of the few!

Sincerely,
Sherri Sunahara

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryan Kauffman
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:35 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Multi-use trail access at WaterDog Lake Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Team and City Council,

As a hiker and biker, I support keeping WaterDog an accessible and multi-use trail network designed to meet the needs of all. The trails in and around waterdog lake are very well built and carry a colorful history of multi-use, from moto to mt bike origins, to everyday hikers and walkers. Drainage is super efficient and sight-lines and grades are very agreeable to a wide range of skill levels.

As part of the master plan, I request you to consider maintaining trails in their current form, with options for all skill levels of Mt biking and hiking. High quality mt bike trails are very hard to come by in San Mateo county, and represent a destination for Belmont that should be celebrated, not divided.

Access to nature is critical for the well being of adults and children alike. I would encourage the city to consider ways to expand trail networks and encourage more cycling and hiking. It's possible the carlmont cross country course could be enhanced to reduce all traffic at waterdog, I would encourage expanding this to cyclists as well as hikers and runners. Let's find ways to expand the supply of (not argue over the access to) trails and open spaces.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan Kauffman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rowan Sheng
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:32 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water Dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

My name is Rowan Sheng I am 11 years old and go to Ralston Middle school. I love to ride my bike at Water Dog Recreational park, not Water Dog walkers only park. I also do not see any benefits of closing Water Dog to bikers like My family and friends and even people I dont know.

Thank you.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karen Sheng
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:52 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water dog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,
I am Mallory. I am 9 years old and I go to Cipriani. I don't want Water dog to close down or bann bikes because I like to bike there. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mallory (3rd grade)

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rob Santos
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:47 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Re: Keeping Waterdog a multi-use trail

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a customer of small business mom and pop's store in Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, excercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces

*Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

*Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, excercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: tom cuschieri
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a former resident and now resident of San Carlos, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, excercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces

*Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

*Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, excercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.
Thomas J Cuschieri

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Randy Phan
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:50 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

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Thank you,

Randy Phan

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kelly Huffman
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:02 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog open for all

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to please consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades and should not discriminate on use based on misguided or misleading pleas from certain groups requesting limited access to their choice of recreation.

Thank you,

Kelly Huffman

Belmont

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laura Sullivan
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:53 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Maintaining Trails for Multi-Use at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Laura Sullivan

Attachments are

Laura Sullivan, Grammy® Winning Composer and Billboard Top 10 Recording Artist

www.laurasullivanmusic.com

Find Laura's Music On
iTunes Amazon Pandora Spotify

Connect With Laura On
Instagram Facebook Twitter YouTube

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Courtney Gong
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Preserve Multi-use Access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of San Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the great trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folk that live in Belmont and San Mateo County-- a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space-- Water dog has served this public need well for decades. Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Courtney Gong

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: aaron f
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I lived in Belmont for 7 years but recently moved to Redwood City. I am still an avid parks user in all of San Mateo County and especially Belmont. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

I support preserving wildlife habitat but not at the expense of long existing recreational use. People recreating on public land shouldnt have to choose between being pro wildlife and pro recreation. Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Why do I need to keep contacting the government to defend my rights? Why does my government not recognize mountain biking as a legitimate recreational activity and use of public space? I am tired of feeling continually threatened and attacked. please write mountain bike recreation into the master plan as a first class activity on equal footing with other human powered recreational activities.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael C
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:41 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Email in Support of Multi-Use trails at Waterdog Park.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a local resident, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, excercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces

*Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

*Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, excercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

In addition, I'd like to add that local Belmont businesses do benefit from the mountain biking community. Most mountain bikers like to grab a bite to eat and hang out after a ride, and I've always found myself at a local eatery after my ride at Waterdog. Banning bikes at Waterdog will further divide our community, hurt businesses, and have a negative effect on the health and well being of many riders who find Waterdog as their only recreational release.

I strongly urge you to keep the trails Multi-Use.

Michael Chalhoub
Compass
ct
DRE# 01721189

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: S B Olthof
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:19 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Continued use of Waterdog Open Space for ALL

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

We love our open space trails in Belmont, and we want them to stay open for EVERYONE to enjoy! Waterdog recreational open space is a great example of a successful multi-use trail system, with vibrant hiking and biking user groups out there daily. We all win when we can all get out for fresh air and exercise. These trails have been multi-use for decades, and there is no data to suggest that bicycles are causing problems for any particular user group, or to the environment. As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- *Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- *Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- *Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sijen Olthof

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jack Gaynor
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:32 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

My name is Jack Gaynor and I am writing to provide a public comment for the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. My fiance and I have lived in the area and have enjoyed using the Open Spaces over the past three years that they were one of the deciding factors in our decision to settle here and start our family.

The various open spaces, particularly Waterdog, have been a constant source of joy over the past years, particularly during 2020. We are both hikers, mountain bikers and trail runners, and the multi-use nature of all the trails as they currently are has been one of the things we love about Waterdog as it means we can vary how we can enjoy the open space from day to day.

I have also volunteered with the Waterdog Trailkeepers to maintain the trails, fixing issues with drainage and adjusting the existing trails to better suit the multi-use nature, and I really appreciate that the Belmont Parks and Recreation department is collaborative in the care and maintenance of the trails.

As such I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community, for all trail users. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to all trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great, and the signage really helps to share the nature of Waterdog.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. Speaking personally I think we are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers, and our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the families that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space for all trail users - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades and I hope that the Master Plan will continue this great history into the future.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional comments.

Thanks,

Jack Gaynor

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tim Owens
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:59 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Parks and Rec Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council, As a Belmont resident, voter, long time Sierra Club Member, and parent of children in the Belmont/Redwood Shores school district, I support maintaining the Waterdog Open Space an accessible place for recreation, community, and connecting with Nature. With regards to the new Master Plan please consider:

-Maintaining trails for multi-use purposes, including hiking, biking, dog walking, and exercise.
-Continuing outreach, signage and education to ensure safe and sustainable trails (I Love Waterdog campaign is a great example).
-Continue collaborating with community groups and volunteers to support maintenance and preservation. The signs showing the efforts of Boy Scouts to repair bridges is a great example of how community involvement and particular kids can be both educational and community building.

I am not a mountain biker but have only experienced considerate, polite and thoughtful encounters with bikers when out enjoying the trails with my children and our dog. I don't see a reason to limit their access as the educational campaigns appear to be working.
Best,
Tim Owens

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Newdick
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:13 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I want to express my sincerest support to keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for the variable ways our residents recreate. This helps build a stronger community, build awareness of nature, and stay fit. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

The last year has magnified our community's need for open space recreation. As a veteran and transplant, Belmont is the first place I have lived since leaving the service. The mere existence of Waterdog helped me settle on this fine city and I could not be happier with this choice. Biking and running in Water Dog has helped me maintain my sanity and self-esteem over the last four years. Giving my unique outdoor skills in service of the city as a trail maintenance volunteer has continued to make me feel like I am contributing to society.

There is also a deep sense of belonging this encourages in those of us that use the space. It provides us with a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades and I look forward to seeing the ways in which Waterdog continues to evolve for the future of recreation and preservation.

Sincerely yours,
--
John Newdick
Capt, USMCR

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Patty McTigue
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:11 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a resident of the Belmont Heights neighborhood and I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

I look forward to continuing to share this space with my husband and two year old son both hiking and riding.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thanks you,

Patty McTigue (Tahoe Drive)

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bryan Cheung
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 4:12 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open for All

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- **Maintaining the trails**, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, **biking**, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mark Schulte
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:59 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a longtime resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Mark Schulte

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laura Schulte
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:50 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Laura

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Eastman
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:44 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting to nature, etc. Consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education for trail users and groups to ensure sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservations of the trails. They are already doing such a fantastic job. The trailers are IMPROVING over time!

On a personal note, Waterdog Open Space has been an essential part of my own mental health and well being. Especially during these times with Covid 19, it has been even more critical to get outside and share nature with the community in a healthy and safe way.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,
Eric Eastman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sara <
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:13 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Water dog lake

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Sara <
Date: February 27, 2021 at 20:11:01 PST
To: citycouncil@belmont.gov
Subject: Water dog lake

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting to nature, etc. Consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education for trail users and groups to ensure sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservations of the trails. They are already doing such a fantastic job. The trailers are IMPROVING over time!

On a personal note, I have been running at water dog for over a decade and it is my sanctuary. I would be devastated if the place I consider so special would not be open for biking or running, it has been the most enjoyment I've had during covid. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Sara George

Sent from my iPhone

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: DC Gong
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:26 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Preserve Multi-use Access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of San Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the great trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folk that live in Belmont and San Mateo County-- a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space-- Water dog has served this public need well for decades. Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Dana Marr

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kevin Hunt
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:10 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a 10-year resident of Belmont and I want to add my voice to those who are advocating for keeping Water Dog Open Space *open to all*.

I strongly encourage the development of a Master Plan that preserves or adds to recreational opportunities to Waterdog Open Space. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining **multi-use trails** for hiking, biking, dog walking, trail running, and so on.
- Encouraging **safe and sustainable** use of our trails through outreach and education.
- Engaging and **collaborating with community groups** and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. These improvements are noticeable.

We all agree Water Dog is one of Belmont's treasures. It is a treasure *because* it supports diverse activities, not in spite of it. It has served Belmont residents and their childrens' recreation for several generations as space that is Open to all. With your help, it will continue to serve the **diverse recreational needs** of today's and tomorrow's families as well.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Kevin Hunt

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: meremeev
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:05 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog Open Space open for everyone!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of San Mateo, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces

*Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

*Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

Mark Eremeev

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Strahorn
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:18 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Maintaining the Waterdog trails, as they are, for multi-use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a local resident and active user of Waterdog Open Space, I support keeping Waterdog as an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

Chris Strahorn

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jeffrey Magni
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:32 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Water dog park open to mountain biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a future resident and frequent visitor of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Fransisco Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Magni
La Honda CA

singlespeed.org

just another bleepin SSer
Joined Feb 6, 2006

1,452 Posts

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Carol Cook
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:09 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I live on the Belmont-San Mateo border and am writing to support designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

It's so sad to see the trails and wildlife habitat destroyed by over-use, and lack of maintenance and rule enforcement. Please do all that you can to restore and preserve this jewel. Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Carol Cook

San Mateo, CA 94403

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: laura Peterhans
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:53 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am glad to hear that the whole Waterdog Open Space is under review for improvements that can be made.
It is a grand community park with a tremendous amount of volunteer effort over many years which is evident in how trails were laid out, how bridges were constructed, how extra steps were created to make passage of steep areas possible ,etc As an 85 year old woman I can still go on all the trails, some being advisable only if I bring "poles". That is just fine. Those difficult areas should remain as challenges to younger walkers and hikers. Since I hike there at least twice a month, I wish to make the following suggestions.

1. It would be best to improve signage to indicate to bicyclists the trails closed to them. (I must say that most cyclists are respectful of hikers and stop in wide spots to let one pass but I agree that the narrow trails should be closed to them.)

2. Continue to discourage shortcuts taken by both cyclists and walkers by blocking them!

3. I do not know which trails are being considered for closure. I think that links to neighborhoods of Hallmarkk, etc. should remain. I do think that the parallel trails on the south side of the Waterdog Lake should remain. They may be close...but the highest one is wide and for most of its length is suitable for cyclists.

4. Continue the work that has been done to avoid washouts from storms that occur on some trails; these flooded areas are not necessarily caused by cyclists.

5. During the Covlid, especially on weekends, there are many people enjoying the Open Spaces throughout the County. Volunteers could be at the gates at Lake, Carlmont, and Half Moon Bay with leaflets to show the pedestrian and cyclists the best routes for them and to make visiting cyclists aware of their responsiities.

6. There is a new connection from Crystal Springs. Middle School to the "road trail". Maintenance of that trail should be the responsibility of the teachers and students. Also, the craft teacher and students! at CSU could work with Belmont to become involved in refinements of bicycle routes as they are using them a lot under normal non-covid circumstances.

These are my thoughts.I am a 22 year resident of Belmont, cousin of Hartley Laughed (now deceased) who was a fervent Promoter of Open Space.....Laura Peterhans, 2021 Belle Monti....650-637-8783. lkpeterhans@yahoo.com

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Leah Walling
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:59 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Leah Walling
E: Leah.walling@gmail.com

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Zhefei Li
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:02 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: In support of MTB at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am reaching out to support increased access to trail at Waterdog park in the city's new master plan, including increasing access for mountain biking. If is one of the great things about this park and personally it is a shining example in the peninsula of contentious land access.

This is one of the few parks in the area that allows bikes, and has great trails. Many more park systems are completely off limits to bikes. It shows the pressure and demand that is there and is not going away anytime soon. I urge to to consider this in you master plan. Thank you.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mark Harnett
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:45 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Waterdog is great for mountain biking and hiking.
I bike and run there 4 days a week.

Please keep it that way.
Thanks

Mark Harnett

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: jason emmett
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:53 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I have recently learned that one of my favorite places to ride my bike upon getting off work in the morning is being threatened to close. I find this very disappointing to say the least. This park has provided much stress relief as well as physical health benefits to the local mountain bike as well as hiking community. A lot of the park trails are maintained by local volunteers that are hikers and mountain bikers to begin with. I truly don't understand why this conservation group finds it necessary to make an attempt at closing off such a gem of a place to enjoy the outdoors when there are several acres upon acres of protected wilderness right next door.

I'm urging the Local Officials to please not allow Waterdog Park to close to those fellow hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, and families out on their daily walks. I am not a resident of Belmont but I do serve and am a part of this community.

I ask again, please do not consider the close of Waterdog Park.

Respectfully,

Jason Emmett

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Monsler
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:08 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Trails.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I'm a Belmont resident.

Please keep the trails at Waterdog open for multiple uses, including cycling.

Thanks,

Eric Monsler

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Codianne
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:02 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog lake park trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I recently learned that there is a movement of people trying to disallow mountain bikers from using the trails at Water Dog Lake park in the upcoming Belmont Open Space master plan. I grew up in Belmont, attended Fox Elementary, Ralston Middle, and Carlmont High School. I've been riding my bike at Waterdog Lake Park with my brother since we were kids over 30 years ago, and my father rode his bike there years before that. We have always loved riding bikes in that canyon, and still meet there regularly to ride together, and even though our dad is no longer with us we share that connection in his memory. Mountain bikers have been instrumental in creating and maintaining those trails and I am incredibly disheartened that people are trying to take that away from us. Please do the right think and keep our Waterdog trails open for all who use them responsibly, including mountain bikers.

Sincerely,
Brian Codianne

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:18 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog/Hidden Canyon Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation COmmisioners a d City Council,

I want to commend you all on embarking on a Master Plan Project for Water Dog Park. I am resident of unincorporated San Mateo and don't have a city to call home so I have adopted Belmont due to its proximity and my love of the community and recreational opportunities.

Simply put, Water Dog park is a jewel and an incredible resource for Belmont residents and those of us in the surrounding communities. On any given day I see walkers, hikers, runners, mountain bikers, kids fishing, and teenagers simply hanging out. Plus, raptors of all sorts, rabbits, fox, coyote, and I imagine mountain lions though never seen one. All this in a small open space smack dab in the middle of a city.

I envision a master plan that listens to all users and in the end enhances all of the current recreational activities. I have no doubt the committee and consultants will be able to use park management practices to manage any user conflicts as in my experience these have been very minimal which speaks volumes considering how many people use the park.

Good luck and keep up the good work.

Alex Fernandez

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Gary Yee
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:46 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog accessible for biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Park and Rec Commission of Belmont,

I am a homeowner and resident in San Mateo. I have enjoyed the many amazing Park and Recreation spaces in the peninsula for many years. Specifically, I have enjoyed hiking and mountain biking at Waterdog Open Space in Belmont. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space as an accessible and sustainable place for outdoor recreation. I am in favor of keeping the and maintaining the trails for hiking, biking, dog walking, and building community with neighbors. Please keep the Park and Recreation Open Space Master Plan inclusive to all outdoor activity.

In my many years of mountain biking in Waterdog, I have always had a positive and safe experience sharing the paths with hikers and dog walkers. The multi-use space brings community together. The Master Plan being open for all outdoor activities will continue to help support local restaurants and businesses in Belmont. Often times before and after my recreational activities, I have met with family and friends to buy food and support businesses around Waterdog.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Appreciate your work in building and supporting community.

Sincerely,
Gary Yee
San Mateo CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ignacio Rodrigo
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:17 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog park trails accessible for everybody

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Best,
Ignacio Rodrigo

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Hieste
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:14 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Multil-use access must be part of the plan for Water Dog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent bike rider and hiker at Water Dog Park, and someone who has volunteered at trail maintenance days through the Water Dog Trailkeepers group of mountain bikers, I am concerned that a small, but very vocal group is using anecdotal data and NIMBY-ist tactics to try to restrict Water Dog park to one of its' key user groups: mountain bikers.

The answer to long-term space planning is inclusion, education, and planning for sustainable multi-use, not exclusion. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers, like the Water Dog trailkeepers, to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation and carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in and around Belmont. Every day I see families, on foot and on bikes, showing their kids the beauty of nature and the value of open spaces in their community. Closing off the park to cyclists will only serve to disconnect future generations of nature lovers and trail users from the park. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades. With an inclusive long-term strategy and thoughtful outreach to all user groups, it will continue to serve that purpose for many more.

John Hiester
Redwood City
--
John Hiester

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jon Wagner
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:59 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog open space use for hiking and biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a 10yr+ resident of Belmont and avid mountain biker, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

--
Jon Wagner

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mike Munrow
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:31 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: PROS Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council Members and Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

As a 30-year resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces. If the past year of COVID has shown us anything, it is that outdoor recreation is vital to our health and well being.

Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. **Our trails get healthier every year.**

A small but vocal group seems to want to ban mountain biking from the Open Space. They propagate **false choices** such as we can have recreation or wildlife, but not both. When any examples of "bad behavior" by a mountain biker is discovered, it is cited as an excuse to ban all mountain bikers from the trails. This would be like saying that if any car speeds on Ralston Ave. we should ban all cars!

As an alternative, shared access and understanding among the various user groups is a much preferred option, in my opinion. People can be educated as to the issues that others perceive, and we can teach all users that their actions affect others. **"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."**

Designating the open space as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. It is surrounded by all sides by residential development and is much better utilized for the citizens of Belmont as a place to take our families, walk our dogs, hike, run, and bike. One could argue that this 300 acre parcel is so small compared to the San Francsico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed (23,000 acres) that the benefit to wildlife is miniscule, especially when compared to the benefits to the citizens and voters of Belmont.

Thank you,
Michael Munrow

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric McGlennon
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:29 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open to ALL!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of San Carlos, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: FIT Gmail
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:50 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Dear Belmont Parks & Recreation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thom Downing MA, ATC
Owner: FiT Silicon Valley

Los Altos, CA 94024
www.focusedtrainers.com

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Ackerman
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:03 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Cycling is an important use of open space!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

-Best

Chris Ackerman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: kevin farrell
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:05 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: Kevin Farrell; Thaddeus Block
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont and someone who actively enjoys the open recreation spaces in Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

In particular for this last year, where shelter-in-place was the norm, travel outside our local area was restricted, and many forms of recreation were sharply curtailed, the Waterdog trail system was a great outlet for my family in staying active and healthy. From our time on the trails, I see the multi-use opportunities as something to be strongly preserved--hiking, running, biking and dog walking--all activities my family has enjoyed at Waterdog.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Kevin Farrell and Family

Belmont

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Simon North
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:26 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a resident of San Mateo on the Belmont border and am writing to you to give my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

Although not a resident of Belmont, I would like to provide some background to my experience with the Waterdog open space recreation area and how this area is a valuable part of my life. I moved to the Bay Area from Australia in 2000 and have been using this open space for hiking, dog walking, and mountain biking for 20 years. Access to this open space has been extremely valuable to me as a place to enjoy the outdoors and now as a place to enjoy with my wife and two sons. I have gained many friendships from using this open space and enjoy seeing the smiles on faces when I visit multiple times a week with my busy work and family schedule. This has been especially prevalent during COVID-19 where access to open space has been essential for physical and mental health. Not having this open space would leave a huge void in my family's life and the many community members that seek this open space for much needed exercise and relaxation.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Simon and Karin North plus our two boys 12 and 15 years old and puppy
Resident of San Mateo

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Paulsen
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:37 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Lake Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

I'm writing - again - in support of keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for fitness and recreation. I have been a resident of Belmont for almost 7 years and use Waterdog Lake Park 2-3 times a week. I have also put in many hours of trail maintenance over the past 2 years. The park has helped me form a bond with area and with the nature it provides, adding immensely to my quality of life as a transplant patient, and has given me a sense of pride for the city I live in.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Keeping trails open as they are for multi-use, maintaining best practices as other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The new signs and trail markers are awesome
• Maintaining collaboration between community groups, volunteers, and Belmont Parks and Recreation workers to support trail maintenance and preservation. I see real improvement here.

I hope we can put together a long term plan for sustained multi-use trails and avoid having to defend the park against half-truths, misinformation, and misleading statements made by the opposition to Waterdog Lake Park as a community investment in a shared public space that is the pride of healthy, growing, and active Belmont residents.

Sincerely,
David Paulsen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael Plimier
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:06 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue multi-use access in Waterdog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community. it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that lives there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Thank you,
Mike Plimier

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Anthony J
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:54 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont open space master plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Raul Ceja
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:15 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Keep Waterdog Park Open Use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As an avid mountain biker, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces
*Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
*Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.
I have only been to Waterdog once but it was an experience I'll never forget. I am looking forward to the next time I can come back with my friends and have an awesome day shredding then eating at the Dog Haus or one of the other restaurants on Ralston. Waterdog is truly a gem of a park and I envy those who live on the peninsula for having it so close. I'm strongly reconsidering relocating to Belmont solely so I can be closer to such an amazing park, I wouldn't move anywhere on the peninsula because nobody else has Waterdog.
Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

Regards,

Raul Ceja

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: zac s <
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:54 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Park Useage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a homeowner in Belmont, I STRONLY support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- *Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- *Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- *Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Zac Sargeant

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jamie Glenn
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:39 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

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Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jamie Glenn

Sent via Superhuman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Adam May
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:09 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please preserve Waterdog as a multi-use recreational area

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

We have lived in Belmont for 29 years, coaching our kids through AYSO, Little League, Basketball and proudly watching them graduate from Carlmont and go on to college. We love our city and regularly use Waterdog for hiking, dog walking, and to mountain bike. We support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- The only recommended change I see is we could have some of the trails setup as one way to reduce the number of times we pass people in this COVID age (similar to how Pulgas Ridge setup one way trails).

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

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Adam May

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Cgkmccarthy
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:03 PM
To: cotycouncil@belmont.gov
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog lake trail

Hello,

Where can I join the group wanting to keep cyclists off the Lake Loop Trail?

Can't walkers with their leashes dogs have one little loop away from cyclists tearing past them, causing us to scramble into the brush out of their way, sometimes with unleashed dogs?

Water dog trail is a free-for-all at the best of times, but count me as a Belmont resident who had to give up Lake Loop because of cyclists.

Thank you.

Cynthia McCarthy

Belmont

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

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City Manager's Weekly Update February 26, 2021

Post Date: 02/26/2021 4:25 PM

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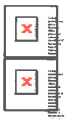
DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

date expenditures. That being said, the City is also facing other financial pressures to its property taxes due to Sacramento's long standing actions, which results in an ongoing revenue loss in property tax, the General Fund's primary revenue source. With data available so far, the ongoing revenue loss is estimated at $1.8 million per year, and recovery action is required.

Since the last recession the City has implemented financial best practices including five year forecasts, which are particularly helpful for identifying the impact of trends over time. This longer view is important in times of crisis, allowing the City to plan thoughtfully and avoid abrupt service impacts to the community. The City has a history of taking intentional, proactive, and strategic steps to ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of the City, including adopting a structurally balanced annual budget, funding long-term needs, and maintaining a minimum $5.0 million General Fund emergency reserve level. During the Mid-Year Review, Council has approved a list of revenue recovery and expenditure reduction strategies, with staff continuing to pursue a variety of fiscal and legislative mitigation strategies.

While long-term forecasts remains unclear by an unpredictable year, we now have a clearer perspective to revise our budget for the remainder of the current fiscal year and to refine our strategic direction for the next few years. With the Revised Budget, we continue to fund ongoing services from ongoing revenue, and use one-time revenues for one-time expenses. In addition, actions moving forward will include engaging the community to identify community service priorities and developing the budget for the 2022 fiscal year which starts on July 1, 2021 to address the ongoing financial crises and Council's strategic focus area.



Measure I 2020 Street Reconstruction Project

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Prep Work for 2021 Slurry Project

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

from the infields , creating a sharp infield arc. Red rock was added at various sites to fill in low spots. Other work included irrigation adjustments, weed removal from dugouts and field perimeters, as well as gate and latch repairs. Play ball! *(pics attached)*

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Sustainable Streets Master Plan

What if the streets in our communities were better designed to provide safety and protection for pedestrians and cyclists, help increase resilience against the effects of climate change, and beautify our neighborhoods?

To take the leap toward sustainable streets throughout the county, the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County created the **San Mateo Countywide Sustainable Streets Master Plan** in collaboration with Caltrans under the Climate Adaptation Planning Grant Program. This website is the permanent home for the plan and its associated documents. This long-term planning effort builds on years of watershed modeling and stakeholder input, and takes a closer look at how and where to build sustainable streets in San Mateo County that integrate stormwater management with local priorities, like bike and pedestrian mobility, transit improvements, climate change adaptation, and more. The plan also includes a down-scaled climate change analysis to better understand the potential future precipitation related impacts from climate change and how green stormwater infrastructure can help adapt to changing conditions.

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Water Heater Rebates Are Available

Rebates on heat pump water heaters (HPWH) are available. Peninsula Clean Energy will provide $1500 in rebates when customers replace a gas water heater. Combined with the BayREN rebate of $1,000, this is a significant incentive. CARE/FERA customers are eligible for an additional $1,000 rebate. If an electrical panel upgrade is needed, supplemental rebates are available for that.

See https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/heat-pump-water-heater/ for more details.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nathan Yeakel
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:23 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Multi-use

Dear Belmont City Council,

I have lived on Hillman Ave since 2013. I am proud to call Belmont home, and that is the birthplace of our children, now age 3 and 6. Waterdog holds a special place in our family's hearts. We spend hours in the park weekly hiking, biking and walking our dog Scooter. There is abundant wildlife considering this is such a developed suburban area.

Now it seems a small, but very vocal group wants to assert influence, right at the time the Council is considering parks and recreation open space master plan (PROS). The group, most of whom own large houses that border the park, seek to strip our park and trails of their multi-use status. I first became aware of this anti-biking group while volunteering in a city-approved trail maintenance group, where we were harshly confronted and filmed without permission.

While I don't understand the motivation of this group, I do know that they stand in stark contrast to almost all other park visitors. People like us are out here every day. We welcome those from outside of Belmont. We say hi to those we pass on the trail. We pick up trash (and other gross stuff) that isn't ours. We respect the trails, the hikers, bikers, and dogs. We wear a mask.

Cycling in the park has brought so much richness to my life and my family. It is healthy and fun. Through group rides and volunteering, I have met so many of our neighbors that would have otherwise been strangers. My son took his first trail ride a few months back. I am greatly looking forward to biking with both my children all over Waterdog for years to come.

Kind Regards,
Nate Yeakel

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: John McNamara
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 7:40 AM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont Heights, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Temporary ban on all mountain biking to allow for the healing of the open space terrain, until a time when it is determined this preserve can rebound from, and once again tolerate the destructive nature of cycling.

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank you.

John and Christine McNamara

Sent from my iPhone

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Aynsley
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:04 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Open Space Master Plan

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I strongly support designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize **trail safety**, conservation and habitat protection, including:

• Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces. I have had so many very dangerous near misses from bikes that I now avoid using any of the Belmont trails. The danger is so great that I now go to the parks in neighboring cities where there are designated hiker only trails which is enforced through clear trail signage, good maps and trail steps that discourage bikers. A friend had a serious accident with a cyclist while walking on a trail across the Bay so the danger is particularly real for me. From a legal standpoint a consideration is the potential city liability for hiker/biker accidents because of the current lack of enforcement of safety standards that other cities perform.
• Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
• Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
• Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
• Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
• Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Sincerely,

John Aynsley

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Linda Murphy [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:18 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
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- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Linda and John Murphy

Belmont,CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Hansen <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:49 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water Dog Open Space
Attachments: Dear City Council Members and Parks_Water Dog.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi City Council and Parks & Rec Board Members,

Please see my attached letter on the upcoming Master Open Space plan. Feel free to email me if you have any questions or need anything.

Best,
Scott

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Dear City Council Members and Parks & Recreation Directs,

As a member of the Belmont community and frequent user of Hidden Canyon Park and John Brooks Trail (to be referred to as Water Dog going forward) I just wanted to reach out and share my thoughts on the Master Open Space planning process. Every time I go to Water Dog, I see bikers, hikers, runners, and nature enthusiasts all sharing and enjoying the park together. My general impression is that the vast majority of the community wishes to keep Water Dog as the multipurpose recreational Open Space that it currently is. I have heard rumblings that a small, but very vocal, group wishes to *completely change* Water Dog from a recreational Open Space to a Nature Preserve. While I am no ecologist, I would think the size and location of Water Dog would not suit it to being changed to a nature preserve, and instead would only serve in denying members of the community a place to enjoy outdoor recreation. As I am sure you are aware, during the past year Water Dog saw a vast increase in use as people turned to outdoor recreation to help cope with all the stress that the pandemic had induced. I truly believe that taking away such a needed asset to the community would be a devasting blow to Belmont; and all others who travel to Belmont to enjoy Water Dog.

I would suggest in the Master Open Space planning process, instead you look into adding more trails at Water Dog to help facilitate the increased use and popularity of the park. Working with groups such as the Water Dog Trail Keepers and other engineering and environmental consultants, I am sure new trails could be developed to further enhance the Water Dog experience and enjoyment for all.

I truly appreciate your service to the Belmont community. I hope that whatever you decide, it is in the best interest of the community and not the interest of a few, but incredibly vocal and disruptive, individuals who in my opinion wish to hurt the community for their own self interests.

Kind regards,

Scott Hansen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Cgkmccarthy
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:03 PM
To: cotycouncil@belmont.gov
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog lake trail

Hello,

Where can I join the group wanting to keep cyclists off the Lake Loop Trail?

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Thank you.

Cynthia McCarthy

Belmont

Sent from my iPhone

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Post Date: 02/26/2021 4:25 PM

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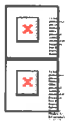
DRAFT

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See https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/heat-pump-water-heater/ for more details.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Greg Trumpler
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:32 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog lake park

Dear Park and rec commissioners and City Council, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for multi-use hiking,biking,dog walking,excercise, connecting with nature, etc consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The 'Love Waterdog' campaign is wonderful.
Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont park and rec workers. Our beloved trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for all people that live in Belmont Parks are great for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationists, and environmentalists ideals, fostering community pride, and improved quality of life. Our community has a desperate need for recreational open space. Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.
Please keep trails open for all users
Thank you for your consideration
Sincerely
Greg Trumpler.

Sent from my iPad

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Joe Rogers
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:20 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan - Critical to Keep Multi-Use Access to Waterdog Open Space

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Best regards,
Joseph Rogers

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Astrid Block
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:04 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: letter in support of keeping Waterdog trails open for multi-use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, Belmont Parks a Recreation Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that the Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan is under review this year.

As a resident of Belmont and mother of three active children, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. We enjoy hiking, biking and exploring in this open space regularly. In fact, we find ourselves there several times a week. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for residents of Belmont and visitors. Waterdog has served the public well for decades, and especially during the pandemic, as other opportunities for recreation have been off limits.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Warmly,

Astrid Block

Bemont CA

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Peter Bai · on behalf of Peter Bai ·
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:52 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Maintaining Waterdog Access for All

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

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Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Kind regards,

- Peter

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laura Deck
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:17 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Preserve and protect Waterdog Open Space before it gets trashed

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I have been a Belmont/San Carlos resident for 33 years and frequently hike Belmont Canyon and Waterdog trails. Due to overuse by mountain bikers, many trails have deep ruts, switchback cuts, and signs of erosion. On numerous occasions, I have been forced off the single-track trail by bikers riding very fast around blind corners. For these reasons, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank you, Laura

Laura Deck
C: (

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laurent Gharda
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:14 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council; Brigitte Shearer
Subject: 2021 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan - input from a Belmont resident on the Belmont Open Space (Waterdog, Hidden Canyon, etc.)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello P&R Commissioners and Council Members,

My name is Laurent Gharda, I live at 14 Somerset Ct.

As a frequent user (hiker) of the open space, for your consideration, I hope the following will be made a high priority as you formulate the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan:

- Trail usage: I wish as many trails as possible be designated for hikers only. Jumping out of the path to let bikes through is dangerous, tiresome and requires too much attention. It diminishes my enjoyment of the open space. I have no problem with bikers using mixed use trails which are wider and safer for all involved, but on many very narrow trails with poor visibility, I feel this is dangerous to hikers.
- Erosion: I'm concerned that many trails show signs of erosion. To my untrained eye, it seems as if much of that is caused by bikes.
- E-bikes: I hope there is a prohibition against these motorized vehicles, as it will only make worse my 2 concerns above.

Thank you for your consideration!

Laurent and Dana Gharda

Laurent Gharda
+

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Barbara Fetterly
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:57 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Bike inclusive Trail Support
Attachments: Waterdog Bike Inclusive Trail Support.docx; Belmont Pump Track Support Letter 1_11.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Park and Rec Department and City Council Members,
Thank you for taking your valuable time to review my letters which support bikes to remain a part of the Waterdog area. If you have any questions or wish to speak with me personally please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted] I apologize for not being able to attend meetings in person but please do not mistake my absence as a lack of support and gratitude for your commitment to make the right decision to benefit our entire community.
Warm regards,
Barbara Fetterly

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris March
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:54 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Evidence-Based Impact Review of Trail Usage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont Parks & Rec. Committee,

As a homeowner in Belmont, I feel greatly privileged to bike and hike in the open spaces here with my wife and children, and I am motivated to contribute how I can. In addition to attending P&R meetings and regularly communicating with mountain biker groups about responsible trail usage, I am writing this letter to provide evidence-based support from the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz Science Committee, who cite over 54 sources, for continued access by bikers to multiuse trails.

I would like to submit for your review the *Mountain Biking Impact Review Frequently Asked Questions,* provided by the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz Science Committee in 2019. It can be downloaded from https://mbosc.org/mtb-impact-faq/ by scrolling down to the button labelled "Download a PDF of All MTB Impact Review FAQs" and clicking on that button. Alternatively, you can request hard copies, or submit additional questions from the website.

For your convenience, I would like to quote a few of the points from this review, which seem most relevant to Waterdog and Belmont Open Spaces. My only changes to the content are [explanations of terminology in brackets]:

Hydrology & Geology

1) Does mountain biking generate more erosion and other trail damage than other types of recreational trail use? How do physical trail impacts differ based on user group?

- In general, studies have shown that there is no statistically significant difference in induced soil erosion, excavation, incision (ruts), and trail widening between biking and hiking, and both are far less impactful than horse riding.[1][2][3][4] Erosion on trails depends more on trail design, water drainage, levels of use, and soil properties.[5]
- The degree of physical impact related to trails is mostly dependent on trail maintenance regime rather than type of use.[4]
- There are a handful of studies that have been conducted over the past couple of decades looking into the comparative physical impacts (e.g. trail compaction/incision, trail widening, soil displacement and erosion) on trails by different user groups.[1][2][3][4] The general conclusions of these studies are that:
    - On properly-built and well-maintained trails there is little to no measurable difference between the relative impacts caused by mountain bikes vs. hikers.
    - Although there are few quantitative studies on the topic, it is generally accepted that informal/user-built trails tend to experience dramatically elevated rates of degradation due to poor design, management, and construction practices.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

- Additional research is needed to more accurately measure the variation of mountain bike impacts based on riding style (e.g. XC [normal trail riding, as in Waterdog], downhill [downhill only riding, as at chairlift access bicycle parks], dirt-jumps, etc.).

3) I frequently notice ruts in local trails. What causes these? Do they lead to more erosion? How can they be alleviated?

- Ruts, soil displacement, and compaction are unavoidable outcomes of trail use over time. Whether by foot, tire, or hoof, soil is being excavated and forms ruts over time. If left unattended, the path will continue to erode from precipitation events.[6][7][8]
- Rut creation is accelerated when trails are wet, which is why riding trails during and following rain events is highly discouraged.
- Proper trail construction and regular maintenance under the guidance of trail stewardship organizations (such as MBOSC) greatly alleviate the effects of regular use.[6][7][8]

Plants & Wildlife

1) Generally speaking, what is the impact of mountain biking on wildlife?

- The short answer is that it's complicated. It largely depends on the species encountered, the characteristics of the trail, and the conduct of the trail user.
- The creation and presence of human created trails may lead to the fragmentation of a landscape that was once intact.[1][2] The effects of fragmentation on wildlife vary depending on the species and the scale of analyses and impact.[3] Fragmentation has been found to be more severe in areas where unsanctioned trails are common.[4]
  - For instance, Red-legged Frogs can be adversely impacted if a trail traverses within 100 meters of its habitat.[5]
  - Research has found that some bird species have decreased nest survival, increased predation, or lower nest density in areas fragmented by trails.[6][7]
  - Other species, however, have been shown to use trails to their advantage for travel or foraging, demonstrating that the presence of trails can affect the local composition of species.[7]
- The trail user and that user's behavior also will dictate their impact on wildlife. Studies have shown that nesting birds may not be disturbed (e.g. the bird being startled from its nest/perch) by hikers or bikers quietly moving along a trail, but when trail users were noisy (e.g. talking) or when they stopped and/or approached the nest (e.g. birdwatchers), the likelihood of disturbance was significantly higher.[8][9][10] Most birds and mammals will react more strongly (i.e., flee) to off-trail recreationists than to on-trail users.[8][9][10][11][12]
- Research shows that noise can affect wildlife. Noise, however, is subjective and is perceived by different species in different ways.[13][14] Studies have show that bicyclists passing quickly may cause less noise disturbance than other recreationalist on the trail.[11][16][32]
- A number of papers have attempted to synthesize the existing research of recreational impacts on wildlife worldwide. Findings show that a majority (>60%) of the studies reviewed demonstrated some form of negative impact on wildlife from all types of trail use (mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding).[16][17][18]
  - However, these same studies suggest that while recreational trail use may impact individual or groups of animals, population-level impacts to a species are less well-studied and poorly known.

2) How do mountain bikes impact wildlife as compared to other trail users?

- Many studies examined the impacts of recreation on wildlife by user type(s). The majority of these studies however didn't specifically address mountain biking, nor do they distinguish between the

the variety of mountain bike riding types (e.g. cross-country [normal trail riding, as at Waterdog] vs. downhill [lift accessed resort riding]). The few studies that specifically addressed mountain biking have suggested the following:

- Across a number of studies, researchers found that ungulates (such as deer and elk) are equally or less likely to be disturbed by mountain bikers than by hikers, joggers, or horseback riders.[11][12]
- The negative effects of trail use on birds is equal across trail use types when users are quiet and continuously moving.[17] Birds tend to be more adversely affected when users stop along the trail, or when they make more noise.[8] [9] [10][19]
- A study in a network of wildland reserves in Southern CA of disturbance to medium and large mammals found that all user types had negative effects, and that some types of human disturbance were more negative than others (from most to least impactful: pedestrian, bicycles, vehicles, dogs, equestrians).[20]
  - This study's researchers refer to these impacts as a form of "mortality-free predation" due to the fact that these animals preferentially avoid habitat that humans are a part of.

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Sincerely,
Chris March

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Josh Engberg
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:49 PM
To: P&R Comm; x-Parks/Recreation Office
Subject: I Support Mountain biking at Hidden Canyon and Waterdog parks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Commissioners,

I am a long time science teacher at Carlmont high school for 20 plus years, and a San Carlos resident. Throughout this time I have very much enjoyed biking and hiking at Waterdog and Hidden Canyon parks.
I have seen vast improvement of the trails driven by the mountain bike community over the past few years, and in my opinion the trails and conditions have improved dramatically since the early 2000s.
I know many students of Carlmont high school that ride several times a week in these parks as well. This is a great local outlet for them that they can access without getting a ride from parents or driving themselves. Though the Peninsula has many areas with trails, the number of bike accessible trails east of hwy 280 is extremely limited, most other mountain bike areas are a 30 minute drive away from Belmont. Waterdog/Hidden Canyon is one of the very few quality mountain bike areas that local adults and teens can access by bike, with no need for a car.
Very often I will bike to work in the morning at Carlmont high school and then finish my day with a ride on the trails of Waterdog/Hidden canyon in the afternoon.

I know that some community members have been lobbying to restrict bikes to only the fireroad portion of these parks. This would be a tragic reduction of available recreation space for our youth and adult residents. Additionally, I'm not sure how this could be enforced in any kind of practical way by the city of Belmont.

Here are some ideas for positive changes that I would like to share as well:

1. Bell use by mountain bikers. I currently use a $3 "bear bell" and hikers appreciate it. There could even be "borrow a bell stations" at the popular trail heads.
2. Better signage indicating trail difficulty-easy, moderate, difficult.
3. Continued trail improvements done by knowledgeable trail builders. Many of the erosion poor trails have existed for over 20 years and are due to poor trail creation. The Elevator trail is a prime example of this.
4. Some one way traffic for bikes on some of the trails to promote safety and more established routes.
5. Explore how many US cities are promoting mountain biking as a way to improve the economic and overall appeal of the community.

Thank you and I will virtually attend the upcoming meeting.

--
Best Wishes,
Josh Engberg

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Evan Bissell
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:51 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Support for multi-use trails and mountain bike access at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a regular mountain bike user at Waterdog Lake Open space, which is a fantastic, well managed, not over-used, gem of a park. Parking is easy, access points from surrounding neighborhoods are abundant, and 99% of trail users are really friendly and respectful.

A group called "PreserveWaterdog" is attempting to take action and raise awareness to false issues related to mountain bike use of this space. This same type of fight has taken place elsewhere in the bay(Marin is a good example) and resulted in wasted resources and contentious interactions that don't improve things for anyone's interests. I love the peninsula and San Mateo county because the trail users, city employees, rangers up in the Midpen Parks and everyone is generally respectful of each other and the trail infrastructure and environment. Please don't feed into this hate and false information when considering the new Master Plan and Open Space policy.

Mountain bikes DO NOT make eroded double track like the picture they have of Rambler trail...that is caused by groups of hikers, the same types of paths can be found on Sugarloaf mountain on the northeast side where no mountain bikers climb or descend. Mountain bikes might cause multiple "lines" through a given section, but they will not cause a widespread eroded open section like shown in that picture. False information.

Riding mountain bikes on the beautiful single track available to us in the parks and open space of the peninsula has been a major boost for mine and other's mental health during this pandemic. Having access to these space so close to home has been a huge factor in my decision to continue to call this area my home.

The one exception that many mountain bikers will agree with...E Bikes. I fully support limiting access to these and all off road single track trails to human powered sports only. I am an avid off-road motorcycle rider but I only go to designated OHV areas for that. E-bikes allow unskilled riders to travel far too fast on blind sections of trail near others.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

Regards,
Evan Bissell

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robert Low
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:26 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Please do not restrict trail acres at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council,

People have been taking up outdoor recreation in droves due to the pandemic, and now that they have fallen back in love with exercise and fresh air again they are here to stay. This is a huge boon to the health of the populace! There are a record number of hikers and cyclists, and we need MORE places and trails to use, not fewer! Waterdog is positioned to make for an excellent resource for recreation and a very poor nature preserve. Nature is vital too, of course! This just isn't the place to try to create a preserve.

Best wishes,
Robert

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rajiv Eluthesen
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:37 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Multi-Use Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

-Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
-Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
-Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with the Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier each year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in the area - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Rajiv Eluthesen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ben Ziegler
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:09 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting to nature, etc. Consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education for trail users and groups to ensure sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservations of the trails. They are already doing such a fantastic job. The trailers are IMPROVING over time!

On a personal note, Waterdog Open Space has been a monumental resource both before and during the pandemic. It's wonderful to have such an amazing space to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. We are lucky, as mountain bikers, to have such a challenging and well kept trail right here in our backyard. All of my interactions with hikers and others at Waterdog have been friendly, cordial, and positive. It would truly be a shame to not keep Waterdog open for mixed use. I, myself, use the space for hiking, dog walking, as well as mountain biking. It's a true treasure to have.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

--
Ben Ziegler

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Donald Toy <
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:36 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Multi-use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

As a San Mateo resident and frequent park user, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for all users for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and surrounding communities - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Regards,
Don Toy

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael Chin
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:01 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Multi-use trail access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,
I hope this message finds you well. I would like to voice my support for continued multi use trail designation at Waterdog Park (Hiking and Biking). As a resident of san Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Regards,
Michael Chin

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kevin Sinarle
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:11 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Belmont Open spaces and multi-use trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont for the last 15 years, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails for all.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont parks and recreation workers. My family and friends all enjoy biking, hiking and exploring the trailsystem often.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont. When we take visiting friends and family on the trails they are envious of the access to a trailsystem like waterdog to enjoy nature on bike or foot. I am proud of our community for prioritizing the use of multi-use trails in the water dog open space, and feel it improves quality of life in Belmont. Our community has a need for recreational open space, and Water dog has served those needs for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan

Kevin Sinarle

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Derek Loh
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:54 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: In support of multi-use access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I love Waterdog Open Space! My wife and I moved to San Carlos in 2009 as a newly married couple. The proximity to Waterdog was a major factor when determining the location for our house to start a family. Fast forward 12 years and we've thoroughly enjoyed living here and enjoyed the park as our family has grown from 2 to 4. We hike together as a family and practice fishing in the lake. I enjoy mountain biking and the ability to ride from my house to a trail network is invaluable. Our latest family ritual is a Sunday morning bike ride around Waterdog and then breakfast in Carlmont plaza. I sincerely hope that Waterdog Open Space can remain open and enjoyed by all users. The love of outdoors can be fostered in many ways and biking should not be discriminated against due to a few outspoken individuals. With a little care and respect, this valuable trail network can be enjoyed by all.

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



Father and son (6 years old) enjoying the beautiful trails and weather on 2/28/2021.

Sincerely,
Derek Loh

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Lamb
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:22 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
• The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

Jonathan Lamb

San Jose, CA 95119

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lindsay Helmuth
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:16 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
• The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,
Lindsay

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Christian D. Galindo
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:15 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keeping Waterdog trails accessible to all!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Sincerely,
Christian Galindo
Avid trail user and supporter

Belmont, CA
94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jordan Macdonald
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:56 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Preserving access to Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council,

I'm writing to express my support of keeping Waterdog Open Space preserve access open to all users. I am a resident of Menlo Park and a frequent visitor to Waterdog, as well as the local businesses for before & after needs. Multiuse access to Waterdog is a significant positive for Belmont and the surrounding communities, which many people enjoy-- as you can tell by the amount of users on any given day. Closing it to most is ignoring the needs of many for the benefit of only a few. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. The trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that lives there has long since adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Sincerely,

Jordan Macdonald

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Derek Blogin
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:58 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
• The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
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• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

Derek Blogin

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Shelby Gol
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:45 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
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- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,
Shelby Golan

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Andrew Schram
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:29 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails. as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
• The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
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Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,
Your name here

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Elliot Danforth
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Redwood City, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

- Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

- Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to habitat there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Thank you,

Elliot Danforth

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Drew Atkinson
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
- The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,
Drew Atkinson

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Greg Trumpler
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:32 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog lake park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Park and rec commissioners and City Council, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for multi-use hiking,biking,dog walking,excercise, connecting with nature, etc consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The 'Love Waterdog' campaign is wonderful.
Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont park and rec workers. Our beloved trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for all people that live in Belmont Parks are great for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationists, and environmentalists ideals, fostering community pride, and improved quality of life. Our community has a desperate need for recreational open space. Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.
Please keep trails open for all users
Thank you for your consideration
Sincerely
Greg Trumpler.

Sent from my iPad

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sidart Deb
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:10 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Perspective on Multi-Use Trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of the county for 11 years and the bay area for over 40 years, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sidart Deb
(

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: erik ewing
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:17 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jennifer Merrill
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:14 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
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Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Merrill

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Paradine
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:00 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: WaterDog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern -
It has come to my attention that there is consideration in making significant changes to the masterplan and potential to trail access at Waterdog limiting the use by some groups.
I am a resident of San Mateo, but frequent Waterdog on a regular basis and would hate to see the access limited.
In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to habitat there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed."

--

Warm Regards,
John Paradine

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Abigail Sinarle
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:14 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
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Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Abigail Sinarle

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael Wang
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:15 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
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• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,
Michael Wang / Bay Area Resident / Hiker / Road Cyclist / Multi-use Trail Cyclist

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Gene Karshenboym
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:48 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont Mayor, Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

///Personal message///
I am a Belmont resident, father and homeowner who loves our town and moved here expressly for the incredible access to our stunning outdoor spaces. Our family has settled here in large part because we "can live outdoors" (as well as the amazing schools and fantastic weather). We are walkers, hikers, road and mountain cyclists.

I know that personally, the mountain bike access to the Waterdog Open Space is a fundamental part of our families happiness and also our ability to have survived the Covid pandemic in good spirits. It is also worth noting that many people get a large amount of joy from saying hello to folks whom we meet on the trails both on foot and on bike - we have formed lifelong bonds on these trials. The neighborly attitude and kindness I have seen on the trails is another key part to our love of Belmont.

///statement of support and position///
I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting to nature, etc. Consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education for trail users and groups to ensure sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservations of the trails. They are already doing such a fantastic job. The trailers are IMPROVING over time!
- It is worth noting the new(BelMont Bikes) and established (Starbucks, Village pizza, bagel/sandwich shops) businesses which rely on cyclists for their livelihood.
- We should encourage a wide range of outdoor activities for residents of all ages in this era of too many screens and unhealthy sedentary lifestyles

///Call to action///
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me - I would be thrilled to be involved in any planning, discussions or community events.

Thanks,

Gene Karshenboym
Mobile

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Crume
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:29 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Park and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Bay Area resident for 50 years, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible place for recreation and connecting with nature. In the Master plan, I request you to consider:

Maintaining the trails for multi use, including biking, hiking and dog walking.

Continuing outreach and education for all trail users to ensure safe and sustainable trails.

Continued collaboration with community groups and volunteers to support and maintain the trails. There are a lot of trails and the volunteers are doing a great job assisting the City by clearing and keeping the trails safe.

I have also heard there is a small group of people vocalizing an anti bike campaign at Waterdog. Please consider there are very few areas on the peninsula to mountain bike but there are many areas to walk and hike. I have been riding Waterdog for 20 years, afterwork and weekends, and i love it. The trails are fantastic and need to remain open for all to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration

Brian

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Richard Sim
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:00 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space open to all

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

On a biweekly basis, I hop on my mountain bike and ride over to Waterdog to enjoy the miles of incredible shared open space trails. Recently, I've gone with my 10 year old son and 12 year old daughter and they both, especially the former, love it. It's one of the few activities they enjoy involving the outdoors besides organized sports (which are severely limited at the moment due to Covid). And as you can imagine, any hour spent away from their devices is an hour towards good mental health and fitness.

When I ride, I always carry a bell and "ding" it when I come around corners or hear people in the distance. That said, I ALWAYS yield to pedestrians and exchange pleasant greetings when we meet each other on the trails. Waterdog is one of the few places in public these days where I am reminded of the vibrant community we have here in Belmont. I have of course noticed that during the pandemic, the trails have become more congested than before, but almost everyone I see is cordial and friendly. I'm sure there are aggressive bike riders who may give a bad impression to a vocal minority. That said, I've personally run into more issues with off-leash dogs and bags of poop than I have seen involving riders.

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. Encourage riders to use bells. Put up signs on riding/hiking etiquette

Please do not takeaway this passion of mine and my kids. We love to hike, fish and bike at Waterdog. It would be a shame to lose the ability to enjoy the trails on our bikes.

Thank you.

Richard Sim

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Grant Sidey
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:54 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Open Space Master Plan Waterdog Lake and Hidden Canyon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

As we embark upon the Master Open Space Planning processes, and as a Belmont resident, I write to encourage the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission to reaffirm Waterdog Lake Park and Hidden Canyon's ongoing success as recreational open space.

Myself, wife, and two children (7 and 9) are Belmont residents, and we all use the Waterdog trail system. Our family from SF and San Mateo come to enjoy the park and all that Carlmont village has to offer. We hike and bike in the park weekly for exercise. My kids are learning to MTB on this awesome trail network. Waterdog/ Hidden Canyon park has played a major role in why we live in Belmont. Such a special space with inclusion for so many outdoor activities, and a wonderful sense of community.

Many of us refer to Waterdog as a "gem" of nature and recreation. It is a place to walk, jog, run, cycle, and exercise in a beautiful natural environment of trees, flowers, and wildlife. Recreational open space reduces stress, provides relaxation and revitalization, builds community, increases awareness of the natural environment, fosters environmentalism, and serves the public good.

From a land use point of view, Waterdog's best use is continued recreational open space. It is small – 200-300 acres depending on how you measure – and ringed with suburban development. Although some have proposed re-designation as a nature preserve, the truth is that Waterdog is far too small, and has far too many humans around, to seriously be considered for this purpose. Even if we removed every trail and tried to keep humans out, the animals in the park would still be impacted by the dogs, cats, and humans who live around the perimeter of the park. Humans have a need for open space, too. When you consider that we have already protected the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed's 23,000 acres of oak woodlands, coniferous forests, and serpentine grasslands as a preserve, it is reasonable for the public to allocate 300 acres, just 1% of what has been preserved already, for open space recreational use.

With current recreational use, the park abounds with finch, towhees, quail, deer, bobcats, wild turkeys, rabbits, lizards, woodrats, snakes, and, yes, waterdogs! I personally have seen each of these in the past 12 months alone. These animals have adapted to human uses of Waterdog for over 100 years. There is no crisis here; the ecosystem of the park has been in a steady state for decades. Don't fall for the false narrative of others

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looking to weaponize environmentalism as a means to kick cyclists, runners, and other active users out of the park. These narratives serve only destroy community and pit neighbor against neighbor.

When I visit Waterdog, I see a community of hikers, dog-walkers, joggers, and cyclists enjoying the open space, respectful of one another and the wildlife that abounds. It is a place of joy. Waterdog is a testament to successful multi use open space serving the public good. Please support the continued open space recreational use of Waterdog Lake Park.

Respectfully,

Grant Sidey

Karen Sidey

Greta Sidey

Jack Sidey

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Miller
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:47 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council,

I am a long time resident of Belmont living and owning a home here for the past 35 years. My family and I have greatly enjoyed living in Belmont and have had much joy in being able to access Waterdog Open Space for recreational purposes including hiking and biking. It has served as a wonderful area for us as a community and spending time with family and friends of all ages connecting with nature. Our community has a need for this type of space, which Waterdog has served well for many years improving the quality of life in Belmont! I am reaching out to you as I understand that you are in process of developing a new Master Plan for this area.

As you develop the new Master Plan, I ask that you please consider to maintain the existing trails which are used for multiple purposes including exercising such as hiking, biking and dog walking, as well as community building and connecting with nature. These types of activities align with those of other Open Spaces in the area. I believe that the current volunteers and community groups who maintain the trails are doing an awesome job and the trails are in great shape.

I understand that there has been some discussion to change the park designation to be preserved as a wildlife preserve. I believe this would have negative impact on the overall Belmont community. Waterdog park is surrounded on all sides by residential development and the existing wildlife has adapted to the presence of people in this area. We are fortunate to already have a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve nearby on the other side of 280 (the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed). Keeping the Waterdog Open Space as the recreational park it is today is one of the highlights that leads my family to desire to stay in this area.

One of the activities that I personally enjoy in Waterdog is being able to ride my mountain bike in a safe and natural environment which is easily accessible from my home. The alternative to this would be to ride in the city streets with much traffic where even an experienced biker such as myself does not feel safe; unfortunately there are few bike lanes in Belmont and the roads are not wide enough to be bike friendly. The only other option involves loading my bike and driving a distance to find another place to ride, which is not convenient nor good for the environment.

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Just five years ago another Belmont institution, Belmont Iceland, closed operations suddenly and ended its long history of community recreation. Personally, I was involved with the hockey community there from 1978 until it closed in 2016. Needless to say, I was quite disappointed losing such an important part of our community. I had hoped that the city of Belmont could have kept the rink from closing permanently. Looking ahead to todays agenda and the possibility of not allowing mountain biking at Waterdog in Belmont, I stand strong in my convictions that this should not be allowed to happen for all the reasons stated above. For this 35 year resident of Belmont, I would very much like to see the Waterdog Open Space area remain the wonderful area it is serving the recreational needs of our community.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best regards,

Chris Miller

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Melissa Viotti
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:16 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Master Planning for Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Rec Commissioners,

I have previously provided comments regarding Waterdog Open Space and have a few additional points in light of the current Master Planning process.

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. I support maintaining the trails, as they have been for years, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces. Waterdog is a particularly great place to learn to ride with plenty of challenges. My confidence soared after finally clearing the uphill "Witches" of the John Books Trail for the first time. There are plenty of young women in the community who also would benefit from that same boost.

Waterdog is an amazing neighborhood gem. I have been hiking and mountain biking at Waterdog for nearly a decade and have been pleased with the improvements made in recent years. While soil erosion from the rain is still a problem due to the construction of the trails, some of the drainage efforts in recent years appear to be successful. It's wonderful that we have a community of volunteers to help with improvement efforts. Please continue to involve the community for this volunteer work to maintain the trails for years to come.

I would support continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is a great start. I would encourage even more education for trail etiquette for both hikers and riders to improve the experience for all. Perhaps we could enlist a team of volunteer docents to guide such efforts? Some of the poor etiquette I have observed is usually with new riders who might not have had the luxury to ride with more experienced riders who could educate them. Supporting community rides, similar to the days of Passion Trail Bikes, is a good way to teach the less experienced. Perhaps we could encourage community hikes and rides with the local bike shop?

In addition to the stress relief from enjoying nature in our backyards, there is also the economic benefit of encouraging mountain biking in the community. Mountain bikes and repairs and maintenance are not inexpensive, and the riders are usually hungry and thirsty. It's a social sport, and part of the fun is hanging out with the community after the ride to enjoy a meal or a snack nearby.

Thanks for your consideration, and I look forward to many more years of enjoying the neighborhood open space.

Best regards,
Melissa Viotti

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Josef Zagorski
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:09 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,
As a resident of Burlingame, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. I have been riding my bike regularly at Waterdog for my entire life, and would be devastated if it is closed to cycling use. I have formed friendships with the many other hikers and bikers at Waterdog, and have witnessed the joy that it brings to the community as a shared space.
I am aware that with the growing popularity of mountain biking and competitive training apps such as Strava comes a concern for the safety of hikers. I recommend requiring cyclists to strap bells to their handlebars, making enough noise to alert hikers of their presence with ample time to yield. I have used these bells in other trail systems and know that they are effective at keeping hikers safe.
Please do not close the Waterdog Park to cyclists.
Josef Zagorski

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Thomas Switzer
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:59 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission:
As we embark upon the Master Open Space Planning processes, we write to encourage the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission to reaffirm Waterdog Lake Park and Hidden Canyon's ongoing success as a multi-use recreational open space.
We're a family of 6 and have enjoyed a lifetime of the outdoors - open nature is our happy place. When we moved back to the area 10 years ago, we chose to live near Waterdog because of Waterdog and frequently cycle to, and through, the park for exercise. The children learned to ride mountain bikes safely in the park - first, up and down Lake Road and around the Lake Loop. As they've become better riders, we've expanded our routes to include all trails. They now frequently ride by themselves or with friends, and pre-Covid, we often picked them up in Carlmont Shopping center eating pizza or ice cream following a ride. We've taught them to be considerate cyclists the only way possible - by interacting with other trail users. We've encouraged volunteerism and community stewardship via trailwork days coordinated by the Waterdog Trailkeepers, a volunteer group that donates about 500 hours a year to the park for trail maintenance. We do all this out of a genuine love for the park and have instilled the same love and respect from my kids.
Personally, I enjoy Waterdog mostly by mountain bike because it is allowed there. I am an experienced cyclist having ridden thousands of miles in my 35+ years of riding. I choose mountain bikes almost exclusively these days, as I've had friends recently injured or killed by cars while riding on the road; I'll continue to take my chances with trees and rocks and hope my 50 year old frame stays intact. I enjoy the same qualities of all users in the park - the abundant wildlife, the "green time" amongst the oaks on the upper section of Rambler, and the columbine that blooms in the spring on Finch and Lake Loop. We're happy to share the space with the hikers, families, dog walkers, and trail runners and believe we can continue to share in such a wonderful environment.
In short, we support the continued multi-use aspect of the park. Its incredibly valuable for my and my family's sanity and happiness, and sense of community pride. We look forward to engaging with Parks and Recreation and the City Council on providing constructive feedback on the Open Space Master Plan and wish to enjoy Waterdog as is for another 10 years at least, hopefully longer.
With warmest regards,
The Switzer Family (Tom, Elizabeth, Alexander, Milo, Violet, and Ivy)

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jon Rein
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:43 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog multi-use access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,
As a homeowner and resident of Belmont I am extremely saddened to hear the possibility of reducing or eliminating recreational access to the trails at Waterdog park.

I regularly hike and bike the trails, often two or three times a week. Waterdog's recreational trails are a defining feature of our city and their loss would be deeply felt.

I urge the city to keep this space open to all. It is an amazing space that sets our city apart.

Thank you,

Jon Rein

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryan Hollowell
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:35 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Park, Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council, & Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Belmont's Waterdog Park is a wonderful resource for the community.
The summer before COVID I was cycling in the park when I came across a recent high school graduate instructing two rising 3rd graders on mountain biking skills. They had been riding weekly together for weeks. Fabulous!

I want to voice my support to keep Waterdog Open Space open to both hikers and cyclists. To maintain the existing trail network. To work with the current group of eager volunteers and to build relationships with new volunteers to maintain the park.

I understand the pressure from the COVID quarantine has many more trail users outside enjoying our parks. Please don't restrict access to parks at exactly the time that we should be expanding our open spaces.

With the Open Space Master Plan currently under consideration, please help maintain access to our parks.

Sincerely,

- Ryan Hollowell

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Guy Cavet
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:03 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please preserve multi-use trails at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners,

I live on the Peninsula (albeit not in Belmont) and very much appreciate the parks and open spaces you make possible. I particularly enjoy Waterdog Lake Park, both for hiking and biking. This park packs an amazing variety of trails and views. My experiences with other park users have been incredibly positive, with all types of users being thoughtful and respectful to each other. I see family groups and people of all ages walking and biking there. During the pandemic almost everyone wears a mask and maintains safe distances.

I have heard there are calls to curtail mountain biking at Waterdog, and possibly all recreational use of the park. I am writing to urge you to maintain the availability of Waterdog for multi-use recreation, much as it is today. Based on my experience, a huge number of people are getting exercise, fresh air and a dose of outdoor beauty there. This is more important than ever now. For mountain bikers in particular, there are very few parks on the Peninsula where biking is allowed.

Thank you for your work and for considering my comment.

-Guy

--
Guy Cavet

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Daryl Yee
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:16 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: Daryl Yee
Subject: Please Keep Waterdog park open for all multi-use activities

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sirs.

My wife and family have used Waterdog and Laurelwood parks for over 25 years for hiking, biking and dog walking. These parks are a wonderful resource to us all - pandemic or not. Please keep the trails open to all users. As a hiker, I have never had a problem with rude or dangerous mountain bikers - people are always courteous and yield the right of way. As a mountain biker, I am always courteous and cautious around hikers. I believe that we all can continue to coexist peacefully in Belmont and San Mateo's outdoor spaces and should be allowed to keep doing so going forward.

Thank you for your time and hard work.

Best,
Daryl Yee

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Thang Bui
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:14 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space recreation access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, as a current user of Waterdog, I have heard that there are possibly plans to designate the park as a wildlife preserve and cut off access to trail users. I personally mountain bike at Waterdog often and love the neighborhood feel and location of the park. Removing access to the park would be like losing a local treasure. Please do not close Waterdog, outdoor activities are only becoming more popular and removing access to such a popular park does not make any sense. Save Waterdog! Thank you for listening.

Thang Bui

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Donovan Lee
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:34 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Cycling is a major part of SF culture and MTB provides a cultural outlet for those who enjoy the outdoors and cycling
- Mountain biking promotes stewardship of the land and preservation of the natural environment
- Local shops that cater to MTB'ers rely on folks having access to trails

Thank you,
Donovan Lee

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Warren Nishikawa
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Letter for Waterdog Park
Attachments: Waterdog park letter - March 1 2021 - Nishikawa residence.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Board Members,

Please find my letter in support for the accessibility of Waterdog park to mountain bikers, especially those in the Hallmark Drive/Belmont Heights area. I have lived in the neighborhood for the past 14 years and would be disappointed if the access was restricted to bikers young and old.

Please find my letter enclosed.

Thank you.

Warren Nishikawa
, Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Warren Nishikawa

Belmont, CA 94002

Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission
30 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA
(650)595-7441
ParksRec@belmont.gov

RE: Water Dog Parks Accessibility for Mountain Biking

Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission,

I'm writing in endorsement to keep the Water Dog Park accessible for Belmont, and more specifically, Hallmark residences to Mountain Biking. I've lived in Hallmark neighborhood since 2008 for the quality of the school district, but also the accessibility for the parks, including Hallmark Park and Water Dog park.

I've heard that there have been some complaints with movement to dis-allow the Water Dog park usage for Mountain Bikers last year and now again this year. Again this year, I would strongly vote against this restriction. The access of this part to family outings such as walking and hiking also includes mountain biking since there are families like my own who enjoy these trails for their kids as a family outing.

The Water Dog park is really the only mountain bike trail that is compatible with elementary and middle school bikers. These bikers don't degrade the environmental habitat since they rarely go off trail. These bikers have also formed Facebook groups who have donated time and money to keep trails well-groomed and safe. Many neighbors in Hallmark coordinate bike rides on a frequent basis at Waterdog and this involves both parents and children.

If you need further support for keeping Waterdog park accessible to the residence and public, please let me know.

Thank you,

Warren Nishikawa



EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Sullivan
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:52 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a current resident of Belmont (and a former Parks and Recreation Commissioner), I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Belmont Open Spaces, and our community government that maintains those spaces for their constituents, should always endeavor to benefit ALL of Belmont's citizens, not just some. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best Regards,

Eric Sullivan

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Justin Bricker
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:31 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
• The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OF MOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

Justin Bricker

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Alex Janin
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:13 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please KEEP Waterdog Bike Trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Thank you,
Alex Janin

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nate Williams
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:01 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog MTB Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, **biking**, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Please have a great week and thanks!
Regards,
Nate

--

Nate Williams
T:
P:
E: [redacted]n
L: linkedin.com/in/nathandwilliams
AL: angel.co/naywilliams

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Corey Higham
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:53 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: WATERDOG OPEN SPACE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a Bay Area resident, hiker, biker, and general outdoor enthusiast, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

--
Corey Higham Sent from a mobile device. Please excuse brevity and spelling.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Joel Wilson
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:36 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
• The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OF MOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Sincerely,
Joel Wilson

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Bartolo
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:16 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont/Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Chris J. Bartolo

Belmont, CA 94002

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Steven Serkanic
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:41 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space -- mountain biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings,

As someone who grew up spending many years exploring and recreating at Waterdog, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Many thanks,

Steven Serkanic

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Diego Najera
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:46 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont and San Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, excercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces

*Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

*Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, excercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: rama roberts
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:56 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: waterdog mountain bike access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I'm an avid hiker and bike rider, and frequently use Water Dog for both purposes. While I'm not a dog owner, I appreciate that the park is open for dogs as well. There are fewer and fewer places that are mixed use, and I think Water Dog excels at it. People in the park are generally very courteous, be it hikers putting on masks as you pass, dog walkers heeling their dogs, or mountain bikers yielding to others. The park is a gem, and I hope future plans are to further develop it as a mixed use park.

regards,
Rama

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Zane Rogers
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:22 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Lake Park Multi-use trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I am a neighbor of Water Dog Lake Park and use the park all the time. I mountain bike here frequently, and take out of town guests hiking there, as well as bring my young son to explore nature.

I understand that there is an effort to restrict or ban mountain biking at the park. I am strongly opposed to this. Water Dog should remain multi-use, including by mountain bikers. Banning mountain biking would also put more cars on the roads, as local bikers would then have to drive to further multi-use trails.

Please keep water dog mountain-biking friendly and multi-use.

Thanks
Zane Rogers

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: comsciucla
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:52 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog multi-use!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners and Councilmembers,

Please keep Waterdog Open Space open to bikers. Cycling is a great hobby and form of transportation, and the more places where it can be done safely, the more people will be drawn to it, which will decrease emissions and result in a healthier population. The last thing we should be doing right now is limiting spaces people can bike.

Please follow the lead of countries like Norway; if anything, adding new routes that are bike-only would alleviate congestion on the shared trails while also encouraging more people to exercise.

Thanks,
Dustin

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Christopher May
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:16 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Lake Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I'm hearing about a new planning process for Water Dog Lake Park that will define its use and access for the next 20 years. I'm also hearing that a small group of vocal people are pushing to restrict bicycle access on singletrack trails at Water Dog Lake Park and want to put in my two cents. Water Dog Lake Park has long been a loved mountain biking location and a number of its trails were built and/or maintained by the local mountain biking community. Restricting access to mountain bikers risks alienating a large and integral part of the Belmont community as well as the larger Bay Area community that utilizes and supports the park. Please keep this in mind. Perhaps collaborating with local mountain biking club groups and their leaders will help to find better solutions like trail etiquette education campaigns, signage, unidirectional trail traffic on certain days, etc.
Collaboration to bring concerned groups to the table can put together some great solutions. A couple of groups I know of and can suggest are Mere Mortals Mountain Biking (https://www.facebook.com/groups/90033746815), South Bay Mountain Biking Group (https://www.facebook.com/SouthBayMountainBikeGroup), and West Coast Mountain Bikers (https://www.facebook.com/westcoastmtb). Another great local stakeholder to speak to would be local cycling shops in Belmont and surrounding areas as well.

Sincerely,
Chris May

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael J. Noone
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:02 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep WaterDog open space open for all users

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi folks - I understand you are looking at the future for the Waterdog open space. I have been really concerned recently by some extremists looking to severely limit use of the WaterDog open space. Please ensure access is left available for all users - not just the vocal few. I know in particular mountain bikers have been targeted which is unfortunate as I understand that that same group is responsible for much of the maintenance done currently. I am not a mountain biker but appreciate the trails being kept up to shape!

Please ignore the vocal few trying to limit access to the open space.

Thank you,

-Michael Noone
Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Joel Klein
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:06 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Master Open Space Planning process input

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

I've just learned that the City of Belmont is embarking upon a Master Open Space Planning process, and I wanted to give my input in support of keeping Waterdog Lake Park and Hidden Canyon designated as recreational open spaces.

This is a very personal issue for me: I'm 58 years old, and my wife and I have been Belmont homeowners for the last 14 years. We both hike, and I also mountain bike at Waterdog/Hidden Canyon. Access to this wonderful local park has helped to keep me sane through my wife's multiple cancer treatments, as well as during the current pandemic. Mountain biking on single track trails requires total concentration, and is my 'moving meditation.'

Bicycling on the road around here can be very scary. I remember reading about an accident when a cyclist was killed on Ralston Avenue by a driver who made an illegal left turn right in front of him, and then reading this: "Cars come first," Belmont City Council Member Coralin Feierbach declared in 2013. Feierbach acknowledged that "when you ride your bike on Ralston you take your life into your own hands." It made me very glad to have Waterdog as a place I could ride and be away from traffic. It's also when I started driving to Waterdog from my house near El Camino Real and Ralston, instead of riding. (I now periodically will ride over, time-of-day/traffic-depending, but it took me a long time to feel comfortable again after that.)

I attended a city council meeting on Zoom a couple of months back, and listened to a couple of people advocating to make Waterdog a nature preserve, claiming that mountain bikers are leading to its destruction and should be banned from the single track trails there.

One woman kept citing an environmental impact report prepared for the Crystal Springs Watershed and implied that it's considerations should apply to Waterdog. Afterwards, I called my father, Lawrence Klein, retired former General Manager of Hetch Hetchy Water and Power, which oversees the Crystal Springs Reservoir and Watershed and asked him about that. His response is that it is like comparing apples and oranges: The Crystal Springs Watershed has been protected for 100 years up to this point, whereas Waterdog has been a recreational open space for many years. The Crystal Springs watershed is protected both for water purity reasons, but also for endangered species found nowhere else, not issues

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

associated with Waterdog. He had other points as well, and would be happy to share them if any of you wish to contact him, please let me know and I'll put you in touch.

Another gentleman was claiming that riding bikes on single-track trails causes "channelizing" which leads to trail tread damage. I've taken trail design and maintenance classes, and my understanding is that, depending upon soil type and trail design and construction—especially gradient and drainage considerations—that it's primarily water flow that causes what he referred to as channelizing. He gave examples of local parks that don't allow bikes and do not have this issue. My wife and I then went for hikes at two local parks, Edgewood and Pulgas Ridge. I took extensive photos to illustrate trail design decisions, soil types and levels of compaction, drainage features, gradient variations, etc., and I can show you trails that have erosion channels created by water in parks where no bikes are allowed. It comes down to good design, correct construction, and regular maintenance. I'm happy to either share photos or go on hike(s) to look and discuss.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Arastradero Open Space and others are examples of open spaces that allow mountain biking on single track trails. They don't find it incompatible with other trail users or the fauna of the parks. They've found that with good trail design and maintenance, as well as signage and education about trail etiquette, that single track trails can be shared by all.

I was a part of the volunteer group that worked with the City of Belmont to build the Lake Loop. At that time I was just a volunteer laborer working to give back to the local park I love, but that experience made me curious about all the elements I detailed above, so when I learned that Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBOSC) had volunteer trail days as well, I started driving down to Santa Cruz to do volunteer trail maintenance down there. When MBOSC announced that they were putting together a Trail Crew Leader program I signed up immediately. It is a series of classes, both in the classroom and out in the field (or forest) that detail all the steps and considerations in trail design, construction, and maintenance.

Our 'final exam' was working on a hiking-only trail in Santa Cruz County (they work with the local land and park managers there) that needed to be rerouted to make it a sustainable trail: It was originally a 'fall line' trail. A fall line trail basically goes straight down a slope. It was channeled and rutted as water rushing down during wet weather eroded it every winter. The MBOSC trail design team rerouted it into a trail with switchbacks, so it crossed back and forth down the face of the slope, and we built drainage features into it: grade reversals, swales, etc. We then 're-naturalized the old trail, covering it with old branches and leaves and duff, so that it was hardly visible. It was a tremendous experience, and gave me a good appreciation for all of the elements involved. (For more info on that program, see: https://mbosc.org/crewleader/)

Please support the continued open space recreational use of Waterdog Lake Park. I'm happy to discuss more if you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Joel Klein

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Gervais
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:48 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Master Planning for Belmont's Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

This note is sent in support for keeping Belmont's open space areas open to all users. During my time as Parks and Recreation Director, I gave a yearly updates on the state of the trail system and open space. We are very lucky to have this open space and it enhances our quality of life in Belmont. It is one of the defining features of the town and a reason that some choose to move here.

The trails should remain open to all users. There is no data or reasonable basis for eliminating mountain bikes. Talking to the Belmont Police Department, there were no reported incidents of conflicts between mountain bikers and other users. As Judy King would say "this is a solution looking for a problem."

Here is what I think the master planning for the open space should focus on:

- Fire prevention- we need to double our efforts to reduce the potential for a catastrophic wildfire from devastating the canyon and nearby neighborhoods. Funds should be set aside to target areas for thinning and fire breaks.

- Invasive species- Waterdog lake contains some quality habitat that should be preserved and protected from the invasive scotch broom and start thistle that are pervasive. This also helps reduce the fire potential.

- Restoring Belmont Creek- The creek daylights below the dam and needs attention. This section could be restored to improve wildlife habitat and a thoughtful trail could be built along the creek to provide a natural experience.

Once again, do not get caught in the trail use issue and miss the important stuff. The trails do need some erosion control and regrading that can be accomplished by volunteer trail crews supplemented with paid for nonprofits and park staff. We built the Lake Loop Trail completely with volunteer labor which was a three year effort.

Thanks for your time and service to the community. I am pleased to see all the parks and recreation planning that is occurring. Parks management is doing a great job.
Sincerely, Jonathan Gervais

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Frank Spiteri
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:37 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Bicycle access at Water Dog Lake Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission,

I am writing to advocate for continued bicycle access at Water Dog Lake Open Space.

I have been enjoying riding bicycles on the trails at Water Dog Lake Open Space for the last 30 years. It has been a great source of stress relief, socialization, exercise, and enjoyment. I've been able to introduce my 4 year old to the joys of mountain biking at Water Dog in the last year.

Many other Open Spaces in the Bay Area and nation-wide that have demonstrated the ability to manage multi-use trails. I believe Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission can also manage this with community support and by referencing the methods used by other Open Spaces in managing multi-use trails.

A few suggestions for how we can improve Waterdog Lake Open Space:
- Public trail work days
- Review and rework trail design to improve erosion control and increase line of sight
- Close, deconstruct, or incorporate off-map trails and features
- Educate trail users on regulations and trail etiquette via signage and volunteer trail stewards. (E-bike usage, speed limits, right-of-way, hours, etc)

I hope that Water Dog Lake Open Space can continue to be a part of my life and a place I can continue to share with my child, friends, family, and neighbors.

Regards,
Frank Spiteri

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ian Goodfellow
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:23 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Comment on Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern:
I'm writing to comment on the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. I'm not a resident of Belmont, I live in Mountain View, but I wanted to comment in support of keeping Waterdog Open Space open to mountain bikes.
- I'm a reasonably well respected scientist and business leader (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ian_Goodfellow). Mountain bikers are not hooligans.
- Mountain biking is a great kind of exercise, and the main thing that has kept me sane during the pandemic.
- Mountain bikers visiting Belmont support Belmont businesses like restaurants and Belmont Bikes.
- I'm personally willing to commit my money or personal time to provide park upgrades or maintenance that would address any concerns about mountain biking. For example, I'm an Eagle Scout and have experience building trails, fences, cabins, etc. in outdoor recreational areas, and would be happy to help build a new responsibly designed pedestrian-only path for people who want to avoid mountain bikes.
-Ian

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robert Przykucki
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:08 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog trail network

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Folks,

I'm writing to voice my support for continuing the Waterdog trail network as is. It is a gem on the peninsula. Having an advanced trail network to bike on in your community is an amazing resource and it would be a shame to let it go to development or segment it to an exclusive use case (hiking only).

I can only imagine the pressure by some vocal citizens on the proper use of this trail network. At the end of the day, consider using data to make your decision.

For me personally, the waterdog trail network is what I've used since the 90s and it would be a shame to see the resource taken away.

Thanks,

Rob

--
Robert Przykucki
Motion Instruments: CEO
Cell:
email:

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Clark
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:42 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: I support multi-use trails at Waterdog Lake and Hidden Canyon Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support keeping Waterdog as an open multi-use space for recreation and connecting with nature.

- When I started working in San Francisco I chose to live near Waterdog and have a longer commute so I had access to biking and hiking right from my house. The multi-use nature of the preserve is my top reason for living in Belmont. There are many places to hike on the Peninsula but very few places to mountain bike.
- Please work to keep Waterdog open to biking, dog walking, hiking, and running in the new Master Plan.

Thanks
David Clark

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris LaBonte
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:48 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Biking in Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to let you know that I use waterdog park both as a hiker and a biker. Access to the singletrack should not be limited to one group or activity. Please continue to allow mountain biking in this special location.

Thanks for your attention.

--
Chris LaBonte

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Gene McKenna
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:00 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water Dog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

I wanted to express my thoughts for consideration in development of the Water Dog Master Plan development.

I live near Water Dog and have used the park for over 30 years. My first experience with the Park was on a date in the 1990s where we took a great hike. In the years since I bought a home nearby as the recreational attractions of Belmont and San Mateo with Water Dog, Laurelwood and the Crystal Spring Cross Country trail were all a tremendous pull.

I've been on many walks and hikes with family at Water Dog. It's beautiful. There is abundant wildlife and a place where my kids and some of those in our scouting group can learn about nature.

In more recent years, as I experienced a number of issues with my knees, I really appreciated that Water Dog was also a spot where I could bike. I hadn't biked in 25 years but with my knees off limits for running for nearly 3 years, I needed some new exercise.

Water Dog is the only mountain biking destination I can bike to from my home. All other options are miles away down Skylinen road, or up in Pacifica or down in Santa Cruz. There are really very few places where one can ride a mountain bike as so much of the "open space" around us is closed as a nature preserve, or open just to hikers and joggers like Crystal Springs Cross Country Trail.

After 6 months of intense biking, I am happy to say my leg muscles are now strong enough that they hold my knees in place and I can also run again.

To show my appreciation I have been giving back to Water Dog as well. I have joined up with the Trail Keepers group and worked on 4 different projects in the last 3 months.

Water Dog is a tremendous resource. It's a place to clear my head, pound my body, and enjoy nature. I am excited to see what the next 20 years of Water Dog will bring and we can continue to use it as a scenic, natural, place for recreation and learning.

Gene McKenna

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: craig quan
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:05 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: water dog lake bike trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello I support keeping Water Dog trails open for mountain biking.

Open trails are best served by sharing them with everyone. Excluding cyclists would be awful.

Thank you,

Craig Quan

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Andy Boyko
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:33 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Master Plan comment, from Belmont homeowner

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Belmonters –

As a Belmont homeowner of six years, I'm writing out of concern about rumors the Belmont Master Plan might consider limiting recreational access to Waterdog Lake & Open Space, including biking activity. I'm strongly in favor of keeping the Waterdog trails broadly available as a core element of our Belmont neighborhoods, as used by the wider community for many purposes. In my experience, hikers, bikers, dog-walkers, and families co-exist wonderfully there, and I'm proud that Belmont is known around the Bay Area for the quality of the biking trails there, as a "hidden jewel" in suburbia. Let's continue to highlight and support its success as a community resource, as an element of the Master Plan and a long-term benefit to the community.

Thanks & regards,
Andrew Boyko

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David M
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:55 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello! I am writing this e-mail to inform the city of Belmont that as a resident of San Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space a place open for various recreational use such as hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, community building, and anything else it currently provides. This is such a great gem of a spot in the middle of a residential area, it would be a shame to have any one of these groups restricted from use of it.

I myself, frequent this open space for both mountain biking quite regularly. I have witnessed a really friendly community of bikers during my time here and would really be disappointed to have this group restricted from riding here in the future. Everyone is so friendly, courtesy, and willing to give out a helping hand when needed. These people do not litter the trails, if anything, they do a lot to help these trails. I have seen many of them using their own free time to help maintain the trails, cleaning them up, and doing whatever they can to provide a safe environment for everyone. I know they set a lot of limitations on additions they add, such as small jumps requiring a safe landing area and line of sight before and after it to know it's safe far before getting to this feature. Many of the riders use timber bell on their bikes as well. This is a fairly reasonably priced bell that is easy to turn on and off. The idea being any time you start a descend, you turn it on so anyone that may be along the trail knows far ahead of time that you are coming down that trail. This does not give the rider a excuse to travel at excessive speeds or to pass anyone they encounter. This is more about giving advance notice of them coming in that direction. Many riders focus on giving the pedestrian or dog the right away, but if they happen to hear the bell and decide to pull off to the side before we get there, they are always thanked. Many of the hikers and dog walkers I encounter thank me and my friends for using these bells to help keep everyone safe. Mountain biking and biking in general has really grown over the last year since the pandemic. It offers people a way to get outside, have a great workout, while also being fun. If nothing else, isn't this what we want right now more than anything? Ways for people to get outside and be healthy considering that we are going through a pandemic and the people who are most affected by it, are the ones who aren't in the best physical shape. I know I would be worried for my life right now if I didn't manage to lose the weight I did prior to Covid-19 being rampant. At one point I was just shy of 400 lbs. It took me over 2 years to lose that wait and biking helped me get to my goal weight of 185. It gave me something fun to do while getting myself healthy.

On top of all that, Waterdog is a destination spot for mountain bikers. People travel all over the bay area to ride here. These people are spending money at local businesses getting gas, buying food, going to bike shops, and shopping in general. There is many places to hike or take your dog in the bay area, but not nearly as many as there is to mountain bike. Losing this privilege would be a huge loss to the community. The people riding there make up a good majority of this community and feel like they have a right to it as much as anyone else. We don't want to be excluded from its use, nor do we want any other group to lose the use of it. I know many of our first responders, myself included, love having this outlet after a long day or week. Please I beg of you, please consider keeping this open space open to all groups as it currently is.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Zupancic, Debra
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:05 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: 'debra_zupancic@yahoo.com'
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use - including hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby. Our community has a need for recreational open space that supports biking - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

Debra A. Zupancic
Dell | Global Operations Engineering
Mobile:

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ian Madsen
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:58 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Openspace

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello there,

As a former resident of San Mateo county and continued avid user of San Mateo opens pace, I would like to continue to keep Waterdog Open Space accessible for recreational use.

The trail system is a great way to build community, bringing different groups of people together that would not normally mix, but share a common passion for the outdoors. During this COVID era, it provides a way for people to work together while socially distancing and after the covid era it will provide economic stimulus to the community, with the nearby restaurants and shops that they so desperately need.

Throughout my time on those trails, I have not had one negative experience interacting with those on bikes, off bikes, with dogs, or without. Everyone has always been polite, given space and most importantly have been friendly. Those short but impactful interactions go a long way.

Kind Regards,
Ian Madsen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: cavitand9
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:02 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space accessible for ALL Recreational Use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,
I recently learned that the Belmont Open Space Master Plan intends to ban mountain biking in Waterdog. As a frequent user of the trail system, I can imagine this will bring huge negative impacts to our community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider keeping Waterdog accessible to all the recreational activities such as hiking, mountain biking, trail running and so on.
Best regards,
Di Xu

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:13 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog open for bikes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi members of the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council,

My name is Kai and I'm a homeowner in San Mateo City and a resident in SMC for 6 years. I was shocked by the movement that is going to ban mountain biking in Waterdog so I'm writing to you to voice our concerns.

1. **Forward, not backward:** It's vital for people to stay healthy mentally and physically, especially during Covid times. With the population increase, what we need isn't limiting the activities in the park but to build better trails and be forward looking. Waterdog should remain multi-use trails for everyone.
2. **Protecting wildlife** is important to everyone including the mountain bikers. But there are vast amount of open space preserves and the SF watershed on the westside of 280. Waterdog has been surrounded by homes and schools already. Protection can be done more effectively elsewhere.
3. Personally I bike and hike in Waterdog every week. A mountain bike ban would take away this local gem from my family and me for very questionable reasons.
4. As a mountain biker and homeowner, I've contributed tax and donations to the maintenance of the local parks. I would not hesitate if the county/city invest **more funds in the trail building**.
5. **As for the trail etiquette**, I've been doing my part, including riding with a cow bell, yielding to hikers, and simply saying "hello", "how many behind us" when passing by. I do feel the need to educate new and old bikers to avoid any incidents or awkward moments. But banning bikes altogether is too extreme.

Please consider the voices from both side and let's find ways to move forward instead of shutting things down.

Regards,
Kailun Wu

Resident on Edison St, San Mateo, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nicholas deCesare
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:21 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Parks and Recreation - Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have been riding my bike, hiking, and walking my dog in the beautiful Waterdog park for many years and I support keeping the Open Space accessible to the countless bay area residents that use the park to relax and exercise. Having a haven of nature amidst the bustle of the peninsula offers a respite for the body and mind of so many residents. The attention to, and effects of, mental health in the population is becoming more widely recognized, and the Bay Area Open Spaces are what so many of us residents rely on to unwind, exercise, and live happy and healthy lives in our cities.

The more open spaces that exist in our cities, the happier and healthier the population, and the more opportunities to nurture environmental appreciation and the kind of habits that are constructive to society.

My father also grew up in the Bay Area and has told me many stories of his teenage years, biking up and down Waterdog's trails. I would very much like to continue making my own memories in these open spaces to pass down to my children.

Thank You,

Nicholas deCesare
AutoCAD Engineer

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Andrea Chang
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:29 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Allow Mountain Biking in Waterdog OSP!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Belmont City Council,

Thanks for reading through and considering my concerns. As a frequent user of Waterdog Open Space Preserve (OSP) trails, it would be immensely valuable to keep the trails open to mountain biking. This resource has been life changing for my mental health and well being, and I am sure many other users of the trails can say the same.

My quality of life has skyrocketed after using the trails at Waterdog Open Space Preserve regularly to mountain bike. Old and young, locals and tourists, can all enjoy the trails equitably and the beauty the Bay Area has to offer. I've made many friends through the outdoor activities at the preserve, gotten involved with environmentalist ideals/practices, and learned a great sense of community pride through the trail system as it is.

Please keep Waterdog OSP, as well as other surrounding OSPs, as-is,for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

Thank you,
Andrea Chang

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ethan chen
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:53 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: About Waterdog mountain biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council,
My name is Lei and I'm a resident in Santa Clara County for 4 years. I was shocked by the movement that is going to ban mountain biking in Waterdog so I'm writing to you to voice our concerns.

1. **Forward, not backward:** It's vital for people to stay healthy mentally and physically, especially during Covid times. With the population increase, what we need isn't limiting the activities in the park but to build better trails and be forward looking. Waterdog should remain multi-use trails for everyone.
2. **Protecting wildlife** is important to everyone including the mountain bikers. But there are vast amount of open space preserves and the SF watershed on the westside of 280. Waterdog has been surrounded by homes and schools already. Protection can be done more effectively elsewhere.
3. Personally I bike and hike in Waterdog every week. A mountain bike ban would take away this local gem from my family and me for very questionable reasons.
4. As a mountain biker and homeowner, I've contributed tax and donations to the maintenance of the local parks. I would not hesitate if the county/city invest **more funds in the trail building**.
5. **As for the trail etiquette**, I've been doing my part, including riding with a cow bell, yielding to hikers, and simply saying "hello", "how many behind us" when passing by. I do feel the need to educate new and old bikers to avoid any incidents or awkward moments. But banning bikes altogether is too extreme.

Please consider the voices from both side and let's find ways to move forward instead of shutting things down.
Regards,

Resident on Palo Alto, Santa Clara,

--

Best regards,

Lei Chen

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Austin Appel
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:59 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, inclusive of cyclists.

- Waterdog Open Space is one of the most accessible destinations for mountain bikers. Removing access would disproportionately affect kids and those who lack a vehicle to access more remote open space destinations.
- Waterdog also has a unique set of shorter trails which allows parents to introduce their children to riding and ride with them. People of different skill sets can be part of one community here.
- Many mountain bikers are a big part of the volunteer trail maintenance community. They help support the creation and maintenance of many trail networks.
- The Bay Area is home to the sport of mountain biking and many bicycle manufacturers and distributors. Their success depends on people having accessible places to ride.

Please consider maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

Sincerely,

Austin Appel

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Wei Wong
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:28 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Continue to Allow Bikes on Trail in Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi members of the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council,
I have been a resident of San Mateo for over 10 years. My home is within walking/biking distance to Waterdog. I was deeply concerned when I learned about the potential changes in the Master Plan. Please allow me to share my thoughts.

I have been mountain biking at Waterdog for many years. Bikers get along well with hikers and the environment. I bike at Waterdog almost every other day if the ground is dry. From my conservations with other bikers. Many are from the local areas.

Biking at Waterdog is part of my life. Mountain biking has been a very important distraction for me, from work and other stresses in life. I enjoy coasting on the trails and keep my mind relaxed. In fact, I started mountain biking at Waterdog and I plan to start my son on mountain biking when he is ready.

I support preserving Waterdog and the wild life inhabitants. However, banning mountain biking from the multi-use single trails is NOT the way to do it. There are a few reasons:

1) Maintenance is the key: Either hiking or biking will have an impact on the trails. Proper maintenance keeps the trails in great form and prevents damage in other parts of the park. I have seen great maintenance work in the park over the years and the trails stayed the same year after years. If help is needed to maintain the trails, I would be more than happy to chip in. Either monetarily or physically.

2) Management can help: People's behaviors matter a lot more than the specific type of activities they do. I have seen bad behaviors of people hiking off trail, picking on wild flowers, bullying wild animals etc. Mountain bikers on the other hand, most of them are very focused on riding and well behaved.

3) Co-existence: Waterdog is completely surrounded by paved roads, houses and apartments. Preventing people from biking on the trails does not solve any problems. There is no evidence that mountain biking is more harmful to wild lives than hiking. I personally think the recreational value of allowing mountain biking on trails far out-weight the negatives.

4) Successful examples in other areas: There are other parks that allow mountain biking on the trails. The world famous Flow Trail is a good example. There are unbiased reviews there that are worth studying.

Finally, I would like to say that biking on the trails in Waterdog is extremely important for me, for my well being. Yes, there are other biking trails in other areas. Those are not convenient for a quick after-work relaxation ride. Waterdog, being local is too important. Please don't ban mountain biking from the Waterdog trails. Please let's work together to find a solution that works. I will dial into the meeting in case you need more inputs from me.

Sincerely,
Resident of San Mateo Highlands
Wei Wong

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Don Alderrou
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:40 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Love Waterdog Campaign

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation. Specifically, the new master plan should continue maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use including hiking, biking, and dog walking. It should be consistent with the best practices of other nearby open spaces.

Cheers,
Don

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kai Arnold
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:56 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space park access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I wanted to voice my support for multi-use access at Waterdog. The park is completely unique, in that it provides a large natural setting with excellent trails, in the middle of a residential neighborhood that's easy to access. The quality of life it provides is one of the reasons I choose to live in this area, and it's one of the reasons I hold high for staying in this part of the Bay when so many people are talking about moving away. I can't speak for everyone, but during Covid lockdowns, the park has been a huge part of maintaining my physical and mental health, and feeling of community while at a distance.

I support maintaining the trails as they are, for exercise and recreational use for hikers, bikers, and on-lease dog walkers. Hope to see you out there ;)

Kai Arnold

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Hugh Hynes
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:32 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: in support of multi-use access at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of Belmont Park & Rec Commission:

I'm writing in enthusiastic support of Waterdog Park's continuing status as a multi-use open space, which I've enjoyed for mountain biking over the last decade-plus. As a resident of San Francisco, I realize there's zero reason why you should take what I have to say seriously, but felt compelled to write just because of what an amazing resource Waterdog is, and how much I truly love it. Over the years I've ridden there, the interactions I've had with other trail users have been overwhelmingly positive. As you're no doubt aware, this makes it virtually unique in the Bay Area: where other communities have failed to cultivate a sustainable and friendly multi-user open space network, Belmont has succeeded, massively so. Not sure how this was accomplished exactly -- I'm guessing a combination of some hard work by community advocates and an overall positive attitude of acceptance in the town in general -- but this is a real achievement and a success story that should be celebrated, not shut down.

I first started riding at Waterdog after a work colleague happened to mention it. In all honesty, previously I had no idea where Belmont actually was or how to get there. But I quickly fell in love with the park and the city overall, bringing my family back to eat downtown and frequent the businesses there. Once my daughter grew old enough to ride herself, I brought her to Waterdog on some of her first outings. It's accessibility and compactness makes it ideal for beginners, but there's also a sense of remoteness once you get into that tangle of trails that really has instilled in her a love of the outdoors. It's remarkable that such a place exists in such a densely-populated area, and can serve as a gateway for enjoying the wider natural resources that the Bay Area has to offer in spades.

While as a lover of the outdoors I'm certainly sympathetic to the desire to preserve habitats and tread lightly on the earth, we also need spaces that can introduce people to these environments in an accessible way, and cultivate this passion in as wide an audience as possible. Waterdog is a prime example of one of these spaces, and I hope that you can find a way to keep it open to users of all sorts for many years to come.

Many thanks for listening,

Hugh

--

Hugh Hynes
PROTOinc :: Architecture :: Design :: Tactics

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Selvin
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:10 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep water dog open to:

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mtn bikers. When we go on Tuesday night there is no conflict w hikers. Thanks,
Eric

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Dustin Gibbs
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:06 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Use Future Planning

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

--
Dustin Gibbs

Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ben Siranosian
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:13 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog MTB access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a Bay Area resident who comes to Waterdog park to mountain bike and hike often, I support keeping the park open to as many users as possible. This park is a palace of refuge for people from all over, and one of the few nearby outlets for residents. Especially in our current situation, the conversation should be about EXPANDING access to as many people as possible, rather than restricting it.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed."

Regards,

Benjamin Siranosian

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rob Robins
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:22 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Mtn biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Damian Hii
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:18 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,
As a South Bay resident that frequently makes trips to Waterdog, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community - it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Especially in the era of COVID, the community has a need for and outdoor outlet where people can go to destress, exercise, or just get a breath of fresh air. Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.
Thank you.

--
Damian Hii

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Ramos
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:16 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep waterdog open for everyone

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thanks,
Jonathan

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Julian Bill
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:37 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog, a Peninsula gem

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I'm always so excited to take visitors to Waterdog, it's such a precious and hidden gem.

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Regards,

Julian

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Waugh
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:26 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Thank you for Waterdog!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a busy parent and healthcare worker I just want to thank you for Waterdog and Laurelwood park bike access. I can leave my door by mountain bike and be back in just over an hour. Access to trails is key and if we did not have these parks it would be multiple hours of driving, in packing, returning. This would make it undoable and contribute to traffic and emissions just to "get out in nature".

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonnel Deleon
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:23 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue to allow multi-use access to Waterdog!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of Belmont and active visitor of Waterdog, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Again, please put these into your consideration as you make your decisions.

Thank you,
Jonnel Deleon

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kathy Haase
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:46 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support Recreational Access at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community requires recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to habitat there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300-acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000-acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed."

Sincerely,
Andy and Kathy Haase

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Shawn Harper
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:41 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog for opens space, hikers, and mountain bike enthusiasts!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council -

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community, in all manners and forms.

In the new Master Plan under development, I request you to consider doing the following:

- **Maintaining the trails, as they are,** for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- **Continuing outreach and education** to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- **Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails.** They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thanks,

Shawn Harper, Resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael Feary
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:49 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please preserve biking at water dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

For those that are new to the sport, Waterdog has been one of the great gems in the bay area. Many of the trails being built and maintained through the efforts of local riding groups and bike shops, such as the now-closed Passion Trail Bikes in Belmont.

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: no name no name
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space Accessible

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Thanks for listening.
Delores Sanchez

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tuan D
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Keep Waterdog Accessible to all user groups.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. I fell in love with mountain biking 20+ years ago and it all started at Waterdog. It has enriched my life in so many ways and I hope Waterdog stays open to ensure people discover their love and passion for the outdoors.
In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed."

--
Tuan Diep

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jay Maloney
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space available for all recreation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Personally, mountain biking at Waterdog has been my number one source of physical and mental health for over ten years. More recently I now also ride with my kids there. It is a critical part of my health, happiness and well being. It is one of my favorite places on earth and I hope you keep it accessible for all.

Thank you,

Jay Maloney

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Victor Bogomolov
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:46 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Multi-use access to Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks who live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improving quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Best regards,
Victor Bogomolov

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Craig Krstolic
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:04 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

As a resident of the Bay Area, I want to be able to explore and experience all of the various locals, vistas, and adventures in my own backyard. Learning to work together, to come together is essential and trail use is one of the ways that is a great teacher for this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig Krstolic

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jon Gubman
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:25 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog lake access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a San Mateo resident, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karl Kaiser <
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:08 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Allow multi-use for Waterdog Open Space trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thanks for your consideration,

Karl Kaiser

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Neil R ·
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:44 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Multi-use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping the Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, please consider the following:

- **Retain** the existing trails for multi-use - hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise and connecting with nature
- **Train** and educate the trail users to ensure safe and sustainable use
- **Maintain** and preserve the trails in continued collaboration with community groups and volunteers to ensure our trails get healthier every year

Open space recreation is so beneficial to Belmont locals - an oasis within silicon valley for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, community pride, and quality of life improvement.

Waterdog has served this public need for many years and can continue for many more with the support from me and many others like me.

Please keep Waterdog multi-use and sustainable.

Neil

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kristian Poscic
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog open for bikers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, **biking**, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Regards,

Kris Poscic
Mt View, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ed Dee
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:01 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Keep Waterdog Open to Bikes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Ed Dee

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Marc Campell
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:14 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Future Plans

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Thank you for your consideration,

Marc Campell

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Heather Bromfield
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:06 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

My husband Jason and I moved to Belmont (Cipriani area) in 2017 primarily because of its amazing open space - particularly Waterdog Open Space. We are both hikers (with our dog) and mountainbikers, and the multi-use character of our local open spaces was #1 on our reason for choosing Belmont for our home.

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope Waterdog can continue to be an outlet for all Belmonters for decades to come.

Best,

Heather Bromfield

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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Olli Blackburn
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:29 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council members,

I have been a weekly rider in Waterdog Open Space for over ten years. During this time I have never encountered any conflict between any park users. Nor have I seen any adverse impact to flora or fauna; the space is full of wildlife and healthy vegetation.

After riding in Waterdog I would go to a local restaurant to eat with friends. If Waterdog was no longer available for riding we'd go elsewhere, taking our dining dollars to another city.

During the past year we've all learnt to appreciate the vital need open space plays in maintaining our mental and physical health. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space as an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitat there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Thank you.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robert Janosky
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:31 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keeping Waterdog Open Space Open to All

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I wanted to express my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space accessible for all existing user groups as you plan for its future. My family has been utilizing the park for many years for hiking, dog walking, mountain biking and trail running. I have been taking my two son's there on their bikes since they were very young and just learning to ride on trails. There are very few locations throughout the Bay Area which allow such a variety of activities. It seems the only permissible activity in most other areas is just hiking without your dog. This just does not reflect the needs of the community. Waterdog has been an island in a sea of limitations. Please do not let one user group prioritize their perspective over others.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, or just enjoying the outdoors.
- Ongoing Outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
- Continued help from community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails.

The city of Belmont has done a wonderful job in managing Waterdog and my family hopes that it continues to look toward the needs of the surrounding residents as it plans for the future.

Sincerely,

Rob Janosky & family
Burlingame, CA

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kip Turner
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:40 AM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space for Recreation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am a resident of Belmont living on Pullman Avenue near Waterdog Lake. I am writing to support keeping the Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

Over the last year I have been working from home in Belmont and unable to exercise or go to my local gym due closures from COVID. I have used this recreation open space to stay healthy and promote a healthy mindset for myself throughout the pandemic. I often go to Waterdog Open Space to hike, walk my dog, and mountain bike. Without this Open Space I will have to travel outside of my community to enjoy tranquility and stay healthy; this is one of Belmonts most valuable assets. Let's keep it accessible for the people of Belmont!

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Thank you,
Kip Turner

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Lattik
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:08 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Continued multi-use access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Belmont resident and long-time biker/hiker of Waterdog Lake Park and Open Space, I urge the Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan to continue to serve the community's recreational needs by continuing multi-use access to Waterdog Lake Park.

Bikers, hikers, wildlife and other park users have co-existed at Waterdog for decades. I know that there is a continued effort by a group of activists to ban mountain biking from the park, which I personally think is ill-advised and would do a disservice to the Belmont community. The mountain biking community has long supported the park by keeping the trails maintained and safe, as well as by promoting good trail etiquette (trail etiquette and wildlife education are my personal favourite contributions when participating in group rides.) With the proximity of Carlmont Plaza to the park, Waterdog Lake park users, including mountain bikers, bring economic benefits to the community. Removing Waterdog access from mountain bikers would service only a small vocal minority of the community whose objectives and questionable methods appear to be more personal than community-based. I have had some personal experience interacting with these individuals, and their confrontational methods were anything but educational and neighborly.

A small observation on wildlife and mountain biking: Banning mountain biking in Waterdog Lake Park to protect wildlife is a moot point. We Belmont residents are fortunate to live in a community where wildlife have integrated into our neighborhoods, and the wildlife in Waterdog lake park no doubt perceive humans as less of a threat than their natural predators. Conscientious wildlife-loving mountain bikers, like myself, are more likely to stop to appreciate critters, and safely coax them off the trails, than to harm them.

With that said, I echo the sentiments of the majority of our Belmont community:
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Sincerely,
your neighbor, Paul

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Cameron Fisk >
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Continued Waterdog Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,
As a San Mateo County resident, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.
I am a nature lover in many ways (hiking, trail running, mountain biking) and hope that I can continue to get active in Waterdog with all of the above.

Thank you for considering to continue to allow multi-use access.
Cameron Fisk

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jim Tay
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:41 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Access to Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have recently heard that there are hearings on potentially reducing access to Waterdog Open Space. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for healthy recreation and for connecting with nature and building community. I only discovered Waterdog during the COVID shelter-at-home orders last year, and I am so thankful that this place exists. I have taken my family there for biking many times and it has helped to keep my family both physically and mentally healthy during this pandemic. In addition, when we visit Waterdog we also stop at the nearby Carlmont Village shopping area for lunch and coffee and I have started shopping at Belmont Bikes. Keeping Waterdog accessible to bikers and hikers helps Belmont's economy.

I have been cycling at Waterdog for 6 months now, and have only seen one bad interaction between hikers and bikers, where a biker who had stopped to rest did not move to the side of the trail and thus blocked a hiker from easily getting through. There was no malicious intent, merely ignorance, and the biker was quick to realize what they should have done. I have seen many, many great interactions with pleasantries exchanged, advice and suggestions about various trails on the park, directions given, etc. My overwhelming experience has been that both hikers and bikers coexist very well on the trails. With the pandemic, there are many new folks to both activities and they need to be educated on proper trail etiquette, posted signs and outreach will help to keep it enjoyable for both experienced users of Waterdog as well newcomers to the benefits of Waterdog.

In the new Master Plan, could you please consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for everyone - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you kindly for your time and attention to this email. I hope you all have a great day!

Sincerely,
Jim Tay

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Trent Poltronetti <
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:56 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Water Dog open for Mountain Biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

During COVID the only thing that has kept me healthy and sane is mountain biking as it is one of the few aerobic exercises allowed. Living and working nearby, quite often those rides were at Belmont's gem of a city park Water Dog, so I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Thanks!
Trent

--
Trent Poltronetti
Ardent Impressions® Inc.
Build Traffic Loyalty and Brand

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robert Beckman
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:39 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Regards,
Robert Beckman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Carissa Yao
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:51 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: In Response to The Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi members of the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council,

My name is Carissa and as a resident of Berkeley but a long-time patron of Waterdog Open Space. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, especially during a pandemic like now, It's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improving quality of life.
- Protecting wildlife is important to everyone including the mountain bikers. But there are vast amount of open space preserves and the SF watershed on the westside of 280. Waterdog has been surrounded by homes and schools already. Protection can be done more effectively elsewhere.

Please consider the voices from both sides and let's find ways to move forward instead of shutting things down.

Regards,
Carissa Yao

--
Carissa Yao (she/her/hers), UX designer and researcher
Work | Connect | Coffee

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Shawn Boye
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:52 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, ***biking***, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Sincerely,
Shawn Boye, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Montara, CA
94037, U.S.A.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mitch Barrie
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:53 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

--
Mitch Barrie

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jason Gould
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Mtn biking in Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Folks,

I am a Belmont resident and have been for the past 12 years. I want to add my support for retaining mountain biking in waterdog lake park. I spend time both hiking and biking in the park

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Thank you

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: rix liu
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:04 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Leave Waterdog alone

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:57 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog planning - community feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am writing to you today to express my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

In the new Master Plan, I would like to request that you consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use to include:
  - Hiking
  - Bicycling
  - Dog walking
  - Exercise
  - Connecting with nature, etc.,
  - All of these uses are consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is terrific!
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and the greater Bay Area. This local park is used for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for the good work.
Mitch Baum

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Darren Don
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:57 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

I am a mountain biker and hiker and have personally worked on several of the trails over the years including the extension around the lake. Please keep these trails open for everyone to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Darren Don

Sent from my iPad

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sel C
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:48 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: About Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laura Brigham
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:54 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog in Belmont

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont. It is a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space and Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you.

Laura

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Hinders, Todd
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:11 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Multiuse

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am writing to lend my support to the continued multi-use for the waterdog park, and to implore you not to limit the mountain biking access that has become such a special part of your community. As someone who has used these trails for the better part of 20 years I can say that it is very possible for hikers and bikers to co-exists with respect.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is something that has been introduced to me, and is something I would be more than happy to recruit new users into .

Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Please keep me on any email distributions that might be topical and if there are public hearings as well.

With Respect-

Todd Hinders

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eduardo Bruno Martins, MD, DPhil
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

--
Eduardo Bruno Martins, M.D., D.Phil.

Foster City
CA 94404
USA

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." (Albert Einstein)

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Theresa Chow Liu
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:23 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Lake & Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,
Theresa Chow Liu

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Weiqi Zhang
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:29 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog as Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,
As a resident of Santa Clara County who usually visits Waterdog Open Space, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed."

Thanks,
Weiqi Zhang

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: EJ Cabuhat
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:07 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: WATERDOG OPEN SPACE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of the San Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces

- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure sage and sustainable use of out trails such as the excellent new "LOVE WATERDOG" campaign.

- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. Our trails are the best in our area!

Waterdog Open Space has been a true blessing for me. It allowed me to discover the amazing gift of cycling. I am now healthier than I have ever been and truly enjoy being outside and appreciate nature. Every encounter, in my experience between hikers, dog walkers or cyclists at Waterdog have been very respectful to each. As with any trail in the bay area, we are concerned for the safety of everyone, we respect and maintain our trails, and not take for granted this privilege that is given.

Designating the park as a wildlife presence makes little sense. The park is surrounded by residential development. The wildlife that are there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wild preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of the i-280. Waterdog Open Space is a place where family and friends in the area are allowed to take a break from their busy lives and enjoy time with each other and nature. Taking away this gift would be very disappointing to the community.

Thank you for your time,
Ervin Cabuhat
San Mateo County

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Andrew Arabejo
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:44 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

As a local resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Best,

Andrew Arabejo

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: AJ Losbanes
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Maintaining Multi-use access at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a long time resident of San Mateo county, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed."

- Abe

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:06 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

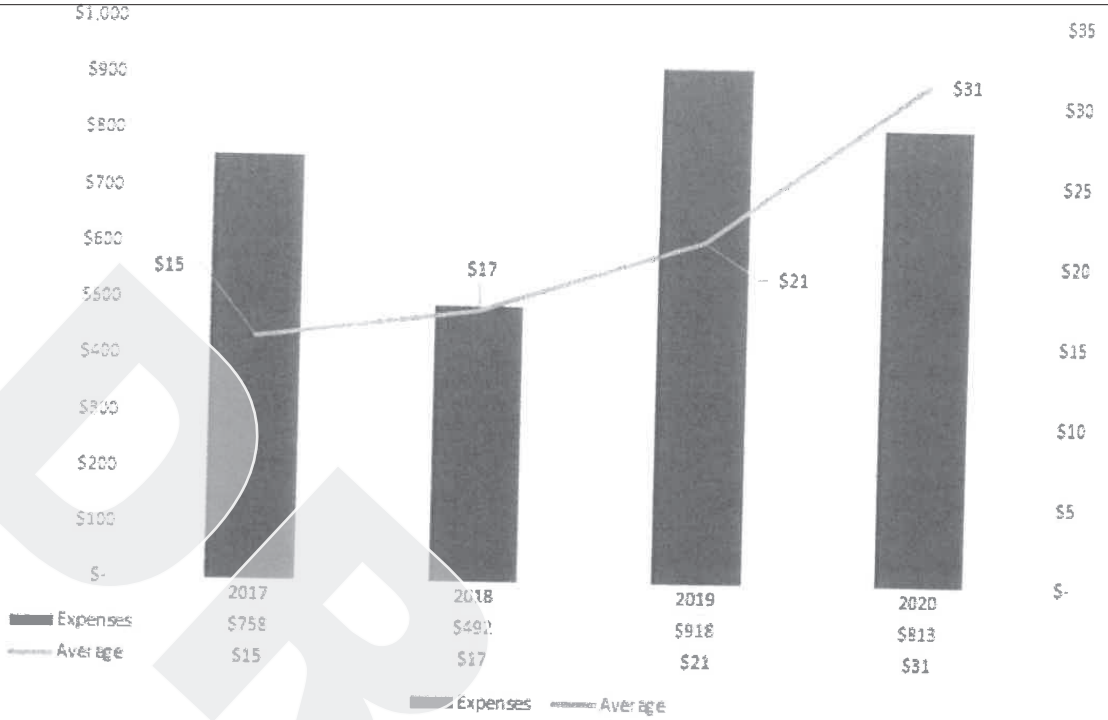
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. I have done trail work at Waterdog and will continue to do so.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

I know there is sensitivity of having non-residence access Waterdog, but we do contribute to the community though our trail work and the money we spend in the community. Below is an analysis over four years of my spending when I visited Waterdog.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



Thank you,

Roger

Roger de Lusignan

https://www.linkedin.com/in/rogerdelusignan/
Board Member ShrimplyBlue ***| Better treats. Better Tahoe.***
https://shrimplyblue.org/

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Long
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:17 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation (including Biking), connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Carve our biking-specific trails to ease multi-use frustration
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in and around Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades. Lastly I would add that Mountain Bikers are tax paying citizens who only want to enjoy the same privileges as everyone else.

Brian C. Long

www.linkedin.com/in/bclong

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: J-C P.
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:36 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog trail access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

As a cyclist (who does not live in Belmont), I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

I've ridden my bike many times at Waterdog, which is a gem of a park. I've never had any trail conflict with other users and always had a great time. I hope that the current multi use access will continue for many generations.

Regards,

J-C Poussin

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sally Pham
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:34 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep WaterDog Accessible to Cyclist!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Sally Pham, DPM

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mike Reinschmidt
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:32 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

I'd also like to add please consider that a few bad apples don't spoil the bunch. I see a lot of finger-pointing and blame but each group has some bad apples and just because they do shouldn't dramatically impact enjoyment for all.

Thank you, Mike

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jeffrey Norton
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:23 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Thank You,

Jeffrey Norton

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Darth510
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:39 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog in Belmont open for everyone

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

For those that are new to the sport, Waterdog has been one of the great gems in the bay area. Many of the trails being built and maintained through the efforts of local riding groups and bike shops, such as the now-closed Passion Trail Bikes in Belmont. Losing access would be tragic, so please take a moment to let your voice be heard.

Johnny Peng
West Coast Mountain Bikers

--
JP

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sky Eurich
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:38 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open to Mountain Bikers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council,

As someone who lives on the peninsula, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to habitat there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Best,
Sky Eurich

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: J T
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:49 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog access to all.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Add to letter below: please keep waterdog open for bikers. To play it safe, how about odd calendar day for bikers and even days for hikers and walkers. Other states have learned to make park accessible to all in a safe manner. Thank you.

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Hogan
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:48 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
- The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,
Paul Hogan

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nelson Wong
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:37 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog for Multi-Use, Including mountain biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Sincerely,

Nelson Wong

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rich Laczko
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:36 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: WaterDog Trail Usage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.
In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, ebiking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog"
campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.
Thank you,
Rich Laczko

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Peter Nyberg
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:09 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Sincerely,
Peter Nyberg
Avid Mountain Biker and Waterdog Lover

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Cyrille Shkolnik
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:00 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Fox
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:09 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Bike Access at Water Dog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners and City Council,

I'm a San Mateo (Laurelwood) resident who uses Water Dog a ton as a biking area. I typically ride from Laurelwood to the park, and it's been a tremendous resource for me and my fellow mountain bikers. I understand there is an effort under way to limit or eliminate mountain bikes from the park, and I'd certainly voice my strenuous objection. It's a unique park on the Peninsula, and one which allows me to exercise outside in the longer days we get in the spring, summer, and fall.

Water Dog is certainly not the first park where hikers have tried to ban mountain bikers, and won't be the last, but solutions have worked in a great many other places. One solution is dividing traffic–Water Dog seems in good shape to do this, where there are some singletrack trails that are great for mountain biking and not really that useful for hiking. It's not perfect and never will be, but seems to make more sense than banning bikes. Would we consider banning hikers? I don't think anyone would, as it's the least common denominator for trail use, but other than that, but banning one type of trail use would seem like a last resort after other measures had been tried.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

I volunteer for trail building and maintenance with MBOSC (Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz) and would be happy to join similar efforts at Water Dog if it helps. Thanks!

--
Chris

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Anna LIN
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:04 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keeping water dog open to multi-use space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,
As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed."

Regards

Resident of sunnyslope Ave, belmont.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: albert Saenz
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:02 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Sincerely,

Albert Saenz
Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Cody
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:59 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: MTB access at Waterdog open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

Cody Stutzman

Cody

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Arash Izadi
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:54 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: Arash Izadi
Subject: Waterdog Open Space planning

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Ensure Class-1 ebikes can safely and sustainably access the trails without harassment from uninformed and biased hikers/bikers.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Regards,
Arash

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Carlos
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:53 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

-Carlos Cervantes
Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Buck Crockett
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:16 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: The Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan to continue to serve our recreational needs by continuing multi-use access to Waterdog.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

--
Thanks,

Buck Crockett

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Dhananjay Beri
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:11 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please do not close the Waterdog Open space to Mountain bikers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

For those that are new to the sport, Waterdog has been one of the great gems in the bay area. Many of the trails being built and maintained through the efforts of local riding groups and bike shops, such as the now-closed Passion Trail Bikes in Belmont. Losing access would be tragic, so please take a moment to let your voice be heard.

Regards,
Dhananjay Beri

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Menko Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:17 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog Park open to bikes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have benefitted and enjoyed Waterdog Park on my mountain bike for over 10 years and it is a mainstay of the cycling community. I am a member of Peninsula Velo, a local cycling team of over 280 members based in Belmont and San Mateo, and many of our members use Waterdog on a daily basis. I am also a coach for the local high school mountain bike team Woodside Beasts (https://woodsidebeasts.org/) where we promote healthy cycling for girls and boys in grades 6-12 through mountain biking. Waterdog is by far the best mountain biking park on the Peninsula because of the easy access.

We teach all of our student athletes how to ride respectfully on trails, control their speed, and announce their presence and thank other trail users. Instead of closing down this amazing resource to cyclists, I would hope the City of Belmont and Parks Department could instead work with local cycling and hiking groups to promote positive park use and keep this open to everyone. During COVID Waterdog has been a salvation to families everywhere looking to spend time outdoors without having to travel to the coast, so thank you for all of your efforts!

I personally would be happy to work with your team through Woodside Beasts and Pen Velo to promote responsible use and help maintain the park to ensure everyone can continue to enjoy and love Waterdog Park.

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Menko Johnson

--
Menko Johnson

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Christina Lee
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:08 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear council members,
As a resident of Redwood City, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for hiking, biking, dog walking, and exercise
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. I utilize these trails weekly and continue to notice and appreciate the work done to maintain the trails.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed. Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christina Lee

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karim Najjar
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:07 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a Redwood City, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed."

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: alex chappuis
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:31 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a user of Waterdog open space, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed."

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lanier Benkard
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:20 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In particular, it is one of the only places I can take my kids to ride their bikes, within biking distance from my home.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for ALL CURRENT USERS, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Regards,

Charles Benkard

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryan Uhlig
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:37 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Water Dog as multi use for all uses.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of Foster City, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed."

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tom Luong
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:55 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Multi-use access to WaterDog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tom Luong

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Andrew Hsu
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:50 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Water Dog accessible for everyone!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a long-time resident of Belmont and San Carlos. I am the proud father of three and a long-time bicyclist both for commuting and for recreation. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Regards,

--> Andrew Hsu
Advocacy Director, Peninsula Velo cycling club
Board of Directors, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
Advisor, San Carlos Bikes!

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bethany White
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:50 AM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Bike access at Waterdog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habituate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed."

This is one of the few places in the area we can mountain bike near home without having to drive a distance to be able to bike.

Thank you for your time,
Bethany

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Zac Terrones
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:47 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

As a resident of San Carlos, and someone who rides the trails at Waterdog almost daily, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to live there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.

One additional note: There are few places in the area that support cycling that aren't in direct contact with road traffic. I have noticed a number of small children riding their bikes at Waterdog as well and I believe it is a valuable resource for the children in the community to be able to learn to ride away from traffic.

Thank you for your time.
Zac Terrones

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lucas Klein
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:41 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan Regarding Water Dog Lake

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council Members
As a local mountain bike rider, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• I understand, some mountain bike practices such as riding at night, or riding when it has rained that are harmful to the trails; however, education is the key to stemming those practices. It is a minority of riders riding at night or right after it has rained. It would be just as easy to enforce no riding at night, or no riding for 24-48 hours after it rains, as to enforce no riding at all.
I appreciate your consideration,
Lucas Klein

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: James Hiemstra
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:57 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Multi-use Access to Waterdog Park (Master Plan)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,
As a local mountain bike rider who relies on having a place to be in the outdoors doing what I love nearby, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that has developed a habitat there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve lies just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.
I urge you to consider what mountain biking at Waterdog means to both the massive group of local riders, and what it means to the city of Belmont. Mountain biking at Waterdog has brought riders from around the Bay Area, which have in turn helped the Belmont economy greatly. Especially during a pandemic, riders need local spots to get outside, stay active, and stay healthy, both physically and mentally. Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
James Hiemstra
Local Mountain Biker

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lee Gorny
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 1:03 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for Waterdog Mountain Bike Trails Remaining Open

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am writing to express my family's support keeping the mountain bike single track trails open in the Waterdog Open Space. Opportunities for mountain biking in the Bay are limited and closure of these trails would further challenge riders to find accommodating places for riding including our family.

Our 4 year old son who is becoming a better rider every day needs places where he can safely and legally ride without a long commute and mixed use areas such as Waterdog encourage him to become a responsible cyclist who looks out for and cares about the safety of others who share the wonderful outdoor areas we have and treasure.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration,
Lee Gorny

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chuck Spiteri
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:26 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: OF aCESS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioners,

I have been a property and business owner (Spiteri's Auto Service) in Belmont for nearly 40 years. During this time, I have been able to enjoy riding bikes at Water Dog park with my son and now our grandson (three generations). We appreciate having Water Dog in our community; it has been an excellent place for our family to bond; we have made many memories.

Please let me know how I can help or can be used as a sounding board for the committee.

Regards,
Chuck Spiteri

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel". Maya Angelou.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:29 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Considering Waterdog Park and Hidden canyon Users

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I wanted to appeal to your committee as you consider user groups and their impact on our city parks.
I am a 59 year old homeowner, who visits Waterdog and Hidden canyon at least twice a month. I can ride from my house on Hiller Street to access the park, or drive and walk in. I have done 4 hours of trailwork with a mountain biking group years ago, clearing the brush.

I hike in Waterdog, I mountain bike in waterdog. You may see me, I am the one yieding the trail, saying hello, letting you go by if you are a hiker or runner. I am the one who picks up wrappers dropped by others. I don't ride on trails that aren't trails, I don't skid, or ride too fast.

Mountain bikers are a diverse group, and I am one. A female, professional, kind, nature loving Belmont resident. I would be willing to do yearly trail work as a member, or be part of a citizen group to address issues created by other users.

Please continue to allow mountain bikers in our Belmont parks. We can foster appropriate behavior by being present and leading by example, educating other users in how to share our local open spaces.

Sincerely,

Nancy

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Edith
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:31 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont Community Members,

As a senior and avid hiker from San Mateo, I have on occasion (weekdays) very much enjoyed Hidden Canyon and the trails around Waterdog Reservoir. I was amazed that I met few fellow hikers but many bikers, sometimes the same bikers several times in a row! Clearly, per mile biking use by far outweighs pedestrian use in this area. On the trail, especially narrow single lane trails, you need to watch out for this fast traffic.

Limiting biking use and repair of trails damaged by biking could greatly benefit the beautiful and sensitive Waterdog Open Space!

Thank you for your attention,

Edith

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 6:33 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: 3/3 P&R meeting - Item 6d

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Park and Recreation commissioners:

I am a resident of Belmont and I think we can all agree that we have a beautiful Open Space gem in Waterdog with scenic, lovely trails, incredible rare and endangered wildlife species, beautiful creeks and marsh ecosystems that allow plants and animals to interact and survive. We can also all agree that we love connecting with nature, love the exercise and revitalization that this natural environment gives us that improves our quality of life. We can also all agree that both hikers and bikers should be able to safely enjoy Waterdog.

When past City officials created the current Master Plan in 1992, they understood these concepts and put forth an action plan stressing Preservation of our Open Space as a most important City goal. They specified **multi-use trails**, 10-12 feet wide for bikers, hikers, dog walkers AND designated narrow, earthen **single-use** paths 2-4 feet wide for hikers only to provide "a more secluded natural hiking experience than multi-use trails". This distinction allows bikers to enjoy their exercise on more suitable multi-use trails while allowing single-use family friendly trails for children, teens, parents and seniors to enjoy peaceful, tranquil walks without fear of colliding with bikers.

But, somehow, over the years, these trail designations disappeared and were ignored to such a point now that many of my neighbors and friends are totally afraid to hike Waterdog for fear of their safety. I think we can also agree that this is NOT what we want for our Open Space!

As you embark on this most important Open Space Master plan for the next 20 years, I hope you will "Honor The Past" that not only focused on preservation and conservation of our beautiful Open Space but also prioritized Safety for all participants so that future generations can enjoy this jewel of Belmont.

Jennifer Lien

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jacob Jin
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 1:53 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Public Comment for 3/3/21 P&R Mtg Agenda item 6.d, Open Space Master Plan Update
Attachments: Caleb Jin Public Comment.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission,

Thank you for taking public comments on the Open Space Master Plan (agenda item 6.d for tonight's mtg).

Belmont is our hometown, and we wanted our children to grow with a deep connection to the community and place that raised them. Waterdog Open Space has been a big part of that, and I've attached a letter from my son as well.

We're still amazed that we can have mountain biking adventures in our own backyard! They're full of shining moments, indelibly etched into our boys' hearts.

And the wonderful community of volunteers and caretakers that love Waterdog have filled it with the kinds of lessons in character and create opportunities for service that will help them grow into the kinds of men that truly know how to be a part of a place and care for it.

We ask that you continue to make all Waterdog Open Space trails accessible to mountain bikers to enjoy and serve.

Best regards,

Jacob and Jessica Jin
Belmont, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: William Paoli
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:10 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog, Bikes, Hikes and Dogs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello!
I am a resident of San Mateo but I frequent Belmont regularly and have my entire life. (My mom went to Norte Dame high school and my first job was in IT at the college)

As I know you are aware, there is a new energy around access in Waterdog especially from the mountain bike community and people that are concerned about mountain bikes in the park.

I am a hiker, a dog owner, AND a mountain biker. I love the existence of this park and think it's a precious resource for our community. As a hiker, I understand how Mtn Bikes can be annoying at times, and as a mountain biker I try my best to be respectful and careful of all bikers in the park. I know we can figure out ways to work together and co-exist.

I want to advocate for us all as a community to be open minded about how we approach the multi-use issues and not deny access to anyone. Without being able to ride in this park, I wont be able to get my post-ride Doc's Bagels!!! I love Doc's Bagels.

Thank you for reading, and I hope that all voices are heard in the upcoming planning that is kicking off soon.

-William Paoli

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brett Robinson
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:09 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a 15+ year resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

My kids got new bikes for Christmas and are so looking forward to using them at Waterdog when they are better riders.

Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Brett Robinson
Ponce Ave. Belmont.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jason Bromfield
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:00 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Biking at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I wanted to reach out and voice my opinion regarding mountain biking at Waterdog park.

I'd like to say that I've been a regular rider and hiker of Waterdog and Hidden Canyon since moving to the Bay Area over a decade ago. I will typically ride there 2-3 days a week when the weather permits. The availability of trails to ride in Belmont is why my wife and I bought a home here.

As you know, a great deal of the work on the trails is taken care of by people that ride there. I myself have done a great deal of work maintaining these trails over the years. I'll often remove fallen trees in the winter, fill ruts and fix erosion as well as trim overgrowth when needed. I would argue that a majority of the erosion seen on these trails is from a lack of drainage and not from bikes. I'd also argue that hikers have rarely pitched in on city sanctioned trail days.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have noticed more traffic on the trails as more hikers and runners have decided to use them. I know that before the pandemic started, there were very few confrontations between mountain bikers and hikers. I think that signage posted in the park explaining trail etiquette could be useful in making sure that people understand who has the right of way. I'd like to see all trails remain multi-use as they currently are.

I believe that the ability to ride these great trails brings a fantastic value to our town. I absolutely believe that more Bay Area parks should allow mountain bikers as Belmont has.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions for me.

Thank you,

Jason Bromfield

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jaret Butler
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog MTB

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Leaders of Belmont;

I recently heard that the future of mountain biking in Water Dog park is in jeopardy. Consequently, I am sending this email to express my support of keeping Water Dog open to mountain biking. As an avid mountain biker, runner and hiker, Water Dog has become a tremendous part of my life and recreational pursuits. My 9 and 11 year old boys are now riding with me. The park has continued to be very safe and family friendly. Closing the park to mountain biking would be a true tragedy to hundreds of local residents. I am happy to be available for further discussion of this matter.
Respectfully,
Jaret Butler, MD

Sent from my iPad

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karl Hansen
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:54 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue Multi-Use/Biking access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to please maintain the current/existing scope of trail use including biking, hiking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades, and the multi-use access greatly enhances property values.

Waterdog is one of the best local, natural trail systems in the area. I believe in being inclusive and cooperating with all users of the trail to ensure everyone benefits.

Thank you,
Karl R. Hansen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Isaac LaRock
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 6:44 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont(Waterdog) Trail System

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey there! I'm one of the many other people who want to keep the trails open to the public and open to bikers. We do a daily run on the trails and have NO problem at all with the bikers. I occasionally ride the trails but not all the time.

Please consider keeping it open to EVERYONE!

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Julianne K
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:06 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

My name is Julianne Kline and I am writing to provide a public comment for the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. My fiance and I have been enjoying Waterdog Park for years, so much so that we have recently bought a home 3 miles away. Waterdog is one of the major venues where I learned to mountain and gravel bike over the past three years. Since it's so close to home (we lived nearby before the home purchase too), I can ride directly from my door to the park. It is the only place to mountain bike in the area where I do not need to load my bike into my car to get there, which makes it a convenient and environmentally friendly option. The park is also technical, and gives a newer biker like me a chance to work on difficult skills. During this tough pandemic, Waterdog had kept me and my fiance sane. I love gravel biking up Lake Road Trail, up through Sheep Camp Trail where I can come out on Canada Road. After hours on end stuck inside working from home, I enjoy taking breaks to hike the Crystal Springs Cross Country Trail. The trails are so beautiful and fun. I've recently explored San Juan Canyon which I discovered through word-of-mouth. More signage on these trails would help in making them more accessible to the community.

Thank you for maintaining the beautiful trails and open spaces. I urge you to continue maintaining the trails for all trail users in the future plans, such that the multi-use nature of the trails will be retained for those of us who enjoy hiking, biking, dog walking, exercising, walking, etc. We look forward to building a life and a family here, and look forward to many years to come of use of the Belmont Open Spaces.
Thanks, Julianne

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Alex Hillis
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: I support bicycle access at Water Dog Lake park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks & Recreation Commission and Belmont City Council,

I am writing in support of maintaining the current multi-use trail access at Water Dog Lake Park. As a former resident of Belmont, still living nearby, the trails at Water Dog are a highlight in my day to day life. I primarily use Water Dog for mountain biking, but also frequently hike there. I loved showing the park off to visitors (on foot and wheels) when I lived on Geraldine Way a few years ago, and maintaining access for all in the next Master Plan will ensure that anyone can experience the gem at the heart of Belmont.

Having recently visited the park to ride, I was impressed that the trails were in better condition than I'd ever seen them, thanks in large part to the work of mountain bikers who do volunteer trail maintenance.

I was disheartened to hear that some individuals want to ban bicycle access to the park. Whatever their concerns may be, perhaps continuing to spread the myth that bikes damage trails, or because they simply don't like sharing, banning bikes would be a foolish change. Having a place for all people to recreate and enjoy the outdoors is more important than ever.

Thank you for your consideration and I have confidence you will make the right decision to support trail access for all in the Master Plan.

Best,
Alex Hillis

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Dan Politi
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:45 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog multi-use trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners and City Council,

I have never sent this type of email to voice my position regarding trial access, but feel compelled given the proposed restriction to mountain bikes at Waterdog.

Open space recreation provides benefit to a wide variety of users in the Belmont and nearby area. The mountain bike community is an active group to maintain and care for the trail system at waterdog. We are one of many groups that greatly benefit from access to the open space and I feel strongly that it would be unjust to restrict access to this group.

Waterdog is a fantastic local park and trail system. It would be a shame to limit this to such a wide group of riders. Mountain bikes are already restricted on a number of trails and Waterdog has the opportunity to serve the public for years to come.

Thanks for the consideration.
Dan Politi

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott S
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:02 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan - Water Dog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of Belmont and a 20-year veteran Water Dog biker, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Thanks for your service and consideration,

Scott

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Masako Nakatani
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 6:50 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: MTB access at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The Belmont Open Space Master Plan process is making its way through the Parks & Recreation Commission and ultimately to City Council. The Master Plan is a strategic document that studies the existing park system, facilities and recreation programming, and identifies a planning blueprint for the next 15-20 years to improve, protect and expand the City's network of parks, facilities and recreational services for the future.
There is a small but aggressive group of anti-recreation activists in Belmont whose goal it is to ban mountain biking from the Waterdog open space area. They are waging a campaign to have Waterdog designated as a "nature preserve" in the Master Plan and severely limit recreational access to the trails. If they succeed, mountain bike access to Waterdog could be lost for the next 20 years. Unfortunately their viewpoints are being over-represented to the Council and Commission because they have a lot of time on their hands to show up to meetings and send emails. They are very organized and have a dedicated website that villifies mountain bikers. Please note, these people actively monitor the MTBR Norcal forum so keep that in mind if posting any responses here.
It's important that the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council don't get the wrong impression that this represents a majority view. It's vital that the community continues to have the ability to use Waterdog for recreation, and for the Master Plan to reflect this, because it will be in place for the next 15-20 years.
If you have a few moments, please send a brief email to CityCouncil@belmont.gov and PRComm@belmont.gov to let them know you would like the Master Plan to continue to serve our recreational needs by continuing multi-use access to Waterdog. You do not have to be a Belmont resident to provide feedback to the council and commission, but if you are a Belmont resident, please point that out because you are one of their direct constituents. If you can send an email, please do so before Tuesday March 2, 2021 because the next Parks & Rec Commission meeting is on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. (Also, if you're so inclined, feel free to appear by Zoom at the meeting and make public comment in favor of continued access. Here's a sample letter, feel free to use these points in your email:
As a [resident of Belmont, or other identifier], I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new “Love Waterdog” campaign.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bryan Moreci
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:46 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog MTB Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident and home owner of Belmont, I STRONGLY support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for ALL recreation, connecting with nature and building community. in the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are currently, for multi-use: for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great. The vast majority of time both myself and my Family/friends have spent on the trails has been met with courtesy by all users (including and especially by those on bikes).
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

I know there is a very vocal, but small group opposing the use of some trails - especially by mountain bikers, and that they blame "destruction" and "erosion" of the habitat on this group. However, I believe they are using said group as an easy target for blame, rather than using actual scientific facts to back up any such claims. Please know that the silent majority would be deeply and negatively affected and outraged if any actions such as limiting access were to be considered, let alone adopted. Let's not give more weight to the whims of those vocal few than is warranted.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Bryan I

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Akash A
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:53 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog mountain bike access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a Bay Area resident, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

As a government organization, the will of the people is not the loudest few voices in the room that will impact a physical space. Most people expect their government to just work, and assume amazing parks like Waterdog are working for everyone. Just because a minority of loud voices are against mountain biking, or making up environmental claims, or bogus erosion claims, isn't the foundation to base a major decision on.

Additionally - regardless of what is done, surely solutions can be put in place that reduce animosity between users. Is it that difficult to dedicate certain trails as priority in one direction for bikers? It would give all users a heads up, reduce angst, and be safety focused. The notion that someone needs every trail is fine, but is there really harm in giving users notification that certain segments are primarily used by one group and for everyone to be aware and safe? Do we really need to use taxpayer dollars to pay a ranger to enforce the vision of a few people, rather than common sense policies?

Lets start putting in common sense controls and not accomodating a few people who are simply loud.

Thanks

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Dougery
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:24 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue Multi-Use/Biking access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to please consider:

• Maintaining the current/existing scope of trail use including biking, hiking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great. And I know I and all my friends slow down, greet and thank hikers for sharing the trails.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. *I would be happy to contribute to maintenance as long as biking remains supported*. They are doing a great job along with Belmont's P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades, and the multi-use access greatly enhances property values.

Respectfully,

John
John Dougery

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Malick
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:23 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Lake Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

David Malick

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Hunt
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:26 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of San Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed."

- Dave

(21[illegible]

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jugdeep Aggarwal
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:55 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: water dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Many thanks

Jugdeep Aggarwal PhD

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Cameron K.
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:34 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waters of Bicycle Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I support keeping Waterdog open to mountain bikers. As a mountain biker I ride with a bell and pedestrian are always thank me for the heads-up. I firmly believe that bikers and hikers can coexist.

I support Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Regards,
Cameron Kuo

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Morriss
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:17 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: bike access to Waterdog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I'm a frequent visitor to Waterdog Open Space, and I support keeping it an accessible place for recreation, interacting with our community, and appreciating the natural world. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, **biking**, dog walking, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing to **collaborate** with community groups and volunteers to **support the maintenance and preservation** of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers... I saw a crew this afternoon replacing a trail sign at Upper Creek Trail & Finch Trail.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Regards,
John Morriss

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jeff King
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:06 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am not a resident of Belmont, but I do support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life.
Your community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

As a resident of Menlo Park, I do not have an easily accessible park like Waterdog Open Space, and I have always been jealous of your residents! Accomodation of multiple user groups is certainly a challenge on the Peninsula but worth it for the community.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jeff King
Menlo Park, CA

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Langmack
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:28 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain biking at Waterdog Park!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great. We are always courteous and considerate of hikers along the trails! Coexistence is bliss.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

With best regards,

Scott Langmack
62 Years Old and still riding :-)

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Margot Hyun
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:18 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog for mountain bikers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. I am a home owner in Belmont and often ride from my home to the various entry points into Waterdog, it is one of the benefit of living here.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

FACEBOOK
Margot Hyun
Product Marketing Manager
Facebook Pay

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Lansdon
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:44 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog park access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have lived in Belmont for 6+ years and am an avid user of the Waterdog Open Space. I firmly believe that having access to this space is extremely beneficial to the residents of Belmont. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider

- Maintaining the trails as they are, multi-use for hiking, dog walking, biking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. I have seen more improvements to the trails in the last year, even with increased use due to COVID-19, than in previous years.

Having access to the trails around Belmont is what originally drew me to relocate our family here. I use the trails 5+ times a week. I appreciate the fact that I can educate my children on the nature around them as we live in this urban environment. I have also never had a negative experience on the trails whether I am riding a bike, hiking, or running with my dog. I would like to preserve these experiences for my family and future generations of Belmont residents.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: boris Price
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:10 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep trails for all users.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Doug McIntosh-Tom >
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:37 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog park open to bicycles

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces • Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Thanks, Doug

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: TOMMY KUO
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:56 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: please keep water dog open for mountain bike!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tara Moran
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:02 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog Open Space a multi-use area

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a peninsula resident (Menlo Park), please keep Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

In the new Master Plan, I request that you consider the following actions:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for both the community of Belmont and beyond. We continue to visit there with friends and family.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Tara Moran, Menlo Park resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Daniel Foster
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:49 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Continued multi-use access to Waterdog Open Space (Belmont)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

I've enjoyed riding my bike on Waterdog trails for the past 20 years, and it's been an invaluable stress-relief for me during this pandemic.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Many thanks,

Dan Foster

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ken Rheaume
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:50 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space - continue multi-use access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Ken Rheaume
Mountain Biker over 23 years in Bay Area

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Frank McGorman
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:59 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog MTB Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

In addition, I think mountain bikers are the primary users of most of the trails. People tend to walk up the fire road and walk to Waterdog lake, but the majority of the trails, other than the two just listed, appear to me to be primarily used by mountain bikers. Some people do hike them, but they are not the majority of the users. I live in Crestview Estates, which is next to the park. I cycle the trails often, and my experience is I mostly see other bikers and not that many hikers. The ones who do hike them appear to be more committed to outdoor activities (they are usually pretty fit) and are more passionate. They want the trails closed so only hikers have access. I am 67 years old. I very much enjoy cycling the trails and think it is a mistake to limit mountain bikers. Especially when there are already hiking only parks already nearby such as Edgewood Park and the Crystal Springs trails.

Best Regards,

Frank McGorman

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: James Feichtl
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:16 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators

Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance

Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance
Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!
Sincerely,
James Feichtl
Belmont

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jean M Nelson
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:15 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog lake

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation and connecting with nature. Please maintain the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction by walking my dog, exercise, appreciation of nature, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jean Nelson

Belmont

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Andrew Elliott
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 7:17 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Comment on Waterdog Multiuse Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a Belmont resident for the last 10 years I'm writing in support of continued access for mountain biking in Waterdog.

My family and friends enjoy going to Waterdog to exercise on bikes and enjoy the outdoors. My kids and I regularly use the park as a way to connect with each other and spend time enjoying the outdoors, which has been a God send during the pandemic.



While I understand that some might see shared use as an inconvenience the trails have existed as a multiuse and the discussion should focus on how to keep Waterdog an accessable part of the community.

I would like to see more commitment from the City to invest in the trail maintenance, as the volunteer nature of the park means that everyone feels they are contributing in the 'right way' including home owners clearing brush to protect their views, to people blocking or modifying existing trails.

With the right balance I believe perceived conflicts can be resolved and the park can still be enjoyed by all.

Thanks,
Andrew Elliott

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Dong
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:35 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident living less than a mile away from Waterdog, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for all forms of recreation, including hiking, bicycling, dog walking etc. The past 12 months have shown all of us how important it is to have access to areas like Waterdog for enjoying the outdoors. I have taken my family on a number of biking excursions, hikes / walks there. I hope to continue to do so.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and surrounding areas like San Mateo and San Carlos. Waterdog is a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Brian Dong

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: VAN Truong
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:00 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Multi-use access for Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council:

My family and I whole-heartedly support keeping Waterdog Open Space as an accessible place for multi-use: hiking, biking, dog walking, and connection with nature.

We've been San Mateo residents since 2002 and Waterdog has always been a wonderful place for us to visit and enjoy...more so during this pandemic. My favorite is a family hike around the lake. Waterdog is where I introduced my son to mountain biking when he was 9.

There are 2 things I often talk to the kids about: The first is the rules around sharing the trails with others. A couple of examples are when going downhill, we yield for hikers going up. And while biking, always slow down in typically busy sections regardless of whether we see others or not. The second thing is to respect nature and the trails we get to enjoy. An example is although we don't see a lot of trash out there, we pick it up when we do.

Here is a couple of pictures of us enjoying Waterdog.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,
Van

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Frederic Alfaro
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 10:34 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog mixed usage (plan)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello my name is Fred and I have been a loyal patron of Waterdog park for my entire life . I grew up in the area and learned to ride my bike in those very hills. It has come to my attention That there is a lobbying party that wants to make it illegal to ride on those trails.

I find it very hard to actually entertain that idea but I am aware how politics (internal city affairs/ pressure from certain parties) affect the judgement on decisions like this.

This park has been a homage for many generations for both riding, and hiking. Taking it away would thoroughly affect our mental and physical health!

WE NEED A PLACE TO RECREATE AND RIDE!

Not everyone has the luxury of working from home and taking off to skeggs, or Santa Cruz to ride their bicycle on a workday. Many of us need a place we can recreate after a regular work day.

With (COVID- restrictions)

We have lost the ability to work out in gyms , play sanctioned sports, travel, and pretty much the everything else.

Biking and the ability to be in nature a few steps from my home has givin me a sense freedom from the rat race. It has helped with my mental and physical health. Also, I've met life long friends , and business associates riding here.

We all have businesses and homes here! Taking this away from us is a slap in the face. WE should be able to *ride or bicycle -(With the amount of property tax, business tax, booster money to schools, and actual labor of cleaning and maintaining the trails)

Please don't take this away from us,

We care for the park, as of it is an extension our back yard. I grew up riding it, and plan on teaching my kids on the same trails!

Thank you,

Frederic
--
null

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kurin Tu
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:00 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

Hello, my name is Kurin Tu and I am a resident of San Mateo. For 18 years, I have really enjoyed the outdoor nature and the lake that Waterdog Park has to offer. My family and I have had many outings there and really find the quality of the park to be one of the nicest places to spend time with family and friends.

I am informed by my colleagues that you are starting the planning process for the Waterdog Park. In your planning, I would like for you to consider keeping the trails open for hiking, trail running, biking, bird watching and exercising activities. I would also like to request that we should continue to educate park visitors to understand the safe use of the trails. And last, continue to reach out to local communities seeking volunteers to help maintain the preservation of the trails and park.

I understand this is still early in the planning process but I would like to give my input. Please do consider keeping Waterdog park an open space recreation where many people can enjoy the great benefits that park has to offer.

Thank you so much for your time.

Best,
Kurin

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: CRAIG BALL
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:49 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space open to all forms of recreation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Council,
As a mountain biker that uses Waterdog Open Space 3+ times per week and local resident, I strongly support keeping the space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, a location for connecting with nature, and means of building community. I am a regular POST donor and am an advocate for both human-accessible and -inaccessible open space on the mid-peninsula. In addition, I have worked to build and maintain trails the trails within the open space for the benefit of all users, as have may of my cyclist colleagues.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
• Maintaining the trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building. This maintenance should be consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Especially apparent in these difficult times, open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community. It's a local destination for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to inhabit the area has adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed, that is inaccessible to human use.

I hope this provides compelling reasons for keeping the space accessible for all users. Please contact me if I can expound on any of the items above.
Sincerely,
Craig Ball

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: J. P. ·
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 10:02 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Let's keep Waterdog Open Space accessible to bikers!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Jonas Papaurelis

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Chuck
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:05 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces. The trails should be open for the enjoyment of ALL, not just a select few.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Sincerely,
Brian Chuck

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Merrin Morse
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:03 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: San Mateo County family supports multi-use trails (mountain bike friendly) at Water Dog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

My family of four uses Water Dog as hikers, bikers, and nature explorers. We love the multi-use trails and the friendly and welcoming users. Please maintain an inclusive rather than exclusive trail system. Water Dog Park mirrors the success of Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. Both parks demonstrated that hikers, dog-walkers, runners, bikes, and nature lovers can co-exist on the same trail, at the same time. Educating every user group how to share the trail through easy to read signs at trailheads will benefit the community as a whole and ensure the park remains a welcoming place for the community.

Best regards,

The Morse Family
San Mateo County Residents since 2012

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Jensen
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:06 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I am a safe patient mountain biker and I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, **biking**, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration.
Brian Jensen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Reber
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:07 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Open access and mountain biking at waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of the south bay, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Many people use waterdog as a release from the crazy life and work days we deal with in the city. Please keep it open to mountain bikers and all other user groups. It helps keep us sane from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Thanks,

Jonathan Reber

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Greg Harris · >
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 1:43 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: waterdog mountain biking access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I wanted to write a letter regarding access to Waterdog Park and its use in the new Master Plan for the future.

I would request for you to consider:

* Continuing the use of the trails as they are, for all users.
* Continuing outreach and education for all users to ensure the safe and sustainable use of the trails
* Continuing collaboration with groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails

I would like to share something of a personal note about my thoughts on mountain biking in Waterdog. Waterdog Park is an absolute jewel of a park within the Peninsula because of the quality of mountain biking and proximity to users. I myself was brought to the sport of mountain biking because I live nearby and noticed people enjoying the park on mountain bikes. Because of its proximity, I am able to ride there multiple days a week. The ability to do this with the quality of biking has been nothing short of life changing. I would also note that while I cannot speak for all mountain bikers, my belief is that other mountain bikers care very much about the experience for all in the park. As well, some of the longer/outer trails such as Rambler and Finch are in use primarily by mountain bikers.

I hope you can take the above into consideration and understand fully what a wonderful and amazing spot this is. To remove access for mountain bikers would be a very significant and irreplaceable loss for this group. Thank you for your time.

Greg Harris
Belmont

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lonn/Lynn Fiance
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 4:13 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: In favor of Multi-Use Access for Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space. Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Waterdog, and many other Bay Area open spaces, have taken on an increasingly important role in peoples' need for healthy outdoor activity and connection with nature which has been severely curtailed in the current COVID pandemic. Waterdog and these other open spaces have shown that users interested in a broad range of recreational activities can successfully use these spaces with adversely impacting either the natural state of the open spaces or the enjoyment of other users.

I urge you to maintain multi-use access for all current users of Waterdog Open Space to take advantage of this gem in the new Master Plan.

Regards,
Lonn Fiance

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Copland
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 6:15 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Continued Multi use access of Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

My girlfriend has been coming here for over 20 years and introduced it to me about 4 years ago. We love hiking here with our dogs as well as riding our mountain bikes. I don't know how we would have survived shelter in place without access to these trails.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thanks for all of your hard work, it is much appreciated.

Brian Copland

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ted Ryan
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 9:13 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping the Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, please consider the following:

- **Retain** the existing trails for multi-use - hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise and connecting with nature
- **Train** and educate the trail users to ensure safe and sustainable use
- **Maintain** and preserve the trails in continued collaboration with community groups and volunteers to ensure our trails get healthier every year

Open space recreation is so beneficial to Belmont locals and others, like me, who live in surrounding areas and appreciate the park and all it has to offer.

Waterdog has served this public need for many years and can continue for many more with the support from me and many others like me.

Please keep Waterdog multi-use and sustainable.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Ted Ryan
Pacifica, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Joanne Adamkewicz
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 12:22 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: PROS planning for Water Dog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a 14-year resident of Belmont, I am writing to express my support for keeping Waterdog Lake Park and Hidden Canyon Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, including bike riding. I'm not a rider myself, but I support those who are, including my sons and husband, and I have had overwhelmingly positive interactions with bike riders when I'm hiking or jogging in the park.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.

• Initiate a pilot program to explore ways to separate bike riders from walkers, for example, reserving certain days or times for one use or the other, or designating certain trails as "uphill bikes only" to control speed. However, the community should be involved in designing the pilot, which should be for a limited time, with feedback collected afterwards before making any permanent new rules about usage.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for Belmont residents - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Regards,
Joanne Adamkewicz

(Sterling Downs neighborhood)

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Forbes Watt
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 7:29 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc..
- The notion that mountain bikes cause more damage is scientifically unfounded as cited in peer reviewed literature on the subject, I invite you to look at some of the following reports as a sample of material available on the subject. MTB Environmental Impact Study , OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION,
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Historically speaking, mountain bikers have contributed a lot of time and effort to maintain the trails at Waterdog, please recognize the care and attention mountain bikers contribute as a community towards trail maintenance; I invite you to look at the work of some of the most active trail advocacy groups in our area that Waterdog regulars are members as well as educated trail builders of SVMTB , MBOSC.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and nearby on the peninsula - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

Forbes Watt

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jodi Hall
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 4:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Water Dog open for ALL recreation, including mountain biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

At a time when cycling is more popular than ever, and a beautiful natural gem for the residents of Belmont and the surrounding area, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. It is important that people have access to the wonders of nature right here in town.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

It is also worth mentioning that mountain bikers who ride here often stay for food, bringing much-needed dollars into town.

Thank you,

Jodi Hall
Bay Area Resident

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ben Serio
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 4:57 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Park Mountain Bike Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and the surrounding areas - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration
Ben Serio

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Alex Hauser
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 5:33 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Peninsula resident, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Alex Hauser

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: D Pritchard <··· ›>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 5:59 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation,
I'm a San Carlos Resident and have been mountain bike riding/hiking at WaterDog for the past 10 years. I support keeping this area open and accessible to the public for recreational purposes.
My family and I have found much relief during this pandemic spending time outdoors in nature where we can get exercise and connect with our community. Waterdog is well known throughout the local MTB community and provides a great platform for riders to build confidence, improve health and help to maintain the trails that surround this area.
Thank you
Dustin Pritchard

San Carlos, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 9:28 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: PROS Survey Comments
Attachments: ConservationGoals 2015 GPlan.pdf; OpenSpace Goals 2015 GPlan.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners,
Please submit these survey comments to the PROS Committee members and consultants:

Question #4 – does not list **Hidden Canyon Open Space** nor **John Brooks Preserve**. Hidden Canyon Open Space is the largest open space in Belmont (260 acres) and it is DIFFERENT than "Hidden Canyon *undeveloped PARK*", both in zoning and in planned uses. John Brooks is the size of Waterdog but is a *designated Preserve* by legal contract, and thus must not be lumped in with Waterdog. Please list ALL four Open Space areas (John Brooks Preserve, Hidden Canyon, San Juan Canyon, and Waterdog Lake).

Question #9 – Open Space – lists only amenities and programs, and overlooks the General Plan Goals for Open Space. These are the only areas in the city residents can come to observe wildlife, find tranquility and solitude, smell the forest, hear birds and study diverse ecosystems. These diverse ecosystems are emphasized in the 2035 General Plan for Open Space and the General Plan Conservation Element (attached). Developed *parks* offer amenities; *Open Space* is intended to preserve areas to appreciate nature for natures' sake, not engage in sporting activities. Suggestions expanding human incursion and impact are *inconsistent* with General Plan Goals and Policies.
Please include the following items in the #9 ratings:

- Protections for endangered species and their habitat
- Programs to conserve native trees and plants, remove invasive plants
- Prevent speeding bikes and fine violators
- Trails reserved for nature study, prohibiting bikes

Please Remove suggestions that increase human impacts such as lighting and, wider trails.

Questions #8 and #9 conflate issues. They are supposed to **differentiate** "Recreation Facilities" from "Open Space". *Recreation facilities* do not have "trail work and restoration"; this item confuses the topic of the question. Further, Open Space is not supposed to prioritize *amenities* – this suggestion prejudices the respondent with intent that is NOT supported by General Plan Open Space policies. Please delete these words from the questions, to maintain focus on the differentiated areas, and avoid respondents conflating the topics.

#8 The following ~~programs or activities~~ would greatly enhance my experience with outdoor recreation facilities in Belmont.

#9 The following ~~amenities or uses~~ would greatly enhance my experience with opens spaces in Belmont.

Thank you,
Kristin Mercer
It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us. – Jane Goodall

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Deniz Bolbol
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 10:39 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: survey comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As someone who has previously develop opinion polls, surveys and worked on focus groups, I found the survey difficult to follow due to the lack of organization and, in some questions, inconsistent use of categories (parks, open spaces, recreation facilities). Additionally, in some questions, conflating different categories and inconsistent use of terminology creates a lack of understanding of respondents' intentions.

Confusing questions, leading options, and conflating categories make any survey ineffective by failing to yield an accurate understanding of respondents' intentions. Inconsistencies and lack of organization may lead to confusion which would further negate capturing respondents' true intentions. Lack of clarity creates confusion and results will be left to interpretations rather than yielding clear, understandable results.

Because people likely will not spend excessive time trying to understand the intention of the question(s) -- making things as clear as possible is desirable.

While I would be happy to provide detailed feedback, I have limited my comments to a few obvious clarifications that are needed:

1. #5 "What **factors** limit your ~~ability to~~ visits our parks and open spaces"

"ability" refers to the participants' "skills" or "capability" or "talent" - rather I think you seek the factors that limit visitors' use of the parks and open spaces.

Clearly conflating parks and open spaces means you will not know which answers apply to which area -- parks or open spaces.

2. #5 relates to parks & open spaces and "facilities"
[]Poor condition/maintenance ~~**of facility**~~
[]~~**The facilities**~~ Does not accommodate my needs

*The word "facilities" has somewhat consistently be used to address recreation **facilities** -- now you use the word "facilities" in relation to parks and open spaces which is inconsistent and confusing*

3. #7 please clarify by adding **bold text**: "parks **(not recreation facilities or open spaces)**"

for clarification

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

4. #8 please clarify by adding **bold text**: "~~outdoor~~ recreation/**athletic** facilities **(not open spaces or parks)**"

for clarification

5. #9 please clarify by adding **bold text**: "open spaces **(not recreation facilities or parks)**"

for clarification

Again, the questions that conflate categories will not yield meaningful responses because the respondents' intention will be unknown. Ambiguous survey questions force an *interpretation* of the results; *interpretation* is usually not desired if capturing the respondents' true intentions is the goal.

Deniz Bolbol

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Leon Baranovsky
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Biking at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have heard and read reports you are contemplating changes to the mixed use policy at Water Dog Lake Park. I support keeping Water Dog an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community.

I come to Belmont frequently to ride my mountain bike at Water Dog. And when I visit, I invariably patronize local businesses.

I appreciate that Water Dog is a multi-use park. My experience has been wholly positive. Bikers and pedestrians alike are considerate of each other and recognize in the other a kindred spirit: someone enjoying and sharing a beautiful resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Leon Baranovsky
Los Gatos, CA
Mar 9, 2021

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Carlos R Seligo
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:36 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog mixed use: biking and hiking together

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Carlos

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have heard and read reports you are contemplating changes to the mixed use policy at Water Dog Lake Park. I support keeping Water Dog an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community.

I come to Belmont frequently to ride my mountain bike at Water Dog. And when I visit, I invariably patronize local businesses.

I appreciate that Water Dog is a multi-use park. My experience has been wholly positive. Bikers and pedestrians alike are considerate of each other and recognize in the other a kindred spirit: someone enjoying and sharing a beautiful resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carlos Seligo

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Christianne Kapelle-Curtis
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:55 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space for multi use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I understand this beloved park is under review for restrictions on use. For the last decade I have used this park as my outdoor recreation area after work to release stress and enjoy nature on a mountain bike. I am saddened to hear that people are unsatisfied with the multi use system currently in place to allow hikers, dog walkers, and bikers. There are very few areas to ride a bike on trail close to the city limits.

From my experience, most people are friendly and allow each other to safely pass whether on foot or bicycle. Although, I realize there are always exceptions to the norm. For the most part Waterdog is a social and accepting place where I see familiar faces and smiles from bikers and hikers alike.

Please consider keeping the park open for multi use activities including bikes. Perhaps a system of sharing the trails could be instated. I have some ideas if you'd like to contact me.

Thank you for your time and deliberation,

Christianne Kapelle-Curtis
5th Grade School Teacher

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Alvaro Waissbluth
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 2:47 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space and mountain biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I wholly agree with the current circulating email regarding Waterdog:

"I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use to include hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont as well as for visitors - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

In addition to the above - specific to the topic of mountain biking - this brings tremendous vitality and revenue to Belmont. I invite all my friends, acquaintances, and colleagues to ride and we always go eat and drink at one of the local restaurants or coffee shops afterwards. There is abundant data demonstrating the economic boon that mountain biking brings to small communities. It is estimated that for every 25,000 mountain bikers $1.5-2 million is infused into the economy. I assure you people visit from all over the Bay Area to ride Waterdog. And mountain biking IS the attraction with which Waterdog draws people from all over - it is the rare person that drives here just to hike or play at the lake. With respect to the mountain bikers themselves - courteousness is always at the top of the list in terms of deferring to hikers and dog walkers and though anecdotal, I have never witnessed anything to suggest otherwise form any other rider.

Let's not shoot our own town in the foot by restricting its greatest attraction.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alvaro Waissbluth MD

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Avi Edelstein
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 8:14 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog usage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

--
Thanks,
Avi

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Wendy Yeh
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 7:31 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have heard and read reports you are contemplating changes to the mixed use policy at Water Dog Lake Park. I support keeping Water Dog an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community.

I come to Belmont frequently to ride my mountain bike at Water Dog. And when I visit, I invariably patronize local businesses.

I appreciate that Water Dog is a multi-use park. My experience has been wholly positive. Bikers and pedestrians alike are considerate of each other and recognize in the other a kindred spirit: someone enjoying and sharing a beautiful resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Yeh

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: DELOS PUTZ >
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:22 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I reside in Marin County, but I write to you because unconstrained mountain biking threatens our open space preserves in the same way it does yours. Managers of public lands must give priority to protecting the safety of hikers and equestrians, and the environmental integrity of the resource.

I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

I encourage you to incorporate these policies into your new Open Space Master Plan.

C. Delos Putz
San Geronimo, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Teri Xirakis
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:49 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank you,
Teri Yazdi

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Dave Tokic
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 3:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Request to retain multi-use access to Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a San Mateo County resident, I've recently got my son into mountain biking and we've really been enjoying the beautiful trails at Waterdog Open Space. My wife also hikes there. I strongly support and request keeping Waterdog available as an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, enjoying nature, and as a great place for the broader community.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider and support:

- Maintaining the trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and grounds to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great!
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with the Belmont P&R workers.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the local residents in Belmont and surrounding areas - a local space for exercise, reducing stress, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating an understanding of the need for conserving the environment, local pride, and improving quality of life. Our community has a need for recreation and open space. Waterdog has served this need for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Dave Tokic

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul McNitt
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 3:20 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan - Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,
Paul McNitt

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: laurelcmines
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces. It is as important as ever now to keep our community active and outdoors is a safe place in light of the ongoing pandemic abs Covid-19.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. With limited outdoor recreational areas we cannot afford to lose another one. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Kind regards,
Laurel Mines

Sent from my iPhone

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kat Chui
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:35 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I live in the Hallmark neighborhood of Belmont. We have used the Waterdog Open Space several times during the pandemic to take our three kids on walks. It has been a source of valuable fun and outdoor time. We want to ensure that it is here for generations to come and we protect the plants and animals that call it home. We support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank you,
Kathy Chui
(Wakefield Court in Belmont)

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Marilee Brooks
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:02 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I am a 56 year old women and I have been riding my mountain bike at Waterdog for over 10 years. Mountain bikers like me are nature lovers and support many organizations like Sierra Club. We are also responsible giving people that love community and can often be found working on the trails at Waterdog to keep things up. We do live in a crowded area and Waterdog is a precious Open Space to all of us. Waterdog has a tricky topography- very steep- which makes it vulnerable to erosion. I agree that electric bikes should not be allowed but I feel hikers and bikers should have equal access. I do not bike on the weekend so I am not sure how crazy it is then but on weekdays there is plenty of room for all of us. Maybe certain times each group should have access to the park on weekends if it is too crowded. Again mountain bikers are equal to hikers in my mind.

Thank you for the work you do and your efforts to keep up Waterdog.

Regards,
Marilee Brooks

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Fergus Tanaka
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:30 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Of Belmont,

Recently, a campaign has come to my attention to close Waterdog Park to cyclists, limiting its access to only foot traffic. I will say I am emphatically against this.

Limiting the use of public space is a disservice to the community in general. The times I have enjoyed a lap around the park by bike, I've been lucky enough to witness a broad array of patrons from other cyclists to the runner engaging in a trail workout, to families having a hike, to seniors walking the fire road with their pets. Waterdog Park is an open space that is enjoyable for an array of people looking to take advantage of the park.

Cycling is a great way for families to enjoy time together while getting exercise and experiencing more from the outdoors. Denying cycling in an open space limits the ability for youth to explore the outdoors while having fun and excitement.

I believe creating a dialog with the cycling community on how to share the space in a respectful manner for everyone to benefit would be a worth while step to ensuring this public space does not become private access for an elite few. I know I prefer to cut through Waterdog on my commute home rather than slog up Ralston during dangerous commute hours. Limiting access to the park would mean a much different cycling experience for me as well as those like me.

I hope you take my concern into consideration, and I am happy to elaborate in the future should you need me.

Thank you.

Fergus Liam

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Wilma Hoffmann
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:47 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Councilors and Recreation Parks and Commissioners,

I have hiked in these parks and was horrified by the damage done by mountain bikers. I understand that everyone likes to pursue their sport of choice, but given the current Climate/weather status, it is counterproductive and even foolhardy to allow the destruction of our wild spaces. Just because a machine makes it possible for man to do something, does not mean we should. Implementing ecosystem management best practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance would certainly be a step in the right direction, but to survive, the area needs more than that. Prohibiting e-bikes is essential, as is closing all illegal trails.

In the new Master Plan, please designate Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve, complete with the policing and policies that implies. I do put my money where my mouth is, being part of the community of 500 households who formed an assessment district to bu work from home and continue their pattern of heavy park use during the week.

Thank you for considering this plea. People will say we only have one plaet, or one Earth. It would be better to say that we need to mainrain one habitable Earth, a place which continues to be pleasant to inhabit.

Wilma Hoffmann

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Katie Debski
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:21 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

My family and I wanted to provide some comments as you develop the new Master Plan. We venture onto the trails frequently for hiking, trail-running and biking with our kids. We have many friends in the community who do the same. We're so grateful to have this gem in our Belmont backyard, it has helped us so much during the coronavirus pandemic! Our elementary school-aged children will always remember their fun times in Waterdog and Hidden Canyon, and we hope to frequent these parks as a family for years to come.

We request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces. We find most of the people who use the trails to be courteous, follow the rules, and care deeply about preserving and protecting the park.

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. We're so grateful for those who put in the time and effort and make the trails better for all of us!

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thanks for your consideration.

All best,
Katie Debski

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: rebecca rhodes
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:25 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I Strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades."

Becky Rhodes

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

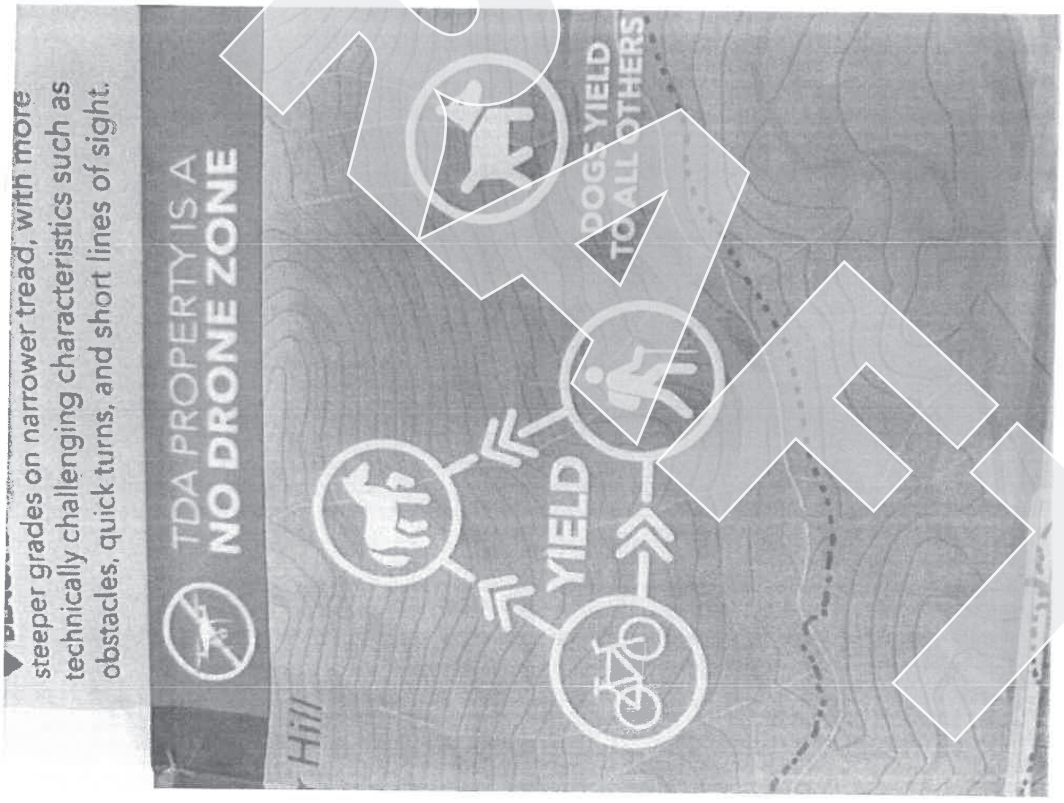
From: Bill Kurtz
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; Ulla Foehr
Subject: Additional Sign Suggestion

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I have a home in Truckee also, and spend a lot of time outdoors, at most trail heads, either federal, state or local there is this sign reminding trail users of the proper edicate, and also bike speeds. While we don't have equestrian traffic, the hiker to bike does apply. I bring this to point as it's an issue, while passing bikers yesterday, speeds were excessive with no attempt to slow down when they passed me, especially on narrow trails.

I recently tore the ligaments in my right knee and cannot just jump out of the way anymore, so I am very concerned.

Bill Kurtz



Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: rocky barilla
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 11:27 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members:

We have a beautiful city here in Belmont. The trails and natural habitat are great. With the Covid restrictions in place, Waterdog and the nature trails are good activities. Most people are friendly and obey the rules.

Unfortunately, over the last few months, there are more youths and teens racing and mountain biking creating dangers for hikers, especially seniors. Maybe some Waterdog and some trails could be limited to hiking and a few others to bikes.

Nobody wants more enforcement. It would nice to count on the common sense and safety consciousness of our neighbors, but that is naive. They are walkers without masks and dog owners who do not leash their dogs or clean up their poop.

We support designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve.

Thank you.

Rocky Barilla

Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael Warren
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 9:14 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Master plan- Support for Open space!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am writing to support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for multi-use recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

In the your master Plan, please consider the following as they are so important to me and my neighbors:

- Building and opening more local multi-use trails to better distribute the increased usage seen in recent years.
- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for biking, hiking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

I have been enjoying our local open space since I was a kid, and now it is my children's favorite thing to do (especially with COVID). There are huge community benefits to open space - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades. It is important for there to be rules in place and for all of us to respect the open space, which we will always support.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Michael Warren

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: bill balestreri
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 5:23 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Council
I am an avid biker and hiker , and appreciate being able to hike with my wife and ride my bike at Waterdog lake.
I'm writing you to consider all the types of people who want Waterdog to remain open to all kinds of activities. This land should stay open for ALL of us to enjoy.
Thank you;
Bill Balestreri

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bill Kurtz
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:12 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; Ulla Foehr
Cc: Bill Kurtz
Subject: Bikers breaking more trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This is just off the Somerset Gate, where you had blocked a cutoff with big logs, I showed you afterward that they just created a new trail
around, and one told me he was going to go wherever he pleased. The new trail is now very pronounced and being used by most of the bikers rather than use the designated trail. I have tried blocking it several times as shown, but they just remove it. These guys have no respect for the open space or the environment, I thought we could come to an equal use agreement, but the bikers are going to continue to give the finger and do what they want whenever they want. They are pushing me to believe that a ban on bikes is going to be the only solution, as there is nothing you can do to stop them.

Bill Kurtz



DRAFT

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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bill Kurtz
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; Bob Stahl
Cc: Bill Kurtz
Subject: Another Rogue Trail

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Below are photos of a trail that has been developed over the past 6 months. It runs from the end of the John Brooks to the top of Finch. I'm sorry, but I don't think there is anything P&R can do to stop this, I also am starting to believe you don't have the gumption to really do anything. The bikers know you are not going to do anything, so continue to destroy the Waterdog habitat. The last picture shows what the new trail is avoiding, it's trashed so bad the bikers don't want to continue using it.

While on my walk today, I was nearly blown off the trail by 2 separate bikers who didn't even attempt to slow down when passing me, and due to a knee injury I could not quickly get out of the way if I had to, so so dangerous. I can only continue to urge you to do something about this before someone is seriously hurt or worse, and the habitat is destroyed beyond repair.



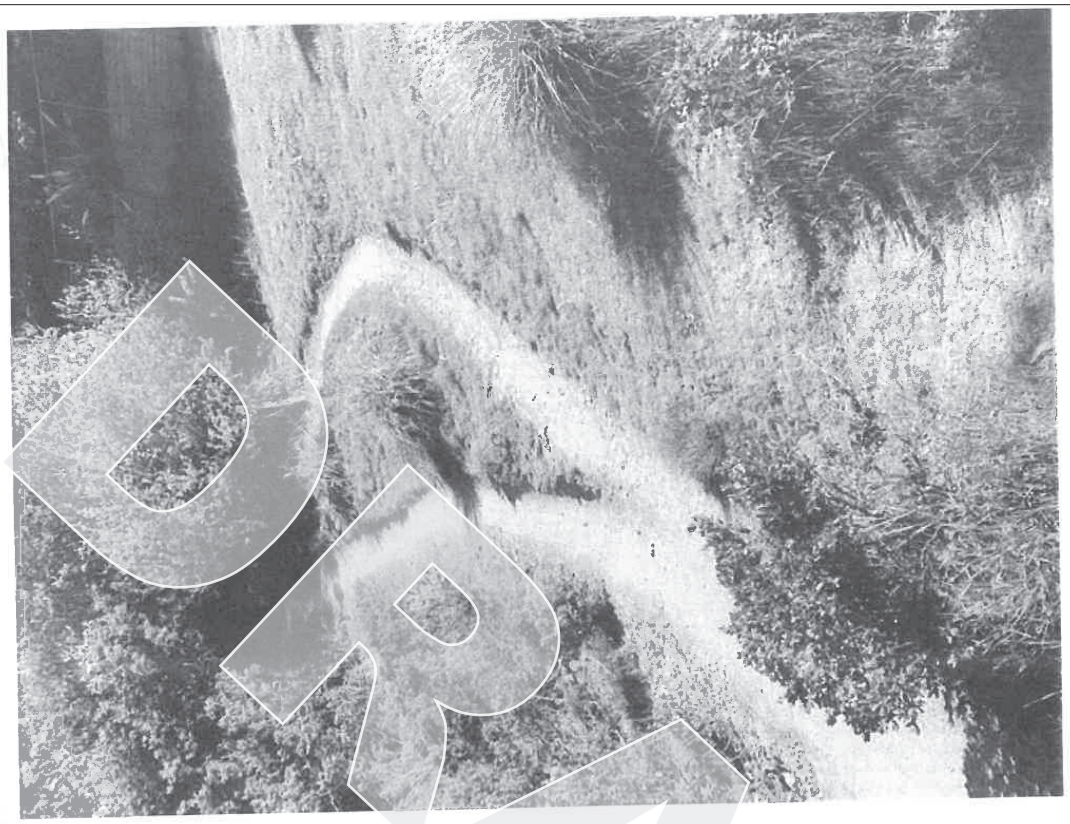
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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



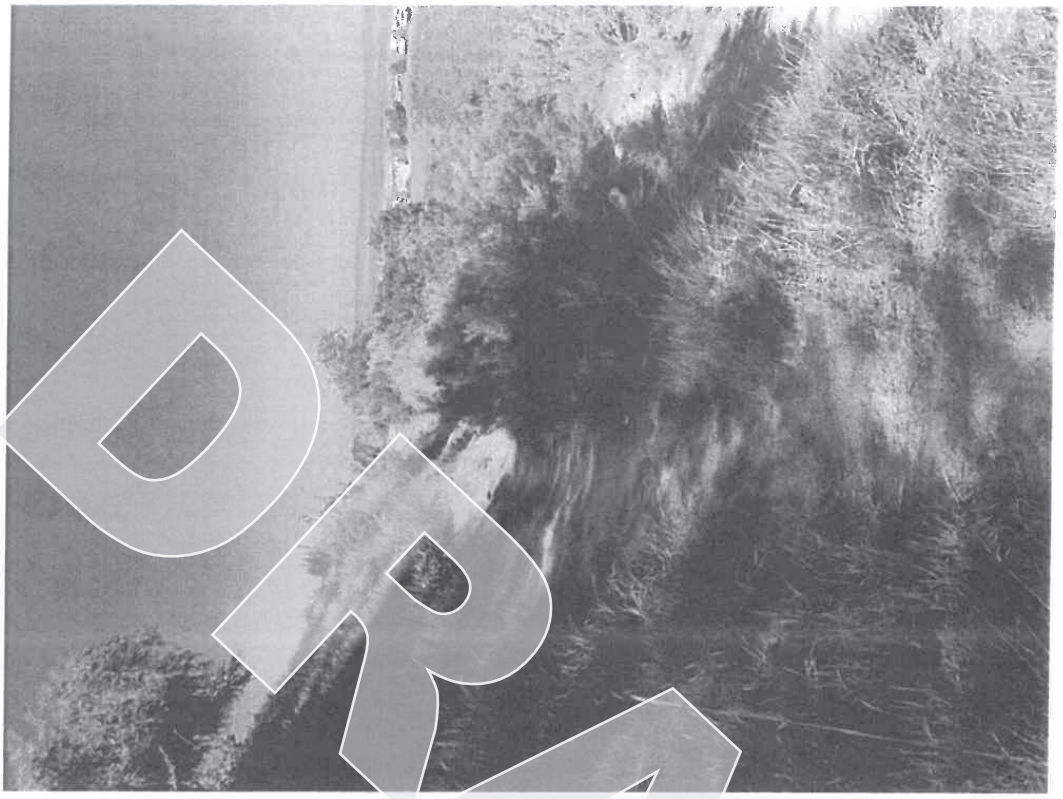
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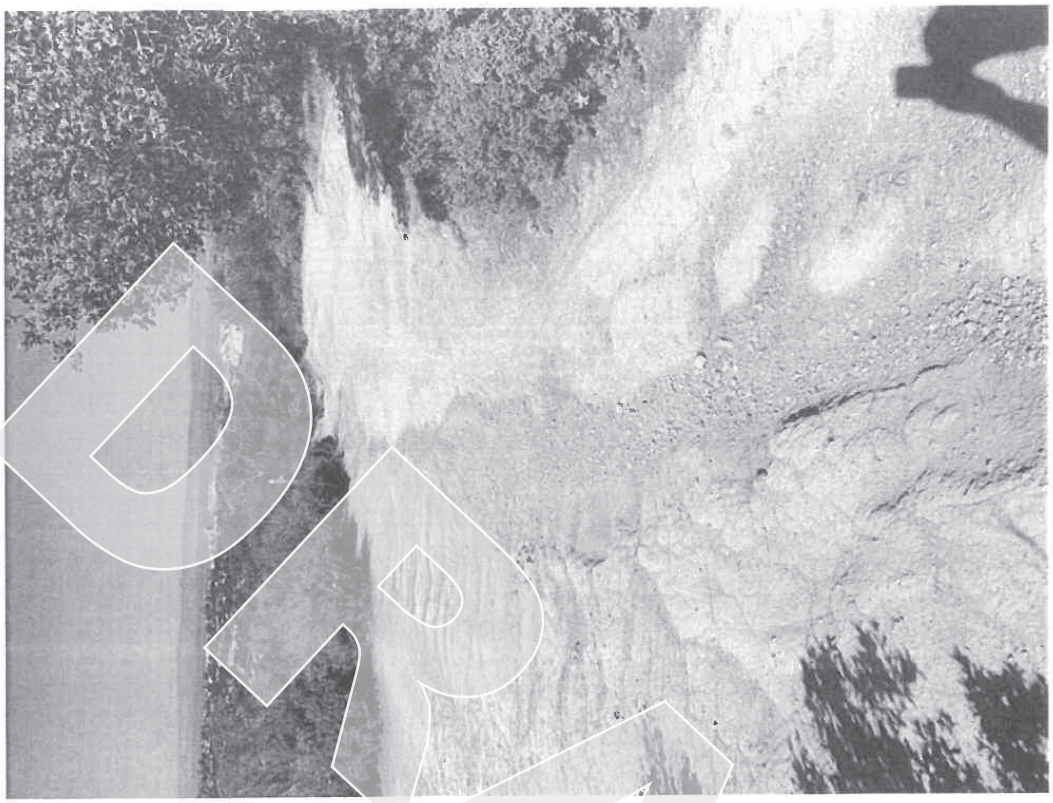
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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Barbara Fetterly <
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:57 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Bike inclusive Trail Support
Attachments: Waterdog Bike Inclusive Trail Support.docx; Belmont Pump Track Support Letter 1_11.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Park and Rec Department and City Council Members,
Thank you for taking your valuable time to review my letters which support bikes to remain a part of the Waterdog area. If you have any questions or wish to speak with me personally please do not hesitate to contact me at . I apologize for not being able to attend meetings in person but please do not mistake my absence as a lack of support and gratitude for your commitment to make the right decision to benefit our entire community.
Warm regards,
Barbara Fetterly

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

To: Belmont Park and Recreation Department
And City Council
30 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002

Barbara Fetterly

Belmont, CA 94002

March 1, 2021

Dear Park and Recs and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont for over 17 years, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an inclusive accessible place of nature for our community! I wrote to you back in February and I continue to believe that Waterdog Trails should be inclusive to the whole community for biking, hiking, dog walking, exercising and most importantly a main part of our community which brings all ages and neighbors together!

Open space areas such as Waterdog honestly do carry an enormous benefit to all of us who live here in Belmont and beyond. I would greatly appreciate you hearing our voices and allowing for a space that remains open to all of our community. Personally, our family mountain bikes, hikes, explores, and join our friends on these wonderful trails. Please do not exclude biking from one of the areas our family can access especially our children. We are lucky enough to be able to access Waterdog directly from our home which makes the area even more important to our entire family! We are privileged to have Waterdog Open Space in our community and I sincerely appreciate your efforts to continue providing inclusive open spaces.

Thank you,
Barbara Fetterly

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

To: Belmont Park and Recreation Department
30 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002

Barbara Fetterly

Belmont, CA 94002

Dear Belmont Park and Recreation Department,

I have been a resident of Belmont for over 17 years, and I am writing to express my full support in your pending decision to provide the community a pump track at the Waterdog location at the end of Carlmont Drive. The master plan the city has embarked upon is wonderful to ensure additional locations for our community to experience all Belmont has to offer. I support the pump track being a focus and top priority since it has been delayed and now bundled with the master plan. I appreciate the cities dedication to a longer term plan and keeping their word to the community to see it through.

Benefits:
Community building space
Skill development
Great exercise
Accessibility for Belmont families
Respect and appreciation of the outdoors

As a user of Waterdog Trail myself, I often hike there with my dog. Bikers have never been a concern for me and are always courteous and respectful. I do NOT support Waterdog Trail being turned into hiker only area. It limits our precious resources and divides the community and even our own family with an activity walking distance from our home. Waterdog Trail should be inclusive the community. As a member of a biking family, we appreciate having designated, safe, and beautiful land so close to home that we can utilize in multiple ways just outside our doorstep. Lastly, as a parent I greatly appreciate and encourage enhancing many of our cities amenities to encourage outdoor physical education for our kids to independently build skills, friendships, and a respect for the outdoors in their communities. The pump track would enhance and strengthen the master plan set forth by the city for ourselves, our kids and our community as a whole.

Our home is directly across from Semeria Park in Belmont. The community has garnered many benefits from this park. It has provided a safe communal location for a multitude of ages and groups to connect. We were part of the planning meetings for the park and I recall how excited everyone was to have the space. It has exceeded our families expectations as the years have gone by. I believe that the pump track at Carlmont Drive will be an asset to the community just as the park has been for our family and neighborhood. One main conversation I keep in mind every time I hear of a new beginning in Belmont is when a neighbor who was not 100% excited

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

about the park and did not attend the National Night Out the first year I hosted it in Semeria Park. He signed the petition to allow the event and close the street but did not attend. The second year he attended and took food home (the whole community brought potluck items). The third year he brought a table and food to share. This is what we have to look forward to when Belmont creates spaces within our community. How wonderful would it be to forge relationships from a simple act of a bike pump track! I believe the pump track will be similar in accomplishing its goal of providing safe, fun, physical opportunities to our entire community. What a gift the commission would bestow on the community of Belmont.

I urge you to move forward with the decision and keep it as a top priority to build a pump track at Waterdog trail at the end of Carlmont Drive. Our family and community would benefit from this! We fully support it!

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Barbara Fetterly

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jacob Jin <g
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 1:53 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Public Comment for 3/3/21 P&R Mtg Agenda item 6.d, Open Space Master Plan Update
Attachments: Caleb Jin Public Comment.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission,

Thank you for taking public comments on the Open Space Master Plan (agenda item 6.d for tonight's mtg).

Belmont is our hometown, and we wanted our children to grow with a deep connection to the community and place that raised them. Waterdog Open Space has been a big part of that, and I've attached a letter from my son as well.

We're still amazed that we can have mountain biking adventures in our own backyard! They're full of shining moments, indelibly etched into our boys' hearts.

And the wonderful community of volunteers and caretakers that love Waterdog have filled it with the kinds of lessons in character and create opportunities for service that will help them grow into the kinds of men that truly know how to be a part of a place and care for it.

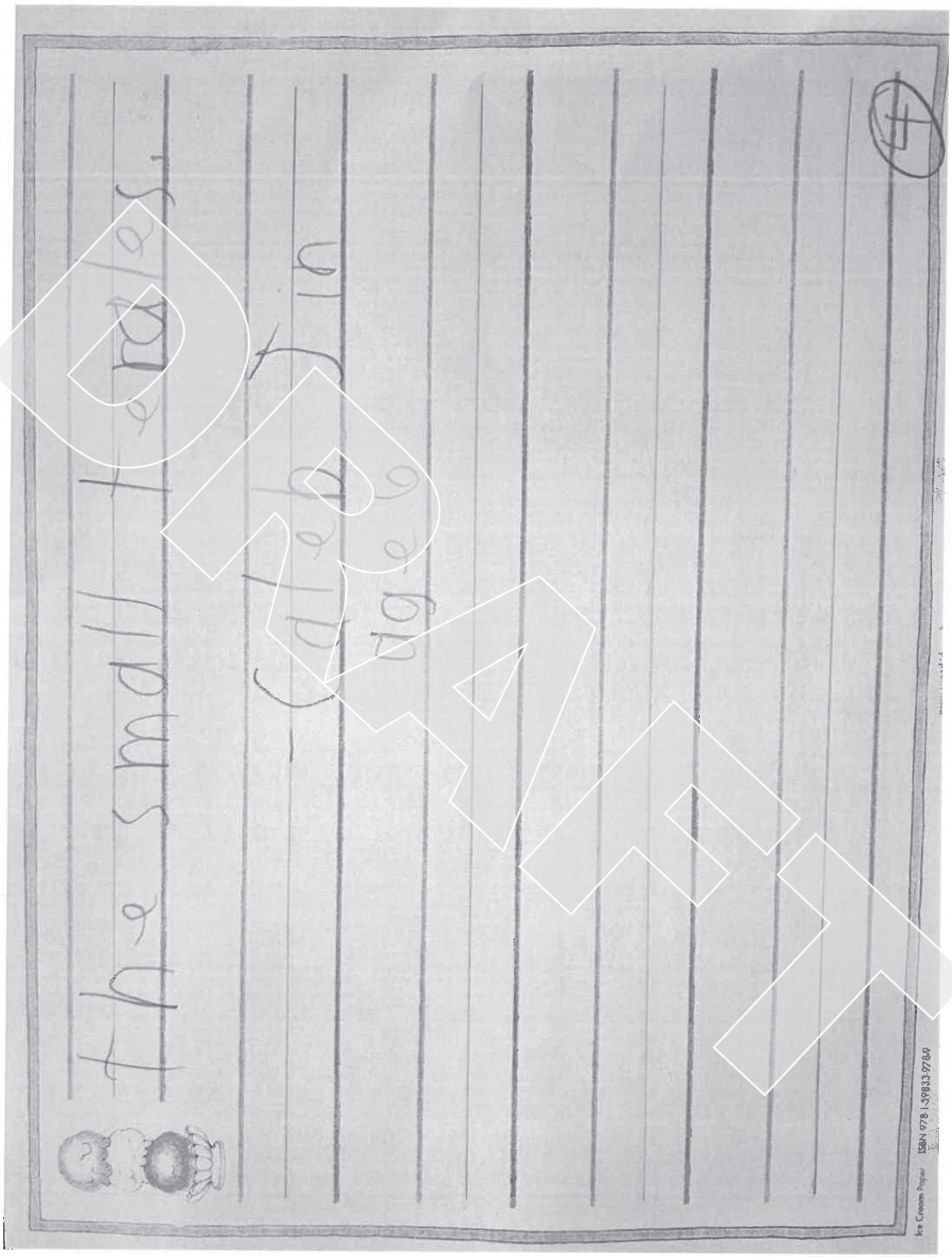
We ask that you continue to make all Waterdog Open Space trails accessible to mountain bikers to enjoy and serve.

Best regards,

Jacob and Jessica Jin
Belmont, CA

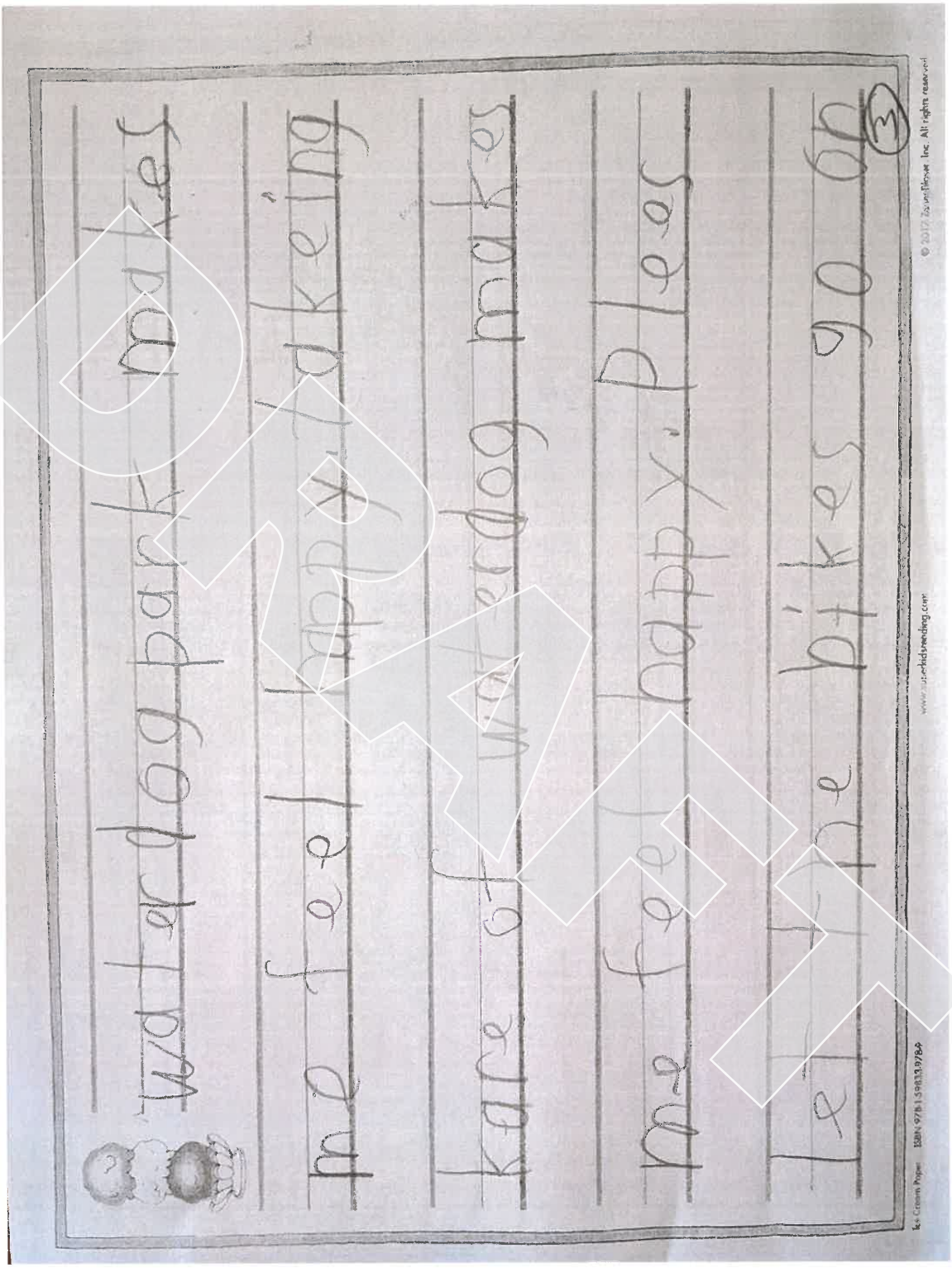
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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



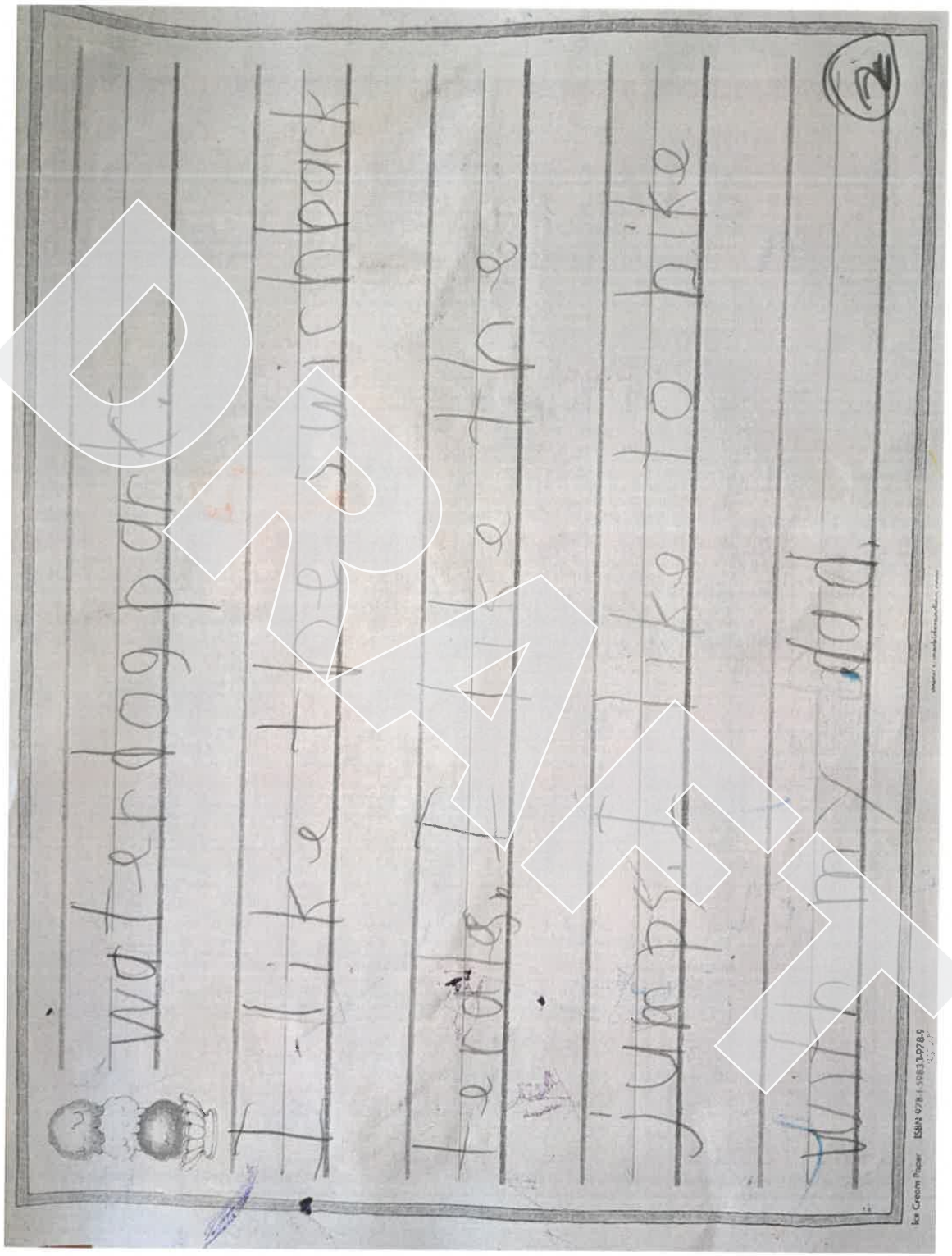
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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Warren Nishikawa
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Letter for Waterdog Park
Attachments: Waterdog park letter - March 1 2021 - Nishikawa residence.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Board Members,

Please find my letter in support for the accessibility of Waterdog park to mountain bikers, especially those in the Hallmark Drive/Belmont Heights area. I have lived in the neighborhood for the past 14 years and would be disappointed if the access was restricted to bikers young and old.

Please find my letter enclosed.

Thank you.

Warren Nishikawa
, Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Warren Nishikawa

Belmont. CA 94002

Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission
30 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA
(650)595-7441
ParksRec@belmont.gov

RE: Water Dog Parks Accessibility for Mountain Biking

Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission,

I'm writing in endorsement to keep the Water Dog Park accessible for Belmont, and more specifically, Hallmark residences to Mountain Biking. I've lived in Hallmark neighborhood since 2008 for the quality of the school district, but also the accessibility for the parks, including Hallmark Park and Water Dog park.

I've heard that there have been some complaints with movement to dis-allow the Water Dog park usage for Mountain Bikers last year and now again this year. Again this year, I would strongly vote against this restriction. The access of this part to family outings such as walking and hiking also includes mountain biking since there are families like my own who enjoy these trails for their kids as a family outing.

The Water Dog park is really the only mountain bike trail that is compatible with elementary and middle school bikers. These bikers don't degrade the environmental habitat since they rarely go off trail. These bikers have also formed Facebook groups who have donated time and money to keep trails well-groomed and safe. Many neighbors in Hallmark coordinate bike rides on a frequent basis at Waterdog and this involves both parents and children.

If you need further support for keeping Waterdog park accessible to the residence and public, please let me know.

Thank you,

Warren Nishikawa

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kevin Sullivan <k
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Jonathan Carter
Cc: Brigitte Shearer; Daniel Ourtiague
Subject: Re: new bridge at bottom of Canyon Creek

Wow!

On Sun, Mar 7, 2021 at 5:03 PM Jonathan Carter < > wrote:
came out just spectacular. Great job and kudos to the scouts!

--
Kevin Sullivan
6

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



2

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Stanley Acton
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Charles Stone - Mayor; ufoer@belmont.gov; City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Biking

Greetings Belmontonians!

Thank you for your service.

I am writing to ask you to support mountain biking in Waterdog Open Space. Being an old geezer, it keeps me young(er). I could go on, but won't - you're smart enough to get the rest.

Thanks so much.
Stanley Acton
Founder - Acton ADU

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Patrick Wheeler <p
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 6:39 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Preserve Multi-Access Use to Waterdog Lake and Hidden Canyon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council Members,

We have been Belmont residents for over thirty years and have raised our family here. Our three children have all gone through the local public schools; Central Elementary, Ralston Middle School and Carlmont High School (with the youngest now a Junior at Carlmont). In all these years we have greatly enjoyed the City's open space, including Waterdog Lake / Hidden Canyon and San Juan Canyon / Sugarloaf Mountain. This enjoyment includes walking, running, riding bicycles, exercising our dogs and enjoying nature. As you consider these open spaces in the new Master Plan, we urge you to maintain their current multi-use designation with no new restrictions.

Consistent with this, we fully support the "Love Waterdog" campaign and associated outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.

For the record, we are very grateful for the excellent work to maintain and enhance the trails and related facilities done by the partnership between the City's Public Works department and various volunteers.

One request: Please install dog waste bags and garbage cans at the trailheads for San Juan Canyon (for example at the bottom of San Juan Blvd).

Sincerely,

Patrick & Mai Wheeler

Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: M.Dorota Ornatkiewicz
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 12:25 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Future of Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support operating Waterdog Open Space as a **Mountain Biking destination**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should include and as possible prioritize this use, including:

- Designate trails for Mountain Biking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Maintain and restore the trails to support this sport
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails and enforce this closure
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Storne
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 10:37 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use of trails in Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear government officials,
I am in support of shared-use for all trails in Waterdog. Shared use brings with it occasional conflicts, all of which are addressed effectively in other parks through better trail user education and signage reinforcing trail etiquette and local trail rules. Waterdog is no exception. As a hiker, trail runner and mountain biker, I understand that sharing trails places a responsibility on all users, and I do not believe that excluding one group of users because of perceived issues by a small group of other users is the right course of action. As we see with recent political situations, convincing arguments can be made for any point of view, which appeal to an individual group's desires and ignores the right to (responsible) access by all users. So I believe that the right approach is through education, signage and to a lesser degree, enforcement.
Eric Storne
Menlo Park, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Albert Lee <
Sent: Sunday, April 4, 2021 11:12 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Lake Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

Water Dog Lake Open Space is a gem and unique experience for all who use it. I am very concerned that the mixed use of its narrow trails will soon, if it hasn't already, lead to a serious or fatal accident.

There are two distinct groups of bicyclists using the trails. One group is very courteous and safety conscious. They ride slowly and will yield for hikers and make accommodations for seniors or the disabled.

The other group is intently focused on beating their time and are riding too fast for the narrow and winding conditions. They see hikers as a nuisance and just blow by at high speed and rely on the hikers to get out of the way. A collision on a trail could cause serious injury. The downside of the trails are very steep in certain areas and someone could get pushed down the hill and if the bicyclist doesn't stop they might now be noticed in the dense brush. This mentality has no regard for others and has resulted in a death of a senior in San Francisco.

https://sfist.com/2012/04/05/cyclist_who_struck_pedestrian_at_ca/

With respect to the narrow single track trails, there are only a few options to keep everyone safe and protect the City from liability:

1 Allow bikers only

2 Allow hikers only

3 Alternate hikers and bikers on odd/even days

More people have found Water Dog and the trails are busier that ever. Please make it safe for everyone, the writing is on the wall.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Greg Gavalakis <
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 1:34 PM
To: P&R Comm; citycouncil@belmont.com
Subject: "Stop the Destruction of Waterdog Open Space"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

I was unpleasantly shocked with whoever created the website "https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/" Specifically the demonization of mountain bikers. Firstly, the video depicting mt. bikers as environmental terrorists is laughable. I've lived in the San Carlos/Redwood City area for 12 years now and have been riding mt. bikes at Waterdog since 1999. It has become more popular with day hikers since then, but 98% of the ones I encounter are extremely pleasant. I stop or they move out of the way, one party passes safely with a wave and a "thank you!" All good, everyone's happy. That video couldn't be further from the truth.

For over 10 years (more, maybe) mt. bikers were the stewards of the park, building new single track (narrow) trails with the guidance and approval from the city council. Now all of a sudden (although I'm sure there's always been complainers) we are environmental and human terrorists? Hardly. There are PLENTY of open spaces preserves where no bikes are allowed. Just down the street is Edgewood park, for example. Belmont is a gem for everyone to use and share responsibly, which is exactly what's been going on for more than 20 years. Please don't let these "social terrorists" ruin it for so many.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Gavalakis
Redwood City, CA 94061

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Bonifacio
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:12 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I am writing to you in support of continuing to designate all trails in waterdog as multi-use in the master plan.

I've been mountain biking there for many years and have never had any negative experiences with hikers. We are usually both very courteous to each other and allow the other to pass when appropriate. Almost all hikers say have fun when we pass, and I always return the sentiment.

There are already many other open space parks, such as Edgewood, that are hiking only. I think it would be a mistake to also limit mountain biking in waterdog and cause further ill will between bikers and mountain bikers. The desires of a few should not

--
Thanks,
Paul Bonifacio
M

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: James Paugh >
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 5:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: James Paugh
Subject: Waterdog Open Space and the PROS Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council Members, Parks and Recreation members:

I have been a resident of both San Carlos and Belmont for the past 28 years. In that time I have also been an outdoor enthusiast and mountain biker. I started riding the trails in Waterdog in the early 90's and continue to enjoy this open space to this day. Waterdog has always been my "backyard" ride, where I can enjoy some fresh air, a challenging workout and some beautiful vistas, all within a couple of miles of my home. The beauty of riding Waterdog includes riding the single track trails, many of which were designed with cycling in mind. Pursuing mountain biking in any of the many open spaces in the greater Bay area requires a cooperative spirit and a willingness to lend a hand, whether that be offering some fellow park users some trail directions, volunteering time to help with trail maintenance or contributing to the many organizations that work with the trail stewards to maintain multi-user access. Myself, along with my fellow mountain bike enthusiasts always treat other trail users with respect and friendliness, making sure that any encounters are safe for everyone. This includes slowing down to a walking pace or stopping depending on the circumstances, as well as communicating the safest way to get by each other without jeopardizing anyone's safety. In all the years that I have ridden in Waterdog, I have never had a negative encounter with a hiker or fellow trail user.

I would ask that in any planning regarding the future of Waterdog, that it continue to be open and welcome to all trail users, whether that be on foot or bicycle.

Regards,

James Paugh

San Carlos, CA 94070

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bill Kurtz
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 12:47 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; Ulla Foehr; P&R Comm; City Council
Cc: Bill Kurtz
Subject: Again bikers don't care

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Brigitte,

Per our emails regarding new trail making just inside the Somerset gate, you had P&R people put a sign at the new trail that is being made around the existing log barriers. I thought, with the bee sign it was going to be a waste of time and a bit of a joke. Last Friday I found the sign moved out of the way and the trail extensively being cut and used. I replaced the sign as well as a lot of brush etc to hide the trail. Today on my walk, I see the brush removed, and your sign now thrown down over the hill. You have to get the message the bikers are sending - "we're going to do whatever we want wherever we want and no one is going to stop us". I'd like to know what P&R is going to do about this, because so far you haven't been able to do much to stop them and I'm getting really frustrated at the ongoing destruction.

Below this area, 50 yds, on the John Brooks Trail, there is another cut through that is trashing the environment. An attempt to stop this was done 2-3 months ago, also to no avail.

I mentioned another new trail (with Pictures) in the last email, you asked where it was. It's at the top end of the Rambler Trail , where it merges with the Finch. I would be glad to show it to you.

Bill Kurtz

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nic Amaroli
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:22 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space - Please keep our Mountain Bike Trails!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a [resident of Belmont, or other identifier], I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Raymond McNaughton
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:21 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue Multi-Use access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I live in Redwood City and have lived on the peninsula my entire 61 years. I'm a mountain biker and am grateful to have frequently had the opportunity to ride in Waterdog Park these many years. I'm able to ride to and from it directly from my home on Canyon Road.

I am writing in support of keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I respectively request you please consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Respectfully,
Raymond McNaughton

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael Jaron
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:17 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I support keeping Water Dog Open Space as a mountain biking friendly area. There are very few places like this in the Bay Area (maybe even country) and none on the Peninsula. Most other spaces in the Bay Area are for hikers only. This should be just thought of as a mountain biking park, it should get more funding to maintain the park but stay open to all types of use.

It seems that people who are against this are very Not In My Backyard, as there are plenty of nearby places for great hiking but none for mountain biking. More people need to get outside and mountain biking offers people an outlet. Bikers love the outdoors and appreciate it. The more people who enjoy the outdoors and can appreciate it the more likely they are to care about the environment in other ways, i.e eat less meat, drive less, recycle, consume less, etc.

All in all this is one of the best places to mountain bike in the area, people will have to drive hours to get to something similar. On top of that there is a very strong community around mountain biking at Water Dog and for years hikers, bikers, dog walkers, etc have all been able to enjoy the space with no real problems.

So I would like to see more funding in the master plan to support mountain biking and other uses at Water Dog.

Thanks,
Mike

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Glenn Sweetwood
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:48 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog open to Mt. Biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

In addition to keeping Waterdog open to Mt Bikes, the trail system should be extended and improved. Here is a good study from Wisconsin regarding increased economic activity based on trails: https://www.pinkbike.com/news/study-shows-78-million-economic-impact-of-mountain-bike-trails.html

-Glenn

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Matt DiFonzo
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:10 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Mountain Biking at Water Dog Lake

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioner,

Since things can often get lost in the shuffle, I wanted to reiterate my point below, and let you know that my passion for mountain biking at Water Dog Lake and other open spaces has not waned. Unnecessary usage limitations will hurt my family dearly.

Thank you,
Matt DiFonzo
(Home owner at:)

Belmont, CA

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Matt DiFonzo <
> **Date:** August 11, 2020 at 1:04:51 PM PDT
> **To:** PRComm@belmont.gov
> **Subject: Mountain Biking at Water Dog Lake**
>
> Dear Commissioner,
>
> During quarantine, I have discovered and fallen in love with mountain biking. I am so fortunate to own a home just a short walk or ride from the trailhead on Lyall Way.
>
> It was recently brought to my attention that there is a desire from hikers about wanting to restrict bike access to the trails, and I know that would be an immense blow to the community.
>
> I recently taught both of my kids how to ride a bike, and my wife just picked up her first mountain bike today to join us on the trails. We are so grateful to live in such a beautiful city with such amazing trails, and would be heartbroken if our access was restricted.
>
> I believe that there could be clear messaging to hikers that there are also mountain bikes on the trails, so they are not surprised and disdainful when they encounter them. I am a conscientious rider, and those that I ride with are as well. I am confident that we can rally as a community to keep our beloved outdoor space open for all.
>
> Thank you,
> Matt DiFonzo
>
> Belmont, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 11:33 AM
To: P&R Comm; PROS Committee
Subject: Hidden Canyon and the Western Hills Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi PROS Advisory Committee Members and Park Commissioners,

Last September I was given the opportunity to lead a few Park Commissioners on a walking tour of Hidden Canyon. It's very aptly named; most residents are largely unaware of this southern end of the Waterdog Open Space. But in fact Hidden Canyon is larger than the Waterdog acreage and the John Brooks acreage *combined*:

- Waterdog 51 acres
- John Brooks 49 acres
- **Hidden Canyon 180 acres**

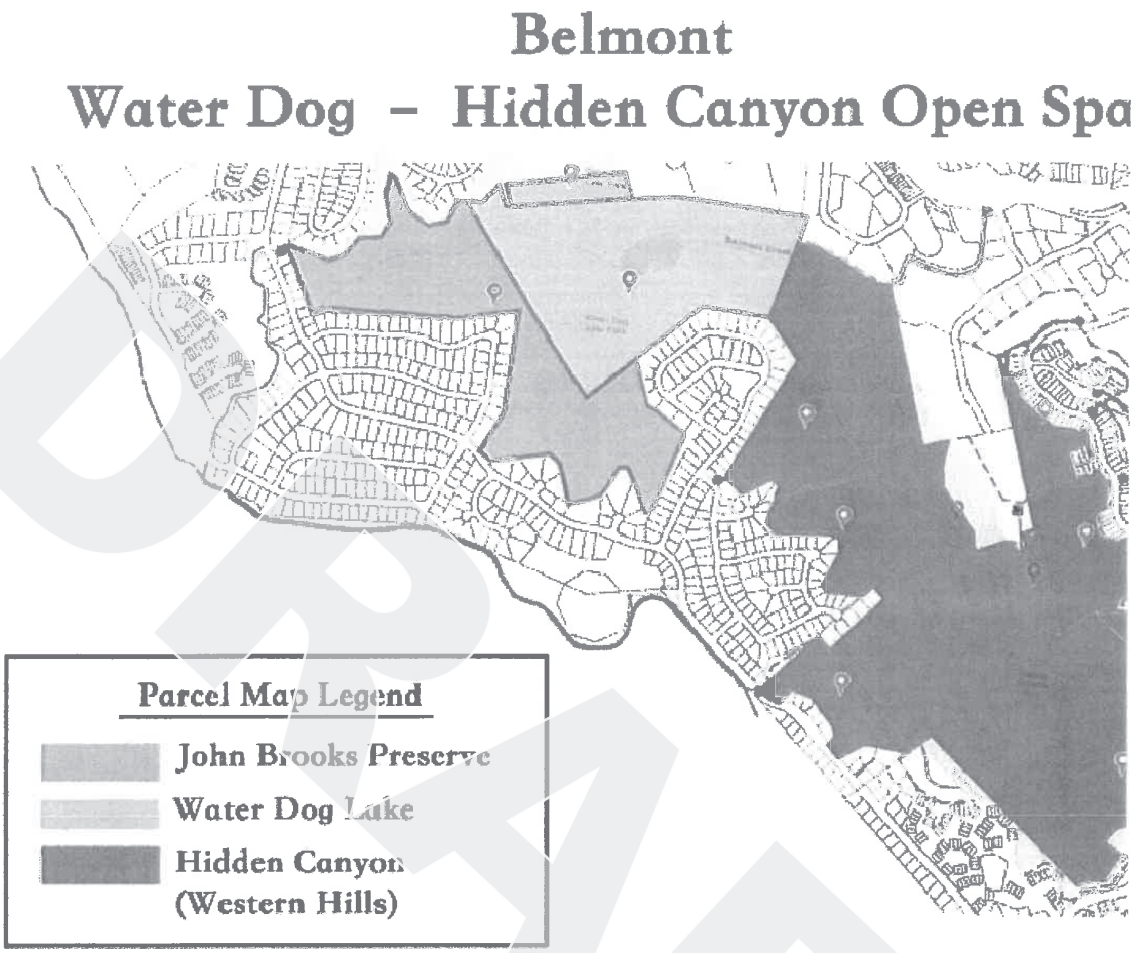
On our hike we stopped and discussed the extensive damages. We observed heavily eroded trails, especially on the southern slope where Rambler trail has ditches 4 feet deep and is widened to 30 feet in places. We saw drainage issues – some natural and some from homes above - that contribute to trail and slope damage. We hiked down the notorious Finch switchbacks, noting that no amount of maintenance could make them safe or sustainable. And we saw dirt and debris tossed into the creek – a direct violation of state guidelines for protection of riparian habitats.

All of this is even more saddening when you become familiar with the Western Hills Area Plan, adopted in 1990. The Plan recognizes the unique chaparral, riparian and oak woodland habitats of the canyon – areas that are now designated as "sensitive communities" for the diversity of plants and the animals that call them home. I urge you all to visit Hidden Canyon and to learn why it's protection is so important to our regional *Biodiversity Hotspot.*

Thank you,
Kristin Mercer

"It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us." – Jane Goodall

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



Virus-free. www.avast.com

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Fabian Frank
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Lake the way it is

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of San Mateo, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

Keep maintaining Waterdog Lake just as it is today. There are a ton of parks and outdoor spaces designated as "hiking only" available to hikers already, whereas mountain bikers already have very limited options. Please consider educating hikers that are uncomfortable sharing the trail about the hundreds of trails that are available for hiking exclusively in other areas. Closing Waterdog Lake Park to mountain bikers will result in people having less chances to engage in healthy exercise. I have biked dozes of times at Waterdog and never had any issues with hikers, it's easy to be careful and polite and make space for each other, even on single track.

Some additional points:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

• Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

• Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kenneth. Lebovitz ·
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:37 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please SAVE Waterdog preserve. Let common sense be your guide when you build trails and when you renew or restore existing trails. And most important, think about you neighbors in Belmont first and not try to please everyone else first.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robert Furber <
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:19 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Mountain Bike Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am writing to share my support for continued mountain bike access to Waterdog Park. I have seen too many cities and government agencies ban biking on trails, with the effect being that bikers create alternative, illegal trail networks.

Please: making biking illegal doesn't stop biking; it only stops safe biking.

Thank you,
Robert Furber

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Priscilla Stutzman
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:24 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent visitor to Belmont and Waterdog Open Space , I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Cody Stutzman

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ben Wallace
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:16 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Bike Access in Belmont's Open Spaces

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it may concern,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for mountain biking, recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining access for mountain bikers and all other currently approved activities in the parks and open spaces. There are plenty of spaces that have limited access for other activities, it's important that we maintain the few areas that are multi use.
- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Ben Wallace

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Josh
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:08 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please KEEP Multi-use access to Waterdog!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I live just off Edgewood Rd and I want to voice my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space a multi-use trail for hiking and biking in the new Master Plan. My son is just getting into biking and we much prefer to be in nature than in the woods. It's safer for him than being on the road, and it inspires him to love, and respect his neighborhood and nature! It helps provide a healthy outlet for exercise and energy for youth who can easily fall into indoors and video games.

There are not a lot of options for use close to home in the Belmont/Redwood City area and taking this away would remove options for use to take quick, responsible rides and increase emissions in travel, and less chances for more rides outside.

Ideally we continue maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking and biking.

Increase outreach and education on safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

Continuing to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan!

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: x-Parks/Recreation Office
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:39 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fw: WATERDOG ACCESS TO MOUNTAIN BIKERS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioners,

Please read the email below regarding Waterdog Lake.

Thank you,
Valery Gonzalez

Parks and Recreation Department

(650) 595-7441 | parksrec@belmont.gov
30 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, CA 94002
www.belmont.gov/register

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As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!
Click here for updates on our Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan project.

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From: robert pinotti
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 6:03 AM
To: x-Parks/Recreation Office <parksrec@belmont.gov>
Cc: DARYL ONG <c Adler Carreon < >; BILL BALESTRERI
< ; BILL ALVAREZ < COM>; JOHN ISLAS < ; JAMES
HUNG <
Subject: WATERDOG ACCESS TO MOUNTAIN BIKERS

I understand that there is a plan to close access to waterdog park to mountain bikers. Me and several friends have been riding there for several years, Many of those trails if not all were built and maintained by mountain bikers. Im 62 a retired utility worker ,and my friends of the same age are law enforcement and firefighters. We are all responsible adults. We enjoy waterdog because of its access and wonderful trails. I understand that there are a handful of users that want to close the park to mountain bikers for environmental reasons. Do they plan on closing it also to dog walkers. My wife has bad hips and has problems hiking but she can ride a bike with no problems because its not weight bearing . Is it fair to a person like that to restrict access because of the selfish reasons of a few disgruntled people. I understand the pandemic has not helped the situation because of the increased use . Many of these people most likely never used the area prior to the pandemic. Please continue to allow access to all users as you have in past . Users of waterdog also frequent the nearby businesses which is a boost to Belmonts economy. Thankyou for your consideration in this matter.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Sanderson >
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 8:57 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I think there needs to be some compromise on both sides with respect to bicycle use in water dog and hidden canyon. A blanket ban on bikes is not in the best interest of the public. However, as a mountain bike myself, I think there are many MTB users who do not and will not where to any kind of etiquette.
In order to provide a peaceful experience for all users, it might be best to ban mtb use on some trails so that hikers might enjoy a more peaceful experience.
David Sanderson

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Stephen Langone
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:21 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent visitor to Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Langone

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robin Bennett
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:47 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open to Bikes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont and frequent hiker and dog walker (but not biker) of Waterdog, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Robin

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kevin Doiron
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:47 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space accessible to all trail users

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a local resident, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Austin Fisher
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:15 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have lived in Belmont since I was 5 years old (25 now). I became interested in mountain biking at a young age, and having the privilege of living in Belmont with access to the wonderful Waterdog Lake trail system helped spark that interest into a life-long passion for outdoor recreation (mountain biking, hiking, backpacking), as well as an immense appreciation for nature. I think it is critically important to preserve access to this unique and special open space area for all uses (hiking, biking, running, recreation, family, community, etc) for generations to come.

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Austin Fisher

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: x-Parks/Recreation Office
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:46 AM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Fw: PROS Master Plan Survey

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioners,

Please read the email below regarding the PROS Survey.

Thank you,
Valery Gonzalez

Parks and Recreation Department

(650) 595-7441 | parksrec@belmont.gov
30 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, CA 94002
www.belmont.gov/register

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From: Connie S. Tettenborn
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 7:23 PM
To: x-Parks/Recreation Office <parksrec@belmont.gov>
Subject: PROS Master Plan Survey

Dear Commissioners,

I just noticed an online plea for mountain bikers to fill out the survey. Given that anyone can fill out the survey and may not necessarily give an honest answer regarding residency, is there some analysis that can be done to determine whether the survey results are valid and give Belmont citizens' views priority. We live here and pay city taxes and are responsible for the infrastructure here. Is there an estimated response rate, which could be compared with the number of people living in each neighborhood?

Thank you,
Connie Tettenborn, PhD

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: WILLIAM KURTZ
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:00 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; info@belmontproplan.com; City Council; srennie@belmonmt.gov; afshinoskoui@belmont.gov; Planning Comm
Cc: Bill Kurtz
Subject: Safety in Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The increasing volume of mountain bikers from all over the Bay Area now deters visitors that just want to enjoy a peaceful and safe nature walk. If you go to Google maps our Waterdog Preserve is now shown as the "Belmont Bike Park". I urge you to watch this short 2 minute video that shows our safety problem and outlines an equitable trail-use plan solution. Safety for ALL to enjoy Nature in Waterdog (www.waterdogpreserve.org/safety-for-all). These videos are taken in the Belmont Waterdog Preserve, if anyone doubts their authenticity, I welcome you to join me on a trail hike and experience it first hand, I walk the trails 3-5 times a week.

Regards,

Bill Kurtz

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 4:17 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Officials,
When I first came to Belmont, in 1966, our family with two young daughters, quickly found Water Dog open space. We all spent many, many hours there and loved it. It was the thing we loved most about living here. Water Dog open space must be saved as a nature preserve. Not many cities are lucky enough to have such a jewel in their city.
This is the most important issue for me in Belmont. Now my grandchildren love it as much as their mothers do. It is a place to hike and look for animals and listen and look for birds. As Belmont gets more and more built up, our chances to be in such a wonderful nature place diminish. And what of the animals that live there? Will they all be displaced and to where?
Sport Mountain bikes, e-bikes, and any motorized vehicles are not compatible with a nature preserve.
I also feel that animals need to be protected and that means no people after sunset.
I hope you will agree with me and see that money is properly allotted to keep Water Dog as an open space preserve for all of us to enjoy.
I and all of my family look forward to many more years of enjoying Water Dog open space as a nature preserve.
Sincerely,
Shiela Cockshott

Belmont, Ca 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chip Morash <
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 1:29 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water dog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As an avid mountain biker, outdoor enthusiast, and former Bay Area resident, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- *Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*

- *Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*

- *Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Regards,

Christopher Morash

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:55 PM
To: P&R Comm; PROS Committee
Subject: Sustainable balance for open space management?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi PROS committee and Park and Rec Commissioners,

This Earth Day we are reflecting on sustainability for our planet. But since conservation begins at home, I'd like to address our sustainable stewardship of Belmont's Open Spaces.

The first and foremost aspect of sustainability is *balance*. We want people to enjoy nature, but not to the detriment of the very thing they come to enjoy. That *balance* is achieved by managed **trail density** – enough trail access to enjoy nature, but not so much that it fragments habitats and destroys the ecosystem.

Last year I undertook a study of all open spaces within 20 miles of Belmont. I compiled data for 44 of the comparable preserves, and shared this data with Parks Commissioners. Now I urge you to watch the video of this presentation: Open Space Preserves in the San Mateo Region. (choose the 12 minutes in full, or a 3-minute summary at this link)

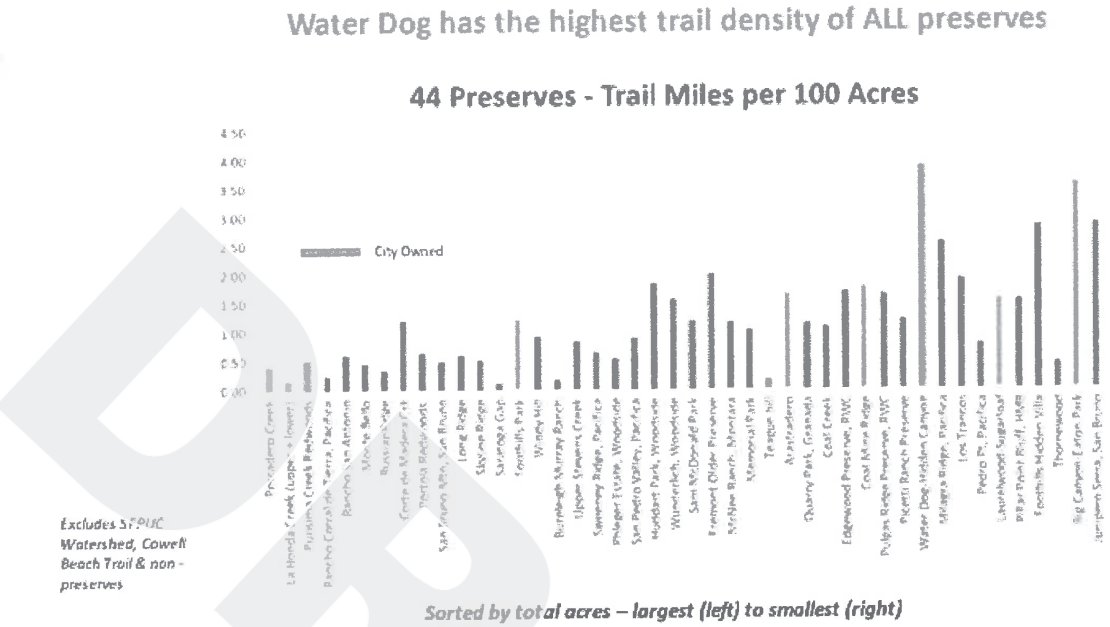
Fact: Waterdog has the **highest trail density of any open space area on the peninsula**, and probably the bay area. It has **twice the trail density of other comparable small open space areas.** This fragmentation and intensity of use is not sustainable.

As stewards of our city and our planet we are tasked with adopting sustainable policies. For Waterdog that means fewer trails and a more thoughtful approach to trail planning. For the sake of future residents, please consider this legacy as you guide our new Master Plan.

Feel free to contact me with questions.
Thank you for your service to our City,
Kristin Mercer

2035 Belmont General Plan Conservation Element p.5.3
"Belmont's extensive open spaces are part of the regional open space network on the San Francisco Peninsula. Notable landmarks in the city include San Juan Hills, Western Hills, Water Dog Lake, and Belmont Creek.... These connected open spaces are valuable because they provide travel corridors for wildlife and increase wildlife population diversity. They also play important roles in stormwater management, ecological functions, and other environmental conservation efforts."

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Doug Roseborough
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 10:29 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog open space should remain available for all hikers, bikers and other users

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I moved to this area two decades ago for the schools, environment and fantastic mountain biking, easily accessible in Waterdog Open Space. I, and my family, have enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog ever since the kids were very little. As a resident of San Carlos, with kids in Carlmont High School, I am proud of the Belmont/San Carlos community, and their joint progressiveness. I am shocked that a few narrow-minded, self-centered individuals, feel it is their right to limit the access and use of Waterdog for their own specific needs. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, including mountain biking, connecting with nature and building community.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

• Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, mountain biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces

• Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

• Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and San Carlos - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Doug Roseborough

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Saris Mercanti
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:49 AM
To: P&R Comm; citycountil@belmont.gov
Subject: Waterdog open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I support Waterdog Open Space remaining a family friendly destination for hikers AND cyclists. I hope that you are able to incorporate some of the direction mixed use practices being adopted by land managers.

One incredible example of a collaboration is the new Cotoni Coast Dairies project, which was build in collaboration with the BLM and the Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship. ANother great project is the San Vincente Land Trust, whose opening has been delayed to the fires.

Thank You,
Saris

--

Saris Mercanti, she/her

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Vladimir674
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:50 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Water Dog open to all

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning,
I am emailing because there are rumors that people are trying to keep mountain bike and dogs out of Water Dog. I personally love bringing my family and dog to the park for hikes. I also come there to mountain bike, so it would be twice the hit for me. Needless to say I would be very much against the banning of animals and bikes at Water Dog.

Thanks for the time
Vladimir Veis

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: James D
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:52 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I AM NOT in support of designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve as put forward in the proposal – comments below. I am a long term Belmont resident, pay $20K per year in property tax, and use Waterdog 5 times per week for mountain biking.

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces – **NO, all trails should be open to mountain bikers – there is significant mountain bike traffic and making trails hiker-only will make the problem worse. Hikers also have many other trails nearby; mountain bikers have to go to Arastadero or up to Skyline blvd.**
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat - **NO, the charm of Waterdog is the challenging nature of trails. Put disclaimer signs up if you need to. And please don't waste funds on nice-to-do things, the trails are fine as they are.**
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators – **AGREE**
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators – **AGREE**
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance – **AGREE, BUT the most important things are: 1. Cutting bushes / trees and poison ivy back from the trails and 2. Repairing washout from the rain.**
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance – **Per comments above, don't use money unnecessarily - basic maintenance only please**

I hope you take these comments into consideration and rework the proposal accordingly
James Dimmick

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kenneth. Lebovitz
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:49 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a very long time resident of Belmont and as a neighbor bordering the Illegal Bike Trail, I feel it is the responsibility of the City Of Belmont to correct this situation. A Waterdog trail should be available for all our residence to enjoy, and should also be well kept and maintained to be in line with the natural surroundings.
Make it your top priority to establish a trail in the canyon that the city can be proud of.
Also, the City needs to take a look at our main street in Belmont, Ralston, between hiway 92 and The Alameda. It needs WORK.
Ken Lebovitz

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Pamela ·
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 12:47 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council Members,
When my husband recently made Brigitte Shearer aware that another illegal trail on the John Brooks trail in Water Dog Open Space had been made by bikers to go around the logs that the park and recreation had placed to close an illegal trail she promptly placed a sign DO NOT ENTER (not a designated trail, restoration underway) which was great but by the next morning when my husband and I walked by the bikers had just made two new trails around the sign!
I am just devastated to see the destruction of our beautiful wildlife preserve over this past year. I know not every biker disobeys the rules but even those who obey the rules create wear and tear on the trails that is very evident. I truly believe that the waterdog trails should be for people on foot only for many reasons including their own safety.
Let's keep this treasure preserved as it was intended for future generations to enjoy. Unfortunately, too many bikers are only concerned about their own enjoyment and disrespectful to hikers and walkers on the trails. I hope that the City Council will start to do the right thing before the trails are ruined beyond repair.
Thank you,
Pamela Stahl
Wakefield Drive
25+ year resident of Belmont

Sent from my iPad

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael O'Neill
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 10:41 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a long time resident of Belmont, an avid hiker (daily) and nature enthusiast, I have given up on going to Waterdog Open Space. In the past, I've hiked at Waterdog hundreds of times but now the bikes have taken over, destroyed much of the natural beauty, and have made it dangerous for pedestrians. Sadly, I now have to drive to Edgewood Park in Redwood City to have the kind of nature experience that to me, is essential!

I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Sincerely,

Michael O'Neill

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Reza Naima
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 1:53 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Bike Access to Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I wanted to let you know that there are many ways to protect the trails other than by banning bike usage. As an avid cyclist with knee problems, I can't hike, but I love exploring nature on my bike. Better trail management can allow for the preservation of the trails while keeping access open to all users of the open space. I emplore you to find solutions that will enable bikers and hikers access to as much of the park as possible.

That being said, I don't think motorized or e-bikes should allowed in these spaces. With proper gearing, anyone can ride a manual bike though these spaces and there is no need to allow access to e-bikes.

Best regards,
Reza Naima

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Dirk Flote
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:55 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TLDR: I oppose closing Waterdog Park to E Bikes and other bikes.

Hello Belmont Parks and Recreation,

I want to voice my concerns about movements to close water dog for mountain bikes and E bikes.

While illegal trails should be closed and monitored to preserve wild life. E bikes are neither automatically faster nor heavier than normal bikes. In fact my e bike is slower as it it is limited to 20 miles per hour. Downhill I often get passed by standard bikes and uphill we all go slow.

Thank your reading

Regards
Dirk Flote

Belmont

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 4:14 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Belmont Open Space usage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

In 1992 Belmont adopted a Park and Open Space Master Plan to guide the management of Waterdog, and in 1998 the City Council approved a trail map for Waterdog. But the reality of what was built violates both the Master Plan and the approved trail map.

The Open Space Master Plan clearly spells out trail standards, designating the narrow natural surface trails lower in the canyon for hiking ONLY. The 1998 trail map affirms that plan. Other City documents reveal the intent to prioritize *conservation* over recreation, and to ensure the long-term protection of our Open Space ecosystem. Now these policies are being ignored by today's City officials who are not enforcing City policies.

I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance
- Install signage prohibiting bikers from narrow single-track trails

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank you for your consideration.

Warren Leslie
40 year Belmont resident and homeowner

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: shelley frost
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 3:30 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont Parks & Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a 30+ year Belmont residents we urge you to designate Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve. We are keenly hopeful that our city prioritizes preservation and conservation in the new Master Plan.

As we have personally almost been run down by speeding mountain bikers while walking in Waterdog, we urge you to designate narrow trails for hiking only.

Mountain bikers have illegally created ugly and destructive trails. We urge you to CLOSE these trails and restore the habitat to its natural state.

Please enforce the city rules of the area being closed from sundown to sunrise. Bikers have videotaped themselves inside Waterdog riding their bikes at night!

Please enforce city rules banning e-bikes and motorized vehicles on the trails. These are your rules, please make sure they are abided by.

Allocate spending to fairly support Belmont Open Spaces in order to keep them maintained.

Implement ecosystem management and Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance.

Waterdog Preserve should be a shining example of how Open Space can exist within a city. Belmont should be proud of our stewardship of Waterdog Preserve. But with mountain bikers daily trashing the trails, threatening wildlife and endangering hikers and walkers, we as Belmont residents are unable to reference Waterdog as a jewel of our city.

Please make the necessary changes so that Waterdog Preserve is safe, healthy and will last for future generations of Belmontians.

Warmly,

Shelley and Kevin Frost
Belmont

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: pat Cuviello
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:10 AM
To: P&R Comm; Brigitte Shearer; Charles Stone - Mayor; Warren Lieberman; Julia Mates - Vice Mayor; Thomas McCune; Davina Hurt
Subject: illegal bike jumps and trails removed in California state parks

https://www.kcra.com/article/illegal-bike-jumps-trails-removed-california-state-parks/36317610?fbclid=IwAR11SGYkdmaTKcAtbsxdAo7zPsyADm7-F1ofApgNqXDAe8IlaEWoyR2cHk0

This is a general problem with mountain bikers everywhere, including, as you know, Waterdog Open Space. The State is addressing it and the City of Belmont needs to as well.

Pat Cuviello

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Diane Boross
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 12:51 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve
Attachments: IMAG1660.jpg; IMAG1661.jpg

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection. including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces.
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

- **Hiking today on single track trails and witnessed/noted:**
  - **Multiple bikers jumping over large rocks at high speeds**
  - **Bikers passing hikers closely at high speeds without masks and without stopping**
  - **One E-Biker cruising at a slower speed with questionable steering control**
  - **Multiple shortcut trails added to switchback trails**

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

- Numerous tire treads due to wet conditions bike riding
- Numerous broken and battered tree roots on trails
- Numerous sawed up tree branches lying beside trails
- Numerous dangerously eroded single-track trails with unlevel footings for hikers, caused by biker tires, on steep hillsides
- All drainage irrigation channels filled and blocked with debris, including trail cuttings, branches, dirt and rocks. (attached pictures)
    - Please do something to resolve these problems so we can continue to enjoy this park in the future.

Thank you,

Diane Boross

Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bill Kurtz
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 3:23 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; Charles Stone - Mayor; City Council; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: New Video - Waterdog Beauty Destroyed

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please review the following new video illustrating Belmonts Waterdog Preserve.
waterdogpreserve.org/beauty-destroyed

Regards,

Bill Kurtz

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ji Montgomery <jiprk99@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2021 7:19 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Stop clearing the land!!

I am so upset that you want to destroy the land as these innocent animals will die as you guys clear the lands for the park please we must save the land..

Concerned Citizen
Ji Montgomery

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kenneth. Lebovitz < >
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2021 8:31 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Please stop further construction of the ILLEGAL BIKE TRAIL in Waterdog canyon, and PLEASE eliminate the current trail. It is destroying the natural ecosystem of the canyon, and in addition, it is also unfair that homeowners, such as myself that backs up to the canyon, is confronted with noise and rudeness that the bikers generate.
Ken Lebovitz

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ray Chau <r ›
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:11 AM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: Ray Chau
Subject: Please Save Belmont's Water Dog Lake Park & Open Space

Hello Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission,

My wife and I have been Belmont residents for over 30 years. We want to ask you to please SAVE our beloved Water Dog Lake Park from the mountain bike riders:

* there are too many of them
* many ride in packs and talk loudly to each other
* some bikers ride off trails endangering themselves and others
* some cause damages to the ground and vegetations and wild lives

My wife and I and our kids enjoy hiking the trails, but are finding some bikers are ruining the environment, creating safety concerns, and disrupting the peace and quiet of the nature reserve.

Water Dog Lake Park and Open Space is reaching its maximum capacity. We do not need to add more trails, we need to enforce existing rules. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ray and Pauline Chau

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 1:02 PM
To: PROS Committee; Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Subject: Data on Open Space Stewardship

Dear Director Shearer, Gates Associates, and Park Commissioners,

Last fall I was given an opportunity to present my research on **Open Space Trail Density** to a few of the Parks Commissioners. Now I respectfully request the opportunity to give this presentation to members of the PROS Advisory Committee, in a study session format.

Responsible land stewardship policies cannot be based on opinion; management of *natural habitat* is entirely different than management of *recreationally developed parks*. It requires a foundation in the science of ecology and environmental sustainability. While Belmont is lacking in that foundation, fortunately we are surrounded by open space management districts that *do* have extensive knowledge and experience. We should be looking to their examples to inform our policies.

I surveyed over 50 preserves and parks from Pacifica to Santa Clara, and identified 44 open space districts comparable to Belmont's. I then compiled data on area, trail miles, and trail use to compare and contrast their policies. My presentation takes about 20 minutes using PowerPoint via Zoom. Multiple Commissioners and PROS members expressed a desire for more data, and I believe a broader awareness of *other* regional open spaces and their management policies will be a good starting point and foundation on which to build their study.

I'd be pleased to provide a preview. I look forward to helping our community create a progressive and enduring open space master plan.

Kristin Mercer

"It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us." – Jane Goodall

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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bob Stahl <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Re: Information on open spaces

Thanks Brigitte.
This is so important. Will the Advisory Committee get copies of the report? Will we be able to see the qualifications of the consultant?
Bob

On May 24, 2021, at 8:50 AM, Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov> wrote:

We plan to engage a consultant to advise on this.

Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

<image001.png> <image002.png> <image003.png> <image004.png>

As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

From: Bob Stahl <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2021 4:56 PM
To: [redacted] <info@belmontprosplan.com>
Subject: Fwd: Information on open spaces

Hi Brigitte,
I'd like to see specific information on open space "best practices" and management. I believe it's very important for the Park Commissioners and Advisory Committee to have scientific studies and research available to review before making any decisions.
So far, the survey has provided only opinions by community members and non residents. Obviously there is a wide disparity of opinions on what is desired.
I strongly suggest that the Commissioners and Advisory Committee receive formal studies available.
Thank you.

Bob Stahl

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Bob Stahl
Cc:
Subject: RE: Information on open spaces

We plan to engage a consultant to advise on this.

Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

From: Bob Stahl < >
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2021 4:56 PM
To: <info@belmontprosplan.com>
Subject: Fwd: Information on open spaces

Hi **Brigitte,**
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So far, the survey has provided only opinions by community members and non residents. Obviously there is a wide disparity of opinions on what is desired.
I strongly suggest that the Commissioners and Advisory Committee receive formal studies available.
Thank you.
Bob Stahl

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bob Stahl <>
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2021 4:52 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Cc: Bob Stahl
Subject: Information on open spaces

Hi Brigitte,
I'd like to see specific information on open space "best practices" and management. I believe it's very important for the Park Commissioners and Advisory Committee to have scientific studies and research available to review before making any decisions.
So far, the survey has provided only opinions by community members and non residents. Obviously there is a wide disparity of opinions on what is desired.
I strongly suggest that the Commissioners and Advisory Committee receive formal studies available.
Thank you.
Bob Stahl

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Neil Tuch < >
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Re: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Hi Brigitte,

I would be happy to be helpful if I can. The only challenge may be timing - next week is brutal because my daughter is having ACL surgery. In addition, we are in our final two weeks of classes.

When are you trying to convey a focus group?

Thank you for including me/us.

Best,

Neil

Neil A. Tuch
Incoming Head of School
Assistant Head of School and Chief Financial Officer
Charles Armstrong School
he, him, his (Why are my pronouns here?)

From: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 4:59 PM
To: Neil Tuch < >
Subject: FW: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Neil,
I'm reaching out about the next phase of the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. As you know, we've completed a survey of park users to learn what they like/ dislike about our parks, open spaces and outdoor programs. Now we're looking for input in a focus group setting. Specifically, we're seeking input on the topic of inclusion of differently abled persons. Would you be able to join us for a virtual meeting on that topic?

If so, please let me know if there's a preferred time of day or day of week that would work for you. If there are other individuals whose input would be helpful, please let me know and I will reach out to them as well

Thank you
Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ji Montgomery < >
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 3:35 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Stop the waterdog lake and open space all these wild animals will die if you clear the land !

As a local resident, someone who is concerned with wildlife and wilderness defense of Animals, I am writing to urge you to prioritize the protection and open space in the PROS master plan. This must be done by reducing mountain bikes on wide fire-road trail only.

Belmont offers many recreational opportunities, but waterdog is it's primary natural open space, and only by prioritizing protection over recreation will leave future generations of all species the same beautiful and essential wild land we witness today.

While opportunities for outdoor recreation and simply bring able to enjoy nature are important, with increasingly little habitat in the bay area, this open space is critical for wildlife, and provides an corridor that many species rely on and benefit from.

As a local resident,I value protecting and conserving waterdog open space and wildlife habitat. If the current recreational usage of waterdog continues, it will cease to function as a healthy native habitat for wildlife.

I am also extremely concerned that allowing bikes on narrow trails, running over out wild animals and habitat destruction.

I sincerely hope you will put conservation first when planning the future of this open space, and prioritize the need to keep bikes on fire roads only to protect habitat and wildlife.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Concerned Citizen,
Ji Montgomery

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Joy Silen < >
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 3:46 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Waterdog Park

Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation,

As a Belmont Heights resident, I am concerned to hear that Parks and Recreation is considering expanding the number of trails in Waterdog park. It is my understanding that this is based on the results of your survey, which did not (and could not) control for the outsized input due to cycling advocacy groups.

While Waterdog is clearly an important peninsula resource (I often see families parking at the entrance) it is Belmont's responsibility to ensure that:

a) the trails are safe for both hikers and bikers and

b) the environmental degradation caused by overuse and abuse is halted and reversed.

What is clear is that the impact of irresponsible off-trail mountain biking activity is creating havoc with this precious resource. We are custodians not only for our neighbors and visitors, but also for the wildlife that we share the open space with. It is distressing to see the negative impact from just one segment of users.

Therefore, I urge you not to expand the use of Waterdog by opening yet more trails, but rather use resources to monitor use and discourage unlawful - and frankly dangerous - behavior, and repair the damage already done.

Thank you,

Jov Silen

Belmont

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rose Laflin <r i>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 1:33 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Barrett Dog Hours

Dear Park and Recreation Director and Commissioners,

I write to you all in my head almost every morning. That is because we wake up to barking dogs at Barrett between 6 and 7 a.m. almost every day. The worst day is Sunday. This is despite our double-paned windows.

The dog hours have gotten very popular this year. We have noticed a big increase in the number of dogs and noise.

We know we live by a community center, one that has gotten busier every year we've lived here. But with the dog hours, you have taken away the only quiet hours we had - early morning, late evening and Sundays. Easter Sunday, having my elderly parents over for a socially distanced lunch - dogs barking. Mother's Day, enjoying our back yard with our kids - dogs barking. Today, we were awakened at 6:05 by a barking dog and while eating breakfast at 7:30, dogs barking frantically at other dogs outside the fence as their owners talked. We know people don't even notice our houses or realize how sound travels in this little valley. But this is the problem with having a dog park in a neighborhood.

The thought of a permanent dog park at Barrett breaks our hearts. It does not matter that it will be moved a few hundred feet one way or the other (actually closer to us in the latest plan). There are not many of us living next to Barrett so perhaps it is easy to discount us. But we do have to live here 24/7.

As you develop your all parks plan for the city, could you consider putting a permanent dog park on the Sports Complex site or some other site, away from any neighbors, no matter how few?

We have been told (repeatedly) to call Belmont Police when we see someone with dogs during off hours or if there is excessive barking. I could call every day. We did for a few days when dog hours opened this year, because people broke the rules every day. The new signs helped a little. Soccer practice helped a lot. But the reality is, I don't want to call the police department every time there are dogs barking, someone there with dogs at the wrong time, or someone not picking up after their dog. One, this is exhausting. Two, there don't seem to be any consequences for people breaking the rules. Three, all of us Barrett neighbors occasionally have to call the police for more serious disruptions at Barrett, often late at night. The police dispatcher knows us all. I don't want to become an annoying presence to the police.

We appreciate you trying to accommodate a wide variety of citizens in Belmont. But, as Barrett neighbors, we really would like some help with this situation. Please advise at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Rose Laflin and Justin Mauck

George Metropulos

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Austin Fisher <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:08 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Focus Group + A question about survey results

Hello,

I would like to volunteer for the open space focus group. I think I have a unique perspective to offer and I'm looking forward to having productive conversations about the future of the open space.

I also had a question about the survey results- a couple times during the meeting someone brought up a statistic, something like "77% of people felt unsafe on the trails" or similar. Someone had also said this was an incorrect/misleading interpretation of the results. Will you be posting the survey results online? I would like to look at them for myself. If you won't be posting them, could you at least clarify this statistic?

Thanks!

Austin Fisher

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: margie <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:39 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Belmont resident, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve.** In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan.

My family, friends, and I frequently hike in the Waterdog Open Space and often have to jump out of the way of approaching cyclists, sometimes ending in a patch of poison oak. Bikes must not be allowed on the narrow trails due to safety issues and to protect wildlife and the natural ecosystem.

Regards,

Marjory Kaptanoglu

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Deniz Bolbol < >
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 2021 1:50 PM
To: Belmontprosplan Info
Subject: interested in open space focus group

Please sign me up. Many thanks.
Deniz Bolbol

Belmont

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: pat Cuviello < >
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:10 AM
To: P&R Comm; Brigitte Shearer; Charles Stone - Mayor; Warren Lieberman; Julia Mates - Vice Mayor; Thomas McCune; Davina Hurt
Subject: illegal bike jumps and trails removed in California state parks

https://www.kcra.com/article/illegal-bike-jumps-trails-removed-california-state-parks/36317610?fbclid=IwAR11SGYkdmaTKcAtbsxdAo7zPsyADm7-F1ofApgNqXDAe8IlaEWoyR2cHk0

This is a general problem with mountain bikers everywhere, including, as you know, Waterdog Open Space. The State is addressing it and the City of Belmont needs to as well.

Pat Cuviello

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Diane Boross
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 12:51 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve
Attachments: IMAG1660.jpg; IMAG1661.jpg

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

- **Hiking today on single track trails and witnessed/noted:**
  - **Multiple bikers jumping over large rocks at high speeds**
  - **Bikers passing hikers closely at high speeds without masks and without stopping**
  - **One E-Biker cruising at a slower speed with questionable steering control**
  - **Multiple shortcut trails added to switchback trails**

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

- **Numerous tire treads due to wet conditions bike riding**
- **Numerous broken and battered tree roots on trails**
- **Numerous sawed up tree branches lying beside trails**
- **Numerous dangerously eroded single-track trails with unlevel footings for hikers, caused by biker tires, on steep hillsides**
- **All drainage irrigation channels filled and blocked with debris, including trail cuttings, branches, dirt and rocks. (attached pictures)**
    - **Please do something to resolve these problems so we can continue to enjoy this park in the future.**

Thank you,

Diane Boross

Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: FW: Bikes in Water Dog area

From: webmaster@belmont.gov <webmaster@belmont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 1:52 PM
To: x-community development <cdev@belmont.gov>
Subject: Bikes in Water Dog area

Message submitted from the <City of Belmont> website.

Site Visitor Name: Rosemary Lake
Site Visitor Email: L

Please, Please, do not approve this project
which will simply not add to the use
of our Water Dog area, especially because it seems the project will be for the out of area riders and not just Belmont residents.
Thank you.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 5:25 PM
To: PROS Committee; P&R Comm
Cc: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: San Mateo Region Open Space Trail Presentation
Attachments: Open Space Preserves in the San Mateo Region.pdf

Hello Park Commission and PROS Committee Members,

When the Master Plan process was getting underway, I compiled a **review of all open space preserves in the San Mateo Region** to better inform the Commission on the topic of Open Space Stewardship.

Management of natural spaces requires very different objectives and knowledge than management of *developed* parks. I believe an awareness of stewardship policies and best practices adopted by other open space entities will better inform our own stewardship decisions, helping to ensure Belmont's natural spaces remain healthy for future generations. A good starting point is this review of all open space areas in the San Mateo region.

I presented this data to members of the Park Commission in October 2020 and June 2021. This PDF is compiled from my original slide presentation. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the future of Belmont Parks and Open Space.

Kristin Mercer

"It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us." – Jane Goodall

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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 6:46 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm; PROS Committee
Subject: Belmont Creek Stream Restoration Project

Dear Council Members,
RE: Belmont Creek Stream Restoration Project.
The June 22, 2021 staff report for this project states *"The City will cultivate local stewardship of Belmont Creek."*

How does this staff report statement comport with City failure to protect upper Belmont Creek which drains into Waterdog Lake?

A year ago, I reported to your Parks Commission a half-mile long unauthorized trail forged through the sensitive Belmont Creek riparian area. This trail is illegal on many levels, and directly damages the creek and water quality as well as the surrounding habitat. I shared photo evidence of dumping and erosion into the creek, damage to the habitat of endangered species, vandalism of a 100-year-old 50-foot-tall heritage bay tree, removal of endangered plants, and proof that the trail was never approved by the city.

To date the City has taken no steps to stop the eco-vandalism and illegal use of the trail. It is ironic that the City promises to protect and restore Belmont Creek, as the City Council intentionally looks the other *way* while portions of the Creek are being destroyed.

The Belmont Creek riparian trail is:

1. **Unauthorized and was never approved by any City entity.** The Park Director's 2012 report stated there were "no new trails planned" after the construction of Lake Loop, and none have been approved since then.
2. **Violates the Open Space Master Plan** which specifically identified this marsh area for environmental protection,
3. Violates guidelines of the **California Department of Water Resources,** in neglect of the City's contractual commitments of the **Notre Dame Waterdog Lake lease and the John Brocks Preserve** bequest,
4. **Violates Belmont's own *riparian guidelines*** as published in the Belmont leaflet "Erosion and Sediment Controls for Riparian Areas:
   - Do not rake up leaf litter and fallen branches of native plants. This material provides food and shelter for beneficial insects, a crucial part of the food chain.
   - Do not dump yard wastes or grass clippings into the creek or riparian corridor. They smother existing plants, causing erosion and spreading invasive, nonnative plants. Their decomposition also robs the water of valuable oxygen, affecting fish and other aquatic organisms.
   - Minimize soil compaction. Control the use of trails and other recreational activities.
   - Control erosion by protecting areas where flowing water meets bare soil, such as on dirt roads, trails, driveways, earthen drainage ditches, or patches of bare or

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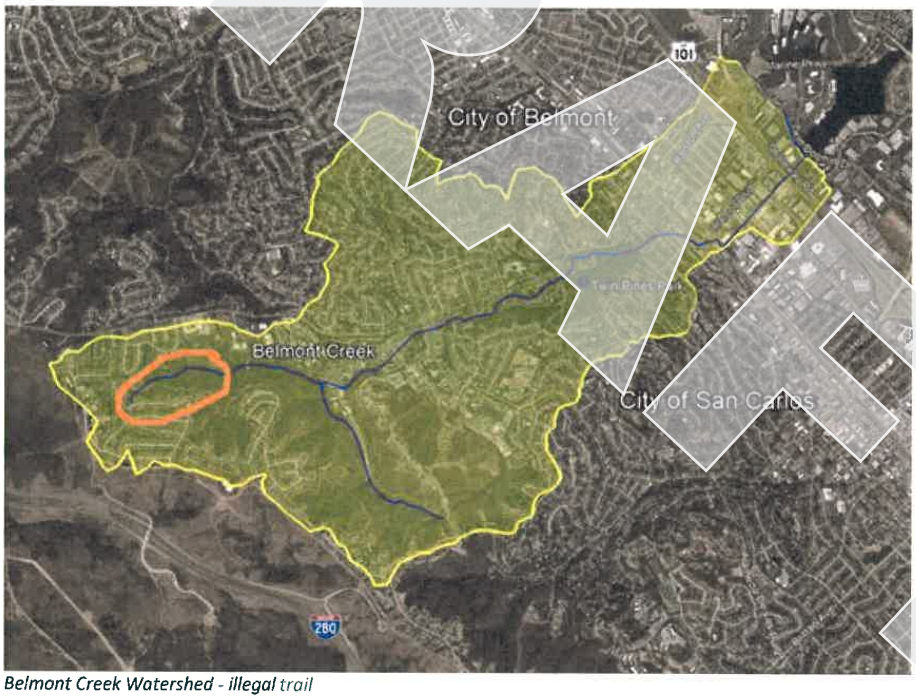
- Protect existing native vegetation. Construction, compaction, tilling, changes to soil grade or drainage patterns, should not occur under the tree drip-line (from the trunk to the edge of vegetation canopy).

5. Noted in the biologist report commissioned by Friends of Waterdog, which was sent to all City Council and Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

   "Contrary to these policies, the City allowed wet crossings and an unmapped trail to be constructed through the riparian community west of Water Dog Lake. Significant habitat loss occurred during trail construction. Ongoing use of the trail is causing additional habitat loss and degradation through trail widening, vegetation trampling and removal, and trail spidering, especially in the vicinity of Belmont Creek. ***The magnitude of impacts to riparian vegetation suggests a lack of environmental review and disregard for state regulations that protect riparian resources.****"*

The riparian communities of *the entirety of Belmont Creek* are protected under **section 1602 of California Fish and Game Code** (Lake and Streambed Alteration Program), and the water bodies themselves are protected under the **federal Clean Water Act**, the **State's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act**, as well as section 1602 of California Fish and Game Code.

Again, I ask the Council to instruct staff to immediately close this illegal trail and begin restoration of the habitat that has been vandalized by its unauthorized construction and use. Especially during this drought, protecting all riparian areas is vital to our preservation of this rare and protected habitat.



Belmont Creek Watershed - illegal trail

Kristin Mercer

"It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us." – Jane Goodall

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Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 9:58 AM
To: City Council; Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Cc: linda gates
Subject: Safety in Belmont Open Space email 2 of 2
Attachments: Narrow Trails in WD.docx; Narrow Trail WD.MOV

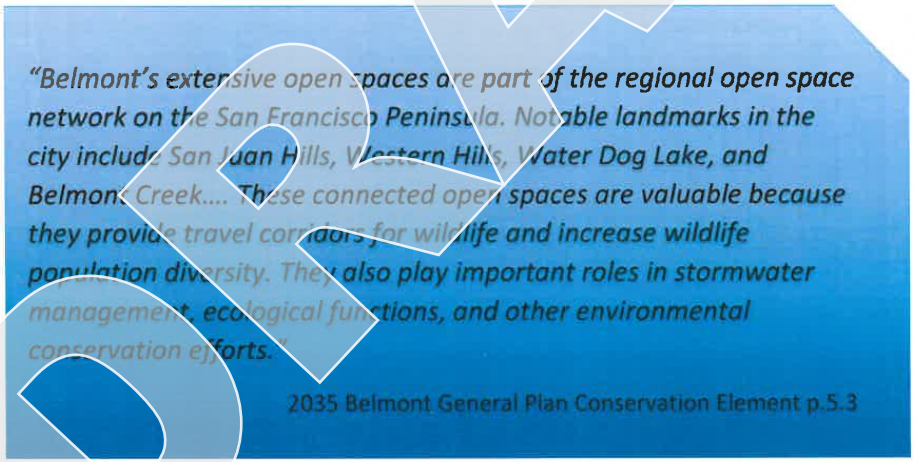
I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Barbara Posch

DRAFT

Open Space Preserves
In the San Mateo Region

A study for policy makers for Belmont's Water Dog Open Space



Open Space Preserves of the San Mateo Region, 06-15-2021, K.D.Mercer

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Objective

The objective of this study is to provide Belmont policy makers with the data and perspective needed to make the best stewardship decisions for the future of Belmont's Water Dog – Hidden Canyon open space. Management policies for open space must take into consideration geology, hydrology, stormwater, biological resources, ecosystems and wildlife habitats, as well as maintenance costs, infrastructure, wildfire hazards, safety, and more. All of these factors are impacted directly by trail density and trail uses, which in turn affect visitor volume and visitor impacts on the open space.

"While the extensive natural open space system provides numerous benefits for the Belmont community, it also brings challenges. Human safety and recreation opportunities must be balanced with maintaining the proper functioning of natural systems. For instance, the City has to manage invasive species, reduce fire hazards, and maintain trails as part of the effort to preserve and maintain the open spaces."

2035 General Plan, Conservation Element, p.5.3

The Study

- Study methodology
- Acreage (size) of 44 Regional Open Space Preserves
- Trail miles and trail density (miles/100 acres)
- Single-use vs. shared-use trails
- Track width of shared-use trails
- Summary
- Action plan to protect Water Dog – Hidden Canyon

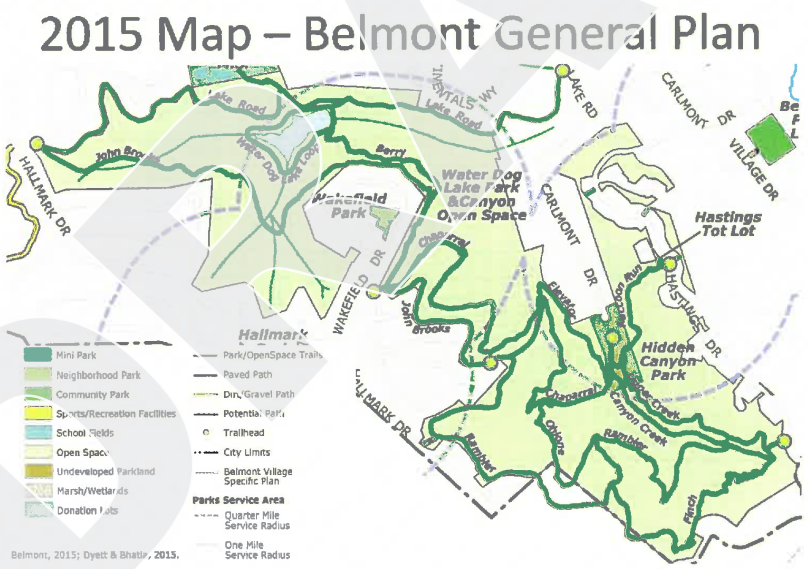
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Study Methodology

The San Mateo region has a variety of nearly 50 Open Space Preserves, owned and managed by cities, counties, the state of CA, the federal government and multiple conservation agencies. Open Space preserves extending from Pacifica to Cupertino were surveyed and considered for inclusion in the study. The goal was to compare and contrast the trail policies and stewardship of *comparable* tracts of public open spaces and preserves. Therefore, developed city parks (with amenities like playgrounds, picnic areas, etc.), bay/wetland/marsh preserves, beach parks, and preserves under 50 acres were omitted from the comparison. Thus, a resulting 44 preserves were included in the analysis.

Data for this study was collected from online material provided by the managing entities. Most entities list the acreage and trail miles on their websites (see p.16). Where not available, acreage was obtained from county parcel maps. Where trail miles were not stated, miles displayed on the official trail map was summed. All trail miles represent mapped trails (*excluding* unsanctioned trails). For Belmont, acreage was taken from the sum of assessor parcels (see p. 15), and trail miles from the sum of Google-measured trails on the official city trail map.



Open Space Preserves of the San Mateo Region, 06-15-2021, K.D.Mercer

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Open Space in the San Mateo Region

Preserves from Pacifica to Cupertino

PRESERVE	City/Entity	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Acres	Trail Miles	Miles / 100 Acre	Bike Miles	Single Track Bike Miles	Notes
Foothills Park	Palo Alto	L			1400	17.1	1.22	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, Palo Alto residents only
Arastradero	Palo Alto	x	x	x	622	10.3	1.65	10.3	2.5	50% gravel, @10% closed in wet
Coal Mine Ridge	Portola Valley	x		x	400	7.1	1.78	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, Private prop-Public right-of-way
Water Dog-Hidden Canyon	**Belmont**	**x**	**x**		**287**	**11.0**	**3.83**	**11.0**	**8.5**	**Excludes Unsanctioned Trails**
Laurelwood-Sugarloaf	San Mateo	x	L		225	3.5	1.56	1.2	0.0	2017 restoration plan, bikes on roads only
Big Canyon-Eaton Park	San Carlos	x			109	3.8	3.58	0.0	0.0	73ac park + 36ac Open Space. NO bikes
TOTAL CITY OWNED					3043	52.82	1.74	22.45	11.0	
Edgewood Preserve, RWC	SM County	x		L	467	7.9	1.69	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, Horses permitted on 6 miles
Huddart Park, Woodside	SM County	x		x	974	17.8	1.83	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, $6 per car, camping
Junipero Serra, San Bruno	SM County	x			103	3.0	2.86	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, picnic/play areas
Memorial Park	SM County	x			673	6.9	1.03	0.0	0.0	No bikes, $6 car, camping
Pedro Pt, Pacifica	SMC, Trust	x	L		255	2.0	0.78	1.0	0.0	1 mi bikes, packed dirt, restoration
Pescadero Creek	SM County	x		x	5497	26.0	0.40	0.0	0.0	bikes on fire roads only, camping
Pillar Point Bluff, HMB	SM County	x	x		220	3.4	1.55	3.4	0.0	ADA, wide packed dirt
Quarry Park, Granada	SM County	x	x	x	517	5.9	1.14	4.7	0.0	mostly maint surface, 1.2 mi hikers only
Sam McDonald Park	SM County	x		L	850	10.0	1.18	0.0	0.0	NO bikes except on 4 mi Fire road
San Bruno Mtn, San Bruno	SM Cnty/CA	x	L		2416	11.7	0.48	4.1	0.0	NO bikes except on 4.1 mi road, $6 per car.
San Pedro Valley, Pacifica	SM County	x		L	1052	9.3	0.88	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, $6 per vehicle
San Pedro Mtn, Montara	*SM County**	*x*	*x*	*x*	*450*	*6.6*	*1.47*	*6.6*	*0.0*	**NOT a Preserve: unincorp fire roads*
Upper Stevens Creek	SClara County	x	L	x	1280	10.7	0.84	8.9	7.9	Bikes on 8.9 mi *one-way uphill* only
Wunderlich, Woodside	SM County	x		x	942	14.7	1.56	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, heavily equestrian
TOTAL COUNTY PRESERVES					16246	129.3	0.80	28.7	7.9	*totals exclude San Pedro*

L = Use limited to designated trails

NOTE: San Pedro Mtn is not designated open space or preserve and is not managed under any trail management policy. It is listed for discussion only but excluded from the analysis.

Open Space Preserves of the San Mateo Region, 06-15-2021, K.D.Mercer

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

PRESERVE	City/Entity	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Acres	Trail Miles	Miles / 100 Acre	Bike Miles	Single Track Bike Miles	Notes
Coal Creek	MidPen	x	x	x	500	5.4	1.08	5.4	2.9	2.5 miles are "wide"[2]
Corte de Madera Creek	MidPen	x	x	x	2906	35.0	1.20	35.0	18.0	Skeggs, 17 miles are "wide"[2]
Foothills Hidden Villa	MidPen	x		L	212	6.0	2.83	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, horses 2 mi only, CLOSED June-Aug
Fremont Older Preserve	MidPen	x	x	x	739	14.7	1.99	14.7	5.7	9 miles are "wide" [2]
La Honda Creek (upr + lower)	MidPen	x		L	6100	9.5	0.16	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, permit; lower[2] is working ranch
Long Ridge	MidPen	x	x	x	2226	13.2	0.59	10.2	3.7	3 mi hike only, 6.5 miles are "wide" [2]
Los Trancos	MidPen	x		L	274	5.2	1.90	0.0	0.0	NO bikes horses on 2.8 mi.
Monte Bello	MidPen	x	x	x	3436	15.5	0.45	15.5	1.5	14 miles are "wide" [2], hike-in camping
Picetti Ranch Preserve	MidPen	x		x	308	3.7	1.20	0.0	0.0	NO bikes
Pulgas Ridge Preserve, RWC	MidPen	x			366	6.0	1.64	0.0	0.0	NO bikes
Purisima Creek Redwoods	MidPen	x	L	L	4711	24.0	0.51	18.0	6.0	Bikes on 18 mi., 12 mi are "wide"[2]
Rancho San Antonio	MidPen	x		x	3988	24.2	0.61	0.0	0.0	NO bikes except paved, 18 mi are "wide"[2]
Russian Ridge	MidPen	x	L	x	3137	10.4	0.33	9.3	3.6	Bikes on 8.3 mi, 6. mi are "wide"[2]
Saratoga Gap	MidPen	x	x	x	1540	1.7	0.11	1.7	1.7	Bay Area Ridge Trail Skyline Blvd
Skyline Ridge	MidPen	x	L	L	2143	10.9	0.51	7.8	2.2	Bikes on 7.8 mi, 5.6 are "wide"
Teague hill	MidPen	x		x	626	1.0	0.16	0.0	0.0	Bay Area Ridge Trail access only
Thornewood	MidPen	x		x	167	0.8	0.45	0.0	0.0	NO bikes
Windy Hill	MidPen	x	L	x	1335	12.2	0.91	3.7	0.9	Bikes on 3.7 mi of "wide" [2] only
TOTAL MIDPEN OWNED					34714	199.4	0.57	121.3	46.2	*[2] MidPen designated "wide" are wider than 6ft, including fire roads.*
Cowell Purissima + Coastal	*POST / HMB*	*L*	*L*		*14*	*na*	*na*	*3.6*	*0.8*	*NOT a preserve, connections vary*
Milagra Ridge, Pacifica	GGNRA	x			275	7.0	2.55	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, partially paved rd
Phleger Estate, Woodside	GGNRA	x		x	1084	3.7	0.53	0.0	0.0	NO bikes
Rancho Corral de Tierra,	GGNRA/POST	x	x	x	4262	10.0	0.23	9.0	0.0	working ranches, dirt roads, restoration
Sweeney Ridge, Pacifica	GGNRA	x	x	x	1200	7.7	0.64	5.5	0.0	2 mi hike only, 5 mi dirt road
Bureleigh Murray Ranch	CA State	x	x		1325	2.1	0.16	2.1	0.0	farm road 1.4 mi
McNee Ranch, Montara	CA State	x	x	x	690	8.0	1.16	8.0	0.0	all fire road and packed dirt
Portola Redwoods	CA State	x			2800	18.0	0.64	0.0	0.0	NO bikes except 4.2 mi Fire Road, camping
Crystal Springs Sawyer Camp	*SFPUC-County*	*x*	*x*			*17.5*	*na*	*17.5*	*0.0*	*all paved double track*
Fifield-Cahill Ridge	*SFPUC closed*	*L*	*L*	*L*	*23000*	*10.0*	*0.04*	*10.0*	*0.0*	*guided appt. only, all gravel road*
TOTAL STATE-FED-OTHER					11636	58.5	0.50	55.7	0.8	*totals exclude SFPUC and Cowell+Coastal*

L = Use limited to designated trails

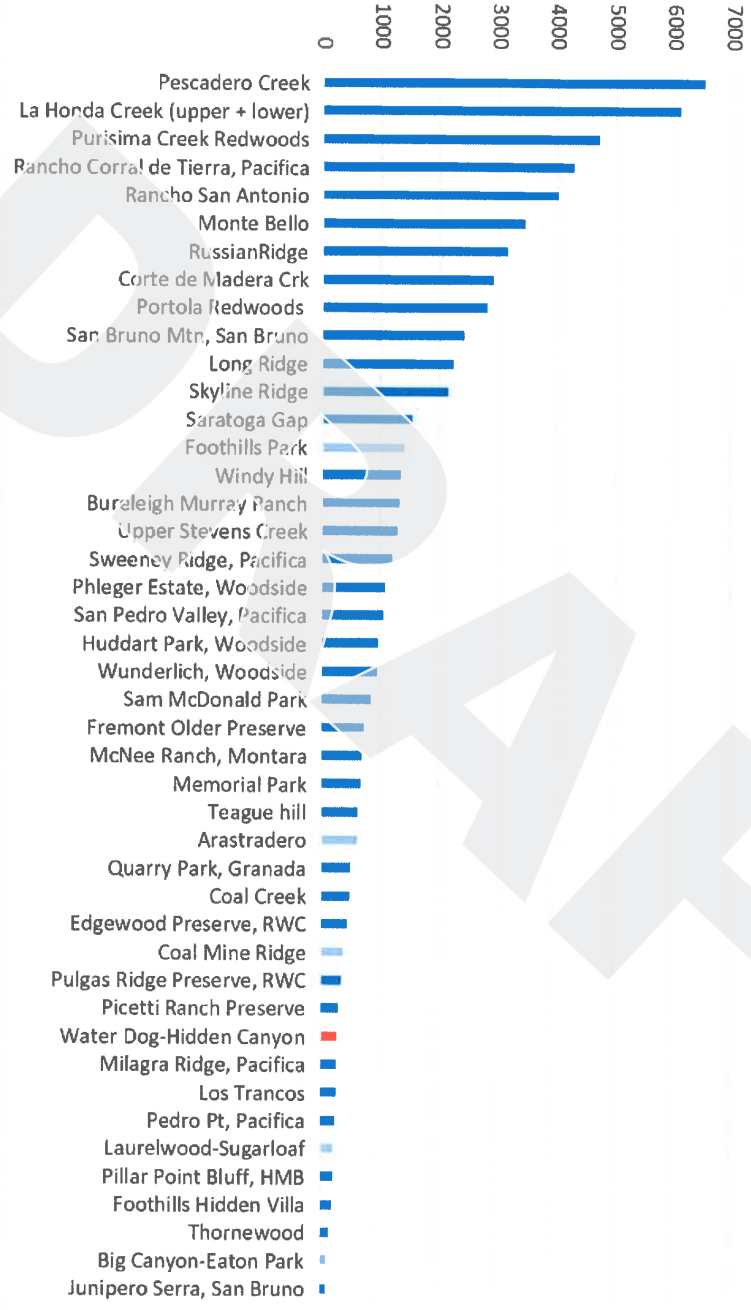
Note: Cowell and coastal trails that does not include acreage, and SFPUC Watershed lands that are not accessible to the public, are listed for discussion only, but are excluded from the analysis.

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287-Acre Water Dog-Hidden Canyon Ranks 35th Among 44 Regional Preserves

At 287 acres, Water Dog is the 10th smallest of the 44 preserves included in the analysis. The chart below ranks preserves by acreage. Water Dog is shown in red, and the other 5 city-owned preserves in light blue.



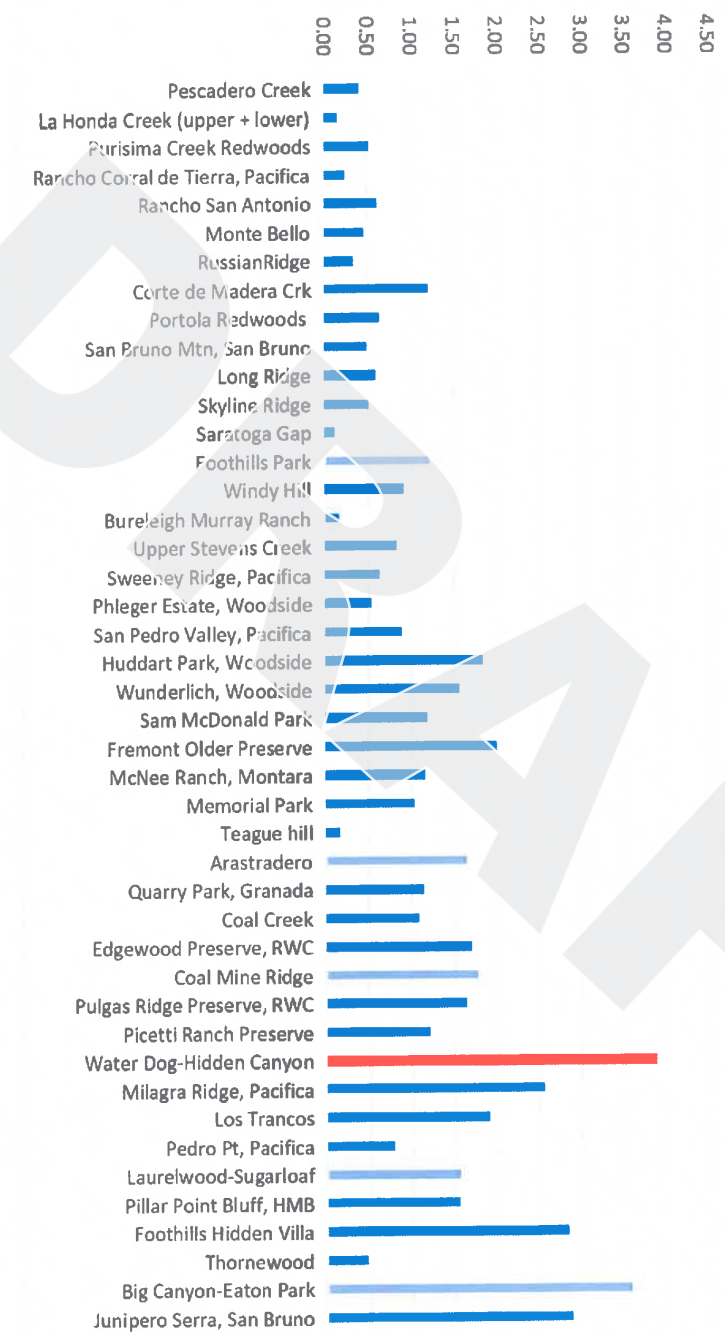
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Water Dog has the Highest Trail Density of ALL Preserves

Using this same ranking by acreage, largest preserve on the left and smallest on the right, the table, below shows the number of trail miles per 100 acres for these same preserves. Naturally we would expect the smaller preserves (on the right of the chart) to have a higher ratio of trails *per acre*. But even amongst the smaller preserves, Water Dog is a clear outlier, with more trail miles per acre than any of the 44 preserves.

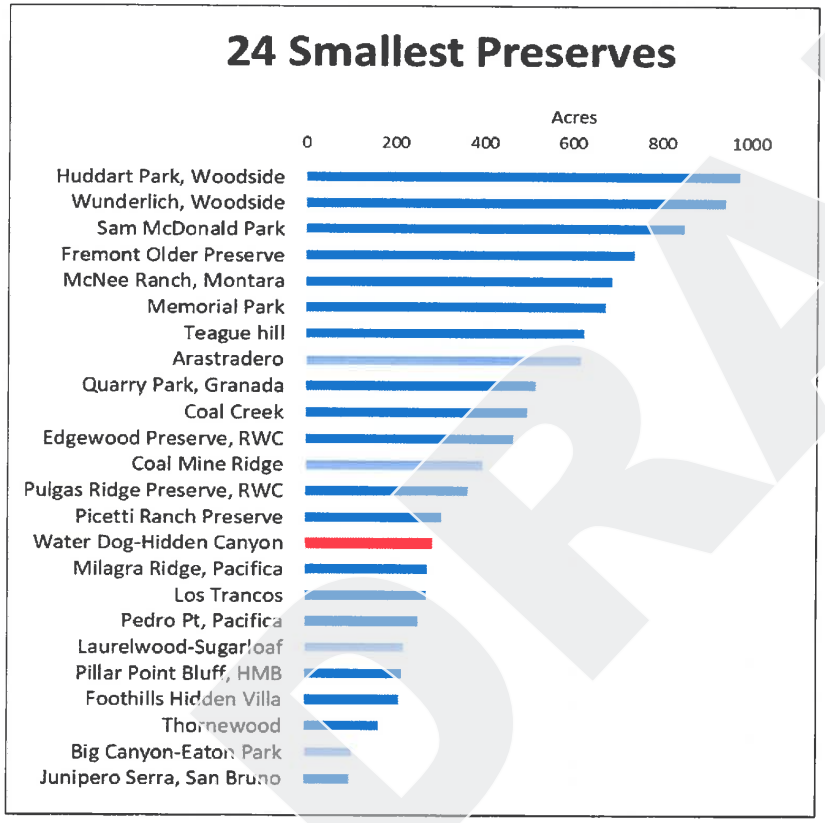


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Narrowing the Comparison to 24 Smaller Preserves – Those Under 1000 Acres

It's fair to argue that comparing Water Dog to much larger preserves is not equitable. So next we look at just the smaller of these preserves – those under 1000 acres. The graphs shown here include just the 24 preserves under 1000 acres. Again, the preserves are ranked from largest acreage on the top to smallest acreage on the bottom.

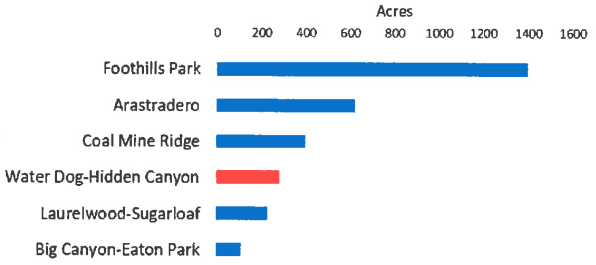


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287 Acre Water Dog is 10th smallest of regional preserves

The 6 City-Owned preserves range from 109 acres to 1,400 acres

City-Owned Preserves

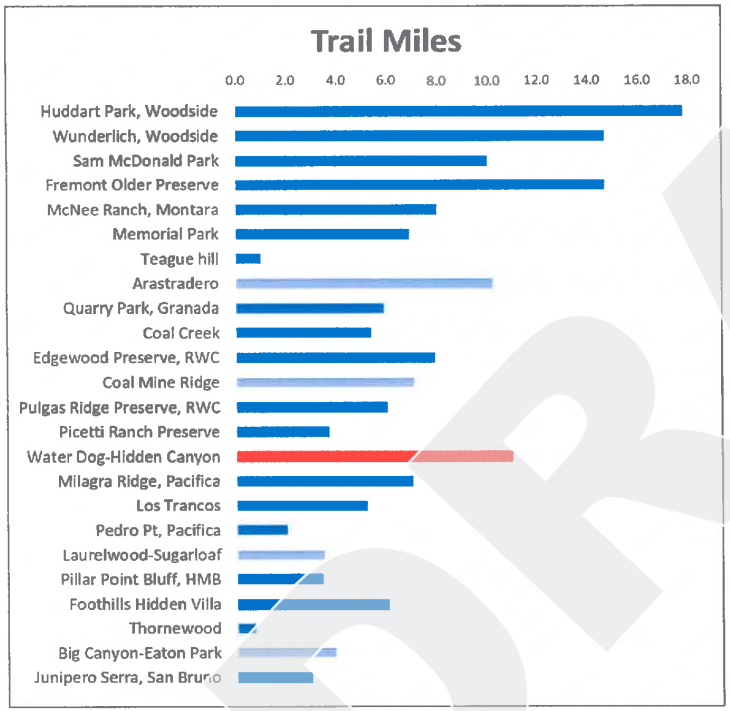


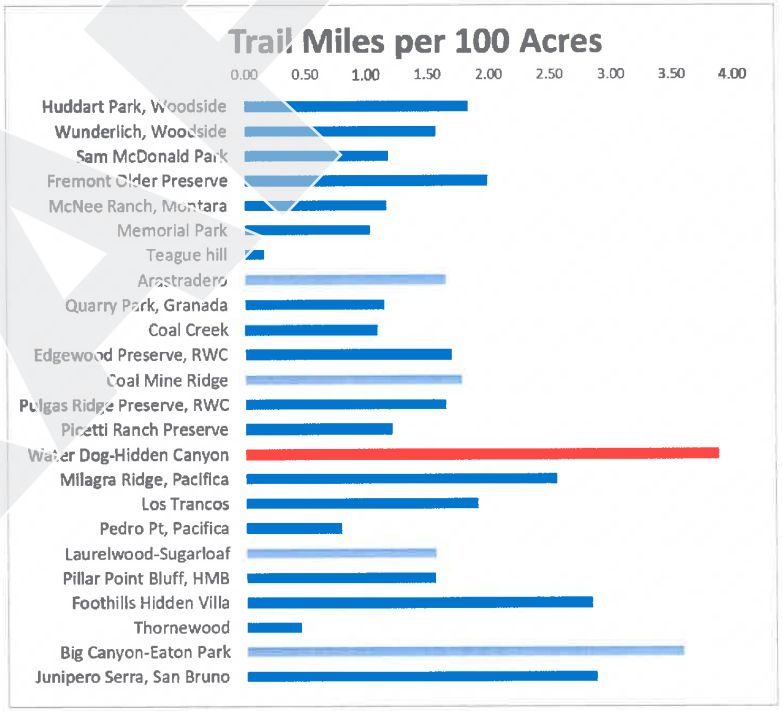
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Trail Miles and Trail Density of the 24 Smaller Preserves

For the 24 smallest preserves (under 1000 acres) these graphs are again ranked in the same order by acreage. On the left we see raw trail miles. Water Dog is an outlier, with more trail miles than all but three (larger) preserves in this group.

To equalize between the larger and smaller preserves, the second graph shows trail density; the ratio of trail miles *per 100 acres*. Water Dog is again an outlier with more than double the average trail density of comparable preserves.





Sorted by acres, largest to smallest. Light blue bars indicate city-owned preserves.

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Trail Mile Density among 44 San Mateo Region Open Space Preserves

Recall the data shown in the survey table on pages 2-3, where preserves were grouped by owner entities: Cities, Counties, MidPen and Others. Below are the *average trail densities* (trail miles per 100 acres) of the preserves maintained *by each managing entity group*. The average trail density of the 23 other smaller preserves is 1.47, and other city-owned preserves are 1.53. In contrast, Water Dog is a clear outlier with 2-5 times the trail density maintained by other entities.

Average Trail Miles per 100 Acres

County Owned Preserves (13)	.80
MidPen Owned Preserves (18)	.57
State-Fed-Agency Owned (7)	.50
Other City Owned Preserves (5)	1.53
Preserves Under 1,000 Acres (23)	1.47
Water Dog – Hidden Canyon	3.83

Water Dog Trails are over-built by a factor of 2-5 times

Trail density has a direct impact on both the *environment* and the user *experience*. Impacts on the environment include segmentation of wildlife habitats, disruption of wildlife corridors, soil disruption, erosion, drainage, impacts on waterways, invasive plant species, endangered species, and tree canopy health. Additionally, higher trail density increases visitor volume, which in turn impacts adjacent neighborhoods, emergency services, wildfire hazards, and even traffic and air quality. Visitors come to open spaces to experience tranquility, solitude and connection with nature, and the quality of this experience is determined by *both* trail traffic and the natural setting. **Responsible land management limits trail density in order to minimize negative impacts on the environment and the user experience.**

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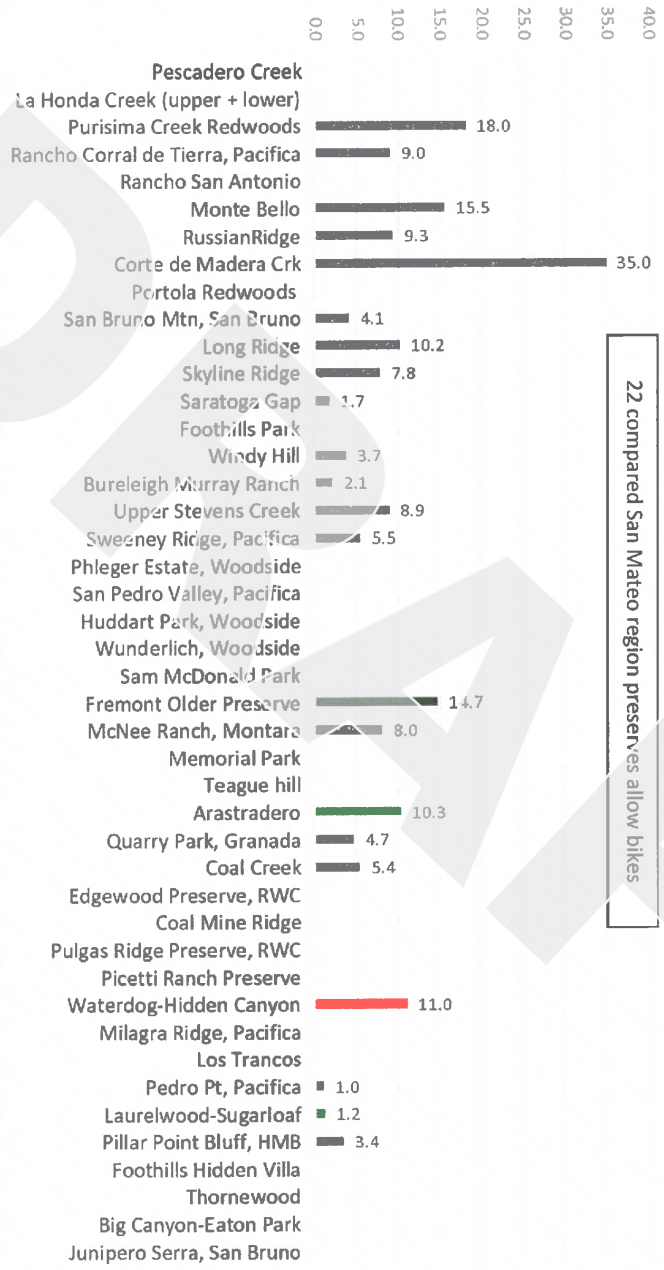
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Half of Compared San Mateo Region Preserves Allow Bikes

Of the 44 preserves compared in the analysis, 22 do not allow bikes at all (except on paved roads used by vehicles). The graph below shows the bike trail miles of the 22 preserves that allow bikes. Note, this is *bike* trail miles and excludes single-use *hiking* trail miles.

Water Dog has More Bike Miles than all but 4 Preserves



NOTE: None of the preserves surveyed in the region have bike-only trails.

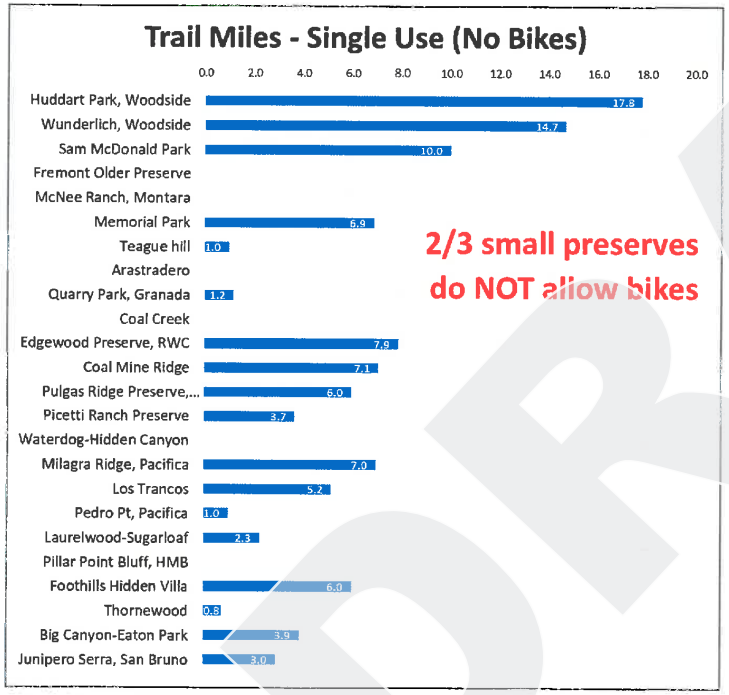
Only one preserve (Upper Stevens Creek in Santa Clara County) has a one-way trail: 1.4 miles of **fire road allowing bikes one-way *uphill only***.

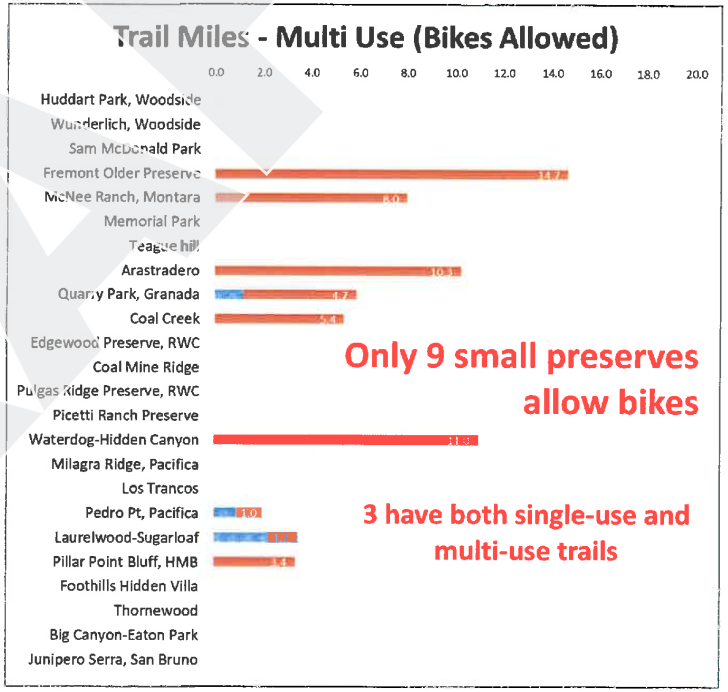
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Only 9 of the 24 Smaller Preserves Allow Bikes

The graph on the left displays trail miles reserved for hikers only. Fifteen out of 24 smaller preserves DO NOT allow bikes on trails. Three others have a *mix* of single-use and multi-use trails; Quarry Park, Pedro Point, and Laurelwood-Sugarloaf (note the *multi-use* trail miles for these three parks on the graph on the right.) Water Dog allows bikes on every trail, regardless of width. The miles and density of trails for sport biking has made Water Dog a regional destination bike-park.

Water Dog has more bike-miles than all but the much larger Fremont Older





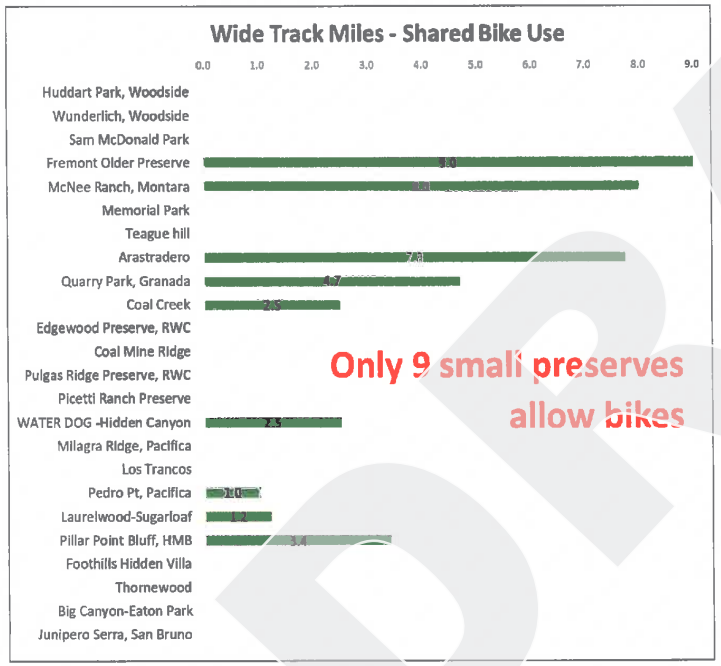
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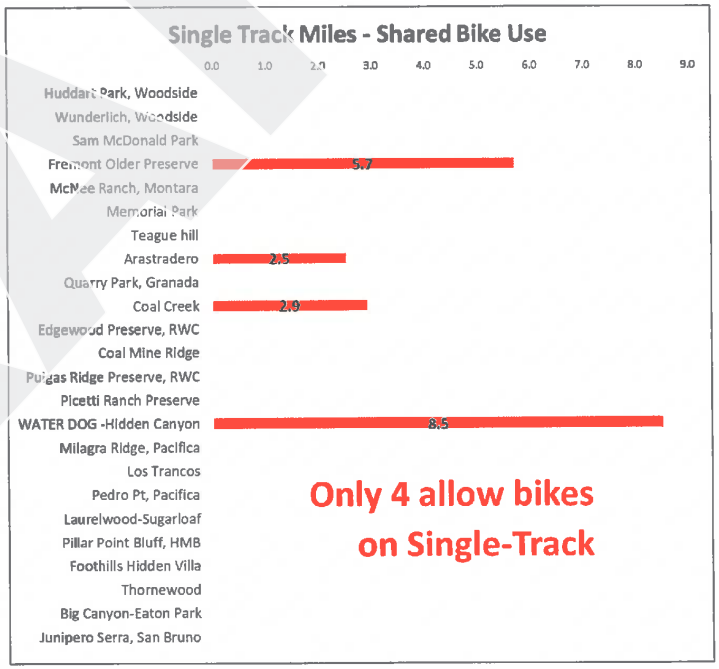
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Only 4 of the 24 Smaller Preserves Allow Bikes on Single Track Trails

The width of shared-use trails is an important factor for safety and compatibility. Hiker experience is greatly diminished by encounters requiring them to jump off-trail. This is why best-practices followed by other preserves restrict bike access on single-track trails. These graphs show the trail width in the **nine preserves that allow bikes on trails.** On the left are miles of trail that are unpaved roads; former ranch roads, logging roads, or service roads at least 6 feet wide. The majority of shared-use miles are *wide tracks*. On the right are trails requiring hikers to share *single-track* trails with bikes. All Water Dog single track trails are shared-use.

Water Dog has the most Shared Single-Track miles of the 24 smaller preserves.





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SUMMARY

Trail development and management of Water Dog open space is inconsistent with approved City plans and policies. Further, this study has shown that Water Dog trail policies are not consistent with the best-practices followed by comparable land stewards in the region.

❖ **Water Dog has twice the trail miles proportional to its size.**

Excessive trail density disrupts wildlife in their natural habitat, segments wildlife corridors, alters drainage patterns, introduces erosion, impacts waterways, and damages plants and tree root systems. With the highest trail density of all 44 preserves, Water Dog attracts more visitors, which in turn impacts adjacent neighborhoods, emergency services, wildfire hazards, and traffic.

❖ **Water Dog has more *bike* trail miles than all but four of the largest preserves.**

The miles and density of trails for *sport biking* has made Water Dog a regional destination bike-park, attracting bikers from all over the bay area. Half of the open space preserves in the region *ban bikes on all trails*. Amongst comparable smaller preserves, two out of three ban bikes from all trails.

❖ **Water Dog allows bikes on ALL single-track trails; zero trails are protected for the single use of hikers.**

Only 4 of the 24 comparable smaller preserves allow bikes on single-track trails. While Water Dog has become a regional destination for sport mountain biking, Belmont *residents are denied access* to the tranquility, solitude, and connection with nature that comes only from a quiet walk in the woods.

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ACTION NEEDED TO PROTECT WATER DOG-HIDDEN CANYON

- **Close all trails not approved on the 1998 Trail Map.**

  In 1998, Belmont's City Council approved nine miles of trail. The current City Trail Map shows 11 miles of trail, not counting an estimated 1-2 miles of existing unmapped trails.

- **Confine bike use to perimeter trails and roads.**

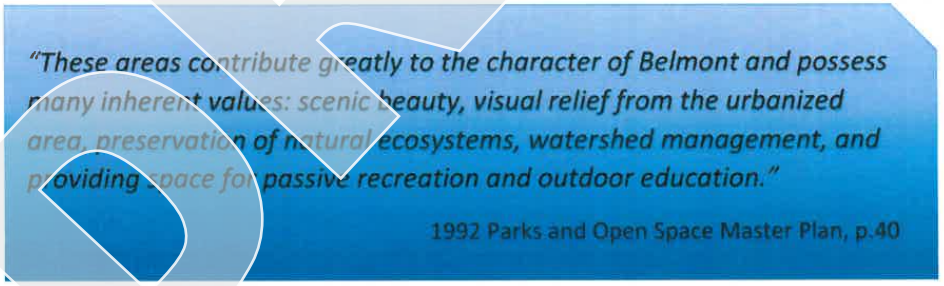
  The Council Approved 1998 Trail Map clearly designated only perimeter trails for multi-use, consistent with the policies adopted in the 1992 Open Space Master Plan.

- **Reserve single-track trails for hiking only.**

  The hiker experience and perception of safety is greatly diminished by encounters requiring them to jump off-trail at the command of a bell. Provide a safe hiking environment for hikers, including children and dogs, where narrow trails make passing dangerous.

- **Set a long-term goal to reduce trail density.**

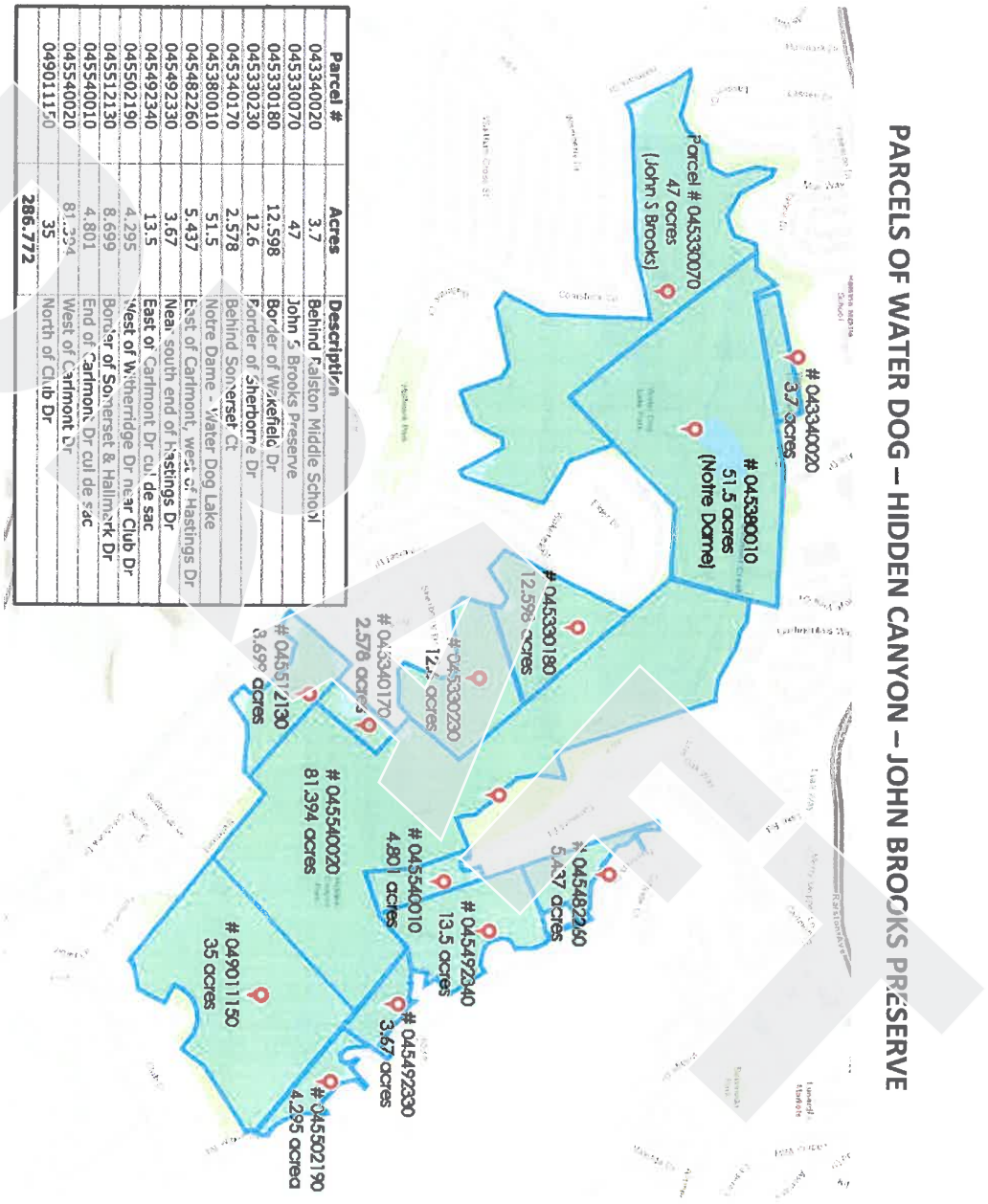
  Aim for development in line with the 1.47 miles/100 acres average maintained by other preserves of Water Dog's size.



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Parcel #	Acres	Description
043340020	3.7	Behind Ralston Middle School
045330070	47	John S Brooks Preserve
045330180	12.598	Border of Wakefield Dr
045330230	12.6	Border of Sherborne Dr
045340170	2.578	Behind Somerset Ct
045380010	51.5	Notre Dame - Water Dog Lake
045482260	5.437	East of Carlmont, west of Hastings Dr
045492330	3.67	Near south end of Hastings Dr
045492340	13.5	East of Carlmont Dr cul de sac
045502190	4.295	West of Witheridge Dr near Club Dr
045512130	8.699	Border of Somerset & Hallmark Dr
045540010	4.801	End of Carlmont Dr cul de sac
045540020	81.394	West of Carlmont Dr
049011150	35	North of Club Dr
	286.772	

Open Space Preserves of the San Mateo Region, 06-15-2021, K.D.Mercer

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

REFERENCE LINKS TO SOURCE DATA

PRESERVE	City/Entity	Notes	Links
CITY OWNED			
Foothills Park	Palo Alto	NO bikes, Palo Alto residents only	http://cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/72532
Arastradero	Palo Alto	50% gravel, @10% closed in wet	https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/parks/preserves/arastradero
Coal Mine Ridge	Portola Valley	NO bikes, Private prop-Public right-of-way	https://www.portolavalley.net/home/showdocument?id=120
Water Dog-Hidden Canyon	Belmont	Excludes Unsanctioned Trails	https://www.belmont.gov/home/showdocument?id=16479
Laurelwood-Sugarloaf	San Mateo	2017 restoration plan, bikes on roads only	https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/45418/LPSM-Management-Plan-Amendment_March-2015?bidId=
Big Canyon-Eaton Park	San Carlos	73ac park + 36ac Open Space. NO bikes	https://www.cityofsancarlos.org/home/showdocument?id=1361
COUNTY OWNED			
Edgewood Preserve, RWC	SM County	NO bikes, Horses permitted on 6 miles	https://parks.smcgov.org/edgewood-park-natural-preserve
Huddart Park, Woodside	SM County	NO bikes, $6 per car, camping	https://parks.smcgov.org/huddart-park
Junipero Serra, San Bruno	SM County	NO bikes, picnic/play areas	https://parks.smcgov.org/junipero-serra-park
Memorial Park	SM County	No bikes, $6 car, camping	https://parks.smcgov.org/memorial-park
Pedro Pt, Pacifica	SMC, LandTrust	1 mi bikes, packed dirt, restoration	https://parks.smcgov.org/pedro-point-headlands-improvement-restoration-project
Pescadero Creek	SM County	bikes on fire roads only, camping	https://parks.smcgov.org/pescadero-creek-park-trails
Pillar Point Bluff, HMB	SM County	ADA, wide packed dirt	https://parks.smcgov.org/pillar-point-bluff
Quarry Park, Granada	SM County	mostly maint surface, 1.2 mi hikers only	https://parks.smcgov.org/quarry-park
Sam McDonald Park	SM County	NO bikes except on 4 mi Fire road	https://parks.smcgov.org/sam-mcdonald-park
San Bruno Mtn, San Bruno	SM County/CA	NO bikes except on 4.1 mi road, $6 per car	https://parks.smcgov.org/san-bruno-mountain-state-county-park
San Pedro Valley, Pacifica	SM County	NO bikes, $6 per vehicle	https://parks.smcgov.org/san-pedro-valley-park
San Pedro Mtn, Montara	*SM County**	**NOT a Preserve: unincorp fire roads*	https://www.hikingproject.com/trail/7007453/old-san-pedro-mountain-road
Upper Stevens Creek	SClara County	Bikes on 8.3 mi *one-way uphill only*	https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Documents/StCrkMainFinal2011.pdf
Wunderlich, Woodside	SM County	NO bikes, heavily equestrian	https://parks.smcgov.org/wunderlich-park-trails
MIDPEN OWNED			
Coal Creek	MidPen	2.5 miles are "wide"[2]	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/coal-creek
Corte de Madera Crk	MidPen	Skeggs 17 miles are "wide"[2]	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/el-corte-de-madera-creek
Foothills Hidden Villa	MidPen	NO bikes, horses 2 mi only, CLOSED June-Aug	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/foothills
Fremont Older Preserve	MidPen	9 miles are "wide" [2]	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/fremont-older
La Honda Creek (upr + lower)	MidPen	NO bikes, permit; lower[2] is working ranch	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/la-honda-creek
Long Ridge	MidPen	3 mi bike only, 6.5 miles are "wide" [2]	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/long-ridge
Los Trancos	MidPen	NO bikes horses on 2.8 mi.	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/los-trancos
Monte Bello	MidPen	14 miles are "wide" [2], hike-in camping	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/monte-bello
Picetti Ranch Preserve	MidPen	NO bikes	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/picchetti-ranch
Pulgas Ridge Preserve, RWC	MidPen	NO bikes	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/pulgas-ridge
Purisima Creek Redwoods	MidPen	Bikes on 18 mi., 12 mi are "wide"[2]	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/purisima-creek-redwoods

Open Space Preserves of the San Mateo Region, 06-15-2021, K.D.Mercer

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Rancho San Antonio	MidPen	NO bikes except paved, 18 mi are "wide"[2]	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/rancho-san-antonio
RussianRidge	MidPen	Bikes on 8.3 mi, 6. mi are "wide"[2]	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/russian-ridge
Saratoga Gap	MidPen	Bay Area Ridge Trail Skyline Blvd	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/saratoga-gap
Skyline Ridge	MidPen	Bikes on 7.8 mi, 5.6 are "wide"	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/skyline-ridge
Teague hill	MidPen	Bay Area Ridge Trail access only	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/teague-hill
Thornewood	MidPen	NO bikes	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/thornewood
Windy Hill	MidPen	Bikes on 3.7 mi of "wide"[2] only	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/windy-hill
OTHER ENTITY OWNED			
Cowell Purissima + Coastal		*NOT a preserve, connections vary*	https://openspacetrust.org/hike/cowell-purisima-trail/
Milagra Ridge, Pacifica	*POST/ HMB*	NO bikes, partially paved rd	https://www.parksconservancy.org/parks/milagra-ridge
Phleger Estate, Woodside	GGNRA	NO bikes	https://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/upload/Phleger-Estate-trail-map-web_2016_small.pdf
Rancho Corral de Tierra	GGNRA/POST	working ranches, dirt roads, restoration	https://openspacetrust.org/hike/rancho-corral-de-tierra/
Sweeney Ridge, Pacifica	GGNRA	2 mi hike only, 5 mi dirt road	https://www.parksconservancy.org/parks/sweeney-ridge
Bureleigh Murray Ranch	CA State	farm road 1.4 mi	https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=535
McNee Ranch, Montara	CA State	all fire road and packed dirt	https://www.coastsideparks.org/mcnee-ranch
Portola Redwoods	CA State	NO bikes except 4.2 mi Fire Road, camping	https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=539
Crystal Springs Sawyer Camp	*SFPUC-SM County*	*all paved double track*	https://parks.smcgov.org/crystal-springs-regional-trail
Fifield-Cahill Ridge	*SFPUC closed*	*guided appt. only, all gravel road*	https://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=147

Open Space Preserves of the San Mateo Region, 06-15-2021, K.D.Mercer

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 9:24 AM
To: City Council; Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Cc: linda gates
Subject: Safety in Belmont Open Space email 1 of 2
Attachments: Upper Lake Road Trail Letter.docx; ULR hiker.MOV

I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Barbara Posch

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Carter
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 6:51 AM
To: Brigitte Shearer; Daniel Ourtiague; P&R Comm
Subject: sierra club article

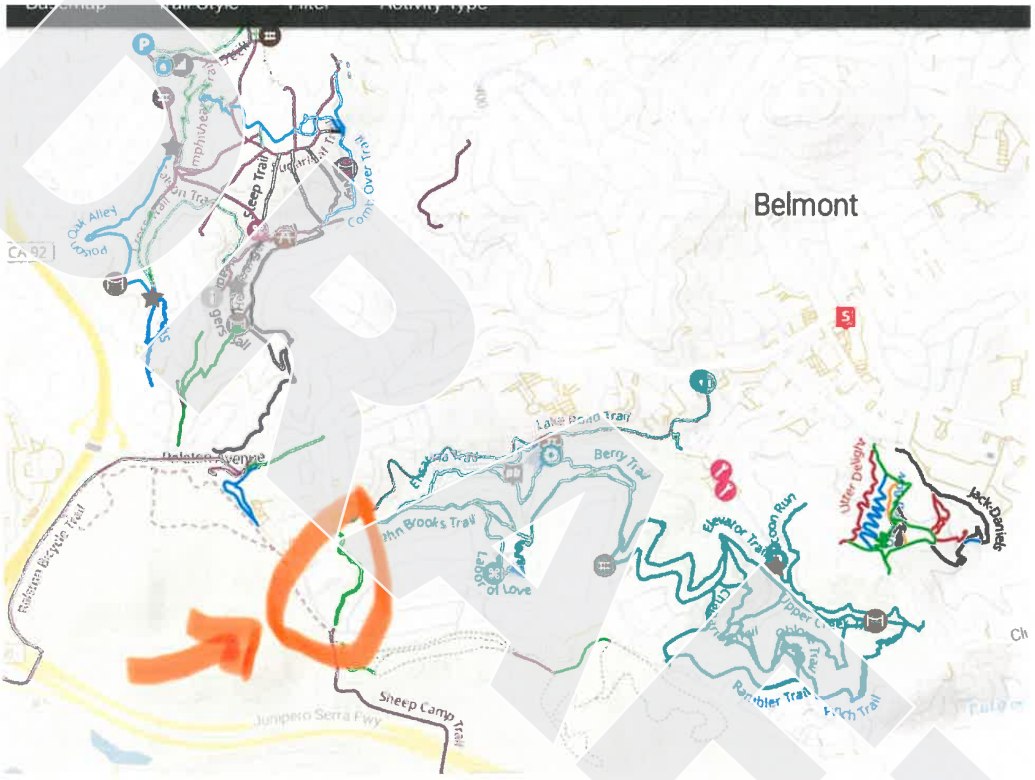
interesting article from Sierra Club on benefits of cycling on municipalities...

https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/shredding-path-community-development

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

As the Trailforks Mountain Bike map below shows bikers have many trails within Belmont where they can pursue their hobby. It's shocking to see how many mountain bike trails there are in Belmont – I had no idea it was this bad! They don't need to be on Upper Lake Road Trail (circled in Orange). There are road surfaces that can be used to bike to Water Dog – Benson and Wemberly run almost parallel to the trail.



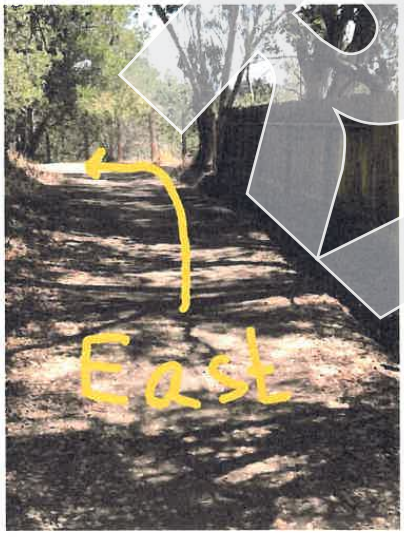
Please make Upper Lake Road Trail for foot traffic only. Give the tax paying residents of Belmont a safe place for seniors like me, physically challenged individuals like the gentleman in the video, parents with baby strollers, newly walking toddlers, and anyone else who wants a safe place to walk on a beautiful, canopied trail. This trail is ideal for these categories of users because the trail surfaces are relatively smooth, not too much slope, mostly shaded, with easy access from both Hallmark and Saint James.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

The City Council Vision Statement included with Belmont's Fiscal 2022 Budget states on page 22 "We value and celebrate a strong commitment to diversity, *inclusion, safety*, equality and *dignity* for all individuals in Belmont."

Look at the attached video clip that was taken by me on May 31, 2021. Zoom in and you will see a man, who walks with great difficulty, going west on Upper Lake Road Trail. As I have seen this man before on this trail, I asked him about his recent experiences. He said it was awful for him to walk on this trail. Too many bikes for him to avoid. I asked him if it would be safer for him in the Preserve on Lake Road Trail and he said no way, too dangerous for him. The photos below show the blind curve, from both the west(uphill) and east(downhill) directions, that this man just completed as he walked in a westerly direction. Even though this is one of the widest trails on Upper Lake Road, he could have easily gotten hit by a bike as he cannot move out of the way and neither he, nor a biker, could see each other on this blind curve. How does his difficulty walking the trails of Belmont match with your Vision Statement?





Upper Lake Road Trail used to be a serene, safe place to walk without having to fear being hit by a bike on a blind curve. Not anymore. It has become the connector route from Sheep Camp Trail and Fox School Trail to Water Dog Lake Trails. Lots of bikes, lots of speed on a narrow trail with many blind curves.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 9:58 AM
To: City Council; Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Cc: linda gates
Subject: Safety in Belmont Open Space email 2 of 2
Attachments: Narrow Trails in WD.docx; Narrow Trail WD.MOV

I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Barbara Posch

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

The City Council Vision Statement included with Belmont's Fiscal 2022 Budget states on page 22 "We value and celebrate a strong commitment to diversity, inclusion, *safety*, equality and dignity for all individuals in Belmont." How is it safe to have bikers and hikers on the same narrow trails? This video clearly shows that it is not safe and there was no "Wheels Yield to Heels" in this situation. *It's time for the City of Belmont to take a leadership position to ensure trail safety in Waterdog Preserve. Narrow trails on steep cross slopes encourage unsafe biking and endanger both hikers and the surrounding vegetation.*



Thank you for your time and consideration.

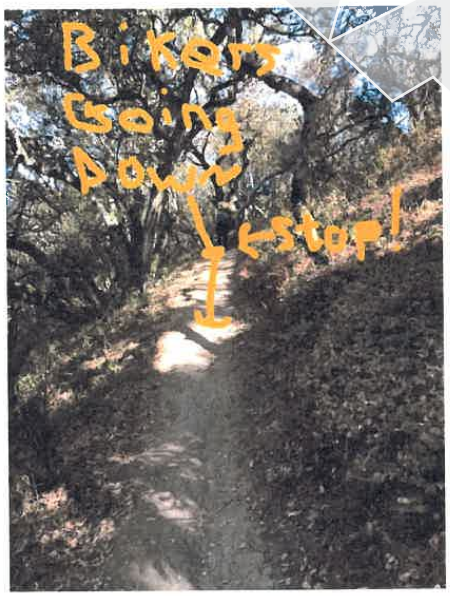
DRAFT

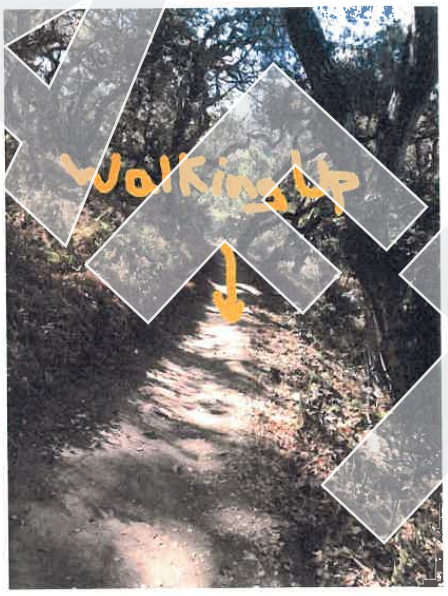
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The city's "Love Waterdog" sign at major trail heads starts with "W" defined as "Wheels Yield to Heels." Nice slogan, but ...

Look at the attached video clip that was taken by me on Berry Trail on May 30, 2021. You can see how narrow the trail is and how difficult it is for bikers and hikers to be on the trail at the same time. Although the two young men on bikes were polite and slowed down as they went downhill towards me, Berry Trail is very narrow at that point with a cliff on one side and a shrub covered hill on the other side. As you can hear on the video, I had to ask them to stop so that I could safely get around them by walking up onto the hill and into the shrubs which could easily have poison oak, ticks, or other pests. What should have happened in a situation like this is that the bikers should have stopped at the top of the hill and waited for me to reach a point where I could easily and safely step out of the way or pass by them. The only reason this was filmed is that another biker had just sped by me without slowing down so I thought I better start filming anyone who bikes near me in the event I get injured.

Photo of location on Berry Trail taken from both directions. Bikers should have stopped at the top and let me finish my uphill hike. Note narrow trail, shrubs on one side, drop off on the other side.





EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Sheng
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 10:01 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council; Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Follow up comment on 6/2/21 P&R Commission meeting

Dear P&R Commission:

I thought the discussion at the 6/2/21 meeting was very productive, and I wanted to offer a few follow-up comments:

Open space consultant

We heard from three public commenters whose knee-jerk reaction was to criticize the city's plan to retain a single consultant to evaluate trails, fire mitigation, conservation, and recreational use of open space. However, having a single consultant take a big-picture, holistic approach to evaluating open space issues is a perfectly rational and reasonable approach. Retaining four separate consultants will result in differing opinions on priorities, and then at the end someone will have to balance those priorities, so the city might end up having to hire a "referee" consultant to sort out all the opinions and data.

Open space management has to balance a number of sometimes competing interests, and that is presumably what the city is looking for: a consultant to take all of these interests into consideration and give unbiased and balanced opinions and suggestions. To the extent the consultant needs specialized analysis in any area, they can retain a sub-consultant to assist. I fully support the single consultant approach, and I'm sure the majority of the community does as well. We need consensus and balance on open space issues, not more balkanization and conflict.

Connectivity

I really liked Commissioner Austin's idea of a "hub and spoke" system with interconnected urban multi-use paths leading to different amenities and Commissioner Fox's idea to make use of underutilized alleys. Signs and/or QR codes with information about the area's history along these paths would be a great addition as well. When I was a kid growing up in San Jose, we would ride our skateboards all around town to different informal "skate spots" (because there were no local skate parks back then). Obviously, in Belmont, sidewalks and flat land are in short supply, but if we had interconnected multi-use paths leading to amenities around Belmont, it would give kids on skateboards, scooters, and bikes opportunities to get outdoors, go places safely, and have multi-hour adventures.

Pickleball

Comissioner Fohr was spot on when she commented on the importance of keeping abreast of trends and the future of recreation. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America and is accessible by every age group. See for example https://www.economist.com/united-states/2021/01/28/pickleball-is-the-fastest-growing-sport-in-america

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Pickleball would be a fantastic amenity for our community. It could be incorporated into senior programs as well as after-school and summer recreation programs. Pickleball is offered at Raslton middle school PE on makeshift courts and is very popular option for students. Many cities have tennis courts, but few have pickleball courts. This would be the perfect addition for Belmont, we're not a cookie-cutter community and this would be a unique amenity - and because pickleball is so accessible to a wide range of people, this is consistent with our community values of inclusivity. At Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek, there are pickleball courts right next to a skate park, this has the effect of bringing community members of all ages into the outdoors together.

Skate parks, pump tracks, and other teen-focused amenities

In the PROS survey, there was overwhelming community interest in a pump track, and that amenity garnered the most interest out of all of the options. The time is ripe for that discussion to be restarted and pump tracks are worthy of inclusion in the master plan because they were the #1 desired amenity. During the meeting, there was mention of utilization of the abandoned space where the Ralston ropes course is, which was one of the sites under consideration when pump tracks were last before the commission. Commissioner Michaels mentioned he would like to keep that area adventurous, so I submit that a pump track would fill that need. The commission previously received extremely strong grassroots community interest in pump tracks, and that has now been validated by the survey.

Clearly there is also strong interest in skate parks, and they would help fill the void for our under-served preteen and teen population. Skate parks don't have to be a big undertaking, while there are very large ones such as Lake Elizabeth in Fremont and Cunningham Park in San Jose, small simple ones such as the Foster City Teen Zone and the Beresford Park skate pavilion in San Mateo are very good examples of modest parks. It would be completely feasible to have multiple small skate parks to serve different areas of the city, and that would dovetail nicely with Commissioner Austin's hub-and-spoke idea.

I appreciated Youth Commissioner Gibbs' perspective about places teens would like to hang out, I thought the idea of someplace with high elevation / views was great. He made a very insightful comment that teens (as well as people of all ages) need a reason to go to places. Just a simple, low-cost amenity could do that. For example, in a space like the Ralston Ave. scenic overlook, something like a concrete ping-pong table or a small workout station with pull-up and push-up bars could be added so people have a reason to go there and something to do besides sitting on a bench or in their car.

This didn't come up during the meeting, but Spikeball is a hugely popular activity with teens and young adults https://spikeball.com/ and does not require a big area. A small circular grass or sand area to play Spikeball in could be something that would attract teens to a park area. A small area like that could also be used for hacky sack, yoga, crossfit, or any number of activities.

I very much appreciated Commissioner Fohr's out-of-the box thinking, I had never heard of graffiti walls, and that would be an innovative addition and would help with the city's goal of more public art. I also liked her idea of a lighted area that would be open after dark. Again, some activity at a spot like that would be great, such as a spikeball area, ping-pong, half-court basketball, etc. Perhaps installing those amenities in close proximity to the police station would mitigate any safety concerns.

Bouldering and climbing wall

I thought Commissioner Austin's idea of a bouldering area was excellent - if you go by Castle Rock State Park on Skyline Boulevard, you can see that bouldering is an immensely popular outdoor activity. PROS Committe member Sisemore had an idea at the last committee meeting that large boulders for people to climb on could be placed at the empty park land at Hidden Canyon, which would be congruous with the natural landscape there. That could be supplemented with a climbing wall, and that empty space could finally be put to good use without altering the natural character of the area. Climbing walls don't have to

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be boxy structures, they can be made with shapes and textures to mimic natural stone. Bouldering/climbing facilities (as well as skate parks and pump tracks for that matter) would also provide more options for city-run summer camps and outdoor recreation programs.

Just wanted to offer these follow up thoughts and comments on the many great ideas that were discussed at the meeting, and thank you for all the time and effort you put into serving on the commission.

Paul Sheng
9+ year Belmont resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 10:58 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: Oak Knoll Park

Commissioners,

I have received a few emails similar to the one below, all of which I will forward to you. You'll also be receiving one from Henry Lin, the resident who first approached me about this park opportunity last week. He is planning to speak at the Commission meeting on Wednesday.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Thank you

Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

From: Ryan H
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 8:41 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Subject: Oak Knoll Park

Hello,

My wife and I have a 2 year old with another one on the way and would like to add a request for a mini park at the top of Oak Knoll as part of the city planning process. We live at and currently have to walk all the way down to Davey Glen to access a park (or drive). We walked a couple of times but the distance has made it pretty difficult. A park on Oak Knoll would be great even if it is limited to a mini-park with a single structure.

We moved to Belmont in 2020 and have really enjoyed it. A park in our vicinity would make it an even better place to raise our kids!

Thanks for your consideration of our park request.

Ryan Hannink and Alice Brooks

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 10:59 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: petition for a mini-park at Oak Knoll Drive

See below

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

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From: Dongluo Chen <
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 5:40 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Subject: petition for a mini-park at Oak Knoll Drive

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to support a petition to add a park near my neighborhood. I live at of Belmont and I have a 2-year-old child. He is very active but I struggle to find any playground for my child within walking distance. Henry Lin spoke with me that he thinks the top of Oak Knoll Drive would be a good place to have a mini-park. I think it'd be a great place for the children to play together.

Thanks,

Dongluo Chen

1

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 10:59 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: Petition for a playground at the top of Oak Knoll Drive

See below

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

From: Xuening Liu
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:35 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Subject: Petition for a playground at the top of Oak Knoll Drive

Hi, to whom it concerns,

I'm Xuening, a current resident in , Belmont. I'm petitioning to build a mini park within walking distance. Our daughter Erica was born last August and is eager to learn to walk. As she gains mobility, the need for outdoor spaces for kids to play safely greatly increased.

Most areas in Belmont have a playground within 10 mins walk, however, residences near us are underserved. A park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive could benefit tens/hundreds of residents nearby and I'm looking forward to hearing back.

Best,
Xuening

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 10:59 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: Park Request on Oak Knoll Drive

See below

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

-----Original Message-----
From: Adriene Wong <
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 9:52 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Subject: Park Request on Oak Knoll Drive

Dear Planning Commission Team,

My name is Adriene Wong and my family and I have been Belmont residents on Oak Knoll Drive for 6 years now and have an active 2 year old toddler.

We've enjoyed the neighborhood with our daily walks with our toddler and along the way meeting several other families with little ones. We've all shared conversations of how we love the city and area and agreed that the only thing missing is a park within a reasonable walking distance. Our kids share rocks, sticks, and toys on the roadside— not the safest place to gather since the roads are narrow and not all drivers abide by the speed limit. It also became more apparent during the pandemic that we needed a space to play safely for our children.

I fully support Henry Lin's petition to build a park on top of Oak Knoll Drive. This will definitely be a great utilization of the vacant space there and help keep our children safer.

Sincerely,
Adriene Wong

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:06 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: In support of Henry Lin's petition for mini park on Oak Knoll Drive

One more

BSS

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

From: Snigdha Sen <
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:01 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Subject: In support of Henry Lin's petition for mini park on Oak Knoll Drive

Hello,
We are residents of Belmont for over five years and live on Oak Knoll Drive. I am writing this in support of our neighbor, Henry Lin's, proposal for a mini park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive. I have two children growing up in Belmont, and have missed having a park/playground that the children could walk to. The closest we have is on Davely Glen; given that the region is hilly and the climb can be steep, the park is inaccessible to the kids and elderly by foot.
A mini playground here would be such a wonderful addition to our community.

I hope you will consider giving us a place our children could walk to and where they can discover friends in their neighborhood.

Thank you,
Regards
Snigdha Sen

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:42 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: Park on top of Oak Knoll Dr

See below
BSS

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

From: Jason Wang
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 8:15 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Subject: Park on top of Oak Knoll Dr

Hello to the friendly folks in the Belmont Planning Commission!

My wife and I and our two kids (ages 3 and 9 months) moved to in May of this year. One of our neighbors recently mentioned that there was a petition for adding a small park at the top of Oak Knoll Dr. I would like to voice my support for the petition.

Currently, I've been alternating between Twin Pines and Beresford Park to reach a playground where my kids can play. The closest park to us seems to be Patricia Wharton Park. While beautiful and well-maintained, it's rather small and suitable for only sitting. Having a park with a playground in walking distance for our neighborhood would be great!

Thanks,

Jason Wang

1

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 3:02 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Residents excited about prospect of the mini-park at top of Oak Knoll Drive

See below

Please excuse any typos!

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Joe Sexton
> **Date:** July 25, 2021 at 2:14:23 PM PDT
> **To:** info@belmontprosplan.com, Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
> **Subject: Residents excited about prospect of the mini-park at top of Oak Knoll Drive**
>
> Hi all,
>
> I'm a homeowner at here in Belmont.
>
> Our family (Joe Sexton, age 37; Abbye Sexton, age 38; and Jack Sexton, age 14 months) is excited very excited about the prospect of the mini-park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive. It would be so fun to have a walkable park where our son Jack could play and meet more neighborhood kids!
>
> Best,
> Joe

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 1:31 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Mini-Park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive

See below.

Please excuse any typos!

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Greg Tam <
> **Date:** July 26, 2021 at 1:17:59 PM PDT
> **To:** info@belmontprosplan.com, Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
> **Subject: Mini-Park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive**
>
> Hi Brigitte and the Belmont Planning Team,
>
> My wife and I were recently made aware that you may be considering adding a mini park at the top of Oak Knoll Drive. We live at 1909 Hillman Ave and would be ecstatic if there was a park within walking distance we could take our toddler son to! We've been trying to take a greener approach and not to use our car while in town, but it has been a challenge with going to parks. It would be great if there could be a small play structure for the kids in the neighborhood to play with, but even a patch of flat maintained area would be much appreciated!
>
> We'll be happy to volunteer some time to help build a park for all the neighborhood!
>
> Best,
> The Tam's @ 1

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Sunday, August 8, 2021 6:00 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Oak Knoll Drive Playground

See below.

Please excuse any typos!

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Robin Raffard
> **Date:** August 8, 2021 at 7:53:40 PM EDT
> **To:** info@belmontprosplan.com
> **Cc:** Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>, Jennifer Raffard <[redacted]>
> **Subject: Oak Knoll Drive Playground**
>
> Hello:
>
> We are a family of four living at [redacted]. We strongly support the petition from Henry Lin, to build a playground at the top of Oak Knoll. Our children are two and five years old and love going to the playgrounds. Unfortunately, there is no playground within walking distance of our home so we always need to drive to the park, which we do at least once a week. Having a playground on Oak Knoll would add significantly to our quality of life, removing the need to drive and providing some great exercise and fun to the kids instead of playing inside.
>
> Finally, the space is currently unused and seems to us perfectly appropriate for a little playground.
>
> Thank you very much!
> Robin, Jennifer, Audrey, and Xavier Raffard

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jim Miller
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:29 AM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: Jim Miller
Subject: Please Support Continued Multi-Use Access at Water Dog

Dear Committee Members,

Please support the continued access to Water Dog for multi-use activities including mountain biking.

The community (children and adults alike) benefits from access to the outdoors (exercise, experiencing nature, etc.). Please do not allow a small but loud group of individuals dictate how this community resource can be used. Providing "equitable access", "inclusion", supporting a "range of interests… and community health and well-being" are all principles of the Master Plan. To deprive access to mountain bikers or even hikers would be at odds with these principles.

I have hiked and ridden through Water Dog hundreds of times and have never experienced an issue. The proposed "solutions" from his minority group are extreme and would be a net negative to the community.

Please support the broader community and the greater good by supporting continued, multi-use access to Water Dog.

Feel free to call me should have you any questions or if it would be helpful for me to share my and my family's positive experiences with Water Dog.

Thank you.

Jim Miller

1

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Andrew Hsu
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Public Comment on (upper) Ralston road safety for bicycles and pedestrians
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 6:10:47 PM

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners:

I am a long time resident of the Belmont-San Carlos area, a father of three and an experienced cyclist that rides upper Ralston on my bicycle nearly every day. Sadly, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting but would like to add my thoughts.

First, the work you are doing to improve Belmont is greatly appreciated, especially the attention to the efforts to build community by improving the local parks.

One of my concerns is the safety of pedestrian and bike travel in Belmont, especially for seniors and and for children going to school and accessing those parks. While I bike on upper Ralston daily, this road is extremely dangerous for most cyclists, as cars routinely travel 40+ mph (even 50+) on a road with no bike lanes and narrow shoulders. Additionally, traffic congestion during school commute hours is awful, but I believe most parents would not feel safe letting their children cycle or walk to schools. They are missing out on a great experience that includes exercise and building independence as well as the obvious community and environmental benefits we all reap when we use our cars less.

I am aware of Assembly Bill AB43 becoming law and making it feasible for Belmont to regulate the speed on the major arteries to schools and to access parks. I would like to see the speed on roads like Ralston and Alameda de las Pulgas reduced to 25 mph and speed bumps placed by the school zones. I would like to see police enforcement of traffic rules during the school commute hours. I see those things as "baby steps" that would not require much more expensive but greatly needed infrastructure changes such as protected bike lanes on those streets.

Thanks for your efforts and please consider these options.

Respectfully,
Andrew Hsu
San Carlos Resident (former Belmont resident)
Advocacy director, Peninsula Velo
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition Board of Directors
Advisor, San Carlos Bikes!
Advisor, Carlmont HIgh School e-Bike club.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From:
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Park and Rec Commission Meeting 9/30/2021
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:41:40 PM
Attachments: image.png

Dear Park and Rec Commisoners

Regretfully I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. I appreciate the work you are doing to improve Belmont.

We have a big interest in increasing bicycle and pedestrian safety in Belmont. We'd like to increase percentage of students who can bicycle to school safely, have a safe place to leave their bikes, to reduce car traffic and promote independence in kids, as well as the health benefits. We also are interested in safe cycling for all community members. Right now I will not ride on Ralston; the area from Alameda heading west towards Highway 92 and the bike bridge is too dangerous with cars going 40 mph (and often faster) with no bike lane or protection. If I won't ride, I don't expect the Ralston Middle School community to feel safe riding either. With nearly all students getting transported in cars, traffic on Ralston is out of control.
Encouraging students to walk or ride to school when we can ensure student safety is critical and would help meet several of your goals including making users feel safe, improving environmental resilience and sustainability (reducing traffic), and advancing community health and well-being by increasing physical activity.

Ultimately protected bike lanes on Ralston would be ideal, even if it means reducing the median. Short-term changes should involve reducing the speed limit on Ralston to 25 mph all the time. This would need enforcement, and could be facilitated with traffic warming techniques like speed bumps/humps that are being used in other parts of Belmont.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Arnold Berman
To: P&R Comm
Subject: PARK AND REC COMMISSION MEETING
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:39:17 PM

Sent from my iPad

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting but would like to add my thoughts.

Firstly, the work you are doing to improve Belmont is greatly appreciated, especially the attention to the efforts to build community by improving the local parks.

One of my concerns is the safety of pedestrian and bike travel in Belmont for seniors like myself and for the children going to school and accessing those parks. I live in the Cipriani neighborhood and enjoy going to nearby Waterdog Park walking or cycling. I have stopped cycling on the Ralston corridor to Hallmark, Canada Rd and Sawyer Camp trails as I do not feel safe cycling next to cars going 40+ mph on a road with no bike lanes and narrow shoulders. I will put the bike on a car and begin cycling outside Belmont. Likewise, I do not use my bike to go to Carlmont to shop or have coffee, for the same reason. The congestion during school commute hours is awful, but I believe most parents would not feel safe letting their children cycle or walk to schools as I did at that age. They

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are missing out on a great experience that includes exercise and building independence as well as the obvious community and environmental benefits we all reap when we use our cars less.

I am aware of Assembly Bill AB43 becoming law and making it feasible for Belmont to regulate the speed on the major arteries to schools and to access parks. I would like to see the speed on roads like Ralston and Alameda de las Pulgas reduced to 25 mph and speed bumps placed by the school zones. I would like to see police enforcement of traffic rules during the school commute hours. I see those things as "baby steps" that would not require much more expensive but greatly needed infrastructure changes such as protected bike lanes on those streets.

Thanks for your efforts and please consider these options.

Sincerely, Arnie Berman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Daniel Lovik
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog for Everyone!
Date: Sunday, September 12, 2021 4:17:48 PM

Hi,

I rode Waterdog today with a good friend and we had a nice time. All others we met (hikers, bikers etc) were all very nice.

Please keep this park open for all activities!

Enjoy the adventure,

Daniel

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Deniz Bolbol
To: Ulla Foehr; Chuck Cotten; Craig Michaels; Austin Lee; Nicki Fox; Avery Lyford; Karl Mittelstadt; Sanaa Kapur; Jackson Gibbs; Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Research on Presence of Humans Disturbing Wildlife
Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 12:37:46 PM

Hello P&R Commissioners & Director,

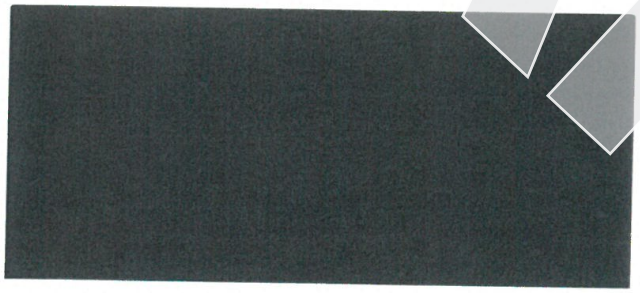
As per my public comments at the last Commission meeting, I hope you will take time to read the well-documented article below that addresses the negative impact human presence has on wildlife in open spaces. The article discusses how wildlife is pushed out - not only from the immediate area where the human usage occurs but also from a zone around that usage. This causes wildlife to lose access to important habitats and forces them to find other places to live (in our case usually streets and neighborhoods).

This issue, the disturbance caused by human presence, is directly related to trail density in open spaces: the more trails, the fewer places where wildlife can live (forage, nest, rest, etc) in a safe, undisturbed environment.

I hope you will consider wildlife when you make decisions about recreational usage of our open space. What some may consider a "playground" for their recreational usage is our wildlife's only natural habitat home in the area ... a home that is quickly deteriorating.

Thank you for your consideration.
Deniz Bolbol

Don't hike so close to me: How the presence of humans can disturb wildlife up to half a mile away



Don't hike so close to me: How the presence of humans can disturb wildli...

The presence of humans, or even the existence of the trails they hike on, can have detrimental effects on wildlife

DRAFT

salon

Don't hike so close to me: How the presence of humans can disturb wildlife up to half a mile away

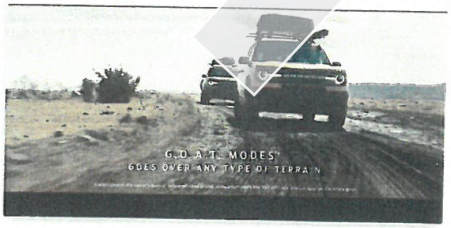
The presence of humans, or even the existence of the trails they hike on, can have detrimental effects on wildlife

By SARAH REED - COURTNEY LARSON - JEREMY DERTIEN PUBLISHED JULY 20, 2021 8:30AM (EDT)



Visitors hike the Vernal Fall trail in Yosemite National Park, California. Yosem destinations. (Sean Gallup/Getty Images)

Ad · (0:24)



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This article was originally published on The Conversation.

illions of Americans are traveling this summer as pandemic restrictions wind down. Rental bookings and

https://www.salon.com/2021/07/20/dont-hike-so-close-to-me-how-the-presence-of-humans-can-disturb-wildlife-up-to-half-a-mileaway_partner/ 1/10

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t's

In a recent review of hundreds of studies covering many species, we found that the presence of humans can alter wild animal and bird behavior patterns at much greater distances than most people may think. Small mammals and birds may change their behavior when hikers or birders come within 300 feet (100 meters) – the length of a football field. Large birds like eagles and hawks can be affected when humans are over 1,300 feet (400 meters) away – roughly a quarter of a mile. And large mammals like elk and moose can be affected by humans up to 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) away – more than half a mile.

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Many recent studies and reports have shown that the world is facing a biodiversity crisis. Over the past 50 years, Earth has lost so many species that many scientists believe extinction – due mainly to human activities.



Protected areas, from local open spaces to national parks, are vital also are places where people like to spend time in nature. We belie should understand and respect this balance between outdoor recre

How human presence affects wildlife

DRAFT

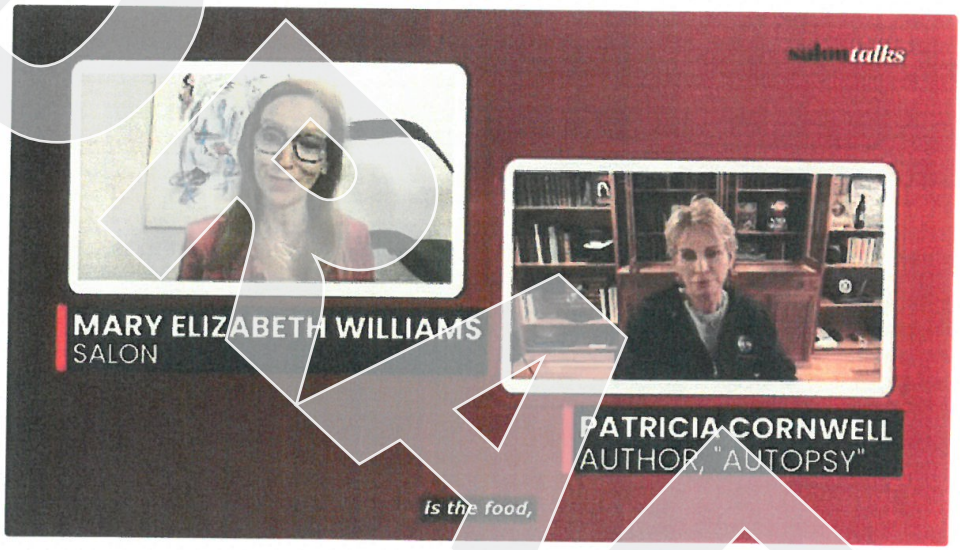
EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



change their behavior in response to human activities.

Decades of research have shown that outdoor recreation, whether it's hiking, cross-country skiing or riding all-terrain vehicles, has negative effects on wildlife. The most obvious signs are behavioral changes: Animals may flee from nearby people, decrease the time they feed and abandon nests or dens.

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Other effects are harder to see, but can have serious consequences for animals' health and survival. Wild animals that detect humans can experience physiological changes, such as increased heart rates and elevated levels of stress hormones.

And humans' outdoor activities can degrade habitat that wild specie reproduction. Human voices, off-leash dogs and campsite overuse unusable for many wild species.



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Disturbing shorebirds can cause them to stop eating, stop feeding their young or flee their nests, leaving chicks vulnerable.

Effects of human presence vary for different species

For our study we examined 330 peer-reviewed articles spanning 38 years to locate thresholds at which recreation activities negatively affected wild animals and birds. The main thresholds we found were related to distances between wildlife and people or trails. But we also found other important factors, including the number of daily park visitors and the decibel levels of people's conversations.

The studies that we reviewed covered over a dozen different types of motorized and nonmotorized recreation. While it might seem that motorized activities would have a bigger impact, some studies have found that dispersed "quiet" activities, such as day hiking, biking and wildlife viewing, can also affect which wild species will use a protected area.

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Put



moto that they have been historically hunted are more likely to recognize – and flee from – a person walking than a person in a motorized vehicle.

Generally, larger animals need more distance, though the relationship is clearer for birds than mammals. We found that for birds, as bird size increased, so did the threshold distance. The smallest birds could tolerate humans within 65 feet (20 meters), while the largest birds had thresholds of roughly 2,000 feet (600 meters). Previous research has found a similar relationship. We did not find that this relationship existed as clearly for mammals.

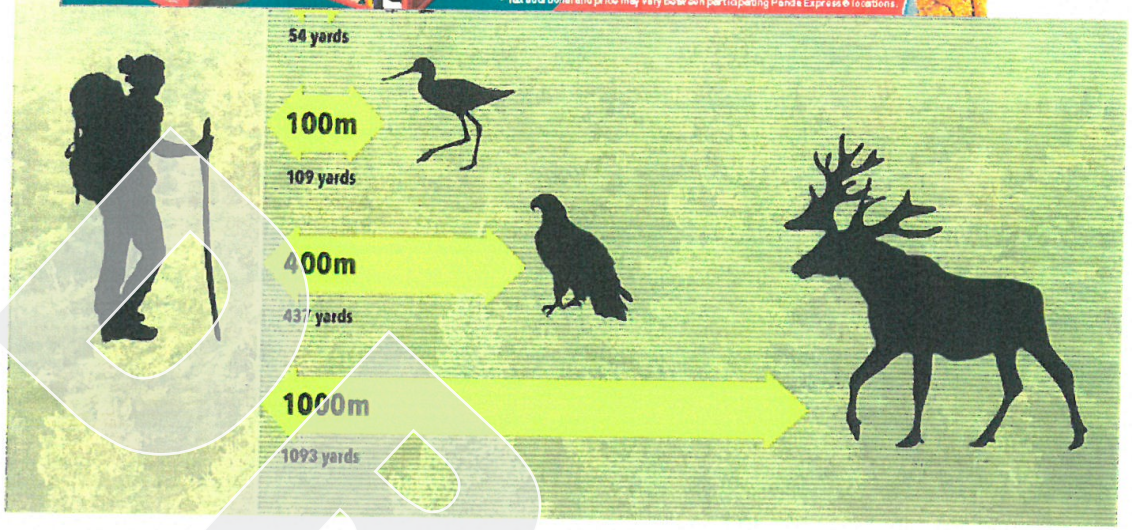
We found little research on impact thresholds for amphibians and reptiles, such as lizards, frogs, turtles and snakes. A growing body of evidence shows that amphibians and reptiles are disturbed and negatively affected by recreation. So far, however, it's unclear whether those effects reflect mainly the distance to people, the number of visitors or other factors.

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Human recreation starts to affect wild creatures' behavior and physical state at different distances. Small mammals and birds tolerate closer recreation than do larger birds of prey and large mammals. Sarah Markes, CC BY-ND

How to reduce your impact on wildlife

While there's much still to learn, we know enough to identify some simple actions people can take to minimize their impacts on wildlife. First, keep your distance. Although some species or individual animals will become used to human presence at close range, many others won't. And it can be hard to tell when you are stressing an animal and potentially endangering both it and yourself.

Second, respect closed areas and stay on trails. For example, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, wildlife managers seasonally close some backcountry ski areas to protect critical habitat for bighorn sheep and reduce stress on other species like moose, elk and mule deer. And rangers in Maine's Acadia National Park close several trails annually near peregrine falcon nests. This reduces stress to nesting endangered species recover.

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Getting involved with educational or volunteer programs is a great way to learn about wildlife and help maintain undisturbed areas. As our research shows, balancing recreation with conservation means opening some areas to human use and keeping others entirely or mostly undisturbed.

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As development fragments wild habitat and climate change forces m
movement corridors between protected areas become even more important. Our research suggests that creating recreation-free wildlife corridors of at least 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) wide can enable most species to

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Jeremy Dertien, PhD Candidate in Forestry and Environmental Conservation, Clemson University ; Courtney Larson, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming, and Sarah Reed, Affiliate Faculty in Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University

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SARAH REED

MORE FROM SARAH REED

COURTNEY LARSON

MORE FROM COURTNEY LARSON

JEREMY DERTIEN

MORE FROM JEREMY DERTIEN



EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From:
To: P&R Comm
Subject: agenda item 6c, Presentation and Outdoor Recreation suggestions
Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:36:06 PM

Hi,
I just heard that there is a meeting tonight to discuss outdoor recreation in Belmont. I am unable to attend but feel strongly that Belmont needs safer streets for cycling, with protected lanes on Ralston from beginning to end. Kids need a safe lane to get to and from school and activities, and other commuters and recreational riders need safe lanes to ride. Most neighboring cities have provided safe bicycle lanes and it is time Belmont creates them before we have more tragedies.

Thank you.

Susan Tobachnik

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Jackie Sinnott
To: P&R Comm; City Council; Jackie Sinnott; Matthew Perotti
Subject: 4 way stop at the corner of Cipriani and Carmelita
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 12:11:56 PM

Hello City Council and Park and Rec,

I was informed that you will be reviewing safety ideas in the Cipriani area and I wanted to reach out. We live at 2500 Casa Bona, somewhat new to the area, but have one in Kindergarten at Cipriani now (and another in preschool).

We love Belmont, but have missed having consistent sidewalks and noticed many blind corners in an otherwise safe and family friendly neighborhood.

With school back in session, one easy solution I see to making the neighborhood safer right here, is a **4 way stop at the corner of Cipriani and Carmelia.** There was an accident there two weeks ago, and many families near or crossing at that intersection daily. With poor visibility and no sidewalks, cars zooming by without a stop seems especially dangerous. Just today while I stood in the painted crosswalk (after walking my Kindergartner to school), three cars drove quickly past me while I waited for one to stop (disregarding me, the crosswalk or the fact that pedestrians have the right of way).

A 4 way stop at that intersection would be a great improvement to this neighborhood. It would make it a safer place to cross, possibly encourage more people to walk/bike to school and slow traffic in general, in a neighborhood with many kids out riding bikes and walking daily.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jackie Sinnott

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Paul Sheng
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: City Council; Brigitte Shearer
Subject: 9/30 PROS Committee meeting feedback
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 8:20:09 AM

Dear PROS Committee and P&R Commission:

I watched the 9/30 PROS Committee meeting on Zoom and wanted to compliment Gates & Associates for their excellent and informative presentation. I'm pleased with the progress on the plan and hope the city can stay on pace to get the plan completed. I also wanted to offer some feedback on some items that were discussed during the meeting.

Hidden Canyon Park

I am glad that developing Hidden Canyon Park is finally on the agenda. As you know, in the 1990s, that parcel of land was dedicated as a city park by the developer of the Hidden Canyon tract under the Quimby Act as a condition of allowing the subdivision to be built. Due to lack of leadership and initiative of prior city councils, that tract of land has been sitting fallow for nearly 30 years. I'm grateful that our city current leadership recognizes the need for this resource to be utilized as it was originally intended. I think a permanent bathroom would be a great addition to that park. Someone mentioned having interpretive/educational aspects to it, and I think that was a great idea. There could be signs to educate park users about local flora and fauna, trail use courtesy, and trail stewardship. I also agree with the comments at the meeting that because the park is so close to the open space interface, it should be developed with a natural aesthetic to it, and amenities such as metal/plastic playground structures would be out of character with the space.

This past summer, while in Bend, Oregon, I visited Rockridge city park. That park is much larger than Hidden Canyon, it has developed areas such as a large lawn, group picnic areas, a concrete skate park, etc. However, part of the park borders open space, and that portion of the park showcases some really great examples of natural amenities that blend in with the environment. Rather than a synthetic play structure, there is a "forest" of fossilized tree trunks and rocks placed for kids to play on. There are also beginner and intermediate mountain bike skills courses. These are very short loop trails with both natural and man-made wooden and stone obstacles designed to allow beginning and/or younger riders to hone their bike handling skills in a safe environment before heading onto trails where mistakes have bigger consequences. Both of these amenities would be a perfect fit for Hidden Canyon. There are some photos of the park here: https://www.bendparksandrec.org/park/rockridge-park/ (you can also do a Google Images search for Rockridge Park Bend), and I have also attached a few photos that I took while I was there.

Connectivity

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

At the meeting there were a number of comments about the importance of having connectivity between parks and amenities. I agree wholeheartedly with those comments. I think the city is doing a great job with the sidewalks along Ralston Avenue and look forward to more improvements to improve pedestrian and cycling connectivity throughout the city. During the meeting when pump tracks were discussed, a public commenter suggested that a pump track location in the main residential area of Belmont would be preferable to the Sports Complex, because that would allow users to safely bike there rather than traversing the hazardous Ralston / El Camino Real route. I agree with that commenter. Also, during this discussion, there was an aerial view of Hidden Canyon Park up on the screen, showing both a trail and road leading to the space, so that site has great connectivity - not only from Carlmont and Hastings Drives, but from Hallmark Drive (via the Lake Road Trail)

Pump Track

I'm very pleased to hear committee members speaking favorably about pump tracks. As you know there is strong grassroots community interest in a pump track, evidenced by the PROS survey results. Yesterday, I attended the Derby and Day in the Park event in Brisbane. They had a modular pump track set up for the event, which was a big hit. I have attached a few photos. I chatted with the gentleman from American Ramp Company (the outfit who supplied the track for the event), he said they build dirt, asphalt, and concrete pump tracks, and built a dirt one at Stafford Lake Park in Novato, and recently built a concrete one in Simi Valley. The portable one at the event is made out of plywood and bolts together, it is intended for temporary use. He said when they build concrete or asphalt ones, they use forms similar to the portable track to pour the asphalt or concrete. He said from a maintenance perspective, they prefer asphalt tracks because they hold up to wear very well, allow bikes, scooters, and skateboards, and surface damage is very easy to repair.

Skate Park

During the meeting, I was also happy to hear the committee members speaking favorably about skate parks, and really pleased to finally see a concrete proposal for a small skate park in the Ralston / Old County Road area. There were some concerns expressed about space limitations for a skate park, and whether it would be too small to be used. There is such a pent-up demand for this type of amenity in Belmont, it will get used no matter the size. Belmont's preteens and teens are starving for an amenity like this. As in Field of Dreams, if you build it, they will come. Coincidentally, while I was at the Brisbane event, I noticed they have a very small skate park right across the street from the event venue, which was being well-used and enjoyed by residents. I have attached a few photos to illustrate how a nice skate park can fit into a small space. During the meeting Brigitte mentioned that this park may be temporary in nature, and that can certainly be done, for example in Daly City has a skate park, which is not the greatest, but has prefabricated metal ramp and boxes rather than poured concrete. A few pictures are here: https://www.westcoastskateparks.com/skateparks/daly-city-skatepark-daly-city-california I'm sure that even if a small, temporary skate park is constructed, that will serve a a successful proof-of-concept, and I hope someday soon the city will

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

construct a permanent skate park for its underserved teens.

Thank you for all the time and effort you have been putting into our PROS Plan, keep up the good work, and I look forward to continued progress.

Sincerely,

Paul Sheng
Belmont resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Laurent Gharda
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Belmont PROS Plan comment
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:29:25 PM

Hi Brigitte,

I hope all is well with you!

A quick note to recognize my appreciation for:

- Planning for the Pump Track to be in the BSC (per the current proposal) instead of in the Open Space
- Planning on having bocce courts! Especially at the Hallmark Park, close to home... I'm bring my set to the inauguration ceremony, whenever that may be, and you can be my partner!
- Driving the entire process, herding cats, etc.

Take care!

LKG

Laurent Gharda

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From:
To: P&R Comm; PROS Committee
Subject: Neighborhood Parks are defined in the General Plan
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:20:31 AM

Dear Commissioners and PROS Committee,

At the PROS meeting for Hidden Canyon staff got an earful from residents expressing disapproval of development in the neighborhood park. There are **three important points to summarize:**

1. "Neighborhood" parks are defined in the General Plan (see below) as intended to serve only the immediate neighborhood, NOT to draw and serve visitors from the wider community. Located in sites where there is limited access and no parking, it is inappropriate to develop neighborhood parks as attractions for anyone who can't walk a few blocks to get there. Belmont Heights currently struggles with traffic, noise pollution and pedestrian safety issues due to heavy use of the Cross Country Course. This growing conflict is the result of ignoring the General Plan and failing to consider available infrastructure and neighbors when scaling plans.
2. "Undeveloped" parks were never intended to be filled with amenities. The original plan for these open spaces was exactly at titled -"Undeveloped". They were intended as natural space for wildlife corridors and shelter for our neighborhood visitors (deer, birds, etc.), as quiet, contemplative natural settings, and *breathing* space. Humans need to resist the urge to build on every little bit of nature. These spaces are NOT *awaiting* development, but rather *intentionally UN-developed*.
3. The Survey on which the consultants base their suggestions was wildly flawed. Over half of the respondents were NON Belmont residents. Yes, Belmont Parks are open to all visitors; but their intended purpose is to *serve residents who live here and pay for them*, not to attract and serve those from the wider community.

Belmont's General Plan provides validity for our argument:

4.2 PARKS AND RECREATION

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City provides its residents with several types of parks and recreation facilities. Parks are defined as land owned, leased, or provided to the City and used for public recreational purposes. In addition, there is joint use planning and operation of school district athletic facilities for public recreation. Parks and recreational facilities are classified as follows:

- **Mini Park.** A small park ranging from a quarter-acre to 2 acres that is located within a residential area and is intended to provide play areas for small children or passive sitting areas **for residents within a quarter-mile-radius.**

- **Neighborhood Park.** A medium-sized park ranging from 2 to 10 acres that provides basic recreational activities **for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius.**

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• **Community Park.** A large park ranging from 20 to 50 acres that includes passive and active recreation facilities that **serve the entire city or a substantial portion of the city**.

• School Park. Athletic fields and facilities that operate under joint use agreements between the City and the School District and are **used by the community** during non-school hours.

• Special Facility. A facility such as a community center, athletic complex, aquatic center or other cultural or athletic facility that services a specific recreational need **for all or a portion of the city's population.**

This is why I repeatedly plead with staff and planners to really read the existing General Plan, Conservation Element, and Parks Master Plan. **These plans are our blueprint. Please respect them.**
Thank you ,
Kristin Mercer

"It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us." – Jane Goodall



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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Charles Stone - Mayor
To: Jackie Sinnott; Matthew Perotti
Cc: Brigitte Shearer; Afshin Oskoui; Peter Daniel; Kenneth Stenquist
Subject: RE: 4 way stop at the corner of Cipriani and Carmelita
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:15:13 PM

Hi Jackie,

Thanks for reaching out and welcome to Belmont and the neighborhood. My kids (now 17 and 15) walked from my house on Read to Cipriani pretty much every day from the time they were 8 or so through completion of 5th grade. I know the area and the intersection well. I'm not aware of any Cipriani safety initiative. I don't think that's accurate. I think there might some confusion arising out of recent parks and rec PROS advisory committee.

Pedestrian safety is a high priority to the council and we've shown that in a lot of our actions. That said, inheriting a city where many of the roads don't have sidewalks sure doesn't make it easy. Those decisions were made in the 50s when the neighborhoods were being developed and while we are requiring sidewalks in conjunction with residential construction projects where it makes sense, it's still far from ideal. But there are realistic and insurmountable obstacles to adding sidewalks on Cipriani.

When it comes to stop signs and things like that, we rely on our public works department and our police department. I don't think the parks and rec department/commission would have any involvement although they do deal with our bike/ped plan.

That particular intersection received crosswalks for the first time a few years ago in response to some residents' request. There was some concern at the time that the safer bet was to discourage kids from crossing at that cross walk and direct them to cross at the four way stop at Cipriani and Buena Vista or Cip/Ponce. That's what the safe routes to school program used to show to my memory. I actually was concerned that installing the crosswalks would lead to more kids crossing there without the protection of a stop sign which would create a higher risk of danger, but some residents felt differently. IIRC, I think we looked at stop signs at that location then. I ***think*** that we can't put in stop signs at that Carmelita/Cipriani based on state law site line requirements. That said, I can't say with certainty that I am remembering correctly so I'm copying our excellent city manager (who was public works director at the time) Afshin Oskoui, our current public works director Peter Brown, and our interim Police Chief Ken Stenquist so they can add anything germane.

In the meantime, I ***highly*** recommend that anyone crossing with kids or any kids crossing without adults use the fourway stops at Buena Vista/Cip or Ponce/Cip depending on where they are coming from. That's much safer and has minimal impact from a walking time perspective (having done them all many times over the past 12 years.)

Thanks again for the contact and we'll follow up.

Charles

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(I've also copied our parks and rec director just in case I've missed something that she knows of.)

Charles Stone
Mayor
City of Belmont
1 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002
(650) 394-7390

Please Note: Unless otherwise noted, the opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives contained in this email are my own and do not represent the official position of the City of Belmont or its City Council. Please do not share those opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives with other members of the Belmont City Council so as to avoid the potential development or appearance of a consensus outside a scheduled public meeting, which is prohibited under California's Brown Act. I also respectfully request that you refrain from sharing the opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives of other Belmont City Council members with me. If you are contacting me about a development application or appeal that is pending before the City Council, I am not able to read your email because it constitutes an ex parte communication. I will, however, forward your email to city staff and it will be made part of the record. Thank you.

From: Jackie Sinnott
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 12:12 PM
To: P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>; City Council <CityCouncil@belmont.gov>; Jackie Sinnott
Matthew Perotti
Subject: 4 way stop at the corner of Cipriani and Carmelita

Hello City Council and Park and Rec,

I was informed that you will be reviewing safety ideas in the Cipriani area and I wanted to reach out. We live at somewhat new to the area, but have one in Kindergarten at Cipriani now (and another in preschool).

We love Belmont, but have missed having consistent sidewalks and noticed many blind corners in an otherwise safe and family friendly neighborhood.

With school back in session, one easy solution I see to making the neighborhood safer right here, is a **4 way stop at the corner of Cipriani and Carmelia.** There was an accident there two weeks ago, and many families near or crossing at that intersection daily. With poor visibility and no sidewalks, cars zooming by without a stop seems especially dangerous. Just today while I stood in the painted crosswalk (after walking my Kindergartner to school), three cars drove quickly past me while I waited for one to stop (disregarding me, the crosswalk or the fact that pedestrians have the right of way).

A 4 way stop at that intersection would be a great improvement to this neighborhood. It would make it a safer place to cross, possibly encourage more people to walk/bike to school and slow traffic in general, in a neighborhood with many kids out riding bikes and walking daily.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jackie Sinnott

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Carol Rossi
To: P&R Comm
Subject: RRR park meeting
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:54:00 AM

Hello
We received a post card announcing a meeting to review plans for the Ralston Ranch Road Park. I've misplaced the card and would like more information. Is there a plan we can look at online? I also looked on the Belmont website, under Park and Rec calendar, and there is no listing for the meeting. Can you please give me more information?

Thank you

Carol Rossi

DRAFT

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From: Brigitte Shearer
To: Carol Rossi; P&R Comm
Subject: Re: RRR park meeting
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:33:19 PM

Carol, thank you for your interest. Here's the link to the focus group events information and registration.

https://belmontprosplan.com/events

I appreciate your feedback - we will put this information on the city website so it's easier to find.

Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont
650-595-7488
bshearer@belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/parksandrec
Check out our latest **Activity Guide**
Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

From: Carol Rossi
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:53 AM
To: P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>
Subject: RRR park meeting

Hello
We received a post card announcing a meeting to review plans for the Ralston Ranch Road Park. I've misplaced the card and would like more information. Is there a plan we can look at online? I also looked on the Belmont website, under Park and Rec calendar, and there is no listing for the meeting. Can you please give me more information?

Thank you

Carol Rossi

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Bob Stahl
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Recording of September 1 Zoom meeting
Date: Friday, October 8, 2021 3:40:16 PM

Hi Brigitte,
Hope all is well.
Is there a recording of the Advisory Zoom meeting held on September 1st?
I'd like to send it out to residents in our neighborhood for them to review. Overall, I believe it was a worthwhile meeting so I'd like to have our neighbors review the content.
Please let me know.
Thanks.
Bob

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Tim Bussiek
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Safety comes first, life follows
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 3:56:44 PM
Attachments: CA research biking adds to overall safety.pdf

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting but would like to add my thoughts. The work you are doing to improve Belmont is greatly appreciated, especially the efforts to build a human-centric community.

I most recently made a comment at the PROS meeting about focusing much more on the whole, on the public space that is our streets and everything else, as a destination and big part of our experience and life. An old example is that Napoleon had the roads planted with trees so his armies could march in the shade – of course car culture led to most of those trees being cut down as they were too dangerous for the fast moving cars.

We are now in a dramatically different world from the last decades, in just the last few years tremendous change has occured, and we need to act immediately and with great urgency. And we can:

- Post pandemic we don't need an infrastructure centered around work commute any more. So far it is persisting that we can do with about 40-60% less driving to work. Main congestion is now local.
- We are aching to be local, be humans, celebrate skills and venues and natural beauty, to BE. As we were forced to stick around, we saw that pedestrian areas (Laurel Street in San Carlos, many in SF etc.), parklets, turned out to be hugely welcome innovations. There is so much good will to build on right now.
- We are the worst offendors in terms of CO2 emissions for no real reason, for being lazy, not adjusting our behaviors. It would be so simple to do better, to be local. E.g. what if we had a super local event like the Waterdog Run, and people came by bicycle or on foot?

A key part is always speed, ensuring human-scale speed and safety. Any human being immediately senses the very real danger of fast 2ton vehicles – dangers can be mitigated but the experience will never be a positive one. The onus CANNOT be on the weaker part, especially children and elderly whom it seems we have made outcasts to our streets, and in the age we are in we the people through public government have to act to enforce livable and welcoming public space.

I'd like to kindly submit research that shows that reducing speeds and having bicycle safe conditions actually reduces overall injuries. Are we not negligent to do this for the sake of everyone anyway, to save lifes? Here is the main quote, please see attached the actual paper:

- *"Overall, high bicycling cities generally show a much lower risk of fatal crashes for all road users when compared to most of the other cities in our database. The fact that this pattern of low fatality risk is constant for all classes of road users strongly suggests that the crashes are taking place at lower speeds. ... our results strongly suggest that safety benefits for all road users can be derived from a*

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combination of the same steps that tend to attract more bicyclists."

I am in touch with the author Wes Marshall, Professor of Engineering at the University of Colorado, and we could invite him to provide much more perspective on the reuslts.

In becoming livable in its public space, Belmont would only be part of a global pattern, here are just some recent examples:

- Berlin
- Amsterdam
- Paris
- Minneapolis
- Multiple cities
- Case for biking, cutting an individuals emissions by 67%
- Most visited destination

It is time we started polishing the jewel that Belmont is.

Thank you for your consideration.
Best regards,

Tim Bussiek

Tim Bussiek, PhD

Founder & CEO Hi-flier
Executive Director eBike Impacts, Business mentor Scots eBikes
Peninsula Clean Energy – Citizen Advisor
German American Business Association (GABA) - Software & Future of Work Group Chair
University of Freiburg Alumni, San Francisco/Bay Area Chapter Head

Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

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Why Bike-Friendly Cities are Safer for all Road Users

Wesley Marshall

ABSTRACT

Given the growing evidence suggesting that cities with higher bicycling rates find lower fatality rates, we examine road safety data from 24 California cities. This analysis included accounting for crashes across all severity levels but also for three different classes of road users: vehicle occupants, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Additionally, we looked at issues of street and street network design to see what role these characteristics might play in affecting road safety outcomes.

Overall, high bicycling cities generally show a much lower risk of fatal crashes for all road users when compared to most of the other cities in our database. The fact that this pattern of low fatality risk is constant for all classes of road users strongly suggests that the crashes are taking place at lower speeds. The most notable difference found between the safer and less safe cities was the density of street intersections. While we do not yet have the data to fully disentangle the various contributing factors, our results strongly suggest that safety benefits for all road users can be derived from a combination of the same steps that tend to attract more bicyclists. In other words, improving the streets to better accommodate bicycles may in fact lead to a self-reinforcing cycle that can help enhance overall safety for all road users.

DRAFT

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INTRODUCTION

Davis, California, often referred to as the bicycle capital of America since becoming the first city to gain "platinum" status from the League of American Bicyclists, should also be renowned for another reason: road safety. From 1996 through 2007, the years examined for this study, Davis endured only nine fatal road crashes, of which only three occurred on regular, non-limited access streets. And despite a greater percentage of people biking to work than any other city in the United States, not a single one of these fatal crashes involved a bicyclist. With a fatal crash rate in Davis of less than 1.5 per 100,000 residents, far fewer people are killed on their roads than in the U.S. as a whole, which average 14.5 fatalities per 100,000 residents.

Another American city recognized as a "platinum" bicycling city, Portland, Oregon, increased bicycle mode share from 1.2% in 1990 to 5.8% in 2000. At the same time, the total number of road fatalities went from averaging over 60 per year around 1990 to fewer than 35 per year since 2000 (1). Moreover, there were only 20 total road fatalities in Portland in 2008, which is a remarkable safety record (3.6 fatalities per 100,000 residents) for a city of over 550,000 people. Such fatal crash rates compare extremely favorably with the countries reporting the lowest crash rates in the world such as the Netherlands at 4.9 per 100,000 residents (2).

These outcomes are not uncommon; other researchers have reported notable decreases in fatality rates in cities that have successfully increased their bicycle mode share (3, 4). Conventional thinking about road safety would suggest that the outcome of lower road fatality rates with more bicycle riders would be unlikely since, in general, bicycle riders experience a much higher fatality rate per mile traveled. But given the growing evidence suggesting that this is not the case, we examine road safety data from 24 California cities in this paper to garner evidence as to why cities with high rates of bicycle use typically see lower rates of road fatality for all road users. In other to better understand the trends in these cities, we not only examine the number of crashes of different severity levels but also the relative risk of a fatality or a severe injury given the fact that a crash occurred. These analyses were conducted for three classes of road users - pedestrians, bicycle riders and vehicle occupants - in order to help us understand if the underlying patterns were similar for all road user types. We also used census data as a rough estimate of the number of people walking, biking and driving in each city in order to gain a better understanding of the relative exposure rates in these cities for the different classes of road users. Finally, we looked at issues of street and street network design to see what role these characteristics might play in affecting road safety outcomes.

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STUDY BACKGROUND

This research was based on an initial database of over 150 California cities. We focused on California cities in order to help maintain consistency in the data, especially in comparing injury severity outcomes. The earlier papers based on this dataset concentrated on the street networks characteristics of 24 of these California cities representing twelve medium-sized cities with good safety records and twelve with poor safety records (5, 6). In this study, we further sub-divide the group of twelve safer cities into the following three groups of four cites based upon bicycle mode share: high bicycling cities, medium bicycling cities, and low bicycling cities. The cities included were:

Group 1: Highest Bicycling Safer Cities

- Berkeley
- Chico
- Davis
- Palo Alto

Group 2: Medium Bicycling Safer Cities

- Alameda
- San Luis Obispo
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

Group 3: Low Bicycling Safer Cities

- Cupertino
- Danville
- Cupertino
- San Mateo

Group 4: Less Safe Cities

- Antioch
- Apple Valley
- Carlsbad
- Madera
- Morgan Hill
- Perris
- Redding
- Rialto
- Temecula
- Turlock
- Victorville
- West Sacramento

Journey to work data was collected along with street network measures, street characteristics, socioeconomic data, traffic flow information, and over 230,000 individual crash records from eleven years of crash data. All of this information was geo-coded in a GIS database with the intention of facilitating a more comprehensive spatial analysis.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Few studies have specifically looked at how safety varies for all road users depending upon the amount of waking or biking that is occurring. Transit usage however is one mode that has in fact been evaluated in terms of overall road safety. In an international study, Kentworthy and Laube concluded that cities with higher transit use also tended to have lower overall fatality rates (7). Litman, in a separate study, found that the per capita fatality rates of U.S. cities were lower with increased transit use (8). One reason behind these results, as the authors point out, is that more transit use tends to lower the overall amount of vehicle use.

If reducing vehicle use through more transit usage can help in terms of overall road safety, then the idea that increases in biking and walking can have a similar effect is promising. However, it is important to understand that the fatality rate in terms of miles traveled for vehicle occupants is approximately ten times that of transit users while most studies have shown that the fatality rates in terms of miles traveled for biking and walking are higher than for driving (8). One potentially confounding factor is that calculating safety on a per-mile basis might not be appropriate given that most biking and walking trips are generally shorter in distance than driving trips. Another point to consider is the handful of studies finding an increase in overall bicyclist and pedestrian safety emerging with increasing numbers of bikers and walkers. The thinking is that a driver changes his or her expectations based upon the perceived possibility of encountering a bicyclist or pedestrian. So when the number of bikers and walkers increases to the point where drivers begin to expect conflicts, the driver's behavior begins to change for the better.

For example, a 1996 study by Lars Ekman found no linear association between bicyclist exposure and conflict rate in a comprehensive study conducted in Sweden (9). To be more specific, Ekman determined that the conflict rate for an individual bicyclist was higher when the number of bicyclists was low, with this conflict rate subsiding as the flow of bicyclists increased. In terms of conflict rates for a bicyclist, the number of bicyclists was more significant than the number of vehicles on the road. Ekman also found that the risk to pedestrians was not affected by the number of pedestrians.

Another examples is taken from the city of Copenhagen, where it was found that between 1990 and 2000, a 40% increase in bicycle kilometers traveled corresponded to a 50% decrease in seriously injured bicyclists (4). And in a 2003 study of California cities, Peter Jacobsen found results substantiating this idea of safety in numbers. Based on 68 California cities, but only one year of crash data, the results showed that the individual chance of a bicyclist or pedestrian being struck by a car drops with more people biking and walking (3).

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These results are interesting because conventional wisdom links an increase in exposure with an increase in risk. Although not easily transferable to overall road safety, these studies do begin to suggest some explanation as to why places like Davis, Portland, and the Netherlands might be safety than places with lower bike use. While switching from driving to transit has been shown to decrease individual risk, switching from driving to biking or walking would, on average, increase individual risk. However, that average risk number does not explicitly consider situations were there is a critical mass of bikers and walkers that may be able to find better safety in larger numbers. In those cases, the idea that switching from driving to biking or walking can actually reduce one's individual risk is a possibility. In terms of overall road safety, strategies known to increase biking and walking such as traffic calming and decreasing vehicle speeds have also been shown to lead to better road safety outcomes (10, 11). Together, such strategies could help to reduce overall vehicle miles traveled (VMT), which could also play a role in improving road safety (12).

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RESULTS

For the purposes of this study, the crashes analyzed only include those that did occur on surface streets and not those on limited access highways. This was done in order to fairly compare crashes on roads where walking and biking would be reasonably expected. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the data for this results section.

Mode Shares

Based on 2000 Census journey-to-work data, Figure 1 depicts biking, walking, and transit use for each set of cities. Also shown is the U.S. average for biking, walking, and transit use at 0.4%, 2.9%, and 4.6%, respectively (13). The high-bicycling cities in our study have more than 20 times more biking than the U.S. average, more than 2.5 times more walking, and 1.5 times more transit use. The low-bicycling cities and less safe cities match the U.S. average for biking and fall below the U.S. average for walking and transit use.

Overall vehicle mode share is well under 80% for the high-bicycling cities, 82% for the medium-bicycling cities, and over 94% for the low-bicycling cities and the less safe cities.

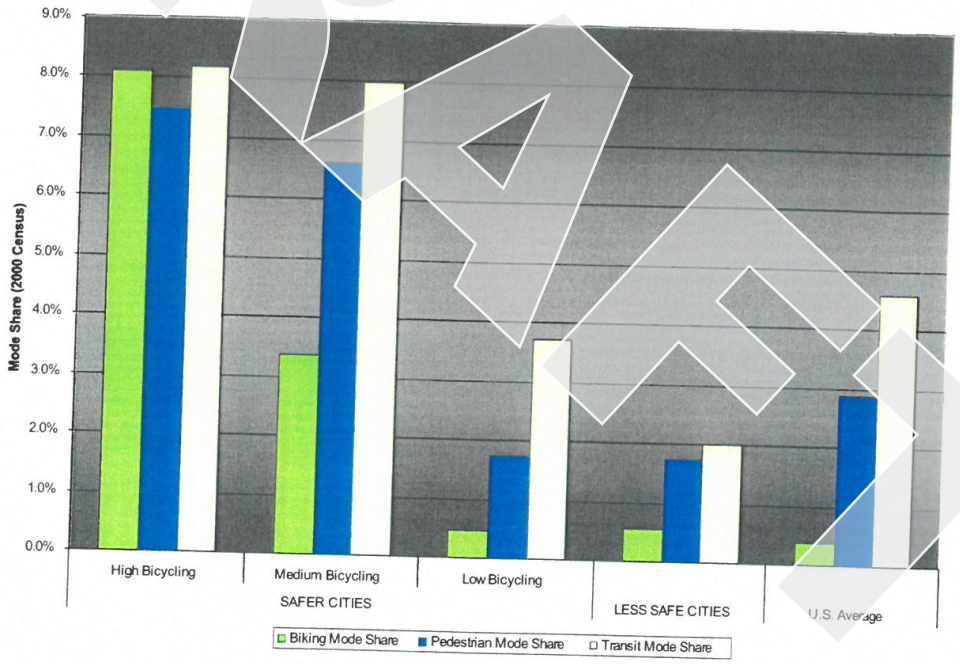


Figure 1 **Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Mode Shares (2000 Census)**

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Road Safety

In terms of road safety, the differences are not always found in terms of the overall crash numbers. In fact, the cities with the lower fatality rates would seem to be less safe if we only looked at overall crash frequency. This is an important distinction because many safety studies often focus on the overall number of crashes and ignore crash severity. In our results, another important difference seems to be in what is happening after the crashes occur. The crash severity risk outcomes - based upon the percentage of crashes for each road user type that result in a fatality - show that if you are in a crash in one of the Group 4 cities, then you are much more likely to die than if the crash took place in a city from one of the other groups. Overall, the risk of a fatality should a crash occur is similar for the three groups of safer cities for each road user type. For the less safe cities, the chance of a vehicle occupant or pedestrian crash resulting in a fatality is over four times greater than what we found in each of the safer groups of cities. Moreover, the chance of a bicycle crash resulting in a fatality is over 11 times greater in the less safe cities than in the safer cities.

Another key consideration in better assessing safety is considering relative exposure. With the intention of getting a better handle on the relative amounts of driving, biking, walking, and transit use in these sets of cities, we used a simple road user exposure metric in which we multiplied city population by mode share to find a rough number of travelers by each mode. This is similar to the method used by Jacobsen; in his study, he assumed that even though journey-to-work trips represent a small percentage of total trips, the percentage of each mode found for commuters is proportional to all trips (3). Though this exposure metric is admittedly imprecise and might be inaccurate if we were interested in absolute rates for vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety, it should function adequately as a proxy toward finding the relative safety rates for these 24 cities.

To put this approach into context, Figure 2 depicts the fatal crashes not occurring on surface streets over the eleven year study period for one city from the highest bicycling group, Santa Barbara, and one from the less safe groups of cities, Rialto. These two cities have almost the same level of population (~92,000) living at almost the same population density (~5,000 people per square mile). Despite these similarities, bicycling mode share in Santa Barbara is over 3.6% (on the low end of our eight higher bicycling cities) while bicycling mode share in Rialto is nearly negligible at 0.2%. Walking mode share is over 6.5% in Santa Barbara and 1.3% in Rialto. In terms of fatality rates, Santa Barbara had 19 vehicular deaths with over 78,000 estimated vehicle users for a rate of 2.2 vehicle deaths per year per 100,000 drivers while Rialto had 68 vehicular deaths and over 88,000 estimated vehicle users for a rate of over 7.0 driver deaths per year per 100,000 drivers. For walking, Santa Barbara experienced 16 deaths over eleven years with over 6,000 estimated walkers for a rate of 24.2 pedestrian deaths per year per 100,000 pedestrians. Rialto had 39 deaths with less than 1,200 estimated walkers for a rate of almost 300 pedestrian deaths per year per 100,000 pedestrians. Santa Barbara also had an estimated 3,356 estimated bicyclists with only two deaths over eleven years for a rate of 5.4 bicyclist deaths per year per 100,000 bicyclists. For Rialto, we find one fewer bicyclist death but only 165 estimated bicyclists for a rate of 55.1 bicyclist deaths per year per 100,000 bicyclists.

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Table 1 Summary of Results for Crashes Not on Limited Access Highways

		SAFER CITIES			LESS SAFE CITIES
		High Bicycling	Medium Bicycling	Low Bicycling	
General Information	Population (2000 average per city)	70,328	65,742	61,087	59,845
	Population Density (people per sq mi)	6,037	5,364	5,808	2,673
	Income (2000 average)	51,669	46,579	81,721	46,408
	Vehicle Mode Share	76.3%	82.0%	94.0%	95.8%
	Biking Mode Share	8.1%	3.4%	0.5%	0.6%
	Pedestrian Mode Share	7.5%	6.6%	1.8%	1.8%
	Transit Mode Share	8.2%	8.0%	3.7%	2.0%
	Estimated No. of Bicyclists	5,697	2,227	299	345
	Estimated No. of Pedestrians	5,268	4,352	1,082	1,060
	Estimated No. of Drivers	53,625	53,908	57,422	57,302
	(estimates based upon mode share & population)				
Vehicle Safety	Vehicle Fatalities	10.3	11.3	6.5	37.8
	Vehicle Severe Injuries	61.5	52.3	52.5	83.1
	Vehicle Other Injuries	2,315.5	1,878.5	1,861.3	1,673.0
	Vehicle Total Injuries	2,387.3	1,942.0	1,920.3	1,793.8
	Vehicle Property Damage Only	5,471.8	5,519.8	3,648.8	3,769.5
	(crash counts averaged per city for 1996-2007)				
	Vehicle Fatality Risk	0.19%	0.15%	0.14%	0.76%
	(% chance of crash resulting in fatality)				
	Vehicle Fatality Rate	1.0	1.1	0.6	10.3
	Vehicle Severe Injury Rate	6.0	5.0	5.1	22.6
	Vehicle Other Injury Rate	224.3	181.0	168.4	455.0
	(avg. per year per 100,000 estimated drivers)				
Pedestrian Safety	Pedestrian Fatalities	7.8	8.5	4.3	16.8
	Pedestrian Severe Injuries	26.8	33.5	20.0	21.3
	Pedestrian Other Injuries	292.0	244.3	142.0	102.3
	Pedestrian Total Injuries	326.5	286.3	166.3	140.4
	(crash counts averaged per city for 1996-2007)				
	Pedestrian Fatality Risk	3.07%	3.01%	3.01%	12.67%
	(% chance of crash resulting in fatality)				
	Pedestrian Fatality Rate	7.6	10.1	20.4	245.2
	Pedestrian Severe Injury Rate	26.4	40.0	96.0	313.5
	Pedestrian Other Injury Rate	288.0	291.5	681.5	1,503.9
	(avg. per year per 100,000 estimated pedestrians)				
Bicycle Safety	Bicycle Fatalities	0.8	1.0	0.0	1.8
	Bicycle Severe Injuries	24.5	32.8	11.8	48.3
	Bicycle Other Injuries	539.0	398.0	202.3	111.1
	Bicycle Total Injuries	564.3	431.8	214.0	161.3
	(crash counts averaged per city for 1996-2007)				
	Bicylist Fatality Risk	0.14%	0.22%	0.00%	1.36%
	(% chance of crash resulting in fatality)				
	Bicycle Fatality Rate	0.7	2.3	0.0	82.9
	Bicycle Severe Injury Rate	22.3	76.4	203.9	2,185.2
	Bicycle Other Injury Rate	491.5	928.5	3,510.0	5,022.1
	(avg. per year per 100,000 estimated bicylists)				

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Now if we take this analysis to the city groups, we discover that even though the less safe cities have the lowest number of crashes occurring, Table 1 shows that these cities also found higher vehicle occupant crash rates across all severity levels. Another key consideration is the fact that even though the less safe cities had very low rates of biking and walking, they also experienced far more bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities than the other groups of cities. For a pedestrian, the fatality rate is more than 24 times greater in the less safe cities than in either of the city groups with significant biking, almost ten times greater for a severe injury, and over five times greater for all other pedestrian injuries. For the safer cities with low bicycling, the pedestrian fatality rate is approximately twice that found in the higher biking cities.

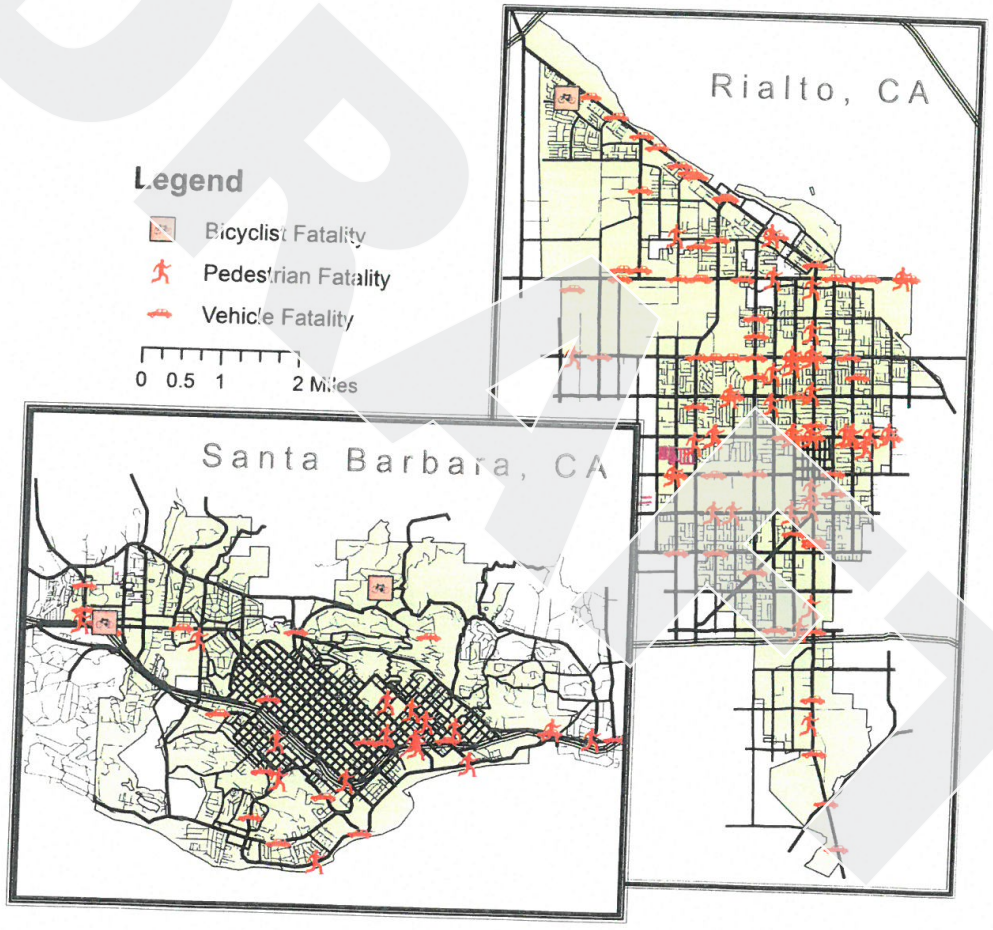


Figure 2 **Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Vehicle Fatalities for Santa Barbara & Rialto (1996-2007)**

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For a bicyclist, the fatality rate is more than 75 times greater in the cities with the poor safety records compared to those with significant biking, over sixty times greater for a severe injury, and over seven times greater for all other bicyclist injuries. The safer cities with low bicycle mode shares had zero bicycle fatalities. However, in terms of all other injuries (including severe injuries) to a bicyclist, the crash rates were over 4 times greater in the low bicycling safe cities than in the higher biking cities.

Street Network Characteristics & Street Design

Overall, the variation in relative fatality rates, as well as the fact that a crash occurring in one of the less safe cities has a much higher chance of resulting in a fatality, suggests differences in the street network and in the design of the street. The data shown in Table 2 supports these findings. The constant factor for all three groups of safer cities when compared to the less safe cities was intersection density. For the two groups of higher bicycling cities, they also tended to be slightly more connected with fewer lanes and a narrower cross-section on the major streets than both groups of low-bicycling cities.

Table 2 Street & Street Network Characteristics

		SAFER CITIES		LESS SAFE CITIES
	High Bicycling	Medium Bicycling	Low Bicycling	
Street Network & Street Design				
Measure for Street Network Density				
Intersection Density *(intersections per sq. mi.)*	114.2	103.2	101.2	62.7
Measure for Street Connectivity				
Link to Node Ratio *(# links / # nodes including dead ends)*	1.39	1.38	1.25	1.29
Centerline Miles of Major Roads	49.5	45.9	26.9	65.2
Centerline Miles of Minor Roads	144.8	119.2	113.6	210.8
Total Centerline Miles *(average per city)*	199.0	169.6	146.0	281.8
Sidewalks	50.3%	38.3%	85.6%	48.4%
Bike Lanes	24.9%	23.6%	38.4%	15.6%
On-Street Parking *(% length of arterial / collector type streets)*	41.1%	28.4%	42.8%	23.0%
Avg. No. of Lanes	2.7	2.4	3.7	3.1
Avg. Width of Roadway Cross-Section *(average on arterial / collector type streets)*	50.9'	46.9'	59.7'	54.4'

In order to taking a closer look at intersection density with respect to safety, we developed the graphs shown in Figures 3 and 4. For all road users, the chance that a crash would result in a fatality tended to be lower for the cities with lower density street networks. This same trend was found for vehicle crashes, pedestrian crashes, as well as bicycle crashes.

As for the other street design considerations, we look again at Santa Barbara and Rialto shown in Figure 2. Overall, Santa Barbara had the fewest average number of lanes on the arterial/collector roads of any city in the database while Rialto averaged almost a full lane

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more. Santa Barbara also has more than three times the length of bike lanes on these same roads and about 30% more on-street parking – all of which seem to play a role in the road safety and biking/walking outcomes for Santa Barbara.

Another interesting example is Carlsbad - one of the less safe cities - which also happens to have the highest percentage of bike lanes on the arterial/collector roads of all the cities in the database with nearly 70% of the total length of these roads having a bike lane present. However, Carlsbad is on the low end of the street connectivity and street network density range and also has the highest average number of lanes present on these major roads in the database. So even with a high degree of bike lanes present, Carlsbad's bicycle mode share is only 0.3%. On the other hand, Berkeley - one of the highest biking cities - has one of the lowest percentages of bike lanes present on the major roads. In this case, the difference might be in the fact that Berkeley has the highest street connectivity and street network density of all the cities as well as other strategies for accommodating bicyclists such as bike boulevards. This is certainly not to say that bike lanes are hazardous because the safer, high bicycling cities did in fact tend to have more bike lanes. For instance, Davis and Antioch find very similar population densities, street connectivities, and street network densities, but Davis has significantly better safety outcomes and also happens to cover almost 2.5 times more of their major roads with bike lanes. Overall, the results suggest that many of these street design factors, along with the street network measures such as intersection density, seem to work in coincidence toward helping create an environment with a higher degree of biking and walking as well as improved road safety.

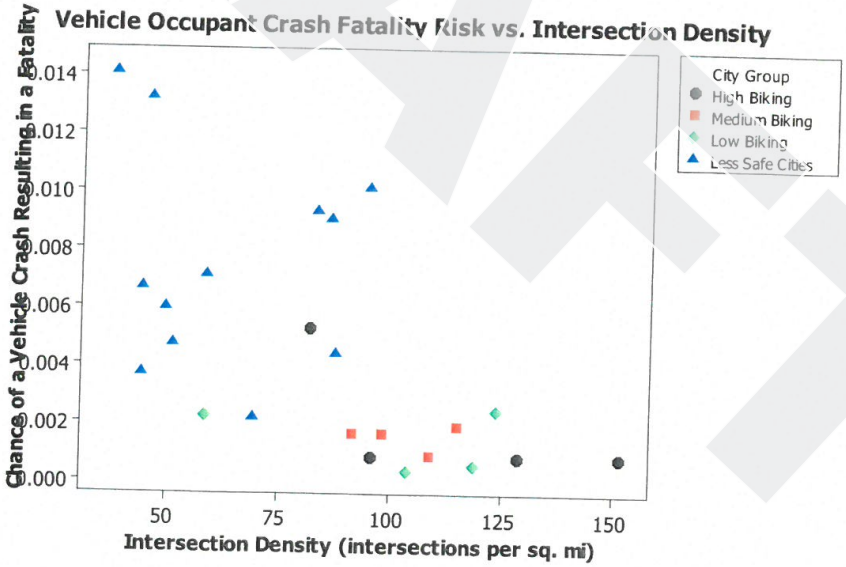


Figure 3 **Chance of Vehicle Crash Resulting in a Fatality vs. Intersection Density**

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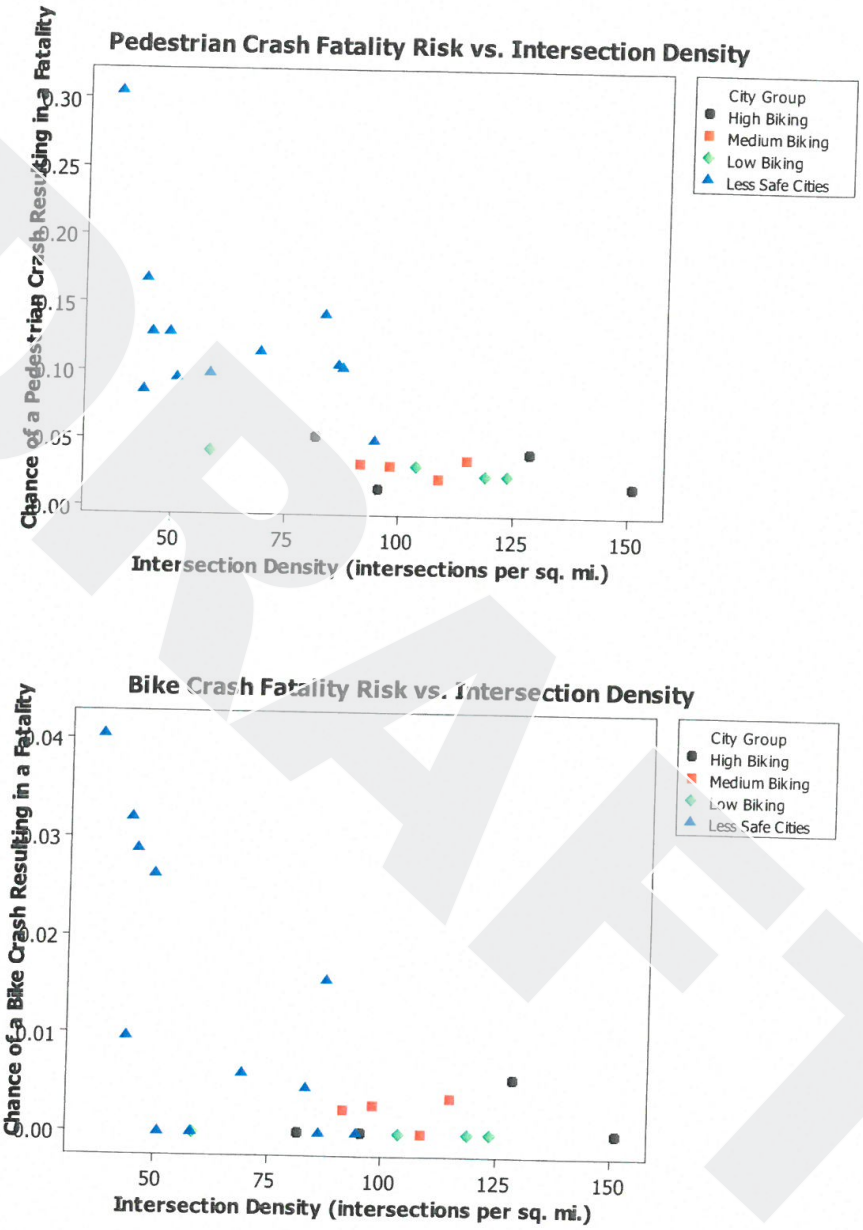


Figure 4 Chance of a Pedestrian or Bicyclist Crash Resulting in a Fatality vs. Intersection Density

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CONCLUSION

High bicycling cities generally show a much lower risk of fatality or severe crashes for all road users when compared to many of the cities in our data base. The fact that this pattern is consistent for all classes of road users strongly suggests that the crashes are taking place at lower speeds in these high bicycling cities. The reason for lower speeds might be due to features such as traffic calming and other design elements that can help attract large numbers of bicyclists. Our street database contains some hints of these trends - for example, the high biking cities tend to have more bike lanes, fewer traffic lanes, and more on-street parking. At the same time, large numbers of bicycle users might also help lower vehicle speeds. It is important to note that the high biking cities do not necessarily have lower overall crash rates; rather, they have much lower severity levels for those crashes that do occur.

Our results also show that there is a group of four cities that have both low severity levels and low bike use. These cities represent an interesting hybrid exhibiting some characteristics in common with both the high-bicycling/low fatality cities as well as the low-bicycling/high fatality cities. These four cities tended to have high intersection densities similar to the values found in the high-bicycling cities; they also tended to have low levels of street network connectivity, more akin to the low-bicycling/high fatality cities. In other words, this subset of cities featured local streets high in cul-de-sacs but at a relatively high density. These cities also reveal some other unique features that might contribute to their lower fatality rates, including far fewer major roads than found in the other city groups.

Overall, the biggest difference found between the three groups of lower fatality cities and the high fatality cities was intersection density. The graphs depict the relationships between fatality risks and intersection densities for vehicle occupants, pedestrians, and bicyclists, respectively. Our results consistently show that high intersection density appears to be the single most important street design factor affecting crash severity. However, there appears to be other factors at work in leading to these lower fatality rates for both the high-bicycling cities and the low-bicycling/low fatality cities. In the case of the high-bicycling cities, these factors might include the work done to make the streets attractive to bicyclists as well as the sheer presence of many bike riders. We do not yet have the data to disentangle these effects, but our results strongly suggest that safety benefits for all road users can be derived from an amalgamation of the steps taken to attract more bicyclists; that is, as long as we define safety in terms of reducing fatality and severe crashes and not just in terms of reducing overall rates of crashes. Improving the streets to accommodate bicycles may in fact lead to a self reinforcing cycle that can help enhance overall safety for all road users. This combination of factors seems to go a long way toward overall safer and more sustainable cities.

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Jackie Sinnott
To: Charles Stone - Mayor
Cc: Afshin Oskoui; Brigitte Shearer; Kenneth Stenquist; Matthew Perotti; Peter Daniel
Subject: Re: 4 way stop at the corner of Cipriani and Carmelita
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:45:23 PM

Thank you so much for the quick and thorough response! What you are saying makes a lot of sense and I appreciate the background / recommendations.

If there is any way to possibly continue to look into stop sign installation, I would be interested to hear if it might be possible. However if it's not, that will be the end of it!

Thank you again for your time and please let me know if this might still be an option. I would be happy to pursue this through a different channel if this is not the right one.

With appreciation,

Jackie Sinnott

On Wed, Oct 6, 2021 at 1:15 PM Charles Stone - Mayor <cstone@belmont.gov> wrote:

Hi Jackie,

Thanks for reaching out and welcome to Belmont and the neighborhood. My kids (now 17 and 15) walked from my house on Read to Cipriani pretty much every day from the time they were 8 or so through completion of 5th grade. I know the area and the intersection well. I'm not aware of any Cipriani safety initiative. I don't think that's accurate. I think there might some confusion arising out of recent parks and rec PROS advisory committee.

Pedestrian safety is a high priority to the council and we've shown that in a lot of our actions. That said, inheriting a city where many of the roads don't have sidewalks sure doesn't make it easy. Those decisions were made in the 50s when the neighborhoods were being developed and while we are requiring sidewalks in conjunction with residential construction projects where it makes sense, it's still far from ideal. But there are realistic and insurmountable obstacles to adding sidewalks on Cipriani.

When it comes to stop signs and things like that, we rely on our public works department and our police department. I don't think the parks and rec department/commission would have any involvement although they do deal with our bike/ped plan.

That particular intersection received crosswalks for the first time a few years ago in response to some residents' request. There was some concern at the time that the safer bet was to discourage kids from crossing at that cross walk and direct them to cross at the four way

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stop at Cipriani and Buena Vista or Cip/Ponce. That's what the safe routes to school program used to show to my memory. I actually was concerned that installing the crosswalks would lead to more kids crossing there without the protection of a stop sign which would create a higher risk of danger, but some residents felt differently. IIRC, I think we looked at stop signs at that location then. I ***think*** that we can't put in stop signs at that Carmelita/Cipriani based on state law site line requirements. That said, I can't say with certainty that I am remembering correctly so I'm copying our excellent city manager (who was public works director at the time) Afshin Oskoui, our current public works director Peter Brown, and our interim Police Chief Ken Stenquist so they can add anything germane.

In the meantime, I ***highly*** recommend that anyone crossing with kids or any kids crossing without adults use the fourway stops at Buena Vista/Cip or Ponce/Cip depending on where they are coming from. That's much safer and has minimal impact from a walking time perspective (having done them all many times over the past 12 years.)

Thanks again for the contact and we'll follow up.

Charles

(I've also copied our parks and rec director just in case I've missed something that she knows of.)

Charles Stone

Mayor

City of Belmont

1 Twin Pines Lane

Belmont, CA 94002

(650) 394-7390

DRAFT

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Please Note: Unless otherwise noted, the opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives contained in this email are my own and do not represent the official position of the City of Belmont or its City Council. Please do not share those opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives with other members of the Belmont City Council so as to avoid the potential development or appearance of a consensus outside a scheduled public meeting, which is prohibited under California's Brown Act. I also respectfully request that you refrain from sharing the opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives of other Belmont City Council members with me. If you are contacting me about a development application or appeal that is pending before the City Council, I am not able to read your email because it constitutes an ex parte communication. I will, however, forward your email to city staff and it will be made part of the record. Thank you.

From: Jackie Sinnott
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 12:12 PM
To: P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>; City Council <CityCouncil@belmont.gov>; Jackie Sinnott >; Matthew Perotti
Subject: 4 way stop at the corner of Cipriani and Carmelita

Hello City Council and Park and Rec,

I was informed that you will be reviewing safety ideas in the Cipriani area and I wanted to reach out. We live at , somewhat new to the area, but have one in Kindergarten at Cipriani now (and another in preschool).

We love Belmont, but have missed having consistent sidewalks and noticed many blind corners in an otherwise safe and family friendly neighborhood.

With school back in session, one easy solution I see to making the neighborhood safer right here, is a **4 way stop at the corner of Cipriani and Carmelia.** There was an accident there two weeks ago, and many families near or crossing at that intersection daily. With poor visibility and no sidewalks, cars zooming by without a stop seems especially dangerous. Just today while I stood in the painted crosswalk (after walking my Kindergartner to school), three cars drove quickly past me while I waited for one to stop (disregarding me, the crosswalk or the fact that pedestrians have the right of way).

A 4 way stop at that intersection would be a great improvement to this neighborhood. It would make it a safer place to cross, possibly encourage more people to walk/bike to school and slow traffic in general, in a neighborhood with many kids out riding bikes and walking daily.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jackie Sinnott

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Ryen Motzek
To: Kelley Lotosky
Subject: Re: Belmont Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Thursday
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 1:15:13 PM

Hi Kelley,

Thank you so much for this invitation. Unfortunately I did not get this email until it was too late. Is there a way that the communities involved with wanting to give input can send information via email? I've heard from a couple people that they would've needed more of a heads up. Been able to attend.

Please let me know, I'd like for her to be proper input for this process. Thank you!

On Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 3:58 PM <info@belmontprosplan.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

We wanted to let you know our next Advisory Committee Meeting will be held

Thursday, September 30, 2021
7:00 - 8:30 pm via zoom

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85036408239
Passcode: Belmont

Or One tap mobile :
US: +16699006833,,85036408239# or +13462487799,,85036408239#
Or Telephone:
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 3592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099
Webinar ID: 850 3640 8239
International numbers available: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcarwufm7G

Attached you can find the agenda.

Thank you for your continued participation!

--
Atlas
San Mateo, CA 94401

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Meredith Larsen
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: safety in Cipriani
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 12:09:55 PM

Dear City Council and Parks and Recreation Committee,

I have lived in Belmont for 6 years on Carmelita Ave at Cipriani. We have two young children, one who will start at Cipriani next year and hopefully we will walk to school. Thank you for putting in a crosswalk at our intersection. Our block is often parked on by Cipriani families who walk to school and use that crosswalk. Unfortunately, the crosswalk (while well intended) is in a very dangerous intersection around a blind curve with hedges that are rarely cut back by the neighbor. There was a two vehicle accident there about two weeks ago and very often when we drive out that way, we almost get into an accident from an oncoming car going downhill way too fast on Cipriani. I would never let my children walk to school using that crosswalk by themselves and as I said, I use alternative routes to make the turn onto Cipriani from Carmelita.

I understand you are having a meeting about walking and street safety. My neighbors and I would LOVE to have a 4 way stop sign at the intersection of Carmelita and Cipriani. I understand that it's a route for the fire trucks and emergency vehicles, but hopefully they could go through quickly even with the stops in an emergency- as they do at Ponce and Carmelita. More safety and possible sidewalks are definitely needed in this area where we have Cipriani School and Semeria Park.

Thank you for your consideration and let us know how we can further support the installation of stop signs at this location.

Warmly,
Meredith Larsen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Gregory Cala
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Convert tennis courts to pickleball courts
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 10:49:53 PM
Attachments: Video.MOV

Dear Parks & Rec Commission,
I've spoken to you in the past about the growing popularity of Pickleball and how great it is for communities.
It's a sport that anyone can show up, alone or with a group and has a traditional rotation of games that end when one team reaches 11.
For every 2 tennis courts, you can convert to 6 pickleball courts simply and while not having to spend too much.
But again, the most important thing is how great it is for the community.
Please see the following video of Foster City's Pickleball courts and you will see how many people enjoy it.
There is no downside to converting a couple tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts.
What will it take to finally make this happen?
Please send me a reply so I know.

Sincerely,
Greg Cala

Sent from my stubbornly smart phone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Jozi Plut on behalf of x-City Clerk"s Office
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: FW: City Council Special Meeting 11/23- Ralston Ranch Rd park Development
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 3:05:50 PM
Attachments: Ralston Ranch Park Lettter.docx
image001.png
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image003.png
image004.png
image005.png

FYI

Jozi Plut, CMC
City Clerk :: Communications Coordinator

1 Twin Pines Ln, Belmont, CA 94002
P: (650) 595-7408 | E jplut@belmont.gov
www.belmont.gov

From: Schnabel
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 7:37 PM
To: x-City Clerk's Office <cclerk@belmont.gov>
Subject: City Council Special Meeting 11/23- Ralston Ranch Rd park Development

Attached are our comments regarding the development of the Ralston Ranch Road park. We voiced these concerns as well during the 10/20 parks and rec's meeting.

Thank you.
Roy and Maria Schnabel

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Parks and Recreation:

My general comments regarding the current Park proposal for Ralston Ranch Park.

Firstly, I am unsure as to why the park limits are not extended all the way to the edge of sidewalks on Ralston Ave. It would make sense that this portion be included so that P&R can be responsible for maintaining and up keeping the entire area. It does not make sense to exclude this area as it provides another natural location to plant mitigation, replacement and screening trees for the community.

Screening trees are important as they provide mitigation from wind, visual intrusion, natural screens for wildlife to pass through the community, and on occasion an obstruction for wayward vehicles that come off Ralston Ave. Yes, this has happened and more than once; and the last one made it pretty far down the hill.

As for the elements of your plan:

DOG PARK
I am not sure that this location is the best and most appropriate location for a dog park.

Typically dog parks service wider community areas. Cipriani is the much better dog park for the overall community and services much of the local community in our area. Regardless, the proximity of Cipriani would limit the usage of this specific dog park to a smaller, defined part of the community and more than likely nearby San Mateo residents.

Residents of both of the Belmont communities should be the focus of this park and they both have established trailheads into the great open park areas adjacent to these communities. We have numerous dog owners in the community, including myself, and I personally prefer to walk my dogs through the trail system so that both the dogs and myself get exercise. So as a dog owner adjacent to this park, I would probably rarely use it. I am sure that will be true for most of the RRR community.

This type of park also does not have great parking and access. The roadway set up with one exit probably is not great for any more added traffic. Every person parking to access the park would have to work as a single trip in each direction for each visit. There are already bikers and hikers that use the trailhead at the cul de sac that park along the street, and most of these users also go out illegally through the Christian exit. This is just another traffic safety risk, especially at that intersection.

As I see it, most of this community would not necessarily use the dog park. However, most of the park is being captured as a dog park. As stated I am not sure that is the best usage of the space in the park for the neighborhood and the community.

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If having a dog park to service this part of the community is important to P&R, I would suggest studying other location and more specifically a dog park at Fox Elementary School as an extension of your JUA. This would be much more ideal as it supports a wider section of this community, including the Hallmark neighborhood. It allows for better usage of the park spaces and a more functional dog park, with much better access and parking.

GATHERING/PICNIC AREAS

Gathering areas are fine as long as they are well maintained and policed. We already have local experience with the attractive nuisance at the lookout with the drinking, smoking and sexual activity only 500' away. As a result, there is much apprehension from providing just another location for bad behavior to occur even closer to our homes.

Regardless of this, the plan placing these gathering spaces, picnic areas and such directly adjacent to the homes is not good planning. These should be located farther away to preserve and protect the privacy of this home owners. This is another consequence of having most of the functional space being used for a dog park. If you remove the dog park, the other tier 2 amenities can be better situated farther from the homes, including any play structures, gathering areas, picnic areas, garbage receptacles, etc. It would also create one specific space that is more open, and that is easier to access, use, maintain, and police.

This still does not mitigate the parking and traffic related issues. The goal should be to make this park be a destination primarily for the local communities surrounding it and not to draw in people from outside the community neighborhoods, especially those that have to specifically access it by car. Better for the community and better for the environment. We appreciate this upcoming forum to discuss the park as I think getting a better understanding of what the actual local affected communities want from this park is beneficial and good planning.

Ultimately, I think that maintaining or preserving as much of the park as open space is probably a more ideal use of this park space. Your current online survey also seems to bear this out as only a very small percentage view the current space as unsatisfactory. If you eliminate those with no opinion than 85-90% of the respondents feel that the park in its current condition is excellent or satisfactory with over 60% of that in the excellent column.

I would also recommend that any additional, replacement or mitigation trees be planted along the perimeters of the park especially at Ralston Ave and adjacent to those homes closest to the park to continue to provide both natural visual, privacy and wind barriers.

Regards,

Roy and Maria Schnabel

Belmont CA 94002

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Jozi Plut on behalf of x-City Clerk"s Office
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: FW: Ralston Ranch Park
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 1:57:31 PM

FYI

Jozi Plut, CMC
City Clerk :: Communications Coordinator

1 Twin Pines Ln, Belmont, CA 94002
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www.belmont.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Carol Rossi
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 12:05 PM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@belmont.gov>; x-City Clerk's Office <cclerk@belmont.gov>
Subject: Ralston Ranch Park

Hello City Council and City Clerk

Thank you for allowing us to make comment on the planning of the undeveloped Ralston Ranch park area. I was able to join and participate in the virtual focus group meeting held in Oct. My husband and I are hoping that this undeveloped park can be considered as a tier 1 park (available for local neighbors, by foot within 1//18 of a mile radius) to meet the needs of this neighborhood. We believe that deeming it as a tier 1 park will provide access and enjoyment to all in the neighborhood. Let me clarify why.

Ralston Ranch Road is unique. It is surrounded by open space, with one side butting up to our main through way in Belmont, Ralston Ave. This piece of open space called Ralston Ranch Park is a necessary piece of land for our wildlife in the canyon. This area allows our wildlife to move freely from one side of the open space to the other. Neighbors have seen and captured on camera multiple species of wildlife traveling through this small piece of land to access either side of our open space areas.

Ralston Ranch Road has wide streets with parking available. However, one side of the street is a one-way only, coming in from Christian Ave. Our concern, as we've seen from people parking cars on the street to use the trails, is that the cars will go out the wrong way, and use our driveways to turn around to leave the street onto Ralston. It is a horseshoe shaped street with a blindspot at the bend especially when the sun is set low, either in the morning or at sunset. With the street being wide and on a hill, people tend to also drive too fast, especially around the bend which can lead to increased chances of accidents.

Ralston Ranch Road is in a great location with easy access to the 92 interchange. However, this easy access to the 92 interchange, is a concern. If the Ralston Ranch Park is developed into a tier 2 park, it would invite people from outside of our immediate area, making it a place to congregate with possible unwanted visitors. Please don't make our neighborhood more susceptible to crime and destruction of our property. In addition, if it becomes a tier 2 park

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area, then there will be more trash that will be blown around on our street, ultimately landing into the waterways and open space area.

Please consider that if a dog parklet, playground or other tier 2 type of development is created on Ralston Ranch Park, it will greatly impact our safety, the traffic on our one street, and the wildlife. Belmont has 2 dog parks. Wouldn't those asking for a dog park in Belmont prefer it to be placed somewhere else, closer to where they live to give them equal access? A small, simple playground might be feasible, but has the city assessed how windy, foggy, damp, and cold it is at the top of Ralston Ave.? There is a marked change in temperature from the intersection of Alameda de los Plugas and Ralston Ave to the intersection of Ralston Ranch Road and Ralston Ave.

As a neighborhood, we would like to keep Ralston Ranch Park as open as possible, with as little impact as possible to nature and our safety. Please consider this space for walking paths, a meditation walking circle, and/or a simple bench to sit on to enjoy the view. This will allow the wildlife to move freely, and keep the neighborhoods around Ralston Ranch Park safe.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input in how to create our undeveloped parks in Belmont.

Respectfully yours,
Carol Rossi

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Paul Sheng
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com; City Council
Subject: Follow up on Hidden Canyon Park issues discussed at 11/3/21 meeting
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 9:19:55 PM

Dear City Council, Parks & Rec Commission, and PROS Committee:

I watched the 11/3/21 meeting on Zoom and wanted to offer some input on Hidden Canyon Park. First, I thought Gates & Associates did a great job in presenting the draft parks improvement element of the PROS plan. I think the Parks staff and Gates have done a fantastic job of doing a needs assessment for our parks and recreational opportunities. The needs assessment shows a very clear need for additional parks in Belmont. Ralston Ranch and Hidden Canyon have been identified as two tremendous opportunities to fill our community's needs - particularly Hidden Canyon which offers the largest opportunity, both in terms of acreage and the proximity to the widest population.

I was unable to make the focus group meeting for Hidden Canyon, but a friend of mine did and I was very disturbed by what he told me. It's my understanding that nearly 100% of the participants were either homeowners from the Hidden Canyon development, or homeowners / political operatives from Belmont Heights such as Pat Cuvielo, Deniz Bolbol, and Kristen Mercer. There was not a single renter or landlord representative from any of the many nearby apartment buildings that house thousands of renters. If you take a look on Zillow, you can see that the Hidden Canyon housing development consists of 31 single family houses, with market values ranging from $2.2M to $2.7M. These are among the priciest homes in the city, if not the priciest.

As you know, the guiding principles of the PROS plan include the following points, among others:

- Provide equitable access to resources and activities across the entire city
- Promote inclusion to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
- Make all users feel welcome and safe
- Adapt to changing conditions and needs

I'm concerned that the first two principles, equitable access and inclusion, are being steamrolled by elite special interests in this process. During the Parks & Rec Commission meeting, David Braunstein (PROS Committee member and former Belmont Mayor / City Councilman of 8+ years) made strong public comment advocating against *any* improvement in the Hidden Canyon park. He made an analogy that "just because you can build improvements in something like Yellowstone Park, it doesn't mean you should do it." In my opinion this is a false analogy. That analogy would be valid if there was a proposal to build things within the boundaries of the Open Space, but no one is proposing to do that. As you know, Hidden Canyon Park is a parcel of land that is *already dedicated to city park use* that sits between the Hidden Canyon development and the Waterdog Open Space. In the 1990s, the

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developer was *required* to grant that parcel to the city *to be used as a park* as a condition of the development permit. Specifically, the 1994 City Council resolution approving the Hidden Canyon tract states ". . . The 5.6 acre park area shall be dedicated to the City of Belmont for the provision of a park" and "The proposed park area will consist of a trail head, drinking fountains, and picnic tables to be developed by the City at a later date, subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission." See https://ecmx.belmont.gov:81/Image/DownloadPdf/133919

It seems to me that Mr. Braunstein, as well as the 30 other households in the wealthy Hidden Canyon neighborhood, have a vested interest in keeping that city park lot barren and unappealing. Apparently they feel improvements would increase traffic on "their" street. I put "their" in quotation marks because Carlmont Drive is of course a public street paid for by taxpayer dollars, which everyone has the right to use.

It would be a tremendous shame to see Hidden Canyon Park - the biggest opportunity we have to add desperately needed park infrastructure - lay fallow for the next 20 years, as it has for the past 27 years. In the sale and re-sale contract of every home in the in Hidden Canyon tract, there would have been a disclosure that the 5.6 acre lot at the end of Carlmont Drive was designated to be a city park. Over the past 27 years, it appears a sense of entitlement has developed in that neighborhood that they can keep that land fallow for their benefit, which is to the detriment to the entire city. Of course, as adjoining neighbors to the city park land, they are important stakeholders, and the process needs to consider the impact any development will have on them. However, I feel like in the process thus far, their voices are dominating the discussion to the exclusion of almost everyone else.

Consider this: the undeveloped Hidden Canyon park land is 5.6 acres. *That is roughly the same size as Barrett Community center*. We have a choice of either providing all 30,000 citizens of our city with 5.6 acres worth of parkland to fill an unmet need for our increasing population, or we can kowtow to interests of 31 of the city's wealthiest households so they can have marginally fewer cars drive down "their" street. I think everyone is in agreement that development of Hidden Canyon Park should be as congruent with the natural setting as possible. It is not an appropriate place for things such as plastic playground equipment or splash pads. (However, a permanent bathroom would be a welcome addition - it would especially be appreciated by seniors and families with small children.) I really liked Commissioner Michaels' idea of a staff outpost with outdoor classroom space. That would provide a great launching point for city staff-guided nature walks, fishing clinics, etc. Something like a scaled-down version of the interpretive center/restroom building at Arastadero Preserve in Palo Alto is something that would fit nicely in the space.

I have a question about the process as it pertains to Hidden Canyon Park. Mr. Braunstein is on the PROS Committee, he lives in the Hidden Canyon tract, and he has now gone on public record vigorously opposing any development of Hidden Canyon Park. (Mr. Braunstein has every right to express opinions at public meetings as a private citizen, and I have no issue with him expressing his opinions at the last Parks & Rec Commission meeting.) However, it seems like a conflict of interest for him to participate on the PROS Committee on items relating to Hidden Canyon Park.

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During Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, Commissioner Mittelstadt recuses himself when items of Commission business come up on trails adjoining his house. However, as a member of the PROS Committee, don't the same legal or ethical rules require Mr. Braunstein to recuse himself from items of PROS Committee business adjoining his house?

I feel the Hidden Canyon Park issue is just one example of a larger issue with the PROS process that City Council and the Parks & Rec Commission needs to address. We need more balance, more equity, and more inclusion. Of course, every citizen on every side of the issue has the right to speak and be heard. However, the discussion is being dominated by "ghosts of Christmas past" - politicians who have been voted out of office years ago, and would-be politicians who don't have enough support to get into office. At each and every meeting, we are hearing from Deniz Bolbol (losing City Council candidate from 2018 election); Pat Cuvielo (losing City Council candidate from 2020 election), Kristen Mercer (former Planning Commissioner appointed by a prior political regime), and now former mayor/councilman Braunstein. It is a loud, constant drumbeat from the same tiny group of people every time. This is the least diverse demographic group I can possibly think of. They are all white, middle-aged to older retired or semi-retired political operatives who own $2.2M+ houses adjoining open space. To be clear, I am not saying these people should be marginalized or excluded from the process; I absolutely respect their First Amendment right to speak. However, they do not have the right to dominate every discussion and dictate how our community uses our land. There should be more balance in the process and more input from a broader and more diverse group of community members. More outreach is needed so regular community member voices can get heard over the roar of former/would be politicians.

Finally, I want to make one thing very clear: I am by no means critical of Parks Director Shearer, Gates & Associates, or their respective staff. I think they are all doing a fantastic job with the PROS plan, and the issues with the process are not due to them, but rather the constant barrage from this group of political operatives who are aggressively trying to dominate the agenda. I have a concrete suggestion to bring some balance to this process, at least as it pertains to Hidden Canyon Park. There has already been a Hidden Canyon focus group meeting that was well-attended by the Hidden Canyon homeowners and Belmont Heights political operatives. How about conducting a second Hidden Canyon / Carlmont *renter* focus group? It will take some outreach to get those folks to the table, but it is well worth the effort. It just seems unfair and inequitable for policy decisions to be made on the basis of input from one tiny special interest group.

Thank you for taking the time to read my lengthy email, and I very much appreciate all the time and effort you are all putting into our PROS Plan process.

Regards,

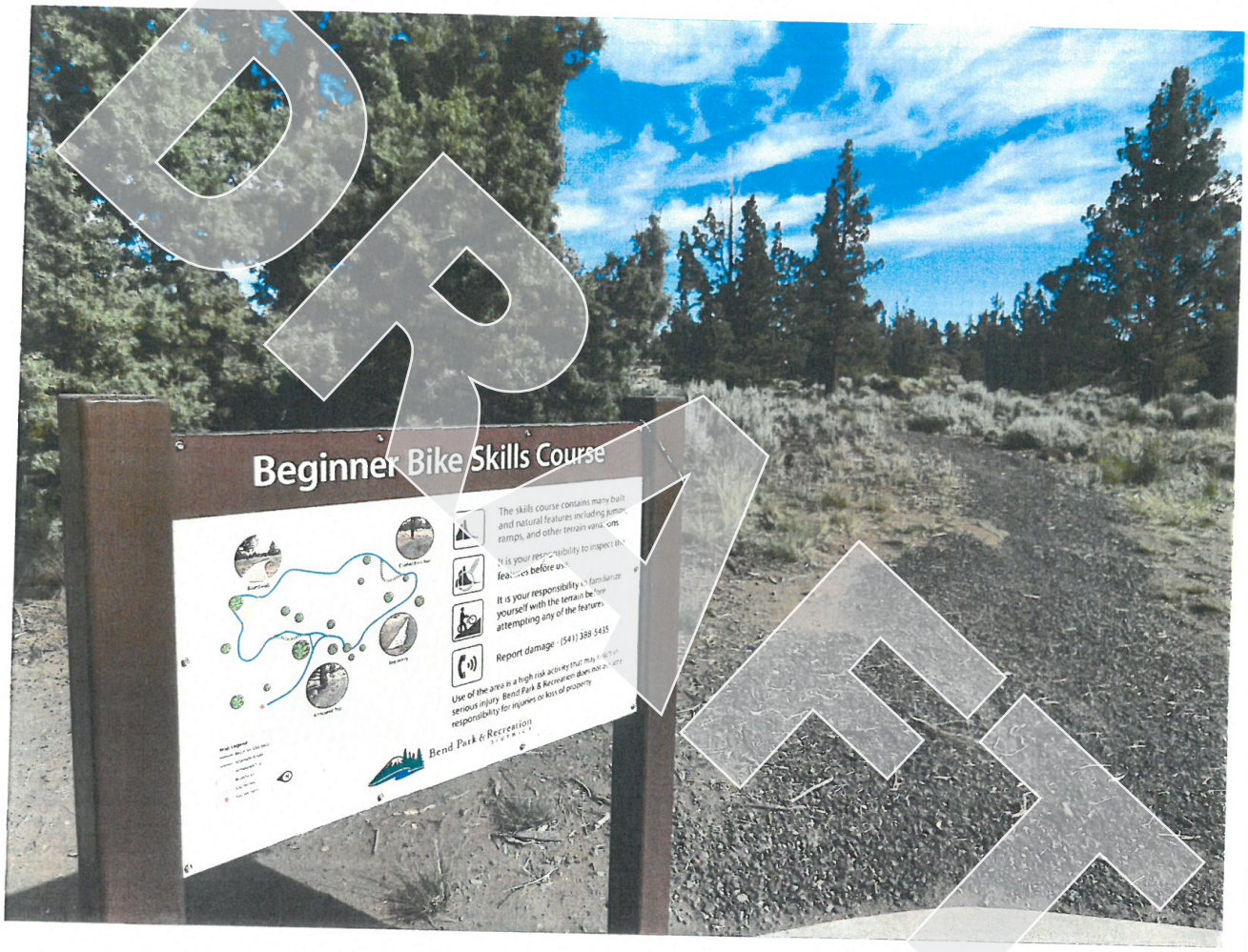
Paul Sheng

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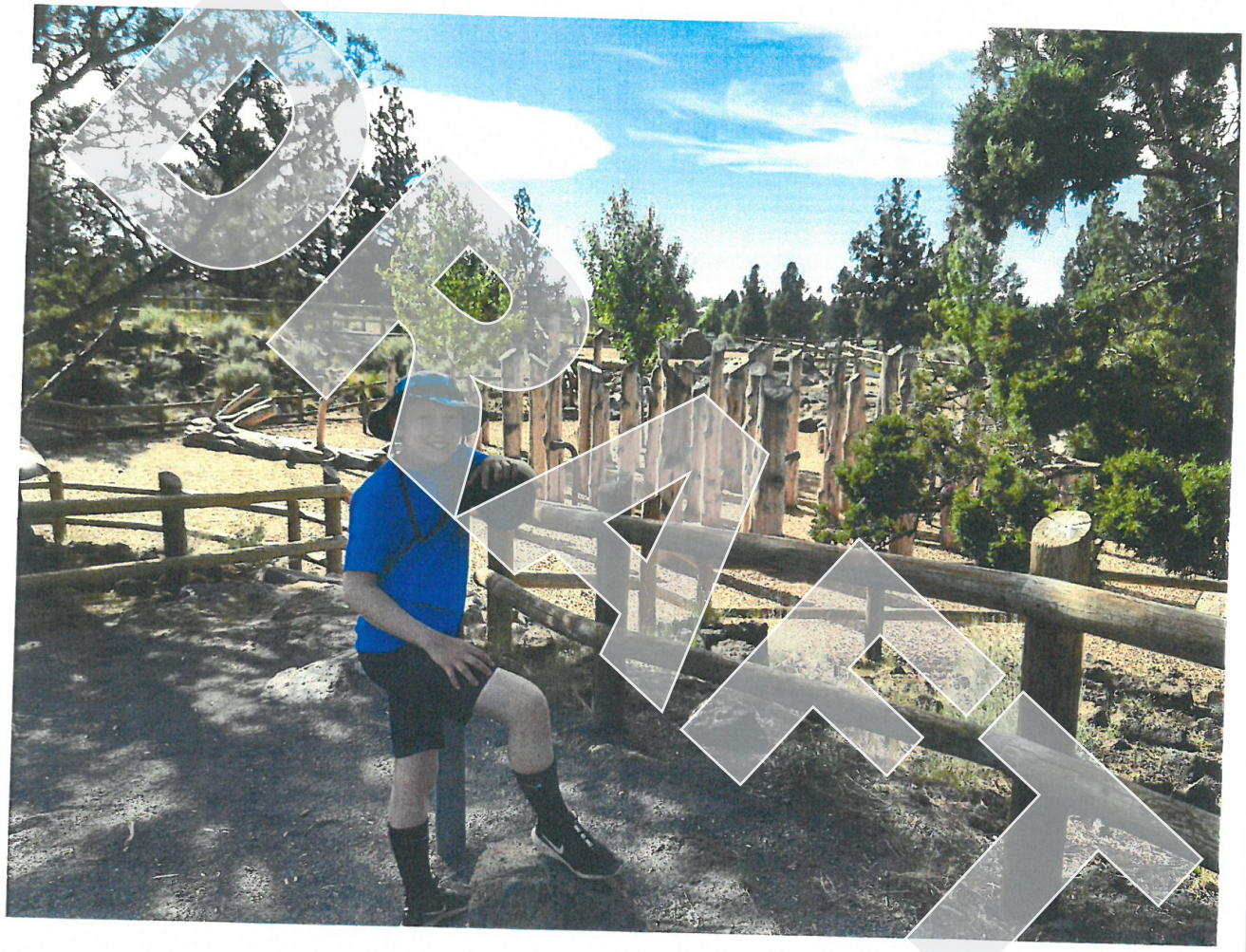
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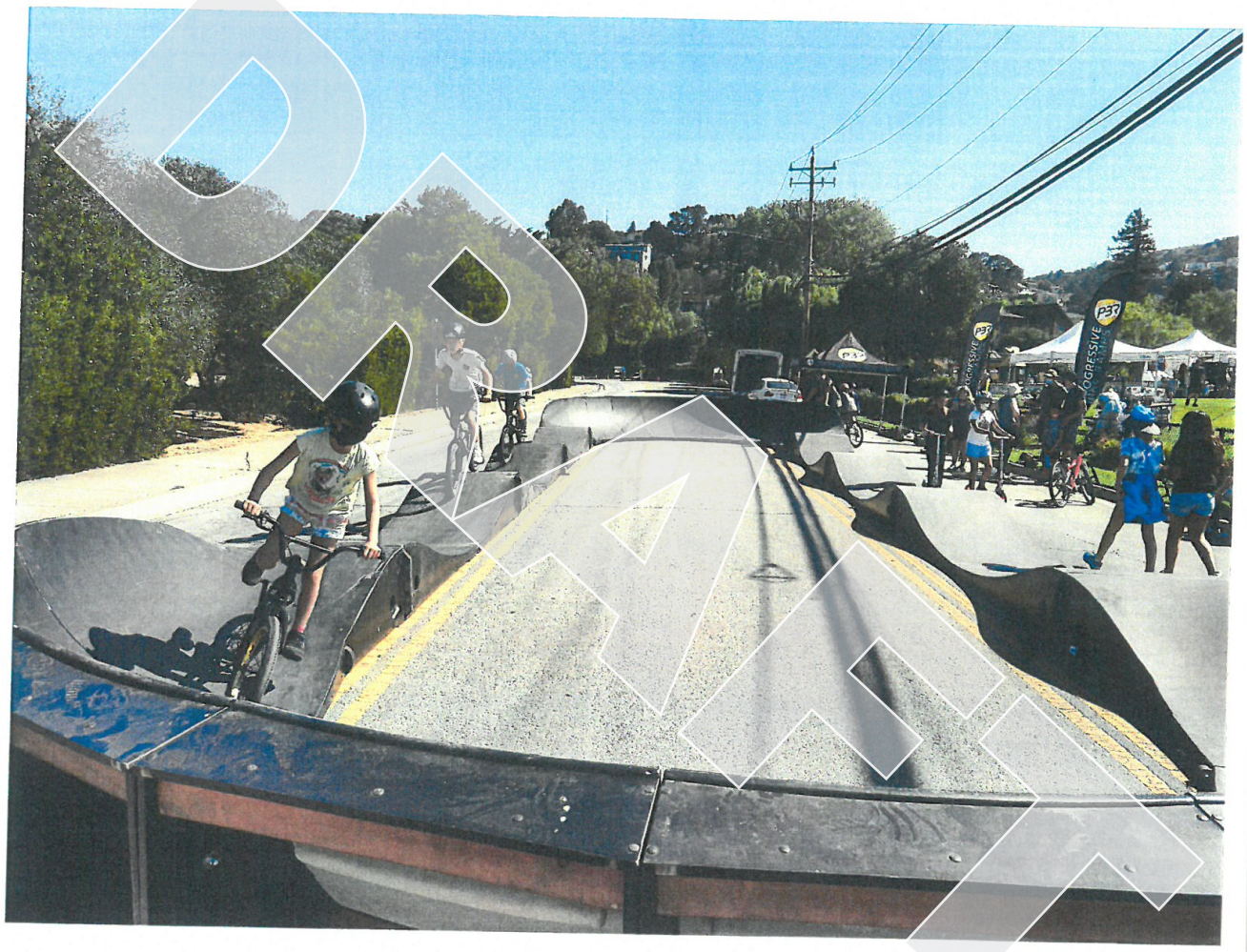
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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: x-Parks/Recreation Office
To: Parks WOR
Subject: Fw: Hastings Tot Lot in disrepair!
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 8:26:19 AM
Attachments: Outlook-Parks &amp.png
Outlook-Parks &amp.png
Outlook-Parks &amp.png
Outlook-Parks &amp.png
Outlook-City eNoti.png

Hello,

Please see below for your consideration.

Thank you,
Karen

Registrations, Rentals, &
Administrative Services
Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
parksrec@belmont.gov | (650) 595-7441
Twin Pines Park, 30 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA

Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community

From: webmaster@belmont.gov <webmaster@belmont.gov> on behalf of City of Belmont <webmaster@belmont.gov>
Sent: Saturday, November 27, 2021 12:50 PM
To: x-Parks/Recreation Office <parksrec@belmont.gov>
Subject: Hastings Tot Lot in disrepair!

Message submitted from the <City of Belmont> website.

Site Visitor Name: Victor Rucker
Site Visitor Email:

The Hastings Tot Lot needs safety and quality upgrades desperately. As you guys look to updating any plans or utilizing any leftover budget, please consider removing the splintery cresote telephone poles currently acting as retaining walls and installing concrete. Additionally, you should consider please the safety of "tots" at this lot and the absence of a fence that just makes it too easy to wander into Hasting Dr.! That road moves fast!

See photos of the decaying infrastructure below.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10HFHeJLVU2mV1Ln6lJQG9SaUGYjdYOv0?usp=sharing

Thank you,

Victor Rucker

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Charles Stone - Mayor
To: Ed Seubert
Subject: Re: New parks
Date: Saturday, November 27, 2021 2:48:29 PM

Ed,

Thanks so much for the email. The city talked to NDNU about potentially buying the property about 4-5 years ago when the lead term was ending. They weren't even close to a ball park we could afford, so we exercises our fifty year option for a really insanely cheap deal. It would be financially irresponsible for us to buy it for what NDNU wants while we can lease it as cheap as we are contractually able to.

I love the idea, but the improvements you suggest are also far, far outside our financial wherewithal (for now.) in terms of parks/rec big expenditures the community center is probably next on the list and we're still unsure how to pay for that. It would likely take a tax measure.

That said, I'll spend some more time thinking about it.

Be well,

Charles

Mayor Charles Stone
City of Belmont
One Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002

Unless otherwise noted, the opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives contained in this email are my own, and do not represent the official position of the City of Belmont or its City Council. Please do not share those opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives with other members of the Belmont City Council so as to avoid the potential development or appearance of a consensus outside a scheduled public meeting, which is prohibited under California's Brown Act. I also respectfully request that you refrain from sharing the opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives of other Belmont City Council members with me. If you are contacting me about a development application or appeal that is pending before the City Council, I am not able to read your email because it constitutes an ex parte communication. I will, however, forward your email to city staff and it will be made part of the record. Thank you.

From: webmaster@belmont.gov <webmaster@belmont.gov> on behalf of City of Belmont <webmaster@belmont.gov>
Sent: Saturday, November 27, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Charles Stone - Mayor <cstone@belmont.gov>
Subject: New parks

Message submitted from the <City of Belmont> website.

Site Visitor Name: Ed Seubert

DRAFT

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Site Visitor Email

I realize I'm late to the party but here's an outside the envelope idea I've had for many years. NDNU appears desperate for money. Buy Water Dog Lake from them. Build trails to access the water, and improve the lake and dam's appearance. Allow swimming. Surface the outflow all the way to the bay. Start buying properties along the stream course as they become available. Develop a linear park along the shores of the creek with walking trails, benches, observation platforms, history and nature interpretive signs, etc. that nearly transects the city. The city has two absolute gems (the lake and the creek) within its boundaries but their potential for enhancing life in the city has been usurped and/or squandered to date. Once you get over pondering the opposition and impossibility of this idea, try imagining how life would be different if our city had, as its central statement, an accessible lake where we encouraged people to cool off and have fun and a miles-long streamside park.

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No emails were received during December 2021 at PRCOMM@belmont.gov regarding the PROS plan

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Sheng
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 11:57 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: City Council
Subject: Comments on Parks element of PROS plan

Dear Parks & Recreation Commission:

I thought the format for discussing the various parks at the 1/12/22 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting worked out very well, and the meeting was very collaborative, creative, positive, supportive, and productive. I know that emailed comments about parks are being tallied in the PROS plan, so rather than sending a separate email about each park, I will submit all of my input in this one email by highlighting the park name in bold, and ask that Gates & Associates tally these comments separately for each park.

Patricia Wharton Park – I think the draft improvements are great, and I think That Comr. Foehr's idea of putting in boulders for small kids to climb on is an excellent idea.

Wakefield Park – same as above, a walking path would be great. Again, excellent idea by Comr. Foehr for an observation deck for visitors to take in the view. In looking at Wakefield Park on Google Maps, it has a large barren area. Maybe that would be a place to consider a neighborhood pump track.

Belamdea Park – all the draft improvements look great, and the proposal for a teen outdoor experience is a fantastic idea – our teen population is underserved and there's not much for teens to do after school. Many end up aimlessly hanging out at Carlmont Shopping Center. A teen outdoor zone at Belameda is very close to Carlmont High and would be an absolutely perfect location for that amenity.

Hidden Canyon Park - I agree wholeheartedly with Comr. Michael's comments at the prior meeting, and they're worth quoting here:

"I also believe a big part of this connection with the community does happen through Hidden Canyon. I think we should have an open space outpost here, offering a natural transition from city to park to open space. We should run staff programs here. Let little kids sample nature here. Offer wildlife education. Invite everyone to learn, respect, and help out. There's a ton we can do to enhance our open space while not turning the site into a manufactured, high-volume destination. In a smaller way, I think we should replicate this at all our major trailheads."

I want to make a couple of points in response to public comments made by Deniz Bolbol, Pat Cuvielo, and Kristen Mercer, who were aggressively railing against any improvement to Hidden Canyon Park. They stated that Hidden Canyon is classified as a Neighborhood Park in the Master Plan, which is defined as "A medium-sized park ranging from 2 to 10 acres that provides basic recreational activities for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius." That is correct.

But they went on to argue that because 10 or so Hidden Canyon tract homeowners essentially said "not in my backyard" to any improvement at the Hidden Canyon Focus Group meeting, no

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improvement should happen there. They also seemed to argue that the Master Plan legally requires Hidden Canyon to only serve the interests of those homeowners. Not so.

First, as the Commission correctly pointed out, Neighborhood Parks are a *classification* in the Master Plan, not a restriction or mandate on how parks can and should be improved to serve the community.

Second, consider what is actually within a one-mile radius of Hidden Canyon Park: Go to https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hidden+Canyon+Park/@37.5034277,-122.300551,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x808f9f62b039d777:0x84c7f24c0202cd4d!8m2!3d37.5034277!4d-122.2987105?hl=en and right-click your mouse pointer on the red marker for Hidden Canyon Park. A dialog box will come up. Click on the last item "Measure distance." Zoom out a bit, and then left-click your mouse on Casa Bona Avenue at Semeria Park. A line will appear, drawing a 1-mile radius to that point from the center of Hidden Canyon Park. If you left-click and hold the mouse pointer on the circle at the end of that line (the one at Semeria Park), you can rotate the line to see what's within a one-mile radius of Hidden Canyon Park. That one-mile radius encompasses at least a third, if not more, of Belmont's residential areas. It includes, for example:

-all of the homes, condos, and apartments in the Carlmont neighborhood;

-most of the homes in the area behind/between Barrett Community Center and Notre Dame University;

-all of the homes and apartments off Ralston near Charles Armstrong School and off Alameda near Carlmont High School (even past the Belmont border, well into the Devonshire area of San Carlos);

-a large portion of the Cipriani neighborhood surrounding Semeria Park and Cipriani Elementary;

-nearly the entire Belmont Heights neighborhood, from Tahoe/Yosemite Drive, all the residential streets that branch off Hallmark, and well past the San Carlos/Belmont Border at Hallmark and Crestview;

So even if one strictly views Hidden Canyon Park's classification as a "Neighborhood Park" under the Master Plan, then the "neighborhood" it serves -within a one-mile radius – includes portions of nearly every residential neighborhood in the city - and 100% of the Carlmont neighborhood, including all the apartments. (i.e. the highest-density neighborhood in the city.) Thus, under the Master Plan, Hidden Canyon park is intended to provide basic recreational activities for the *thousands of people who live within that radius* – not just the handful of homeowners in the pink townhouses on Carlmont Drive.

Commissioner Michaels' vision for improvements to Hidden Canyon to serve as a natural transition to the open space is entirely consistent with the Master Plan, and the overwhelming majority of people in Belmont would like to see this vision come to fruition in the PROS Plan.

Thank you for considering my comments, and thank you for all of the time, effort, and dedication you put into serving on the Commission.

-Paul Sheng

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Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 1:02 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Subject: Staff undermines your transparency - Suggestions

Dear Park and Rec Commissioners:

I have participated and listened to many Park and Recreation meetings discussing the Open Space Master Plan updates including your recent Jan 12 commission meeting. I have also listened to several of Linda Gates powerpoint presentations and I do believe you all are attempting to do your best regarding transparency, encouraging suggestions and comments and I believe in your integrity in navigating this complex and at times, controversial process.

However, I believe all your efforts are being **undermined by your Staff reports.** Many of us don't have the time to comb through every presentation and fact check every Staff report and therefore rely on your Staff to give the public an accurate and comprehensive "executive summary", however, I am finding their reports increasingly **biased and not reflective of all the information and data available.**

For example, the January 12 Staff report on "Summary of Comments on Draft Park Improvements" summarizes email comments but ignores the important verbal comments from your Focus meetings. Community Feedback from the most important stakeholder, the Hidden Valley (HV) residents on Oct. 26, 2021, is omitted. Was there not enough time from Oct 26 to Jan 12 to consolidate all comments regarding HV and summarize in an objective report? How can they leave out the most important comments coming from the community stakeholders that will be forever forced to live with your recommendations and decisions?

HV callers on Oct 26 cited excessive traffic and parking already burdening their neighborhood. Several urged only small incremental
additions taking care not to increase use. Many opposed any fencing, dogs, gardens or artificial structures. None supported dogs, bike use, yoga or gathering spaces as the staff report claims in their summary. (Please read the comments for yourself which have been provided below from your youtube recording).

Further, the email comments from HV on the PROS website don't even add up to the Staff stated summary. In reality, comments overwhelmingly oppose development. Over half of email respondents asked to prioritize the natural setting and wildlife, and even those who support amenities qualify that they must fit and complement the natural setting.

Staff summary statements appear to represent biased visitor comments that are totally out of synch with HV actual comments. This leads me to conclude that certain members of your Staff are biased and undermining your transparency and credibility. Your Staff reports should be carefully reviewed prior to publication because that is the one document that the community can easily review among the myriad of documents, presentations and reports that you publish and these summaries should be fact checked and not "cherry picked"; comments should clearly be delineated between local resident and visitor comments and both represented.

Several immediate suggestions to increase your transparency and credibility:

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Suggestion #1 - If you are truly committed to transparency and integrity, your February review of Hidden Valley and Ralston Ranch park recommendation commission meeting should republish the Staff summary report with the Hidden Valley quotes that lists the residential community comments first and separately list below the visitor comments to clearly distinguish the two groups.

Suggestion #2 - It is now more difficult to find your Belmont Pros Plan on the City website having to navigate four clicks to find it (i.e. Depts, Park and Rec, Parks and Recreation Projects, and Pros Master Plan). Why don't you feature Belmont's most important 15 year "Green and Sustainable" Master Plan on the **home page** where the entire left hand side is totally blank with wasted space (https://www.belmont.gov). **Post your February meeting details for Hidden Valley and Ralston Ranch with the corrected Staff summary a week before your February meeting for residents to easily find and review.**

In addition, add the link (https://belmontprosplan.com/resources) on the home page which allows residents to easily find all the presentations, advisory meetings and community comments with ease. (Please update your resources page with Linda Gates *latest Nov 3 presentation*) and keep the link up to date.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Lien

DRAFT

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Public Comments October 26 2021 – Hidden Canyon Focus Group PROS plan

Public comments begin @ 10 minutes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jj48PQtG0rE

1.Patricia: Lived on the street 20 years, came for nature and its already high use and recent increase is exponential. Traffic already an impact on dead end street, already too many cars. Its' already highly used so don't try to add more to it.

2.Christine, Carlmont Drive original owner: This is *already* heavily used. Was aware of planned park but asking remember this is a quiet neighborhood and home – sanctuary away from hustle and bustle. Wants to see area cleaned up but NOT amenities that would encourage lingering in the park with groups and activities. Allow the space to remain quiet - not draw more use and attention. Loves open spaces and nature. Opposes restrooms and outdoor classrooms. Limited access, difficult emergency access.

3.Barbara, Carlmont Dr resident: It's already heavily used; speeding cars all day long and crazy at weekends with cars parked the full length of street. Maintenance and safety are already a problem that need to be addressed before you consider putting anything else there. Adding anything else would increase these burdens.

4.Deniz: I hope city listens to neighbors; these plans include things that will create conflict with wildlife. Bathrooms increase it as destination, draw people from a wider area. Gardening and dog park conflicts with wildlife (fencing, disruption, not natural) Needs to be as naturalistic and low use as possible, not a destination for others from the wider bay area.

5.Speaking from other side of town and should respect neighbors but also listen to whole city. Thinks something can respect the natural environment and not negatively impact residents but serve the whole city. Supports small pump track to complement trail use.

6.Jessie, Carlmont Dr. resident: Agrees with other residents; This is long dead-end road and single access is the bottleneck and in-out doubles the impact. Measure is not the size of the park – it's access. Make any changes incrementally because if you draw too much traffic you can't go back.

7.Homeowners on Carlmont: Enjoy natural beauty, favors open natural nature low key like picnic table or children's feature – nothing fenced or dogs that would change the open nature. Don't fill entire space – only add incrementally to gauge increased impacts.

See Continued....

DRAFT

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Continued,
Public Comments October 26 2021 – Hidden Canyon Focus Group PROS plan

8.Shirley, Carlmont Dr. resident: Have you actually measured the traffic? Yes parks are open to all but this is already over capacity. It's not just the *park* size, its overall capacity so you need to consider the balance across different areas – wants to see study done of projected added impacts before.

9.Kelly, Carlmont Drive resident: Agrees with Shirley and Jessie – first evaluate existing evening and weekend traffic and how much can be added. Existing parking inadequate. Keep natural setting, i.e. picnic and children's feature but not fencing or dogs. Already *not* maintained; restroom smells and dogs off leash not enforced; fears more use and lack of enforcement.

10.Pat, Belmont resident: This park is specifically identified in the General Plan to serve a *neighborhood*, even though it is open to all. The notion that an open space is undeveloped simply because there are no human-built structures is wrong. Wildlife uses it heavily and they were not polled in the survey. No fencing, paving or play structures - would conflict with the wildlife that uses and moves through the area. Consider picnic tables but ensure food-trash is secured from wildlife. Opposes restrooms or permanent structures.

11.Think of all Belmont as a park; think about reducing local traffic by making streets more pedestrian/bike friendly to help all parks.

12.Echo Pat– this designated undeveloped because it was intended to be natural space compatible with the natural setting it is in. Humans need to resist the urge to build on every space we have. Dogs and gardening are inconsistent with natural setting. Regardless of safe streets if you're attracting visitors from a wider area they will drive. Should be natural, consistent with undeveloped open space.

13.Space is flat and barren in summer and muddy in winter, needs facelift. Supports restroom, kids play area but with rocks and natural materials, more oak trees maybe some picnic tables. Concerned about classroom use.

14.Cindy, Carlmont resident: First bring current amenities up to standard; disrepair, trail signs, invasive species. Start slowly on current problems before adding.

Closing: Brigitte assured there would be no barbecues or fire pits.

Consultant assured attendees that they would listen and consider resident input. We're trying to provide amenities for the next 15 years. Further comments please email info@belmontprosplan.com.

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Bob Stahl
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Subject: Pros Plan for Ralston Ranch park area

I am Bob Stahl, an advisory member of the Belmont Prosplan.
I want to let you know I've been receiving multiple emails from residents of the Ralston Ranch area who are against placing a dog park in the planned park area. They cite the limited street parking, narrow road, and increased traffic in the area from people coming from outside the area. They also believe installing a play structure is not in keeping with the naturalness of the area.
Please take this into consideration in your planning.
Thank you.

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Carol Rossi
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:47 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Ralston Ranch Park development

Dear Park and Rec,
I would like to make sure that the neighborhood thoughts regarding the development of the Ralston Ranch Park are clearly expressed to PROS and the Park and Rec Commission. Based on comments made on the zoom meet, we want to make sure that the park stays as natural as possible to allow for the wildlife to roam through easily to access either side of the canyon around the neighborhood. We also expressed support of making sure this space allows for the local neighborhood, which is defined as a 1 mile radius, to have equitable access to the park. We are in support of having the city develop a sitting area and walking paths through the park, with the additional suggestion of a meditation walking circle. Overall, we aren't opposed to a simple, small play structure, however we highlighted 1. our neighborhood is windy (one of, if not the windiest neighborhoods in Belmont- not conducive to being outside for extended periods of time) and foggy, 2. the play structure should not be placed up against the fence line of the neighbors properties but on the side of Ralston, 3. neighbors being concerned about trash accumulating and being blown around (as it is not maintained at the vista point), 4. bringing extra traffic into the neighborhood with the bend in the street (blind spot when sun is low in the sky at sunrise/sunset) and the 1-way turn around at the Christian exit, that a lot of outsiders use as an exit. Please consider that this property will require a significant amount of grading and that with erosion/water damage over time it will erode the natural drainage for the trees that are currently in the park. If the city puts in a seating area or a playground away from the residents fence line and closer to ralston avenue, it may need to consider building a retaining wall. A small playground or sitting area may possibly attract teenagers who might drink and smoke and cause a fire. In addition, the city will need to assess the PG&E line that runs along Ralston and goes to the station (at Christian) on Ralston Ranch Road. The line crosses somewhere from Ralston to Ralston Ranch Road. We do strongly oppose a dog park for many of the reasons stated above. Passive development (walking trails, meditation circle, sitting areas) for the Ralston Ranch Park is supported by this community. We appreciate the PROS committee reaching out to the local residents and hope that our opinions in developing the Ralston Ranch Park will be respected as it moves forward in developing our undeveloped parks in Belmont.

Thank you, Carol Rossi

11

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Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:42 PM
To: PROS Committee; P&R Comm
Subject: Hidden Valley Neighborhood Park Defined in General Plan
Attachments: GPsection4ParksOpenSpace2015.pdf

Dear Commissioners and PROS advisory representatives,

Confusion about the designation of *Neighborhood Park* vs. *Community Park, Mini Park, and Open Space* has created community conflict.
The 2035 General Plan Parks Element, section 4.2 (attached) differentiates between the classes of parks by size and appropriate use, and clearly Hidden Valley is intended as a "Neighborhood Park".

> 4.2 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS
>
> The City provides its residents with several types of parks and recreation facilities. Parks and recreational facilities are classified as follows:
>
> - **Mini Park.** A small park ranging from a quarter-acre to 2 acres that is located within a residential area and is intended to provide play areas for small children or passive sitting areas for residents within a quarter-mile-radius.
> - **Neighborhood Park.** A medium-sized park ranging from 2 **to 10 acres** that provides basic recreational activities **for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius.**
> - **Community Park.** A large park ranging from 20 to 50 acres that includes passive and active recreation facilities that serve the entire city or a substantial portion of the city.

Gates Associates affirmed this principle in Community Meeting #3 (below); neighborhood parks are to **serve an area of 1/8 to 1/4 mile ONLY** – not the wider community or region.

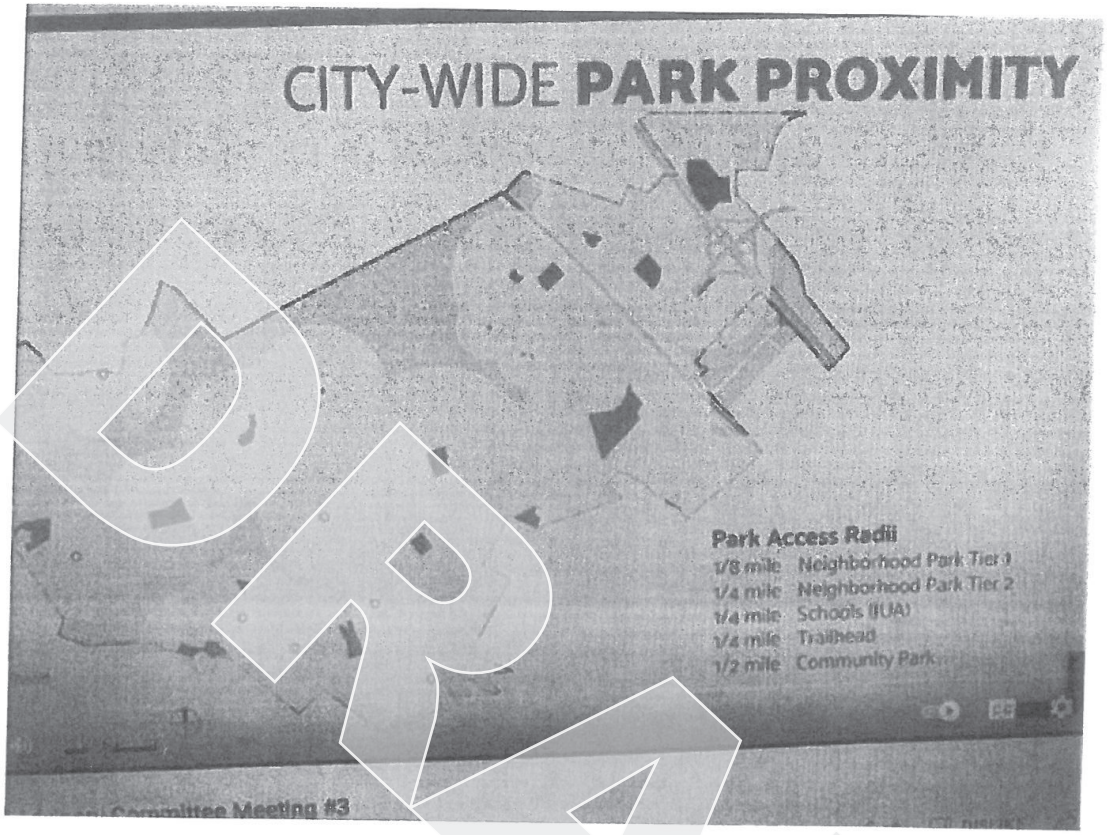
Hidden Valley is very clearly a "Neighborhood Park".

1. **It is only 5 acres** – far too small to accommodate community-wide amenities without impacting park space.
2. It's located at the end of a long dead-end residential street, with limited infrastructure and **constrained emergency access in a *high wildfire risk* canyon**.
3. **Traffic and Parking already overburden** the entire length of Carlmont Drive (not just the single family homes), and providing parking for greater use would entail paving a large portion of the park.

Social equity is NOT the issue in this case. These General Plan standards are based on resident security, visitor safety, traffic circulation, emergency services, and City infrastructure considerations. Some of the public confuse this park with the adjacent 200 acres of Hidden Canyon. Already this neighborhood is dangerously overtaxed, serving as the *gateway access to that open space,* which the City promotes regionally. Unwittingly the City has, without consideration for capacity or resident and visitor safety, drawn thousands of visitors from a far wider region than intended by the General Plan.

The Park Master Plan MUST conform to General Plan standards, and **your legal obligation is to ensure that conformance**.
Please make it clear to staff and consultants as well as the general public, that intensification of use in this tiny park is not their *choice*; both the General Plan and prudent consideration of public safety and City planning dictate Hidden Valley is NOT a community park, but a neighborhood park.

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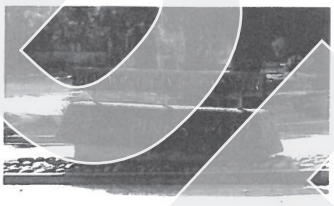
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4 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element



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Twin Pines Park is the largest park and recreational facility serving Belmont residents.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This element presents the goals, policies, and actions for parks, recreation, and natural open space in Belmont. The City of Belmont's parks and recreation system is integral to its sense of community and quality of life. The city has excellent open space resources and great weather many months of the year, encouraging people to be outdoors. Maintenance, improvements, and programming of parks, recreation, and open space resources are provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Maintaining existing facilities, acquiring and developing additional facilities to meet future needs, and providing programming for parks and recreation areas as the city's population grows are important components of this element.

RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW

California State law (Government Code sections 65302(e) and 65560-65567) requires California cities to adopt an Open Space Element as part of their General Plan. Open space land is defined in the California Government Code as any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to open space use, and that is designated on a local, regional or State open space plan, including open space for the preservation of natural resources and open space for outdoor recreation. Along with the Housing Element, the Open Space Element has the most detailed statutory intent and, next to Land Use, is the broadest in scope.

The California Subdivision Map Act enables a city to require dedication of land or fees in lieu of land dedication for neighborhood and community parks as a condition of development approval. Known as the "Quimby Act" (Government Code section 66477), it also establishes the criteria for determining the land dedication requirement and in-lieu fee based on park standards. The City of Belmont's 2014 parkland dedication requirements and in-lieu fees are discussed in this element.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element bears a strong relationship to the Conservation Element, which is required to provide direction regarding the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element addresses open space for outdoor recreation, while the Conservation and Safety elements discuss open space for preservation of natural resources and open space for public health and safety, respectively.

Because open space and park facilities are essential components of a balanced land use pattern, the Land Use Element also has a strong relationship to this element. The

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intent of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element, however, is not to establish land use policies for open space areas, but rather to outline recreational strategies in harmony with land use policies. In addition, the classification of open space and parks relates to the amount and location of the population, which is another relationship to the Land Use and Housing elements. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element is also related to the Circulation Element in that designated bicycle routes, trails, and pedestrian routes provide critical access to and through open space and parklands.

RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITY VISION

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element is most closely tied to the "natural beauty" and "thriving culture" values in the Belmont Community Vision:

Natural Beauty

- We choose to make our home among these beautiful hills, trees, parks, views, and open spaces.
- Our natural surroundings inspire us to play, create, and contemplate.
- Our actions today preserve and enhance Belmont's beauty to make it even lovelier for future generations.
- Our wooded residential areas are diverse, peaceful and well maintained.

Thriving Culture

- Our playgrounds and athletic fields are of high quality and in high gear.

4.2 PARKS AND RECREATION

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City provides its residents with several types of parks and recreation facilities. Parks are defined as land owned, leased, or provided to the City and used for public recreational purposes. In addition, there is joint use planning and operation of school district athletic facilities for public recreation. Parks and recreational facilities are classified as follows:

- **Mini Park.** A small park ranging from a quarter-acre to 2 acres that is located within a residential area and is intended to provide play areas for small children or passive sitting areas for residents within a quarter-mile-radius.
- **Neighborhood Park.** A medium-sized park ranging from 2 to 10 acres that provides basic recreational activities for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius.
- **Community Park.** A large park ranging from 20 to 50 acres that includes passive and active recreation facilities that serve the entire city or a substantial portion of the city.



Belmont's parks help create a sense of community.

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The Belmont Sports Complex (top) and the Barrett Community Center (bottom) are used for many recreational programs.

- **School Park.** Athletic fields and facilities that operate under joint use agreements between the City and the School District and are used by the community during non-school hours.
- **Special Facility.** A facility such as a community center, athletic complex, aquatic center or other cultural or athletic facility that services a specific recreational need for all or a portion of the city's population.

EXISTING FACILITIES AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

Currently, the City manages the maintenance of and improvement to 14 developed parks, two undeveloped parks, 11 athletic fields, nearly 320 acres of open space, and over 160,000 square feet of public buildings. Figure 4-1 shows the existing parks and recreation facilities in Belmont, as well as planned improvements and open space lots that have been donated to the City in recent years but have not been improved as parks. Table 4-1 below provides a list of existing parks and recreational facilities and open space areas in the city and the approximate acreages for each. In general, mini parks have a service area of about one-quarter-mile radius, neighborhood parks have a service area of about one-mile radius, and community parks serve the entire city. The City has a joint use agreement with the Belmont/Redwood Shores Elementary School District for the athletic fields at Fox, Ralston, Nesbit, and Central Schools. The City maintains the fields and schedules all non-school hours. The joint use agreement is up for consideration of renewal in 2019. Table 4-1 also lists undeveloped open space areas that are available to the public for recreational uses, which is discussed in more detail below in Section 4.3.

The Parks and Recreation Department offers recreation programs for Belmont residents of all ages, which are highly valued by the Belmont community. The City operates recreation programs, a preschool, and camps for children and youth; exercise, sports, and enrichment programs such as yoga and softball for adults; and diverse programs, including language groups, knitting, and Tai Chi, for seniors. The Twin Pines Senior and Community Center, the Barrett Community Center, and the Belmont Sports Complex are used for many of the recreational programs. Priorities for recreation programs in the coming years include identifying the recreational aspirations of the Belmont community and evaluating which recreational programs to continue and which to change to better meet the community's needs and interests.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

In addition, several improvements to parks and recreation facilities are planned or

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underway as of 2017. Davey Glen Park was recently developed from an undeveloped lot to a neighborhood park, and the Belmont Sports Complex is in the design process for artificial turf installation. Barrett Community Center is being considered for a complete redesign of the site and a new community center. As detailed in the Belmont Village Specific Plan, improvements are planned for the Belmont Village Priority Development Area (PDA) that will ensure access to parks and other community gathering spaces as the area intensifies, including opportunities for new plazas and improved connections to Twin Pines Park and Belmont Creek.

ACCESS TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

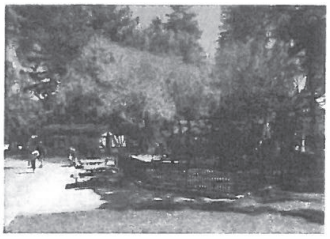
Ideally, every residence should be within a quarter-mile (5 minute walking distance) of a park. Figure 4-2 shows the areas within a quarter-mile and half-mile "as the crow flies" from mini, neighborhood, and community parks. It also shows the areas within 5 and 10 minute walking distances, or walksheds, for mini, neighborhood, and community parks and school fields. The map also shows the City's parks service area standards for the one-quarter mile service area radius and one-mile service area radius for context.

With the hilly topography in Belmont, many of the parks require a long and circuitous walk in residential neighborhoods. Thus, areas that are actually within a five-minute walking distance for many parks and fields are often smaller than the service areas. Due to the uneven distribution of smaller parks in the city, many residents do not have access to parks and open spaces within walking distance. Residential neighborhoods with poor access to developed parkland are primarily north of Ralston Avenue and west of El Camino Real, in the Central, Country Club, Plateau, and Skymont neighborhoods.

In general, parks and recreation facilities in Belmont can be accessed by vehicles as well as on foot. Mini and neighborhood parks are often connected to sidewalks and have street parking options. Off-street parking spaces are available for all community parks and recreational facilities. The three main trailheads for the Water Dog Lake open space have parking available, although many of the lesser entrances generally do not have parking options on site at the entrance, and visitors are encouraged to park elsewhere and access the trails on foot.

CURRENT STANDARDS AND DEFICIENCIES

This General Plan continues the goal established in the previous General Plan and 1992 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to provide for 5.0 acres of parks for every 1,000 residents, with 2.0 acres of community parks and 3.0 acres of





Twin Pines Park offers outdoor amenities for residents and access to Belmont Creek.

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TABLE 4-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities and Open Space Inventory

Park or Recreational Facility	Acreage[1]
Neighborhood and Mini Parks	
Alexander Park	1.4
Cipriani Park and Dog Park	10.0
College View Park	0.1
Davey Glen Park	1.1
Hallmark Park	5.2
Hastings Tot Lot	0.3
O'Donnell Park	0.9
Patricia Wharton Park	0.1
Semeria Park	0.2
Wakefield Park	1.1
Subtotal Neighborhood and Mini Parks	*20.4*
Community Parks	
Barrett Community Center and Park	5.0
Belameda Park	2.9
Belmont Sports Complex	12.6
McDougal Field	3.0
Twin Pines Park[2]	19.9
Subtotal Community Parks	*43.4*
Undeveloped Park Areas	
Ralston Ranch Park	1.3
Hidden Canyon Park	23.7
Subtotal Undeveloped Parks	*25.0*
School Parks (under Joint Use Agreements)	
Central School	3.4
Fox School	6.1
Nesbit School	6.5
Ralston Middle School	7.4
Subtotal School Parks	*23.4*
Total Parks and Recreation Facilities	***112.2***

TABLE 4-1: Parks and Recreation Facilities and Open Space Inventory

Park or Recreational Facility	Acreage[1]
Open Space and Trail Areas	
San Juan Canyon	33.0
Water Dog Lake	260.6
Subtotal Open Space and Trail Areas	*293.6*
Total Parks and Recreation Facilities and Open Spaces	***405.8***

Notes:
1. Acreage is rounded to the nearest tenth acre. Numbers may not sum precisely due to rounding.
2. Includes other community facilities as well: the Manor House, the Cottage, Twin Pines Senior & Community Center, and the Lodge.

Source: City of Belmont, 2017.

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FIGURE 4-1: PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS



Source: City of Belmont, 2015; Dyett & Bhatia, 2015.

BELMONT GENERAL PLAN 4-7

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Most new public open spaces in the Belmont Priority Development Area (PDA) will be plazas and mini parks, incorporated into the urban environment.

neighborhood and mini parks. Based on the city's 2013 population of 26,400 and the existing park facilities totaling 112.2 acres, Belmont provides an overall ratio of 4.3 acres of park area per 1,000 residents. This figure is below the General Plan and Master Plan standard of 5.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Additionally, this figure includes two undeveloped park areas, as well as about 23 acres of school park area that are under a joint use agreement with the City, which is up for renewal in 2019. If the joint use agreement is not renewed, the Belmont community could potentially face an even greater shortage of parks and recreational facilities.

While Belmont currently falls short of achieving its developed parkland standard, the city has many acres of open space and miles of trails. Based on the 2013 population of 26,400 residents and the existing open space areas totaling 293.6 acres, Belmont provides 11.1 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents. When the parks and open space areas are combined, Belmont provides a total ratio of 15.4 acres of parks and open space per 1,000 residents. Belmont provides a total of 9.6 miles of trails, resulting in a ratio of 0.4 miles of trails per 1,000 residents.

Through 2035, Belmont's population is projected to grow to about 30,500. If the City's parkland standard remains the same (5.0 acres per 1,000 residents), the City would need to add about 40.3 acres of parks and recreational facilities by 2035 to overcome the existing deficiency as well as serve new population growth. To retain the current ratio of 4.3 acres per 1,000 residents, the City would still need to add 19 acres of parkland.

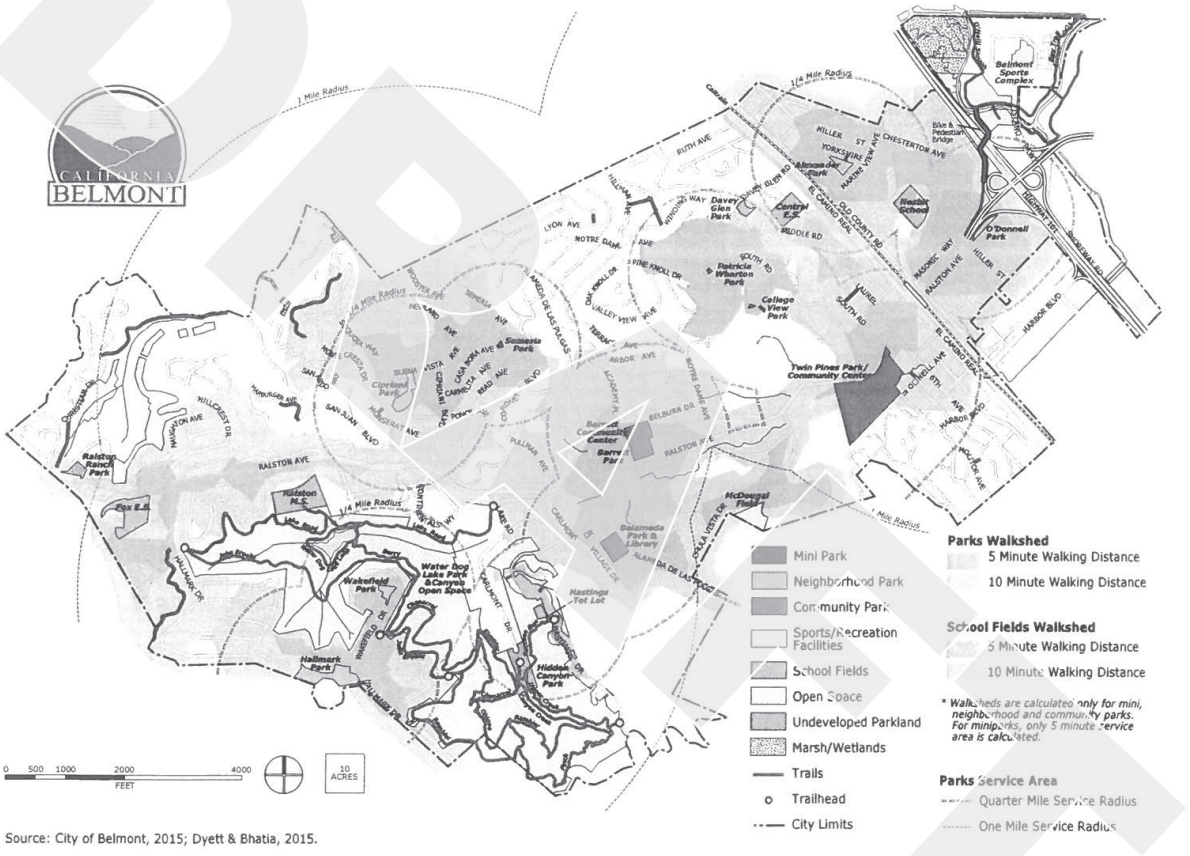
Achieving the Standard

The State's 1975 Quimby Act allows cities to require dedication or in lieu fees for community and neighborhood parkland contributions for new development in a city. The Act allows for a required dedication of up to three acres per 1,000 residents, or up to five acres per 1,000 residents to match the existing ratio if it is higher than three acres per 1,000 residents. In Belmont, based on the 2014 Quimby Land Dedication Requirement and In-Lieu Fee Study, the area of existing neighborhood and community parks was determined to be 3.87 acres per 1,000 residents, so the City's parkland dedication standard was set to 3.87 acres per 1,000 residents. However, the parkland facilities and open space inventory was recently updated by the City, and the area of existing neighborhood and community parks was determined to be 4.3 acres per 1,000 residents.

The Mitigation Fee Act (Government Code section 66000) allows cities to establish, increase, or impose a fee as a condition of approval of a development project if certain requirements are met. Cities must identify the purpose and use of the fee, and they also must demonstrate a reasonable relationship or

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FIGURE 4-2: PARK ACCESSIBILITY



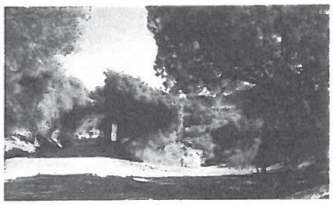
Source: City of Belmont, 2015; Dyett & Bhatia, 2015.

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The General Plan aims to create a extensive system of parks, plazas, and other open spaces that serves the entire Belmont community, enhances community identity, and is conveniently located for community use.



The General Plan aims to preserve and protect the natural open space in Belmont.

"nexus" between new development that occurs within the city and the need for additional facilities as a result of new development. In October 2014, the City of Belmont published a Park Impact Fee Nexus Study to meet the Mitigation Fee Act requirements.

In October 2014, Belmont also adopted a Park Impact Fee for residential and nonresidential development, ensuring that all new growth in Belmont (not just developments to which the Quimby Act applies) contribute to the City's park and recreation resources commensurate with their impact.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

The City plans for the development, operation, improvement, and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. It contains an inventory and analysis of existing parks and open spaces and potential new park areas, as well as analysis of current demand and future trends for parks and recreational facilities. The Plan identifies detailed policies and standards for parks and recreational facilities, and it contains an implementation plan with actions, costs, and funding sources. These policies and standards are incorporated by reference into the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element and constitute additional policies and standards for parks and recreational facilities as required by the Quimby Act. Last updated in 1992, an update to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan is an implementation priority for the General Plan.

4.3 NATURAL OPEN SPACES FOR RECREATION

OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK

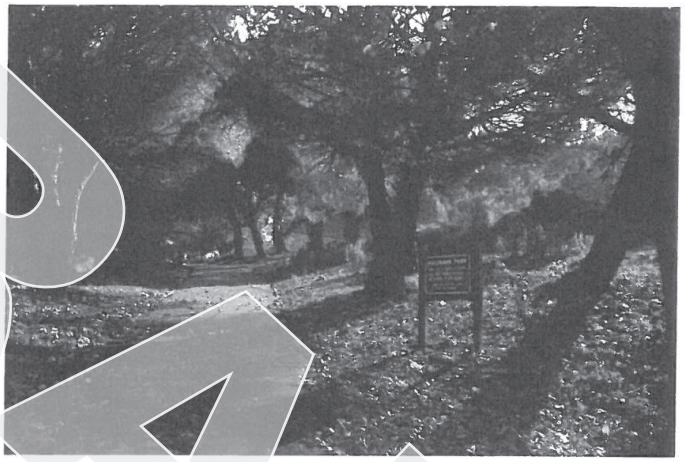
The California Government Code (Section 65560(b)) recognizes six types of open spaces, including open space for 1) natural resources, 2) managed production of resources, 3) outdoor recreation, 4) public health and safety, 5) military support, and 6) tribal resources. Three of these are present in Belmont: open space for outdoor recreation, which is addressed in this element; and open space for natural resources and for public health and safety, which are addressed in the Conservation and Safety elements. Natural open spaces in Belmont are shown on Figure 4-1.

NATURAL OPEN SPACES FOR RECREATION IN BELMONT

Trails and natural open spaces offer community benefits as places for exercise, recreation, and solitude, and also play a key role in physically connecting the community and creating a network of open spaces. The City of Belmont has a total of 317 acres of natural open space, plus an additional 24

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acres of private common open space and three acres of marshland. San Juan Canyon and Water Dog Lake provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the community, including hiking and biking trails and access to other open space networks in the region, such as the Sugarloaf Open Space. Providing sufficient resources to manage and improve the city's open spaces and trails has been a priority identified by Belmont community members throughout the General Plan Update process.



Hallmark Park, located on the western edge of Belmont, features a playground, tennis courts and trails connecting to other open spaces in Belmont.

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GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

PARKS AND RECREATION

GOAL 4.1 Provide an expanded, high quality, and diversified park system that serves the entire Belmont community, enhances community identity, and is conveniently located for community use.

Policy 4.1-1
Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to define the vision, goals, and strategies for maintaining and improving Belmont's park system and to guide implementation efforts.

Action 4.1-1a: Update the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan at least once every 10-15 years to ensure that it accurately reflects the community's priorities and available resources. The update should include:

- Assessment of the parks and recreation needs of existing and future residents.
- In addition to a citywide evaluation of the parkland standards, evaluation of parkland standards on a neighborhood level to determine which neighborhoods are currently underserved.
- Appropriate uses of parks and recreational facilities based on a needs assessment.
- Opportunities and priorities for expanding and enhancing the park system and recreational facilities, especially in underserved areas that would benefit from additional mini or neighborhood parks.
- Determine the use or designation for the open space behind Carlmont High School. Detailed recommendations for specific parks, facilities, and neighborhoods, including identification of potential opportunities for scientific, artistic, and historic exploration and discovery within Belmont's parks and recreational facilities.
- Financing strategies and funding priorities for parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 4.1-2
Strive to achieve and maintain a citywide standard of at least 5.0 acres of mini, neighborhood, and community parks per 1,000 residents, targeting a breakdown of 3.0 acres/1,000 residents for community parks and 2.0 acres/1,000 residents for neighborhood parks.

Action 4.1-2a: Establish priorities for use of park impact fees and in-lieu fees to achieve and maintain the citywide parkland standard, based on needs and priorities identified in the updated Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

Action 4.1-2b: Support acquisition or development of parks in Belmont, especially in neighborhoods that are currently underserved, to meet the City's parkland standard.

Action 4.1-2c: Pursue opportunities to convert underutilized parcels into mini parks or community spaces as is feasible, prioritizing those in areas that are currently underserved.

Action 4.1-2d: Develop a pilot program for "parklets" or "pop-up parks" to create small but functional public open spaces in street parking spaces or other underutilized places in the public right of way. *Refer to the Belmont Village Specific Plan for potential appropriate locations in the Village area.*

Action 4.1-2e: Encourage the installation of recreation areas and privately-owned public spaces in new developments and redevelopments including areas for off-leash dog running, events, and exercise.

Action 4.1-2f: Consider park uses for Hidden Canyon Park and Ralston Ranch Park based on community need.

Action 4.1-2g: If it becomes available, acquire the vacant lot adjacent to the Belmont Sports Complex for additional athletic fields for the community.

4-12 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

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Policy 4.1-3 Ensure that all development projects comply with the City's parkland dedication requirements, in accordance with the Quimby Act, to provide adequate land for parks, open space, landscaping, and trails in appropriate locations through the dedication of land or otherwise providing for mini parks, planned trails, and other recreational space.

Action 4.1-3a: Meet with development applicants early in the entitlement process to ensure understanding of and compliance with the City's parkland dedication requirements.

Action 4.1-3b: If parkland is to be dedicated (rather than an in-lieu fee paid), work with the applicant during the site planning process to ensure that parks/recreation facilities are appropriately sited and designed to best serve the new development and the Belmont community at large.

Policy 4.1-4 Create different zoning classifications for parks and open space in the *Zoning Ordinance*. Park zones should include recreational uses along with associated structures, and infrastructure and open space should include more passive uses. The new designations should be consistent with the General Plan land use designations "Open Space" and "Public/Community Facilities." *See also descriptions and policies in the Land Use Element.*

Action 4.1-4a: Update the Zoning Ordinance to include the appropriate zoning classifications for the parks and open spaces in Belmont.

GOAL 4.2 Ensure that a wide variety of public community and recreation facilities are available to the entire Belmont community for recreational, social, and cultural activities.

Policy 4.2-1 Review and update the types, amounts, and locations of community and recreation facilities as part of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

Action 4.2-1a: As part of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, conduct a facilities needs assessment to determine the Belmont community's current needs and priorities for recreational facility space. The needs assessment should consider the unique needs of various groups within Belmont, including but not limited to children, teens, seniors, and pet-owners.

Action 4.2-1b: As part of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, include **a policy to consider the range of effects of artificial turf in the environment, including reducing water use and increasing groundwater runoff, when evaluating projects to use artificial turf on new or existing athletic fields** in Belmont.

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Policy 4.2-2
Building on the needs assessment, improve the quality and quantity of public community facilities in Belmont.

Action 4.2-2a: Create a community-based vision for the new Barrett Community Center, and pursue implementation of the redesigned community center facilities. Consider changing the name to the Belmont Community Center.

Action 4.2-2b: Extend efforts to improve the quality of the athletic fields in Belmont.

Policy 4.2-3
Continue joint use agreements with other agencies, institutions, and private organizations for public use of recreational facilities not owned by the City, especially in neighborhoods deficient in recreational facilities, if the joint use agreements can help meet the city's recreational needs and if the terms are favorable to the City.

Action 4.2-3a: Consider renewing the joint use agreement with the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District for public use of recreational facilities, and review the terms of the agreement to ensure they are favorable to the City. Prepare a contingency plan to implement if the joint use agreement is not renewed.

Action 4.2-3b: Consider pursuing joint use agreements with other public agencies, such as Sequoia Union High School District, for public use of recreational facilities, and review the terms of potential agreements to ensure they are favorable to the City.

Action 4.2-3c: Consider partnering with Notre Dame de Namur University, private schools, or other organizations to deliver recreational facilities to the community including at the site of Barrett Community Center.

Action 4.2-3d: Periodically review and amend the City's joint use agreements for public use of recreational facilities not owned by the City, to ensure that the agreements include responsibilities and obligations for the City that can be reasonably met and fulfilled, such as those related to maintenance, custodial services, and equipment and storage.

GOAL 4.3 Improve the quantity and quality of recreational programming and services to provide varied recreational opportunities for the entire Belmont community.

Policy 4.3-1 Continue to provide recreational programs and services to serve the entire Belmont community.

Action 4.3-1a: Periodically conduct a programming needs assessment to determine the Belmont community's goals and needs for the types, amounts, and qualities of recreational programs and services. Ensure that the needs assessment considers the unique needs of various groups within Belmont, including but not limited to children, teens, and seniors.

Action 4.3-1b: Use the findings and recommendations of the programming needs assessment to guide recreational programming in Belmont.

Action 4.3-1c: Pursue creation of creative recreation facilities, even those that are small in size, into infill areas of redevelopment focus, such as the BVSP.

Policy 4.3-2 Support other agencies, private organizations, and institutions that serve the Belmont community with recreational, social, and cultural activities.

Action 4.3-2a: Allow, as feasible, other agencies, private organizations, and institutions to use or rent the City of Belmont's public facilities to host recreational, social, and cultural activities for the benefit of the Belmont community.

Action 4.3-2b: Encourage other agencies, private organizations, and institutions that provide similar recreational and cultural services to pool resources for the benefit of the Belmont community.

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OPEN SPACE

GOAL 4.4 Continue to develop and support a balanced and integrated open space system reflecting a variety of considerations, including natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and public health and safety, to ensure synergies between various open space components and compatibility with land use planning.

Policy 4.4-1 Continue to designate and protect open space lands for the preservation of scenic areas, natural drainage ways, and plant and wildlife habitats; for outdoor recreation; and for public health and safety. *See also policies in the Conservation and Safety elements.*

> **Action 4.4-1a:** Develop a policy for acquisition of open space lands in Belmont including consideration of condition, connectivity, and usefulness of the lands. Develop a list of preferred properties for acquisition that will enhance the open space resources in Belmont.

Policy 4.4-2 Maintain connectivity between large open spaces in Belmont and the region, including the Waterdog Lake area, San Juan Hills area, Sugarloaf Mountain, and the open space in the San Francisco Public Utility District's Crystal Springs watershed.

Policy 4.4-3 Consistent with the San Juan Hills and Western Hills area plans, cluster development in the hillside areas of western Belmont in order to maintain contiguous habitat areas, minimize grading, and limit exposure to steep slopes and other sensitive areas. *See also policies in the Land Use Element.*

Policy 4.4-4 Maintain and enhance trails in open spaces in Belmont. Continue to support opportunities for shared use of trails among multiple users, including pedestrians and mountain bicyclists. Promote knowledge, trail etiquette, and consideration of multiple users on trails through education programs and signage.

Policy 4.4-5 Use the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan to establish priorities for the protection, enhancement, and improvement of open space lands and trails for recreation purposes.

> **Action 4.4-5a:** Ensure that the updated Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan includes:
>
> - Identification and implementation strategies for trail maintenance and design standards for trails through open space lands.
> - Measures to improve the visual quality and safety of trails and bikeways.
> - Identification trails that are no longer necessary or are causing resource damage such as erosion and implementation strategies to remove them.

Policy 4.4-6 Develop programs to control invasive plant species that threaten the natural resources.

Policy 4.4-7 Continue programs to reduce the fire danger in the open space. *See Policy 5.1-3 in the Conservation Element.*

Policy 4.4-8 Develop interpretive programs to help engender appreciation for the open space resources in Belmont.

GOAL 4.5 Preserve and protect open space resources using various methods available to the City.

Policy 4.5-1 Consider open space dedication or acquisition of fee title land to ensure long-term preservation and protection only if public liability exposure can be acceptably limited to the extent feasible.

Policy 4.5-2 Protect Belmont Creek from future encroachment through regulation, development review, conservation easements, or other appropriate actions.

> **Action 4.5-2a:** Evaluate the necessity of a stream buffer overlay zone around Belmont Creek and tributaries to facilitate management and protection of the waterway. Such a zone would apply to areas where the creek

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flows above ground through developed areas and would ensure that any new development adjacent to the creek is designed and built in such a way that the stream environment is not degraded.

Action 4.5-2b: Consider creek restoration projects that alter the creek corridor to enhance the function of the waterway, including restoration through Twin Pines Park.

Policy 4.5-3 Continue to prohibit off-road motorized vehicle use in open space areas to prevent damage to the environment.

Policy 4.5-4 Seek to preserve the existing open space areas in the San Juan Hills and Western Hills, consistent with the Area Plans, especially on steep hillsides and sensitive habitat areas.

Action 4.5-4a: As the San Juan Hills and Western Hills area plans are updated following the adoption of the General Plan, reevaluate land that is appropriate for development versus what should be conserved.

GOAL 4.6 Improve and increase public access into open space areas where feasible and safe.

Policy 4.6-1 Maintain and improve access to parks and open space, especially in areas that lack land for additional parkland dedication and in areas where topography and lack of sidewalks inhibits easy pedestrian access to parks and recreation facilities.

Action 4.6-1a: Identify where formal or informal off-street paths and trails through neighborhoods are or can be established and maintained. Prioritize those paths and trails that improve pedestrian access and connectivity where it is currently limited, and where paths may link underserved neighborhoods to parks, recreation facilities, regional trails, and other community amenities.

Action 4.6-1b: Identify locations where trails and trail connections can be improved or established in open space recreation areas, such as potential new trail connections to the San Juan Canyon and Sugarloaf Mountain from the Vista Point.

Action 4.6-1c: Explore opportunities to obtain easements to expand Belmont's multi-use trail system.

Action 4.6-1d: Encourage members of the Belmont community, either as individuals or through an organization, to contribute to the care and maintenance of established neighborhood trails.

Policy 4.6-2 Improve public access and connections to Belmont Creek. Promote use of this waterway corridor for passive recreation, education, and research.

Action 4.6-2a: When restoring or enhancing the riparian vegetation and habitat along the Belmont Creek corridor, improve public access to and along the waterway, especially near Twin Pines Park and City Hall, where it is safe and feasible.

Policy 4.6-3 In multimodal transportation planning efforts, such as corridor studies and active transportation plans, ensure that parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces are considered key destinations for linkages to the bicycle and pedestrian networkst.

SUPPORT FOR PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

GOAL 4.7 Pursue sufficient and dedicated funding for acquisition, operations, protection, maintenance, and management of parks, recreation facilities, and natural open spaces and to meet the recreational programming and service needs of the Belmont Community.

Policy 4.7-1 Ensure that residential and nonresidential development projects contribute to the City's park, recreation, and open space resources commensurate with their impacts, through the Quimby Act and establishment and collection of park impact fees.

Action 4.7-1a: Periodically review and amend the City's parkland dedication and in-lieu fee requirements for residential subdivisions, consistent with the Quimby Act.

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Action 4.7-1b: Periodically review park development costs and building trends to assess any changes in costs, and update the Park Impact Fee Nexus Study as needed, to establish new fees consistent with the Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code Section 66000 et seq.).

Policy 4.7-2 Continue to work with local, regional, and State agencies, nonprofit and community organizations, foundations, and grant sources to provide funding for Belmont's open space, parks, and recreation and assistance with maintenance and programming.

Policy 4.7-3 Support, where appropriate and feasible, partnerships with private businesses to conduct limited operations in park and recreation facilities (e.g. a concessions stand) to generate a revenue stream that may contribute to operations and maintenance costs.

Policy 4.7-4 Encourage community involvement in the stewardship of Belmont's natural resources, including public and private work programs and special events to maintain open space lands.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: michelle kelley <[redacted]om>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 5:37 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Comment on Hidden Canyon Park Proposal

Dear Belmont Park and Rec Commission,
Regarding Agenda item 6 B.
I want to let you know that I am in favor of the development of Hidden Canyon park. The plans look stunning, and I believe that by developing this space, our community will be able to enjoy this breathtaking area.
Thank you,
Michelle Kelley

DRAFT

16

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mandy Gibbs
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:20 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Hidden Canyon open space

First I'd like to thank the Parks & Rec Commission for their dedication and measured approach to figure out how parks can best serve the Belmont community.

After reviewing the proposed plans for Hidden Canyon, it seems clear to me, that developing this property in accordance with the Master Plan will be a wonderful addition to the Belmont community. The plans appear to thoughtfully provide spaces that will serve many needs.

As someone who lives across the street from a neighborhood park, I love the community it provides and the opportunity to share the good fortune of living near an open space. And I'm sure the neighbors living around Hidden Canyon will find it equally rewarding to see others discover this special green space.

I look forward to hearing more about the plans tonight!
Thanks for all your work!

Mandy Gibbs

Belmont

DRAFT

15

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 2:36 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: Water Dog Open Space

See below

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
Belmont Parks & Recreation

30 Twin Pines Ln, Belmont, CA 94002
P: (650) 595-7488 | E: bshearer@belmont.gov www.belmont.gov/parksandrec | Join our e-newsletter!

"Enhancing Quality of Life for the Community"
"As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!"

-----Original Message-----
From: Pamela <
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 2:35 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Water Dog Open Space

I want the Park Commissioners and the Consultant reviewing the Open Space to know that the trails are unsafe to hikers and walkers due to bikers. In the last 5 days I've nearly been hit twice by bikers speeding around turns that stopped just 3-5 feet from me on the John Brooks trail. They skidded to a stop at the last second when they saw me. There was absolutely no warning to me as the bikers sped around blind curves. They had no bell or other device to warn me. I was fortunate in both these occurrences as I could have been crashed into by these bikers.
Many of the trails are only 30"-36" wide and cannot accommodate a bike rider and a hiker. I implore you to restrict bikers from riding on any trail that is less than four feet wide.
I must also state many of my friends will no longer walk or hike these trails due the danger posed by the bikers. Many of these Belmont residents have hiked these trails for years but they literally fear for their life on these trails due to the numerous bikers on the trails who sped on the trails making it extremely dangerous. At some point someone is going to be seriously injured. It falls on the biker who undoubtedly will be sued and also the City of Belmont for allowing this unsafe condition to exist.
Thank you.
Pamela Stahl

Sent from my iPad

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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Carter
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:04 PM
To: P&R Comm; Brigitte Shearer; Daniel Ourtiague
Subject: idea for Hidden Canyon park

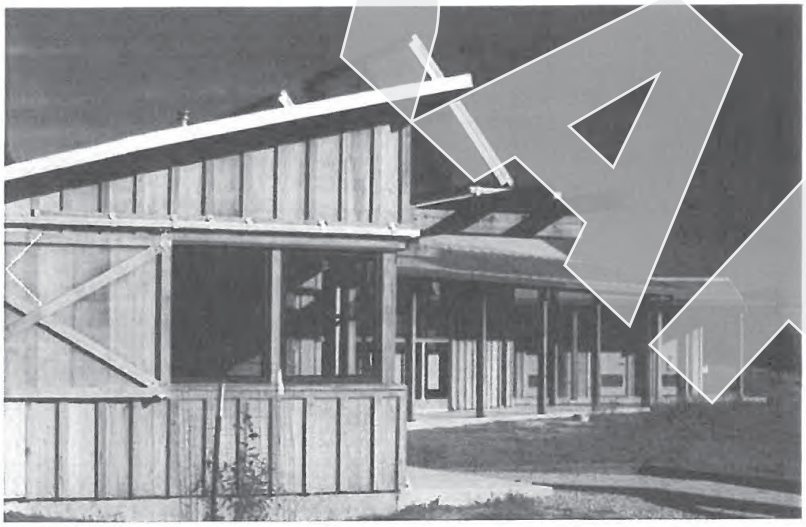
As we turn our attention to the plan for Hidden Canyon Park, one great idea has been to add a nature interpretive center along with public restrooms and drinking fountains. An excellent example is the interpretive center down at Arastradero Preserve in Palo Alto. Worth checking out if you haven't been there.

If we do build such a center, I was wondering if we could add a tool shed in the back to store our trail maintenance tools? I have them now stored on the side of my house, which is fine, but at some point Mrs. Carter might want to have her side yard back. And she's the boss!

Also, I think we could raise funds pretty easily to build something if we put our minds to it. A lot of folks would donate.

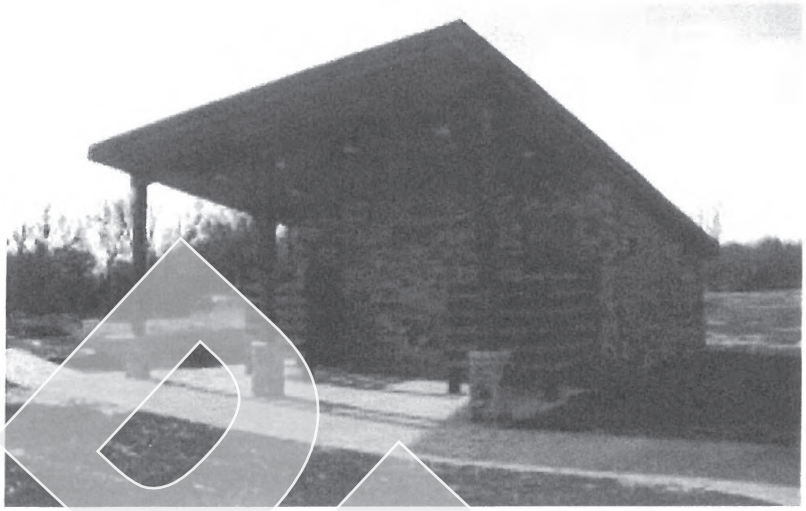
Warmly,

Jonathan Carter, MD
Lead, Waterdog Trailkeeper Volunteers



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DRAFT

12

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Wendy Miller
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 9:31 AM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Ralston Ranch Park petition - neighbors within < 1-mile radius

Good morning Brigitte, it was nice talking to you this morning and I'm very happy to hear that further discussion of a dog park at Ralston Ranch Park has been terminated. We are all eager to see what the new plan looks like and if the other points in this petition have also been addressed.

Attached is a scan of our petition, with 97 signatures of residents within the 1-mile radius of Ralston Ranch Park - the area this park is intended to serve.

Thank you for listening and I know we all share a love of Belmont and are trying to find a good compromise.

Warmly - Wendy

--

RRR Petition.pdf

Wendy Miller

DRAFT

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D

February 12, 2022

Petition: Protect Our Open Space at Ralston Ranch Park

Dear Belmont Council and Parks and Recreation,

This petition represents the voices of homeowners in and around Ralston Ranch Park. We have attended city meetings and sent letters, but it appears there is still discussion about a dog park and other forms of development. By signing this document, we ask that you listen to the voices of those this park is meant to serve – Belmont residents within a 1-mile radius.

1. **We would like to see the entire park left natural.** Open space is what makes Belmont special and we are sad to see building permits granted for areas that had previously been restricted resulting in the continued loss of wildlife habitat. Ralston Ranch "woods" has more than 70 trees and is home to wood rats, bees, owls, hawks, rabbits, deer and occasional foxes, bobcats and mountain lions. We have already taken so much of their habitat; to see existing trees chopped down, land graded and sidewalks, fences and other structures added would be a shame.

2. **If we can't leave the entire park natural, a minimal amount of space should be developed.** Grading and removal of trees should be avoided. A play structure for small children and benches away from existing homes would be intended to serve families who live and walk in the neighborhood within a 1-mile radius.

3. **We STRONGLY oppose a dog park and gathering places.** Cipriani dog park is within a 1-mile radius for neighbors who don't want to walk their dogs on a leash, and during a recent feedback session, you heard a plea from one of the Ralston Ranch neighbors who's special needs children are triggered by dogs and will be severely impacted.

4. **Let's focus on improving what currently exists.** People already drive to Ralston Ranch Road (RRR) and park along the street to access the trailheads on both ends of RRR for hiking, dog walking and mountain biking. Let's instead put in a water fountain, trash and recycling cans at the RRR turn-around and service it *regularly* for the folks using the 16-miles of trails cut into Belmont's open space - which already encroaches wildlife habitat. And please, improve the sanitation and surveillance of Leo Ryan lookout. Trash overflows, broken liquor bottles on the sidewalk, and cars parked at all hours despite a sign that says no alcohol or use after sunset.

5. **And let's not create opportunity for increased crime.** The Leo Ryan lookout peers directly into the backyards and homes on either side of the lookout and just last night (Feb 11th) we had four men casing our neighborhood with flashlights and breaking into cars on our street. Inviting more people from outside the neighborhood with an excuse to "gather" alongside the fences of residences invites further crime. The Christian Avenue neighbors have had similar experiences,

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and as Belmont Police have said, our location is an easy get-away because of the nearby on-ramps to highways 92, 280 and 101.

Unintended consequences must be carefully considered – these decisions cannot be reversed and will affect Ralston Ranch, Skymont, Canyon, Hallmark and other neighborhoods – and also the Belmont we leave to the next generation.

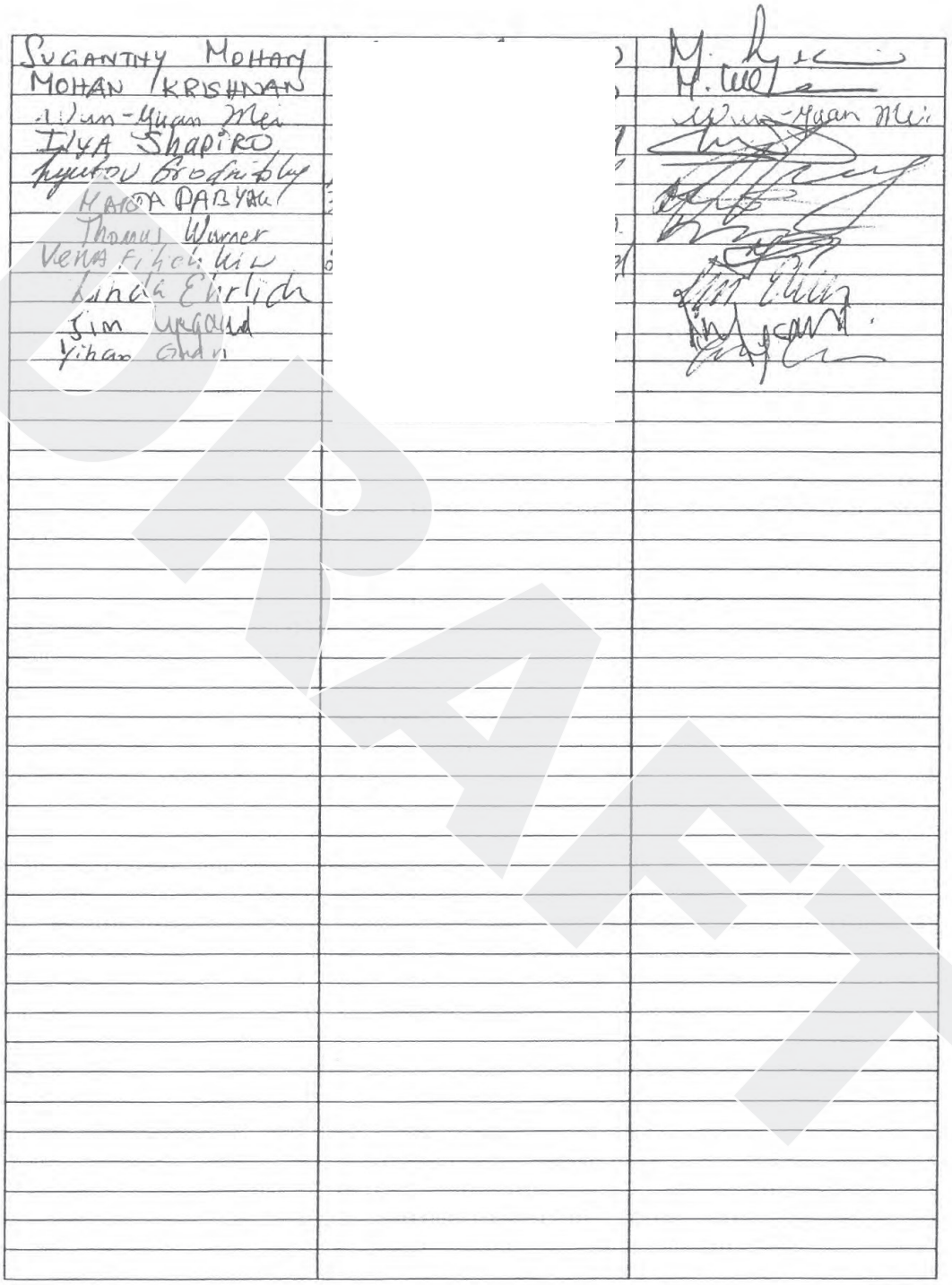
Sincerely,

Ralston Ranch and Surrounding Neighborhoods

Name	Address	Signature
Maurice Zwass		
Kathy Chao		
Jennifer Zwass		
Sofia Zwass		
Phoenix Tong		
Fouge Lee		
Yogis M. Lee		
RAMI MALIK		
PJ Camp Malik		
Mohammed L Barlow		
Milena Groeun Leung		
Raphael Leung		
Kip Leong		
Yvonne Ong		
Carol Rossi		
alberto Rossi		
Tatsumi Tagawa		
Mark Weitz		
Joyce Yee		
Ray M. Schnabel		
Maria Schnabel		
Wendy Miller		
Hailey Miller		
Homer Wood		
Elizabeth Cain		
Jun Xie		
Ellen Sbragia		
Michelle Chen		
Marc Blumer		

2/12/22 3:27 PM – Official Petition to Protect Ralston Ranch Park 2

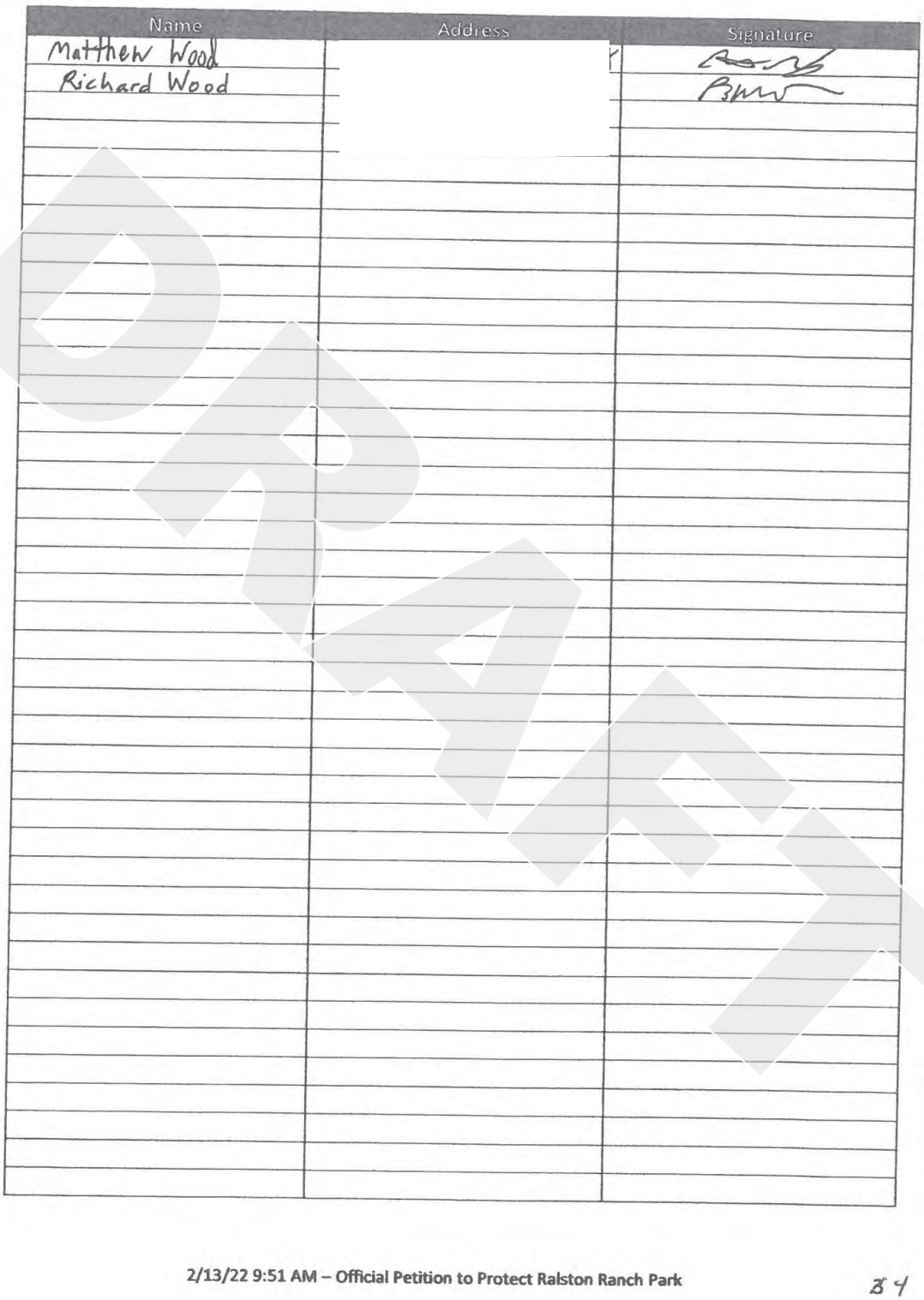
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2/12/22 2:27 PM – Official Petition to Protect Ralston Ranch Park 3

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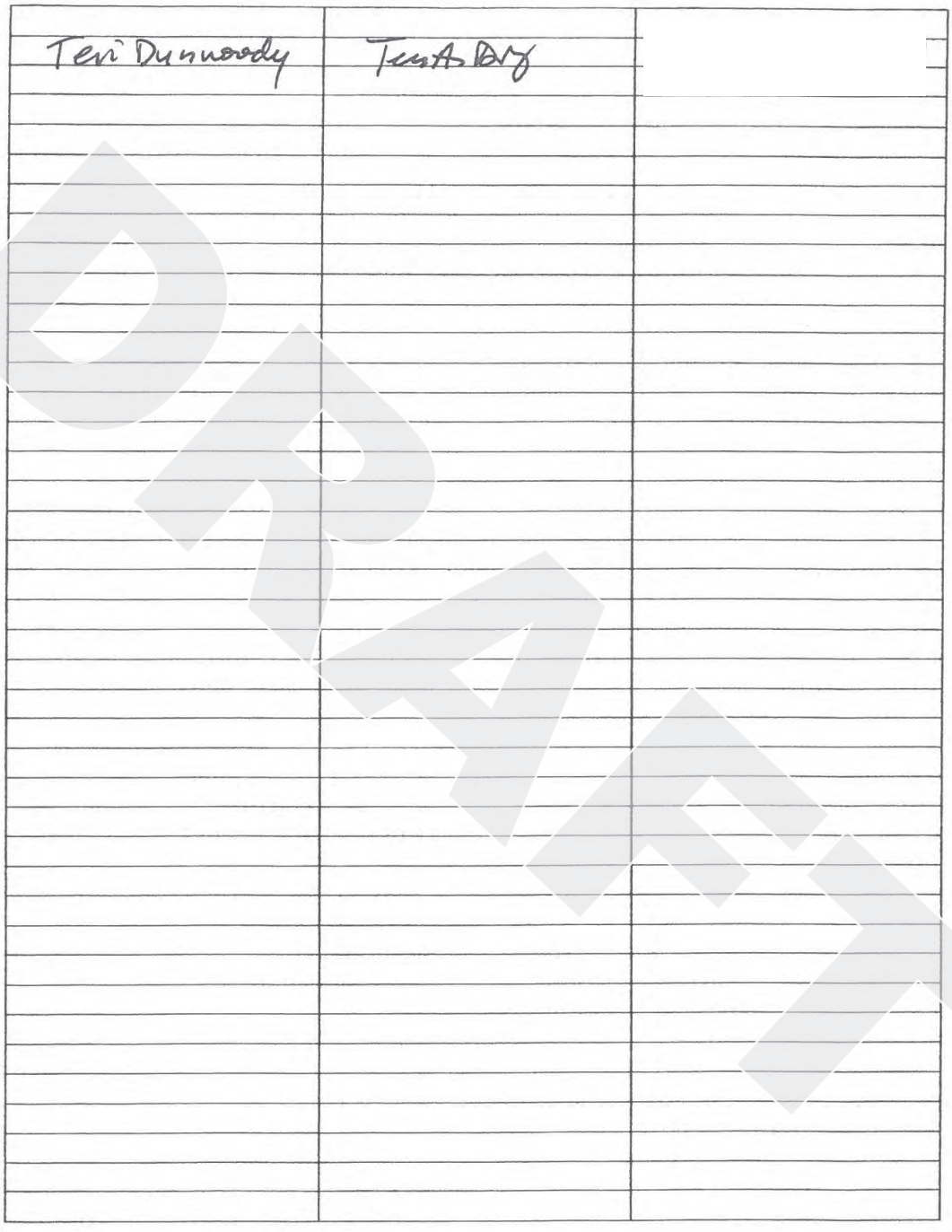


Name	Address	Signature
Matthew Wood		
Richard Wood		

2/13/22 9:51 AM – Official Petition to Protect Ralston Ranch Park

DRAFT

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Teri Dunwoody	Teri A. Dry	

DRAFT

2/12/22 2:27 PM – Official Petition to Protect Ralston Ranch Park 4/5

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Name	Address	Signature
Eugene Davydov		
Aleksei Petrovski		
Natalie Mezumed		
Marina Sirota		
Hanna Petrovski		
Maria Lapshina		
Mikhail Lapshin		

2/13/22 9:51 AM – Official Petition to Protect Ralston Ranch Park

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February 12, 2022

Petition: Protect Our Open Space at Ralston Ranch Park

Dear Belmont Council and Parks and Recreation,

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1. We would like to see the entire park left natural. Open space is what makes Belmont special and we are sad to see building permits granted for areas that had previously been restricted resulting in the continued loss of wildlife habitat. Ralston Ranch "woods" has more than 70 trees and is home to wood rats, bees, owls, hawks, rabbits, deer and occasional foxes, bobcats and mountain lions. We have already taken so much of their habitat; to see existing trees chopped down, land graded and sidewalks, fences and other structures added would be a shame.

2. If we can't leave the entire park natural, a minimal amount of space should be developed. Grading and removal of trees should be avoided. A play structure for small children and benches away from existing homes would be intended to serve families who live and walk in the neighborhood within a 1-mile radius.

3. We STRONGLY oppose a dog park and gathering places. Cipriani dog park is within a 1-mile radius for neighbors who don't want to walk their dogs on a leash, and during a recent feedback session, you heard a plea from one of the Ralston Ranch neighbors who's special needs children are triggered by dogs and will be severely impacted.

4. Let's focus on improving what currently exists. People already drive to Ralston Ranch Road (RRR) and park along the street to access the trailheads on both ends of RRR for hiking, dog walking and mountain biking. Let's instead put in a water fountain, trash and recycling cans at the RRR turn-around and service it *regularly* for the folks using the 16-miles of trails cut into Belmont's open space - which already encroaches wildlife habitat. And please, improve the sanitation and surveillance of Leo Ryan lookout. Trash overflows, broken liquor bottles on the sidewalk, and cars parked at all hours despite a sign that says no alcohol or use after sunset.

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and as Belmont Police have said, our location is an easy get-away because of the nearby on-ramps to highways 92, 280 and 101.

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Sincerely,

Ralston Ranch and Surrounding Neighborhoods

Name	Address	Signature
Sindy Pavlazzo		

2/13/22 3:17 PM – Official Petition to Protect Ralston Ranch Park 2

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

February 12, 2022

Petition: Protect Our Open Space at Ralston Ranch Park

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Sincerely,

Ralston Ranch and Surrounding Neighborhoods

Name	Address	Signature
BEN BEI		
Daniel Atelya		
Mahe Dr #13		
Patricia Chambers		
Greg Fong		
ANTHONY J. CAFE		
DAVID PRADER		
CATHERINE [illegible]		
Mary Burke		
MICHAEL LAKE		
Carrie Dean-Hood		
LISA Navarro		
Justin Goldwire		
Robert O'Connor		
ROWENA O'CONNOR		
David O'Bell		
HUGO GHAI		
MICHAEL SCHACH		
Rebecca Dorman		
DEREK BLANK		
Dario Yazdi		
Veronica Purcell		
Ollie Simpson		
Kim Beauchamp		
Joseph Deluchi		
Lisa Karaeff-Deluchi		
Matt LeBlanc		
Melanie Yue		
Tom Schweich		
Susan Lovell		

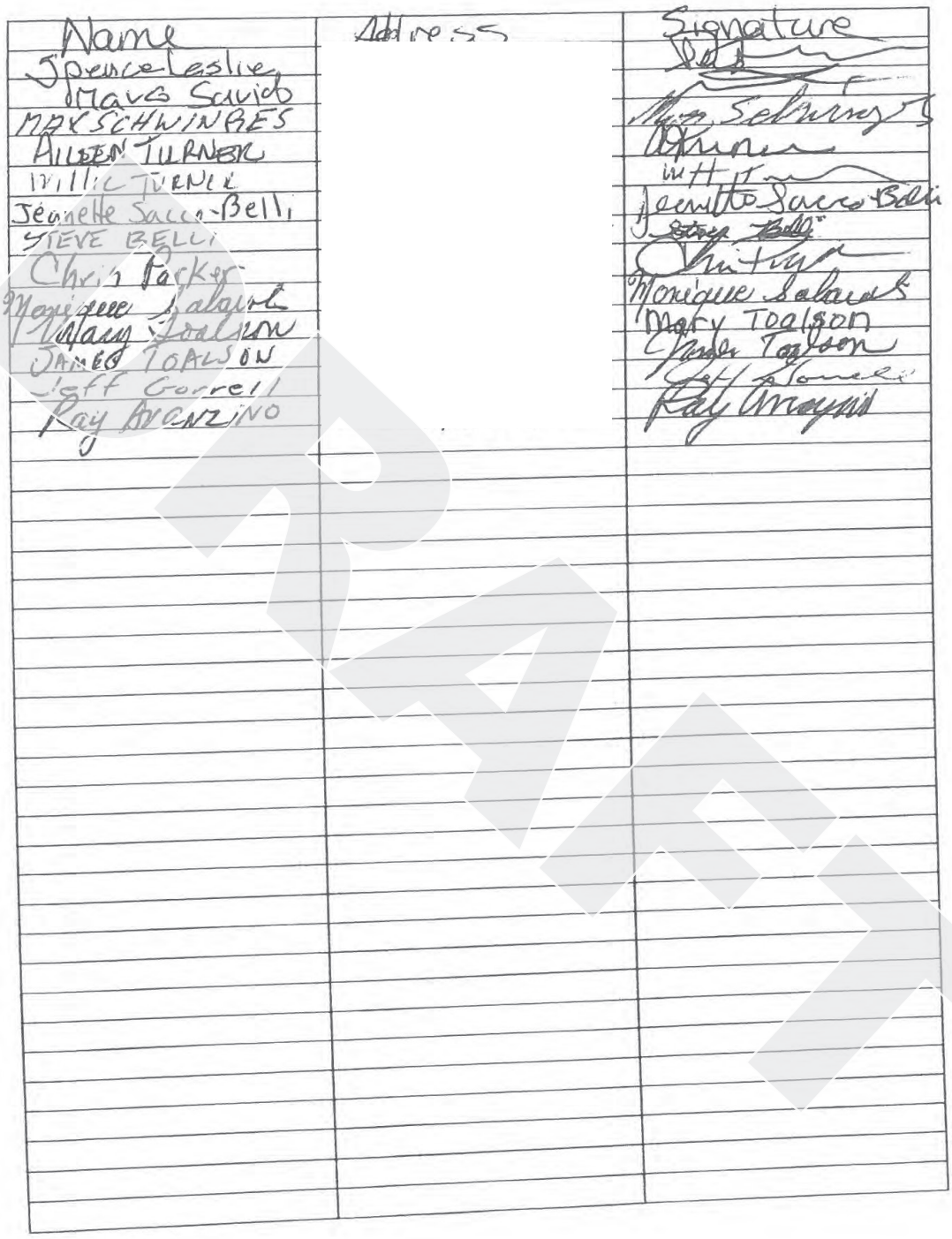
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Roger K Fairchild Kathryn J Fairchild	Roger K. Fairchild Kathryn J. Fairch	

DRAFT

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Name	Address	Signature
Spence Leslie		
Mavis Savio		
MARY SCHWINGES		
AILEEN TURNER		
Willie Turner		
Jeanette Sacco-Belli		
STEVE BELLI		
Chris Tacker		
Monique Salaun		
Mary Toalson		
JAMES TOALSON		
Jeff Gorrell		
Ray BRANZINO		

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4

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bob Stahl
Sent: Saturday, February 26, 2022 10:51 AM
To: Kelley Lotosky; P&R Comm
Subject: Continued danger from bikers on Water Dog trails

I must again state the danger posed by bikers on the Water Dog trails. My wife and I have nearly been hit by bikers three times in the last three weeks by bikers on the John Brooks and Rambler trails. On many of these trails the width is less than 36 inches wide and there is no way for bikers to pass a walker or hiker safely without one party stopping to allow the other to pass.
Each of the last 3 weeks a speeding biker has come within inches of hitting us. Twice they rounded a blind turn in front of us. Neither they nor us saw each other until the last few seconds. The most recent time a biker came speeding up right behind us and veered off the trail to avoid hitting us- fortunately.
In any new plan for Water Dog Open Space, please plan to have separate trails for bikers and hiker/walkers.
Thank you.
Bob Stahl

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Steff Moore
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 11:21 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Hallmark Park

To Whom it may concern:

We live at 2605 Wakefield Drive and have for the past 30 years. We love it here mainly because it is away from the crowds of the peninsula and the bay area. It is quiet and usually there isn't a lot of traffic. Our children grew up here and now our grandchildren enjoy almost the same serene environment. Although Belmont is hardly the same sleepy town it was back then, this neighborhood has maintained its quaintness. We tolerate the track practices and races that take place every year. We clean up the garbage the visitors leave, we give up our street parking and we are kind and friendly to the crowds. We do this because we understand the uniqueness of the area and honestly don't mind sharing it. The garbage accumulates and often overflows at the park and it takes the city quite some time to clean it up. The crows and other wildlife rummage around it and create quite a mess. We tolerate that as well. However, we are not prepared to do this on a daily basis.

If the city thinks for a moment that this will not affect our homes with the same issues we deal with when track season arrives, you are mistaken. If you want to update what is currently there, I am all for it. The current play structure is old and the wood is rotten and dangerous. The pathway is a trip hazard because of the tree roots coming through it. We already have a significant amount of people using the park daily for their workouts and tennis games. We don't need any more traffic. We paid to live here, we pay an association fee to keep the area in good condition. We don't need any interference from the city. If it's not broke, don't fix it.

Sinc

erely,

Mich

ael and Stephanie Moore

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: JoAnn Berridge
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 3:19 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Hallmark Park

Dear Commissioners,

I write as a resident of Belmont Heights to object to certain of the plans to "improve" Hallmark park. Years ago, in the 1970s, the BHCIA fought for preservation of this open space as a casual, natural park with tennis courts. The tennis courts were a specific wish of the Belmont Heights residents. Have we asked for a bocce ball court in our neighborhood? Have we been surveyed about a bocce court, or any other structural additions for that matter? Yes, the tennis courts, current paved paths, and tot lot have been sadly neglected over the years. We would be grateful for those long overdue upgrades, as well as replacing non-native with native plants. Please seek neighborhood specific input before going any further with plans for structures and paved paths in our "neighborhood park."

Respectfully,
JoAnn Berridge

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: hfeng zen
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 4:00 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Help Preserve Hallmark Park

To Whom IT May Concern:

Personally, I think the Hallmark Park should upgraded but not to the extent to attract more visitors, e.g., making the tot lot like a McDonald playland!

Adding the bocce court should be definitely ruled out! It will not only make our neighborhood very noisy but also congested with more cars creating

parking problems!

Our neighborhood has already attracted many bicyclists in the Water Dog area. We don't want our neighborhood to become a tourist attraction but for

the enjoyment of us neighbors!

Sincerely,

\Bessie Ip

DRAFT

5

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Deniz Bolbol
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 8:43 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: public comment: agenda item 6B

Thank you for all the work done on the PROS plan.

The Summary of Feedback is a step in the right direction but it is misleading due to the omission of pertinent data - specifically the number of supporters for various new amenities or sentiments.

Why is this important?

The Commission is given this summary without knowing whether one sentiment is more broadly supported by Belmont residents than another. For example, the Hidden Canyon neighborhood meeting had tremendous neighborhood attendance. The vast majority of residents (approx 10-15) opposed building a bathroom and gave reasons why. Only 2-5 residents supported the building of bathrooms. Yet, reading the Summary of Feedback the Commission would have no idea the tremendous opposition to the bathrooms. This is because the Summary of Feedback merely states there was neighborhood support and opposition for the toilets -- which makes it sound like it was an evenly contested issue. This is not reflective of the public comments given at the neighborhood meeting.

In an effort of transparency, on the Summary of Feedback, I urge staff to add the number of public comments received supporting each amenity or sentiment (the number can be put in parenthesis next to the sentiment). This will enable the Commission to have all the data when making decisions.

Thank you.
Deniz Bolbol

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kevin Sullivan
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:48 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: You are doing a GREAT job.

Hello,

Most of you know me pretty well. I wanted to take a few minutes to send you some information when I'm not on the clock and there is a bit less energy flying around.

I do want to say I think the entire commission is doing a great job in general and in working on the PROS plan in particular. I can well imagine how difficult it is at times with the venomous negativity coming from a few but it appears you have been able to weather that and stay focused on a plan that looks to me like it is really coming together in a way that is going to benefit many many people in the community.

This week's presentation is about community parks so that is what I'm going to talk about here.

I was fortunate to be a commissioner when Semeria and then Davey Glen park were designed and built. Both parks had many rounds of public input. Davey Glen was such a physical challenge due to being on a hillside that we almost didn't make it across the finish line. But we did and both of these parks are serving as the quiet but well loved community parks they are supposed to be. Both parks started out with a good deal of very local opposition to any plan to change what was there. Remember what was there in both cases was a dirt lot people had just gotten used to. In the case of Semeria park, a vocal minority wanted the muddy, dirt lot to remain so they could park their work trucks there. Lots of hand wringing about parking and no place to park for residents when the park filled up. None of those fears materialized. Davey Glen had people up in arms at commission meetings talking about all the drug use that would happen with teenagers because its gonna be dark at night in there. None of that happened, in fact there is much more light in there at night and not some hidden drug den.

So you will continue to hear these fears at meetings to discuss the details. SOME are legitimate fears about how their street will change. MOST are illegitimate stories being told because people don't want others to enjoy what they enjoy. In the case of people who live in the Pink homes at the top of Carlmont, everyone living there knows or should know the only reason those homes got built is because the developers and new buyers agreed to donate land and build a park at the end of the lane. What they don't seem to realize is that the park is going to create massive improvements for the people living in those homes. Lots of families in those homes have younger kids and thats exactly who tend to use these small parks the most.

So now the city (we) are looking at some new small parks and improvements to existing parks. I strongly feel people trying to propose "Keep everything natural" don't really want anything changed at all. In my mind, there is no point in putting in a park if it doesn't attract young residents to play. So incorporating lasting play elements is essential. Once construction of park elements is completed, parks quickly look like they have always been there and the improvements are obvious. I strongly encourage you to go by Semeria and or Davey Glenn a few times over the next weeks as the plan comes together. What I think you will see is the parks are almost never crowded and yet are also almost never empty. These parks attract people in the neighborhood to get out of the house for a few hours. They rarely drive their cars to the park but sometimes do. Many of the park users are kids in strollers with moms or nanny. They grow up using and knowing the park, then they become teenagers and have other interests. That leaves room for the next set of kids in strollers and play age. Its what happens in parks.

2

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So please don't be afraid to be visionary in your plans. I love the idea of a Gateway to the open space and some of the examples could be copied as is, but why not create something of our own. Permanent and lasting conversation tables like we designed into Semeria and Davey glen provide for people to hang out and for people to have small parties or picnics. Once the initial construction is completed at Hidden Canyon, it will be more difficult to add or change once infrastructure has been installed. I encourage you to think big (well big for Belmont) and think of the people who will use the park. Plan for them not to appease the people who don't want a park anyway. If that is their only position and the city has decided a park is going in, its time to stop listening to the people who don't want the park. Listen to the people who will use it.

I know you all have the community in mind or you wouldn't be spending your time on this commission since it has often been testy lately. But your commission works together WAY better than the commissions I was on and we were able to pull it off. I know you can too. Keep up the good work and I look forward to supporting your continued actions to make Belmont a better place to live for our residents.

Hope that wasn't too long. I'll repeat some of it at the meeting. Have a great day.

Kevin Sullivan

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Gary & Yaffa
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:55 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Hallmark Park

We prefer keeping the Park largely as is.

"Do no harm"!

Better things to spend $$ on.

G & Y Weinstein

DRAFT

1

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Sheng
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 5:07 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Cc: P&R Comm; City Council; Belmontprosplan Info
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Stewards - correspondence for WRA Consulting
Attachments: EIS mountain bikes and Best Practices.pdf; MTBing in SW US 2006.pdf; Parks Canada Review of ecological effects of MTBing Feb2020.pdf; mbosc-mtb-impact-review-faq.pdf; Trailkeepers spreadsheet.pdf; Westlaw - List of 18 References for Scott Cashen MS.pdf; Belmont resolution re open space trail master plan.pdf; 1998 trail map (original).pdf; 1998 map (flow and ensatina highlighted).pdf; WRA letter.pdf

Brigitte,

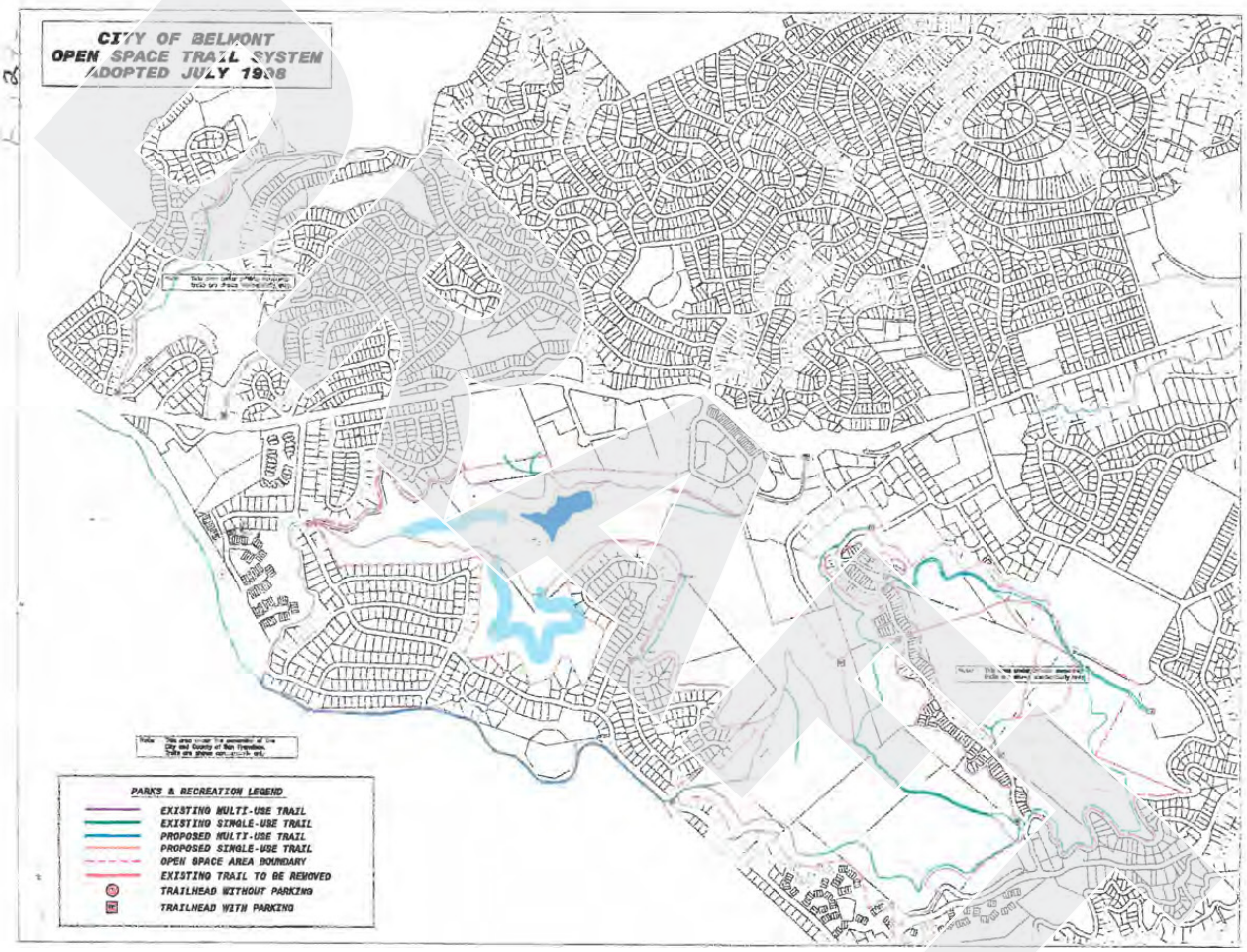
Attached please find a letter and attachments that we would like forwarded to WRA Consulting.

Thanks,

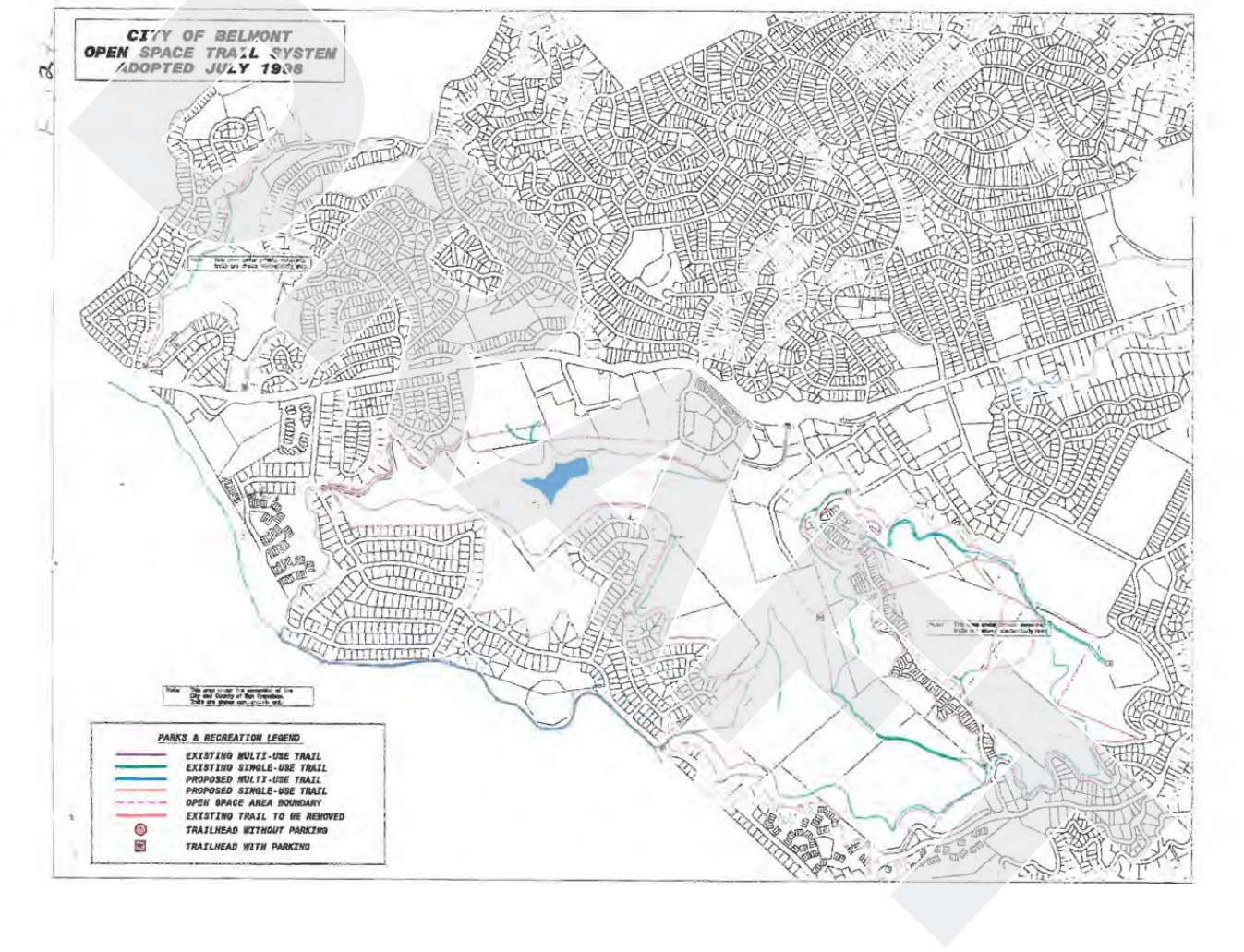
Paul

DRAFT

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Environmental Impacts of Mountain Biking: Science Review and Best Practices

By Jeff Marion and Jeremy Wimpey

Mountain biking is still a relatively new activity whose environmental impact and contribution to trail degradation is poorly understood. As with all recreational pursuits, it is clear that mountain biking contributes some degree of environmental degradation. In the absence of adequate research, land and trail managers have frequently been cautious, implementing restrictive regulations in some instances (Edger 1997). Surveys of managers have shown that they frequently perceive mountain biking to be a substantial contributor to trail degradation but lack scientific studies or monitoring data to substantiate such concerns (Chavez and others 1993; Schuett 1997). In recent years, however, a small number of studies have been conducted that help clarify the environmental impacts associated with mountain biking. This article describes the general impacts associated with recreational uses of natural surface trails, with a focus on those studies that have examined mountain biking impacts.

Trails are generally regarded as essential facilities in parks and forests. They provide access to remote areas, accommodate a diverse array of recreational activities, and protect resources by concentrating visitor trampling on narrow and resistant tread surfaces. Formal or designated trails are generally designed and constructed, which involves vegetation removal and soil excavation. These changes may be considered "unavoidable," in contrast to "avoidable" post-construction degradation from their subsequent use (e.g., trail widening, erosion, muddiness), or from the development and degradation of informal visitor-created trails.

Common environmental impacts associated with recreational use of trails include:

- Vegetation loss and compositional changes
- Soil compaction
- Erosion
- Muddiness
- Degraded water quality
- Disruption of wildlife

This article is organized into four broad categories: impacts to vegetation, soil, water, and wildlife.

Impacts to Vegetation: General Research

On formal trails, most vegetation is typically removed by construction, maintenance, and visitor use. This impact is necessary and "unavoidable" in order to provide a clear route for trail users. One goal of trail construction and maintenance is to provide a trail only wide enough to accommodate the intended use. Trails made wider than this through visitor use or erosion represent a form of "avoidable" impact. For example, a doubling of trail width represents a doubling of the area of intensive trampling disturbance. Wider trails also expose substantially greater amounts of soil to erosion by wind or water.

The creation and maintenance of trail corridors also removes shrubs and trees, allowing greater sunlight exposure that favors a different set of groundcover plants within trail corridors. Occasional trailside trampling within trail corridors also favors the replacement of fragile plants with those more resistant to trampling traffic. For example, shade-tolerant but fragile broadleaved herbs are frequently replaced by grasses and sedges that are trampling-resistant and require more sunlight to survive. Trail construction, use, and maintenance can also be harmful when trails divide sensitive or rare plant communities.

Trampling - the action of crushing or treading upon vegetation, either by foot, hoof, or tire - contributes to a wide range of vegetation impacts, including damage to plant leaves, stems, and roots, reduction in vegetation height, change in the composition of species, and loss of plants and vegetative cover (Leung & Marion, 1996; Thurston & Reader, 2001). Trampling associated with "avoidable" off-trail traffic can quickly break down vegetation cover and create a visible route that attracts additional use. Complete loss of vegetation cover occurs quickly in shady forested areas, less quickly in open areas with resistant grassy vegetation. Regardless, studies have consistently revealed that most impact occurs with initial or low use, with a diminishing increase in impact associated with increasing levels of traffic (Hammit & Cole, 1998; Leung & Marion, 1996). Furthermore, once trampling occurs, vegetative recovery is a very slow process.

Compositional changes in the vegetation along trail corridors can have both beneficial and adverse effects. Trampling-resistant plants provide a durable groundcover that reduces soil loss by wind and water runoff, and root systems that stabilize soils against displacement by heavy traffic. The ecological impacts of such compositional changes are not fully known, except when non-native vegetation is introduced to and spreads along trail corridors. Many of these species are disturbance-associated and are naturally limited to areas where the vegetation is routinely trampled or cut back. However, a few non-native species, once introduced to trail corridors, are able to out-compete native plants and spread away from the trail corridor in undisturbed habitats. Some of these species form dense cover that crowd out or displace native plants. These "invasive" species are particularly undesirable and land managers actively seek

to prevent their introduction and spread. Unfortunately their removal is difficult and expensive.

Impacts to Vegetation: Mountain Biking-Specific Research

Only one study found specifically addresses the vegetation impacts associated with mountain biking. Thurston and Reader (2001) conducted an experimental trampling study involving mountain bikers and hikers in Boyne Valley Provincial Park of Ontario, Canada. The researchers measured plant density (number of stems/area), diversity (number of species present), and soil exposure (area of mineral soil exposed) before and after 500 one-way passes by bikers and hikers.

Data analysis and statistical testing revealed that the impacts of hiking and biking were not significantly different for the three indicators measured. They also concluded that impacts from both hikers and bikers were spatially confined to the centerline of the lane (trail).

Impacts to Vegetation: Management Implications

Trail managers can either avoid or minimize impacts to vegetation through careful trail design, construction, maintenance, and management of visitor use. Here are some recommendations to reduce vegetation impacts:

- Design trails that provide the experience that trail users seek to reduce their desire to venture off-trail.
- Locate trails away from rare plants and animals and from sensitive or critical habitats of other species. Involve resource professionals in designing and approving new trail alignments.
- Keep trails narrow to reduce the total area of intensive tread disturbance, slow trail users, and minimize vegetation and soil impacts.
- Limit vegetation disturbance outside the corridor when constructing trails. Hand construction is least disruptive; mechanized construction with small equipment is less disruptive than full-sized equipment; skilled operators do less damage than those with limited experience.
- Locate trails on side-hills where possible. Constructing a side-hill trail requires greater initial vegetation and soil disturbance but sloping topography above and below the trail bench will clearly define the tread and concentrate traffic on it. Trails in flatter terrain or along the fall line may involve less initial disturbance but allow excessive future tread widening and off-tread trampling, which favor non-native plants.
- Use construction techniques that save and redistribute topsoil and excavated plants.

There are also important considerations for maintaining and managing trails to avoid unnecessary ongoing impacts to vegetation:

- While it is necessary to keep the trail corridor free of obstructing vegetation, such work should seek to avoid "day-lighting" the trail corridor when possible. Excessive opening of the overstory allows greater sunlight penetration that permits greater vegetation compositional change and colonization by non-native plants.
- An active maintenance program that removes tree falls and maintains a stable and predictable tread also encourages visitors to remain on the intended narrow tread. A variety of maintenance actions can discourage trail widening, such as only cutting a narrow section out of trees that fall across the trail, limiting the width of vegetation trimming, and defining trail borders with logs, rocks, or other objects that won't impede drainage.
- Use education to discourage off-trail travel, which can quickly lead to the establishment of informal visitor-created trails that unnecessarily remove vegetation cover and spread non-native plants. Such routes often degrade rapidly and are abandoned in favor of adjacent new routes, which unnecessarily magnify the extent and severity of trampling damage.
- Educate visitors to be aware of their ability to carry non-native plant seeds on their bikes or clothing, and encourage them to remove seeds by washing mud from bikes, tires, shoes, and clothing. Preventing the introduction of non-natives is key, as their subsequent removal is difficult and costly.
- Educate visitors about low impact riding practices, such as those contained in the IMBA-approved Leave No Trace Skills & Ethics: Mountain Biking booklet (www.LNT.org).

For further reading see: Cessford 1995; Gruttz and Hollingshead 1995; Thurston and Reader 200l.

Impacts to Soils: General Research

The creation and use of trails also results in soil disturbance. Some loss of soil may be considered an acceptable and unavoidable form of impact on trails. As with vegetation loss, much soil disturbance occurs in the initial construction and use of the trail. During trail construction, surface organic materials (e.g., twigs, leaves, and needles) and organic soils are removed from treads; trails built on sidehill locations require even more extensive excavation. In addition, the underlying mineral soils are compacted during construction and initial use to form a durable tread substrate that supports trail traffic.

In contrast, post-construction soil displacement, erosion, and muddiness represent core forms of avoidable trail impact that require sustained management attention to avoid long-lasting resource degradation. This degradation can reduce the utility of trails as recreation facilities and diminish the

quality of visitor experiences. For example, soil erosion exposes rocks and plant roots, creating a rutted and uneven tread surface. Erosion can also be self-perpetuating when treads erode below the surrounding soil level, hindering efforts to divert water from the trail and causing accelerated erosion and muddiness. Similarly, excessive muddiness renders trails less usable and aggravates tread widening and associated vegetation loss as visitors seek to circumvent mud holes and wet soils (Marion, 2006).

Research has shown that visitors notice obvious forms of trail impact, such as excessive muddiness and eroded ruts and tree roots, and that such impacts can degrade the quality of visitor experiences (Roggenbuck and others., 1993; Vaske and others., 1993). Such conditions also increase the difficulty of travel and may threaten visitor safety. Remedying these soil impacts can also require substantial rehabilitation costs. Clearly, one primary trail management objective should be the prevention of excessive soil impacts. Let's examine four common forms of soil impact in greater detail:

The Four Common Forms of Soil Degradation on Trails:

- Compaction
- Muddiness
- Displacement
- Erosion

Compaction: Soil compaction is caused by the weight of trail users and their equipment, which passes through feet, hooves, or tires to the tread surface.

Compacted soils are denser and less permeable to water, which increases water runoff. However, compacted soils also resist erosion and soil displacement and provide durable treads that support traffic. From this perspective, soil compaction is considered beneficial, and it is an unavoidable form of trail impact. Furthermore, a primary resource protection goal is to limit trailside impacts by concentrating traffic on a narrow tread. Success in achieving this objective will necessarily result in higher levels of soil compaction.

The process of compacting the soil can present a difficult challenge, especially on new trails. Unless soils are mechanically compacted during tread construction, initial use compacts the portions of the tread that receive the greatest traffic, generally the center. The associated lowering of the tread surface creates a cupped cross-section that intercepts and collects surface water. In flat terrain this water can pool or form muddy sections; in sloping terrain the water is channeled down the trail, gaining in volume, speed, and erosive potential.

Displacement: Trail users can also push soil laterally, causing displacement and development of ruts, berms, or cupped treads. Soil displacement is particularly evident when soils are damp or loose and when users are moving at higher rates

of speed, turning, braking, or other movements that create more lateral force. Soil can also be caught in hooves, footwear, or tire treads, flicked to the side or carried some distance and dropped. Regardless of the mechanism, soil is generally displaced from the tread center to the sides, elevating inslopes or berms, and compounding drainage problems.

Muddiness: When trails are located in areas of poor drainage or across highly organic soils that hold moisture, tread muddiness can become a persistent problem. Muddiness is most commonly associated with locations where water flows across or becomes trapped within flat or low-lying areas. Soil compaction, displacement, and erosion can exacerbate or create problems with muddiness by causing cupped treads that collect water during rainfall or snowmelt. Thus, muddiness can occur even along trails where there is sufficient natural drainage. Subsequent traffic skirts these problem spots, compacting soils along the edges, widening mud holes and tread width, and sometimes creating braided trails that circumvent muddy sections.

Erosion: Soil erosion is an indirect and largely avoidable impact of trails and trail use. Soil can be eroded by wind, but generally, erosion is caused by flowing water. To avoid erosion, sustainable trails are generally constructed with a slightly crowned (flat terrain) or outsloped (sloping terrain) tread. However, subsequent use compacts and/or displaces soils over time to create a cupped or insloped tread surface that intercepts and carries water. The concentrated run-off picks up and carries soil particles downhill, eroding the tread surface.

Loose, uncompacted soil particles are most prone to soil erosion, so trail uses that loosen or detach soils contribute to higher erosion rates. Erosion potential is closely related to trail grade because water becomes substantially more erosive with increasing slope. The size of the watershed draining to a section of trail is also influential - larger volumes of water are substantially more erosive.

Water and the sediment it carries will continue down the trail until a natural or constructed feature diverts it off the tread. Such features include a natural or constructed reversal in grade, an outsloped tread, rocks or tree roots, or a constructed drainage dip or water bar. Once the water slows, it drops its sediment load, filling in tread drainage features and causing them to fail if not periodically maintained. Sediment can also be carried directly into watercourses, creating secondary impacts to aquatic systems. Properly designed drainage features are designed to divert water from the trail at a speed sufficient to carry the sediment load well below the tread, where vegetation and organic litter can filter out sediments. A well-designed trail should have little to no cumulative soil loss, for example, less than an average of one-quarter inch (6.3 mm) per year.

Impacts to Soils: Mountain Biking-Specific Research

Several studies have evaluated the soil impacts of mountain biking.

Wilson and Seney (1994) evaluated tread erosion from horses, hikers, mountain bikes, and motorcycles on two trails in the Gallatin National Forest, Montana. They applied one hundred passes of each use-type on four sets of 12 trail segments, followed by simulated rainfalls and collection of water runoff to assess sediment yield at the base of each segment. Control sites that received no passes were also assessed for comparison. Results indicated that horses made significantly more sediment available for erosion than the other uses, which did not significantly vary from the control sites. Traffic on pre-wetted soils generated significantly greater amounts of soil runoff than on dry soils for all uses.

Marion (2006) studied 78 miles (125 km) of trail (47 segments) in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Tennessee and Kentucky, measuring soil loss along transects across the trail to evaluate the influence of use-related, environmental, and management factors. Sidehill-aligned trails were significantly less eroded than trails in valley bottom positions, in part due to the influence of periodic floods. Trail grade and trail alignment angle were also significant predictors of tread erosion. Erosion rates on trails with 0-6 percent and 7-15 percent grades were similar, while erosion on trails with grades greater than 16 percent were significantly higher. And there was significantly greater erosion on fall line trails (alignment angles of 0-22 degrees) than those with alignments closer to the contour.

This study also provided an opportunity to examine the relative contribution of different use types, including horse, hiking, mountain biking, and ATV. Trails predominantly used for mountain biking had the least erosion of the use types investigated. Computed estimates of soil loss per mile of trail also revealed the mountain biking trails to have the lowest soil loss.

White and others (2006) also examined trails predominantly used for mountain biking in five ecological regions of the Southwest along 163 miles (262 km) of trail. Two trail condition indicators, tread width and maximum incision, were assessed at each sample point. Results show that erosion and tread width on these trails differed little in comparison to other shared-use trails that receive little or no mountain biking.

Goeft and Alder (2001) evaluated the resource impacts of mountain biking on a recreational trail and racing track in Australia over a 12-month period. A variety of trail condition indicators were assessed on new and older trail segments with uphill, downhill, and flat trail sections. Results found that trail slope, age, and time were significant erosion factors, and that downhill slopes and curves were the most susceptible to erosion. New trails experienced greater amounts of soil compaction but all trails exhibited both compaction and loosening of soils over

time. The width of the recreational trail varied over time, with no consistent trend, while the width of the racing trail grew following events but exhibited net recovery over time. Impacts were confined to the trail tread, with minimal disturbance of trailside vegetation.

Bjorkman (1996) evaluated two new mountain biking trails in Wisconsin before and for several years after they were opened to use. Vegetation cover within the tread that survived trail construction work declined with increasing use to negligible levels while trailside vegetation remained constant or increased in areas damaged by construction work. Similarly, soil compaction within the tread rose steadily while compaction of trailside soils remained constant. Vegetation and soil impacts occurred predominantly during the first year of use with minor changes thereafter.

Wohrstein (1998) evaluated the impacts from a World Championship mountain biking race with 870 participants and 80,000 spectators. Erosion was found only on intensively used racing trails in steep terrain where alignments allowed higher water runoff. The mountain biking routes exhibited higher levels of compaction but to a shallower depth in comparison to the spectator areas, where compaction was lower but deeper.

Cessford (1995) provides a comprehensive, though dated, summary of trail impacts with a focus on mountain biking. Of particular interest is his summary of the two types of forces exerted by bike tires on soil surfaces: The downward compaction force from the weight of the rider and bike, and the rotational shearing force from the turning rear wheel. Mountain bikers generate the greatest torque, with potential tread abrasion due to slippage, during uphill travel. However, the torque possible from muscle power is far less than that from a motorcycle, so wheel slippage and abrasion occur only on wet or loose surfaces. Tread impact associated with downhill travel is generally minimal due to the lack of torque and lower ground pressures. Exceptions include when riders brake hard enough to cause skidding, which displaces soil downslope, or bank at higher speeds around turns, which displaces soil to the outside of the turn. Impacts in flatter terrain are also generally minimal, except when soils are wet or uncompacted and rutting occurs.

Impacts to Soils: Management Implications

Soil loss is among the most enduring forms of trail impact, and minimizing erosion and muddiness are the most important objectives for achieving a sustainable trail. Soil cannot easily be replaced on trails, and where soil disappears, it leaves ruts that make travel and water drainage more difficult, prompting further impacts, such as trail widening.

Existing studies indicate that mountain biking differs little from hiking in its contribution to soil impacts. Other factors, particularly trail grade, trail/slope

alignment angle, soil type/wetness, and trail maintenance, are more influential determinants of tread erosion or wetness.

There are a number of tactics for avoiding the worst soil-related impacts to trails:

- Discourage or prohibit off-trail travel. Informal trails created by off-trail travel frequently have steep grades and fall-line alignments that quickly erode, particularly in the absence of tread maintenance. Exceptions include areas of solid rock or non-vegetated cobble.
- Design trails with sustainable grades and avoid fall-line alignments. (See p. 112 for more)
- When possible, build trails in dry, cohesive soils that easily compact and contain a larger percentage of coarse material or rocks. These soils better resist erosion by wind and water or displacement by feet, hooves and tires.
- Minimize tread muddiness by avoiding flat terrain, wet soils, and drainage-bottom locations.
- Use grade reversals to remove water from trail treads. Grade reversals are permanent and sustainable - when designed into a trail's alignment they remain 100 percent effective and rarely require maintenance.

Other strategies are more temporary in nature and will require periodic maintenance to keep them effective:

- While the use of a substantial outslope (e.g., 5 percent) helps remove water from treads, it is rarely a long-term solution. Tread cupping and berm development will generally occur within a few years after tread construction. If it is not possible to install additional grade reversals, reshape the tread to reestablish an outsloped tread surface periodically, and install wheel-friendly drainage dips or other drainage structures to help water flow off the trail.
- If it is not possible to install proper drainage on a trail, consider rerouting trail sections that are most problematic, or possibly hardening the tread.
- In flatter areas, elevate and crown treads to prevent muddiness, or add a gravel/soil mixture in low spots.

Finally, it is important to realize that visitor use of any type on trails when soils are wet contributes substantially greater soil impact than the same activities when soils are dry. Thus, discouraging or prohibiting the use of trails that are prone to muddiness during rainy seasons or snowmelt is another effective measure. Generally such use can be redirected to trails that have design or environmental attributes that allow them to better sustain wet season uses.

For additional information about minimizing soil impacts through trail design, construction, maintenance, and tread hardening, see Trail Solutions.

Impacts to Water Resources: General Research

Trails and their use can also affect water quality. Trail-related impacts to water resources can include the introduction of soils, nutrients, and pathogenic organisms (e.g., Giardia), and alter the patterns of surface water drainage. However, in practice, these impacts are avoidable, and properly designed and maintained trails should not degrade water quality. Unfortunately there is very little research to draw from on these topics, and none that is specific to mountain biking.

Poorly sited and/or maintained trails can be eroded by water, with tread sediments carried off by runoff. Generally, if water control features such as grade reversals and outsloped treads are used to divert runoff from trails, the water drops its sediment close to trails, where it is trapped and held by organic litter and vegetation. Soils eroded from trails rarely enter water bodies, unless trails cross streams or run close to stream or lake shorelines and lack adequate tread drainage features. Since many recreational activities, such as fishing, swimming, boating, and viewing scenery (e.g., waterfalls) draw visitors and trails to the vicinity of water resources, it is often necessary to route trails to water resources or visitors will simply create their own informal trails.

Trails that are close to water resources require special consideration in their design and management to prevent the introduction of suspended sediments into bodies of water. Eroded soil that enters water bodies increase water turbidity and cause sedimentation that can affect aquatic organisms (Fritz and others 1993). Trout and other fish lay their eggs in gravels on the bottom of streams and lakes, and sediments can smother those eggs, reducing reproductive success. Sedimentation can also hurt invertebrate organisms, which serve as food for fish and other creatures. In addition, some sediment may contain nutrients that can contribute to algal blooms that deplete the dissolved oxygen in water bodies when they die off.

Poorly designed trails can also alter hydrologic functions - for instance, trails can intercept and divert water from seeps or springs, which serve important ecological functions. In those situations, water can sometimes flow along the tread, leading to muddiness or erosion and, in the case of cupped and eroded treads, the water may flow some distance before it is diverted off the trail. changing the ecology of small wetland or riparian areas.

Trail users may also pollute water with pathogenic organisms, particularly those related to improperly disposed human waste. Potential pathogenic organisms found through surveys of backcountry water sources include Cryptosporidium spp., Giardia spp., and Campylobacter jejuni (LeChevallier and others, 1999; Suk and others, 1987; Taylor and others, 1983). This is rarely a significant concern where trail use is predominantly day-oriented, and waste issues can be avoided

by installing toilet facilities or following Leave No Trace practices (i.e., digging cat-holes for waste away from water resources).

Impacts to Water Resources: Management Implications

The same trail design, construction, and maintenance measures that help minimize vegetation and soil impacts also apply to water. But there are also some additional efforts needed to protect water resources:

- Trails should avoid close proximity to water resources. For example, it is better to build a trail on a sidehill along a lower valley wall than to align it through flat terrain along a stream edge, where trail runoff will drain directly into the stream.
- It is best to minimize the number of stream crossings. Where crossings are necessary, scout the stream carefully to select the most resistant location for the crossing. Look for rocky banks and soils that provide durable surfaces.
- Design water crossings so the trail descends into and climbs out of the stream crossing, preventing stream water from flowing down the trail.
- Armor trails at stream crossings with rock, geotextiles, or gravel to prevent erosion.
- Include grade reversals, regularly maintained outsloped treads, and/or drainage features to divert water off the trail near stream crossings. This prevents large volumes of water and sediment from flowing down the trail into the stream, and allows trailside organic litter, vegetation, and soils to slow and filter water.
- On some heavily used trails, a bridge may be needed to provide a sustainable crossing.
- Where permanent or intermittent stream channels cross trails, use wheel-friendly open rock culverts or properly sized buried drainage culverts to allow water to cross properly, without flowing down the trail.

Impacts to Wildlife: General Research

Trails and trail uses can also affect wildlife. Trails may degrade or fragment wildlife habitat, and can also alter the activities of nearby animals, causing avoidance behavior in some and food-related attraction behavior in others (Hellmund, 1998; Knight & Cole, 1991). While most forms of trail impact are limited to a narrow trail corridor, disturbance of wildlife can extend considerably further into natural landscapes (Kasworm & Monley, 1990; Tyser & Worley, 1992). Even very localized disturbance can harm rare or endangered species.

Different animals respond differently to the presence of trail users. Most wildlife species readily adapt or become "habituated" to consistent and non-threatening recreational activities. For example, animals may notice but not move away from

humans on a frequently used trail. This is fortunate, as it can allow high quality wildlife viewing experiences for visitors and cause little or no impact to wildlife.

Other forms of habituation, however, are less desirable. Visitors who feed wildlife, intentionally or from dropped food, can contribute to the development of food-related attraction behavior that can turn wild animals and birds into beggars. In places where visitors stop to eat snacks or lunches, wildlife quickly learn to associate people with food, losing their innate fear of humans and returning frequently to beg, search for food scraps, or even raid unprotected packs containing food. Feeding wild creatures also endangers their health and well-being. For instance, after food-attracted deer in Grand Canyon National Park became sickly and dangerously aggressive, researchers found up to six pounds of plastic and foil wrappers obstructing intestinal passages of some individuals.

The opposite conduct in wildlife - avoidance behavior - can be equally problematic. Avoidance behavior is generally an innate response that is magnified by visitor behaviors perceived as threatening, such as loud sounds, off-trail travel, travel in the direction of wildlife, and sudden movements. When animals flee from disturbance by trail users, they often expend precious energy, which is particularly dangerous for them in winter months when food is scarce. When animals move away from a disturbance, they leave preferred or prime habitat and move, either permanently or temporarily, to secondary habitat that may not meet their needs for food, water, or cover. Visitors and land managers, however, are often unaware of such impacts, because animals often flee before humans are aware of the presence of wildlife.

Impacts to Wildlife: Mountain Biking-Specific Research

The impacts of mountain biking on wildlife are similar to those of hikers and other non motorized trail users.

Taylor and Knight (2003) investigated the interactions of wildlife and trail users (hikers and mountain bikers) at Antelope Island State Park in Utah. A hidden observer using an optical rangefinder recorded bison, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope response to an assistant who hiked or biked a section of trail. The observer then measured wildlife reactions, including alert distance, flight response, flight distance, distance fled, and distance from trail. Observations revealed that 70 percent of animals located within 330 feet (100 m) of a trail were likely to flee when a trail user passed, and that wildlife exhibited statistically similar responses to mountain biking and hiking. Wildlife reacted more strongly to off-trail recreationists, suggesting that visitors should stay on trails to reduce wildlife disturbance. While Taylor and Knight found no biological justification for managing mountain biking any differently than hiking, they note that bikers cover more ground in a given time period than hikers and thus can potentially disturb more wildlife per unit time.

This study also surveyed 640 hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders on the island to assess their perceptions of the effects of recreation on wildlife. Most respondents felt they could approach animals far closer than the flight distance suggested by the research, and 50 percent felt that recreational uses did not have a negative effect on wildlife.

Another study evaluated the behavioral responses of desert bighorn sheep to disturbance by hikers, mountain bikers, and vehicles in low- and high-use areas of Canyonlands National Park (Papouchis and others., 2001). Following observations of 1,029 bighorn sheep/human interactions, the authors reported that sheep fled 61 percent of the time from hikers, 17 percent of the time from vehicles, and 6 percent of the time from mountain bikers. The stronger reaction to hikers, particularly in the high-use area, was attributed to more off-trail hiking and direct approaches to the sheep. The researchers recommended that park officials restrict recreational uses to trails, particularly during the lambing and rut seasons, in order to minimize disturbance.

An experimental study in Switzerland evaluated the disturbance associated with hiking, jogging, and mountain biking on high elevation chamois, which are goat-like mammals found in the European mountains (Gander & Ingold 1997). The authors assessed alert distance, flight distance, and distance fled, and found that approximately 20 percent of the animals fled from trailside pastures in response to visitor intrusions. The authors found no statistically significant differences, however, between the behavioral responses of animals to the three different types of user, and authors concluded that restrictions on mountain biking above timberline would not be justified from the perspective of chamois disturbance.

A study of the Boise River in Idaho examined flushing distances of bald eagles when exposed to actual and simulated walkers, joggers, fishermen, bicyclists, and vehicles (Spahr 1990). The highest frequency of eagle flushing was associated with walkers (46 percent), followed by fishermen (34 percent), bicyclists (15 percent), joggers (13 percent), and vehicles (6 percent). However, bicyclists caused eagles to flush at the greatest distances (mean = 148 meters), followed by vehicles (107m), walkers (87m), fishermen (64m), and joggers (50m). Eagles were most likely to flush when recreationists approached slowly or stopped to observe them, and were less alarmed when bicyclists or vehicles passed quickly at constant speeds. Similar findings have been reported by other authors, who attribute the difference in flushing frequency between walkers and bikers/vehicles either to the shorter time of disturbance and/or the additional time an eagle has to "decide" to fly (Van der Zande and others. 1984).

Safety issues related to grizzly bear attacks on trail users in Banff National Park prompted Herrero and Herrero (2000) to study the Morraine Lake Highline Trail. Park staff noted that hikers were far more numerous than mountain bikers on the trail, but that the number of encounters between bikers and bears was disproportionately high. For example, three of the four human-grizzly bear

encounters that occurred along the trail during 1997-98 involved mountain bikers. Previous research had shown that grizzly bears are more likely to attack when they first become aware of a human presence at distances of less than 50 meters. Herrero and Herrero concluded that mountain bikers travel faster, more quietly, and with closer attention to the tread than hikers, all attributes that limit reaction time for bears and bikers, and increases the likelihood of sub-fifty meter encounters. In addition, most of the bear-cyclist encounters took place on a fast section of trail that went through high-quality bear habitat with abundant berries. To reduce such incidents, they recommended education, seasonal closures of the trail to bikes and/or hikers, construction of an alternate trail, and regulations requiring a minimum group size for bikers.

Impacts to Wildlife: Management Implications

Many potential impacts to wildlife can be avoided by ensuring that trails avoid the most sensitive or critical wildlife habitats, including those of rare and non-rare species. There are a number of tactics for doing this:

- Route trails to avoid riparian or wetland areas, particularly in environments where they are uncommon. Consult with fish and wildlife specialists early in the trail planning phase.
- For existing trails, consider discouraging or restricting access during sensitive times/seasons (e.g., mating or birthing seasons) to protect wildlife from undue stress.

The education of trail users is also an important and potentially highly effective management option for protecting wildlife. Organizations should encourage Leave No Trace practices and teach appropriate behaviors in areas where wildlife are found:

- Store food safely and leave no crumbs behind - fed animals too often become dead animals.
- It's OK for wildlife to notice you but you are "too close" or "too loud" if an animal stops what its doing and/or moves away from you.
- It's best to view wildlife through binoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto lenses.
- All wildlife can be dangerous - be aware of the possible presence of animals and keep your distance to ensure your safety and theirs.

Conclusion

While land managers have long been concerned about the environmental impacts of mountain biking, there are still very few good studies published in peer-reviewed journals. White and others (2006) and Hendricks (1997) note that the majority of mountain biking research has focused on social issues, such as

conflicts between trail users. As a consequence, the ecological effects of mountain biking on trails and natural resources remain poorly understood.

Still, an emerging body of knowledge on the environmental impact of mountain biking can help guide current management decisions. All of the existing scientific studies indicate that while mountain biking, like all forms of recreational activity, can result in measurable impacts to vegetation, soil, water resources, and wildlife, the environmental effects of well-managed mountain biking are minimal.

Furthermore, while the impact mechanics and forces may be different from foot traffic, mountain biking impacts are little different from hiking, the most common and traditional form of trail-based recreational activity.

Key observations about the environmental impacts of mountain biking:

1. Environmental degradation can be substantially avoided or minimized when trail users are restricted to designated formal trails. Many studies have shown that the most damage to plants and soils occur with initial traffic and that the per capita increase in further impact diminishes rapidly with increasing subsequent traffic. Many environmental impacts can be avoided and the rest are substantially minimized when traffic is restricted to a well-designed and managed trail. The best trail alignments avoid the habitats of rare flora and fauna and greatly minimize soil erosion, muddiness, and tread widening by focusing traffic on side-hill trail alignments with limited grades and frequent grade reversals. Even wildlife impacts are greatly minimized when visitors stay on trails; wildlife have a well-documented capacity to habituate to non-threatening recreational uses that occur in consistent places.
2. Trail design and management are much larger factors in environmental degradation than the type or amount of use. Many studies have demonstrated that poorly designed or located trails are the biggest cause of trail impacts. As evidence, consider that use factors (type, amount, and behavior of trail visitors) are generally the same along the length of any given trail, yet there is often substantial variation in tread erosion, width, and muddiness. These impacts are primarily attributable to differences in grade and slope alignment angle, soil type and soil moisture, and type of tread construction, surfacing, and drainage. This suggests that a sustainable trail that is properly designed, constructed, and maintained can support lower-impact uses such as hiking and mountain biking with minimal maintenance or degradation.
3. The environmental degradation caused by mountain biking is generally equivalent or less than that caused by hiking, and both are substantially less impacting than horse or motorized activities. In the small number of studies that included direct comparisons of the environmental effects of different recreational activities, mountain biking was found to have an impact that is less than or comparable to hiking. For example, Marion and

Olive (2006) reported less soil loss on mountain bike trails than on hiking trails, which in turn exhibited substantially less soil loss than did horse and ATV trails. Similarly, two wildlife studies reported no difference in wildlife disturbance between hikers and mountain bikers (Taylor & Knight 2003, Gander & Ingold 1997), while two other studies found that mountain bikers caused less disturbance (Papouchis and others. 2001, Spahr 1990). Wilson and Seney (1994) found that horses made significantly more sediment available for erosion than hikers or mountain bikers, which were statistically similar to the undisturbed control. One final point to consider, however, is that mountain bikers, like horse and vehicle users, travel further than hikers due to their higher speed of travel. This means that their use on a per-unit time basis can affect more miles of trail or wildlife than hikers. However, an evaluation of aggregate impact would need to consider the total number of trail users, and hikers are far more numerous than mountain bikers.

Mountain Bike Management Implications

So what does this mean for mountain biking? The existing body of research does not support the prohibition or restriction of mountain biking from a resource or environmental protection perspective. Existing impacts, which may be in evidence on many trails used by mountain bikers, are likely associated for the most part with poor trail designs or insufficient maintenance.

Managers should look first to correcting design-related deficiencies before considering restrictions on low-impact users. By enlisting the aid of all trail users through permanent volunteer trail maintenance efforts, they can improve trail conditions and allow for sustainable recreation.

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MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

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MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQ

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MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This Mountain Biking Impact Review poses the most frequently asked questions concerning the social and environmental impacts of mountain biking and trail construction. Here we share our unbiased findings, which are based on a comprehensive literature search performed by the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz Science Committee.

WE HOPE YOU LEARN SOMETHING, WE SURE DID!

DRAFT

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MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs
ABOUT THIS PROJECT



MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

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MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs — ABOUT THIS PROJECT

ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs

These Mountain Biking Impact Review FAQs pose questions that we believe are the most frequently asked concerning the social and environmental impacts of mountain biking and trail construction. The answers to these questions were created based on a comprehensive literature search on the relationships of trails and recreational trail users (specifically mountain bikes, but also other user groups) and natural resources within the following topics: Hydrology and Geology, Plants and Wildlife, and Social Issues. We, the members of the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz science committee, are scientists, mountain bikers, hikers, and environmentalists in search of facts. In these Mountain Biking Impact Review FAQs we share our unbiased findings.
We hope you learn something, we sure did!



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MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs — ABOUT THIS PROJECT



ABOUT MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBOSC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was founded in 1997 to support, preserve, and expand trail access and responsible mountain biking in Santa Cruz County. We have since become a highly skilled trail stewardship organization with expertise in advocacy, trail and bike park design, construction and maintenance, volunteer management, and project funding.

We are driven by passionate volunteers and high-caliber professional staff who promote legal and sustainable mountain bike access through trail construction, event promotion, and collaboration throughout the county. Strategic partnerships with land managers, other trail users, and the local bike industry help MBOSC build new trails and support sustainable trail use. MBOSC has proven to be an invaluable partner for local land managers, investing nearly $1,900,000, over 20,400 hours of staff time, and over 26,250 hours of volunteer time in trail construction and maintenance since 2012. During our 2017/18 trail work season, 398 volunteers and MBOSC staff performed 3,828 hours of trail work at our local State and City Parks and at Soquel Demonstration State Forest.

MBOSC is focused on furthering our mission to make Santa Cruz the best place to be a trail-user. With more opportunities to expand trail access in the county than at any point in history, MBOSC is planning to make the most of these opportunities.

MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

ABOUT THE MBOSC SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Like most great ideas, the concept of the MBOSC Science Committee was created after a great day on the trails. Following a Wilder Ranch Dig Day in March 2017, MBOSC Executive Director Matt De Young, President John Leckrone, and emeritus Science Committee chair Dr. Meagan Hynes were discussing how Meagan's professional background in soil science could help inform how soil types in Wilder Ranch State Park related to erosion risk. This conversation led Matt, John, and Meagan to consider all the ways MBOSC members and the general public could benefit from a better understanding of the science behind trail construction and mountain biking environmental impacts. The MBOSC Science Committee was formed in October 2017.

MEET THE RESEARCHERS

The following members of the MBOSC Science Committee worked together to compile these Mountain Biking Impact Review FAQs:



Masters of Science, Wildlife Biologist



Masters of Environmental Science and Management, Applications Engineering and Spatial Analysis Consultant



Masters of Science, Geologist



Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Chemical Engineer



Bachelor of Science, Project Geologist, Petralogix Engineering, Inc.



Bachelor of Science and Planetary Science, Santa Cruz Bicycles Quality Control Inspector

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MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs
HYDROLOGY & GEOLOGY



MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs — HYDROLOGY & GEOLOGY

1) DOES MOUNTAIN BIKING GENERATE MORE EROSION AND OTHER TRAIL DAMAGE THAN OTHER TYPES OF RECREATIONAL TRAIL USE? HOW DO PHYSICAL TRAIL IMPACTS DIFFER BASED ON USER GROUP?

- In general, studies have shown that there is no statistically significant difference in induced soil erosion, excavation, incision (ruts), and trail widening between biking and hiking, and both are far less impactful than horse riding.[1] [2] [3] [4] Erosion on trails depends more on trail design, water drainage, levels of use, and soil properties.[5]
- The degree of physical impact related to trails is mostly dependent on trail maintenance regime rather than type of use.[4]
- There are a handful of studies that have been conducted over the past couple of decades looking into the comparative physical impacts (e.g. trail compaction/incision, trail widening, soil displacement and erosion) on trails by different user groups.[1] [2] [3] [4] The general conclusions of these studies are that:
  - On properly-built and well-maintained trails there is little to no measurable difference between the relative impacts caused by mountain bikes vs. hikers.
  - Although there are few quantitative studies on the topic, it is generally accepted that informal/user-built trails tend to experience dramatically elevated rates of degradation due to poor design, management, and construction practices.
  - Additional research is needed to more accurately measure the variation of mountain bike impacts based on riding style (e.g. XC, downhill, dirt-jumps, etc.).

2) WHAT ABOUT UNSANCTIONED (ILLEGAL) TRAILS AND FEATURES?

- User created trails are unplanned and don't undergo the rigorous environmental review and design that modern, sanctioned, official trails usually do.
- Unsanctioned technical trail features are fairly unique to mountain biking.[3] They are often built unsustainably and their impacts can spread beyond the immediate area when they fall into disrepair and riders create alternate paths. They may involve greater soil excavation, timber harvesting, importing of materials, and potentially greater amounts of garbage as a byproduct.[3]
- Trails and features planned and built under the direction of trail stewardship organizations (such as MBOSC), local land managers, or collaborations between the two, are more sustainable with minimized areas of impact.
  - In Perth, Australia, partners constructed a sanctioned technical trail system adjacent to a sensitive National Park which had been affected by illegal riding and trail building. The environmental impact on the National Park was significantly reduced after the adjacent bike park was completed, demonstrating the benefit of partnerships between land management and trail stewardship organizations in decreasing the negative impacts of unsanctioned trail use.[3]

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3) I FREQUENTLY NOTICE RUTS IN LOCAL TRAILS. WHAT CAUSES THESE? DO THEY LEAD TO MORE EROSION? HOW CAN THEY BE ALLEVIATED?

- Ruts, soil displacement, and compaction are unavoidable outcomes of trail use over time. Whether by foot, tire, or hoof, soil is being excavated and forms ruts over time. If left unattended, the path will continue to erode from precipitation events.[6] [7] [8]
- Rut creation is accelerated when trails are wet, which is why riding trails during and following rain events is highly discouraged.
- Proper trail construction and regular maintenance under the guidance of trail stewardship organizations (such as MBOSC) greatly alleviate the effects of regular use.[6] [7] [8]

4) DOES TRAIL EROSION CAUSED BY TRAIL USERS LEAD TO SEDIMENT IN LOCAL STREAMS? HOW PROBLEMATIC IS IT?

- Soil displacement is an inevitable byproduct of trail construction and use. The severity of displacement and the potential for that soil to erode and find its way into waterways depends on many factors including soil type, trail design (grade, slope, drainage, etc.), water management, connectivity to a waterway, and degree and type of trail use.[2] [5] [6]
- The cardinal rule when designing and building a trail—no matter what type of users it is intended for—is to "keep the water off of the trail and keep the trail out of the water". This means that a sustainably designed and built trail should minimize the interaction between displaced trail-dirt and streams, and properly account for the factors that might increase erosion.[7] [8] [9] That said, poorly designed and built trails can certainly lead to more soil displacement and erosion, and a higher risk of sediment ending up in local streams.[2] [5]
- The majority of streams in our region are ephemeral and only see water during winter storms. Heavy rainfall during winter storms have high energy, cause landslides, and have the potential to transport sediment from small tributary drainages to waterways such as Laguna Creek or the San Lorenzo River.[10] Salmon and aquatic invertebrates depend on the rocky bottoms of these streams for survival. Therefore, loose dirt from human disturbance can potentially be damaging to the aquatic life, and the degree of impact from this runoff depends on the timing, volume and location.[11]
- Dirt roads, particularly the numerous poorly-maintained fire roads throughout the Santa Cruz region, are a significant potential contributor of sediment delivery to local streams, and specific management actions are in place to target these roads and reduce these impacts.[12] [13] There are few studies which attempt to quantify the volume of sediment delivery to streams from trails as compared to dirt roads.
  - One study from West Virginia modeled sediment in streams from various road and trail stream-crossings.[9] The researchers found sediment loads from un-improved trail stream-crossings to be 10 times greater than expected loads from an undisturbed forest. Sediment from fire roads with minimal improvements (water bars) was 200 times greater than an undisturbed forest. Sediment from

fire roads with significant erosion improvements (water bars, mulching, and brush cleared for fire mitigation) was similar to that of unimproved trails.

- The study did not model trails that were designed and built using best management practices for erosion and stream crossings. More research—particularly regionally appropriate studies and studies including appropriate trail design—is needed on this subject.

- While there is no doubt that some sediment generated by trail users (particularly on poorly designed and maintained trails) will ultimately find its way to local streams, the magnitude of this contribution—and its impact on aquatic life—is significantly less than that from un-maintained dirt roads, large rain storms, or landslide events.[11] [12]
  - Even so, our goal as trail stewards is to do what is in our power (e.g. trail design, maintenance, education) to minimize those impacts.[7] [8] [9] In addition to sustainable trail construction that reduces soil displacement, MBOSC has built bridges across major stream crossings to avoid direct impact of trail users on these streams.

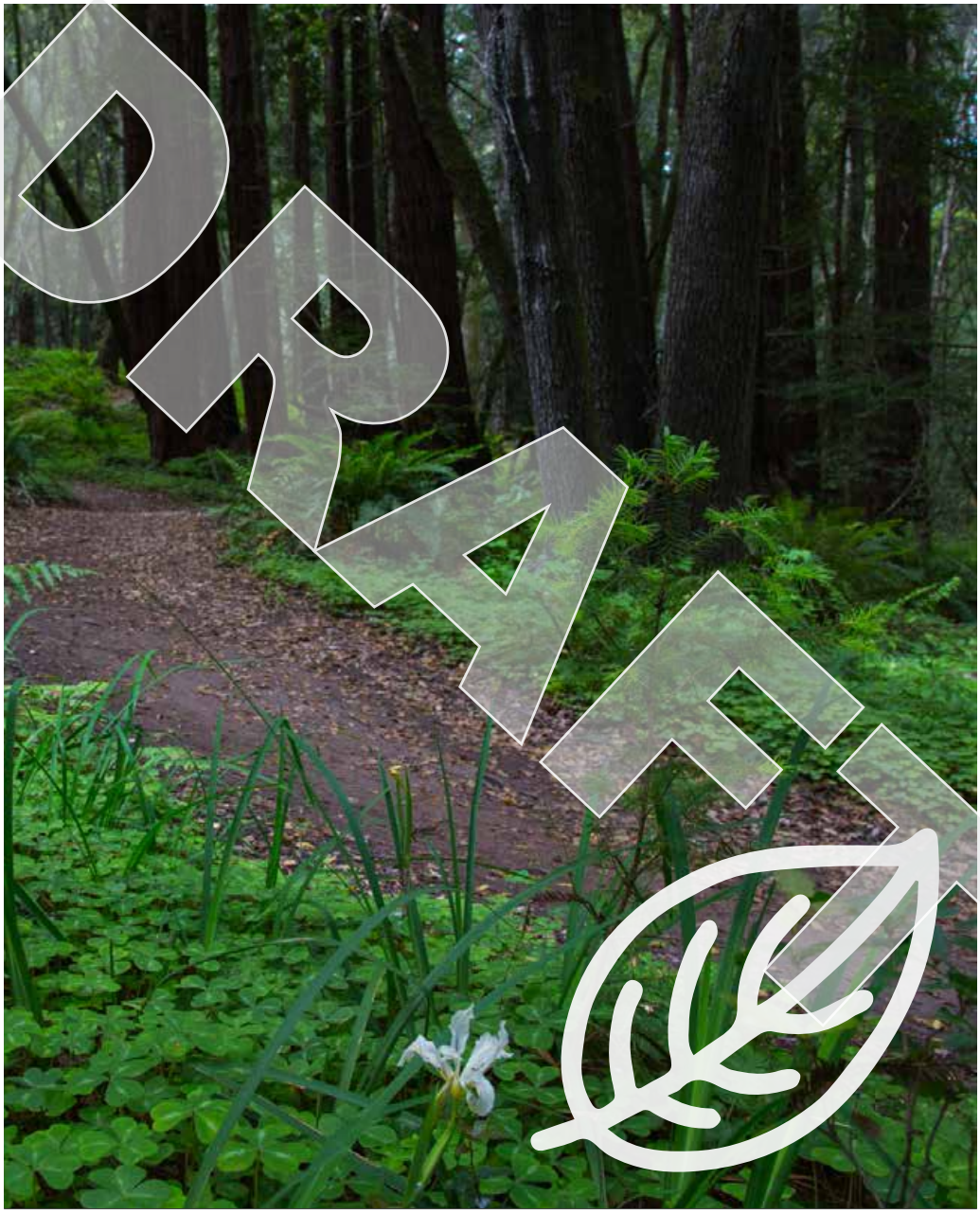
5) WHAT CAN I DO AS A TRAIL USER TO MINIMIZE MY IMPACT TO THE TRAIL, SOIL, AND ADJACENT DRAINAGES?

- Stay on the designed pathway of the trail, avoid unsanctioned trails and off-trail features.[14] [15]
- Slow or stop for hikers and oncoming riders to allow sufficient room for them to pass. Trails get widened and trail-side vegetation is impacted more when hikers have to step aside for bikers.[2] [14] [15]
- Avoid muddy or excessively wet trails. A good rule of thumb is that if the trail is soft enough to leave tire tracks, it is also soft enough to be damaged by riders. Wait a day or two before you head back out.[14] [16]
- If there are mud puddles in the trail, carefully ride through them. Don't go around them since that will widen the trail.
- Likewise, if there are ruts in the trail, ride them. Don't go around since that will lead to trail widening.
- Avoid last-minute, quick braking as this can lead to ruts and accentuate trail damage. As much as skill and visibility allow, look down the trail, anticipate what is ahead, and check your speed ahead of time.
- Learn how to feather your brakes; don't skid your tires.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs

PLANTS & WILDLIFE



MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

13

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs — PLANTS & WILDLIFE

1) GENERALLY SPEAKING, WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF MOUNTAIN BIKING ON WILDLIFE?

- The short answer is that it's complicated. It largely depends on the species encountered, the characteristics of the trail, and the conduct of the trail user.
- The creation and presence of human created trails may lead to the fragmentation of a landscape that was once intact.[1] [2] The effects of fragmentation on wildlife vary depending on the species and the scale of analyses and impact.[3] Fragmentation has been found to be more severe in areas where unsanctioned trails are common.[4]
  - For instance, Red-legged Frogs can be adversely impacted if a trail traverses within 100 meters of its habitat.[5]
  - Research has found that some bird species have decreased nest survival, increased predation, or lower nest density in areas fragmented by trails.[6] [7]
  - Other species, however, have been shown to use trails to their advantage for travel or foraging, demonstrating that the presence of trails can affect the local composition of species.[7]
- The trail user and that user's behavior also will dictate their impact on wildlife. Studies have shown that nesting birds may not be disturbed (e.g. the bird being startled from its nest/perch) by hikers or bikers quietly moving along a trail, but when trail users were noisy (e.g. talking) or when they stopped and/or approached the nest (e.g. birdwatchers), the likelihood of disturbance was significantly higher.[8] [9] [10] Most birds and mammals will react more strongly (i.e., flee) to off-trail recreationists than to on-trail users.[8] [9] [10] [11] [12]
- Research shows that noise can affect wildlife. Noise, however, is subjective and is perceived by different species in different ways.[13] [14] Studies have show that bicyclists passing quickly may cause less noise disturbance than other recreationalist on the trail.[11] [16] [32]
- A number of papers have attempted to synthesize the existing research of recreational impacts on wildlife worldwide. Findings show that a majority (>60%) of the studies reviewed demonstrated some form of negative impact on wildlife from all types of trail use (mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding).[15] [17] [18]
  - However, these same studies suggest that while recreational trail use may impact individual or groups of animals, population-level impacts to a species are less well-studied and poorly known.

2) HOW DO MOUNTAIN BIKES IMPACT WILDLIFE AS COMPARED TO OTHER TRAIL USERS?

- Many studies examined the impacts of recreation on wildlife by user type(s). The majority of these studies however didn't specifically address mountain biking, nor do they distinguish between the wide variety of mountain bike riding types (e.g. cross-country vs. downhill). The few studies that specifically addressed mountain biking have suggested the following:
  - Across a number of studies, researchers found that ungulates (such as deer and elk) are equally or less likely to be disturbed by mountain bikers than by hikers, joggers, or horseback riders.[11] [12]

- The negative effects of trail use on birds is equal across trail use types when users are quiet and continuously moving.[17] Birds tend to be more adversely affected when users stop along the trail, or when they make more noise.[8] [9] [10] [19]
- A study in a network of wildland reserves in Southern CA of disturbance to medium and large mammals found that all user types had negative effects, and that some types of human disturbance were more negative than others (from most to least impactful: pedestrian, bicycles, vehicles, dogs, equestrians).[20]
  - This study's researchers refer to these impacts as a form of "mortality-free predation" due to the fact that these animals preferentially avoid habitat that humans are a part of.

3) WHAT THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES ARE PRESENT IN THE SANTA CRUZ AREA, AND HOW DO MOUNTAIN BIKES AND TRAILS IMPACT THEM?

- There are numerous plants and animals in Santa Cruz county listed as threatened or endangered. These include: Red-legged Frog, Tiger Salamander, Long-toed Salamander, Marbled Murrelet, Steelhead & Coho Salmon, Mount Hermon June Beetle, Ohlone Tiger Beetle, Smith's Blue Butterfly, Zayante Band-winged Grasshopper, San Francisco Popcorn Flower, Santa Cruz Tarplant, Robust Spineflower, and San Francisco Dusky-Footed Woodrat.[21] [22]
- Threats to these species vary based on where they exist and how they respond to human disturbance.
  - Sedimentation in the San Lorenzo river and its tributaries is detrimental to salmon, a problem that can be made worse from erosion of poorly-built trails (see the Hydrology and Geology section, page 9). These impacts, as well as impacts to amphibians such as the Red-legged Frog[23] can be alleviated by proper trail construction and routing trails away from sensitive riparian areas.
  - The Ohlone Tiger Beetle (Cicindela ohlone) lives in coastal terrace habitat with open native grassland.[24] Historically it was known to exist in Pogonip Park and Moore Creek Preserve, but was last seen in 2004.[21] An increased awareness of trail users and regulation of mountain bike speed has been shown to have positive effects on the Ohlone tiger beetle on the University of California, Santa Cruz, campus.[25]
  - Sensitive plants such as the San Francisco Popcorn Flower, Santa Cruz Tarplant, and Robust Spineflower, are susceptible to trampling by off-trail users, and to the introduction of non-native species.[24] These impacts are mitigated by limiting off-trail use and by comprehensive vegetation surveys prior to any new trail construction or re-routing.

4) ARE THERE LINKAGES BETWEEN MOUNTAIN BIKES AND THE PRESENCE/SPREAD OF HARMFUL AND INVASIVE SPECIES? CAN MOUNTAIN BIKES SPREAD HARMFUL SPECIES MORE THAN OTHER TRAIL USERS?

- Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is known to occur in Santa Cruz County (suddenoakdeath.org). Hikers and mountain bikers don't differ in their ability to transmit the pathogen,

but research shows that the farther one travels on a trail, the higher the chance of encountering, picking up and distributing the pathogen.[26] Moist soil in shoes/tires can harbor live pathogens, whereas dried soil is less likely to re-infect, meaning washing shoe and tire tread of mud is critical in preventing the spread of SOD. Given the ability of recreationists to act as a vector in the transmission of SOD, public recreation lands tend to have higher incidence of SOD infected trees than do private lands closed to recreation.[26]

- Brown-headed cowbirds (who trick other birds into protecting and feeding their young, at the expense of the other species' own chicks) are known to be attracted to and use trails and open-corridors as access routes into forest interiors.[27] [28] [29 [30] However, other research on the subject did not find any relationship between cowbird abundance or nest exploitation and distance from trails.[7]
- In terms of invasive plants, trails and trail users can act as vectors and provide new opportunities for their spread. One study showed that the presence of invasive plant species decreased with distance from both trails and roads, and that invasive species cover was greater near unsanctioned trails. Due to the low sample size it is unclear whether trail type or distance from the nearest road was responsible for this trend.[31]

5) WHAT CAN I DO AS A TRAIL USER TO MINIMIZE MY IMPACT TO WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

- When it comes to Sudden Oak Death, it is good to be cognizant of your tires' ability to transmit this disease and clean your tires when riding in a new place. Also, the wetter the soil, the easier it is for harmful passengers to hitch a ride on a shoe or tire. This is another reason why it is better to ride or hike trails that aren't muddy or excessively wet.
- Studies show that it's best to keep moving when out on the trails and to maintain conversation at low or moderate levels.
    - Especially if you're riding in the early morning or late evening, when local species (such as bobcats, coyotes, and deer) are more active, be mindful of your speed and volume and how it might affect wildlife.
- When you do see wildlife, do not approach it.

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs

SOCIAL ISSUES



MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

17

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

MOUNTAIN BIKING IMPACT REVIEW FAQs — SOCIAL ISSUES

1) USER-CREATED ILLEGAL MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS ARE POPULAR AND PROLIFIC IN THE SANTA CRUZ AREA. CAN EXPANDING THE NETWORK OF SANCTIONED BIKE TRAILS ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM? OR WILL INDIVIDUAL TRAIL BUILDERS CONTINUE TO BUILD UNSANCTIONED TRAILS?

- The creation of unsanctioned trails is not just isolated to mountain bikers, and unsanctioned trails are a symptom of an unmet need for legitimate trail use options. There is a general lack of research attempting to quantify the degree to which sanctioned trail networks alleviate the illegal trail building.
  - Anecdotally, according to an outdoor recreation planner for the BLM, fewer rogue trails tend to appear when agencies work closely with local mountain biking groups rather than trying to manage an area alone.[1]

2) WHAT NUMBER OF LEGAL TRAILS ARE NECESSARY TO BUILD TO SATISFY THE DEMAND OF THE BIKING COMMUNITY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE? HOW WILL SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SUSTAINABLY BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE AND MANAGE THIS USER COMMUNITY?

- MBOSC is working to better understand this topic in Santa Cruz County through trail counting systems and collaborative projects with land managers and researchers.
- In Santa Cruz County, we have 220 miles of official single-track trails, of which less than 40 miles are open to bikes (this does not include fire roads).[2] The average rider in Santa Cruz County rides 15 miles per week and rides an average of 3 times per week.[3]

3) AS A MOUNTAIN BIKER, WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP REDUCE CONFLICT BETWEEN VARIOUS TRAIL USERS?

- Research indicates that interactions between mountain bikers and other trail users rarely generate conflicts on trails.[4] However, people riding mountain bikes are commonly perceived as a hazard to other trail users and this perception (more than actual interaction) can become a source of conflict.[5]
- Hikers and equestrians generally have safety concerns based on cyclist speed, cyclists not showing caution on blind corners, and cyclists surprising hikers and equestrians on trails due to the fact that they are comparatively quiet and are perceived to move more quickly.[6]
- While trail designers and land managers can play a large role in reducing multi-use trail conflict by designing trails with improved sight lines, passing opportunities, and adequate signage, it is the mountain biking community's interactions with other user groups that will shape perceptions of the sport and its user community. Mountain bikers can reduce potential conflict (or negative perceptions) while riding multi-use trails by:
  - Reducing speed well ahead of encountering other trail users. (A mountain biker may know how quickly hydraulic disk brakes will slow them down, but most hikers may not.)

- Slowing down on blind corners.
- Politely alerting other trail users on approach (e.g. using friendly verbal contact or a bike bell).

4) WHAT CAN WE DO WE KEEP OUR TRAILS SAFE AND AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE?

- It is imperative that mountain bikers be courteous, responsible, and acknowledge that they are members of the greater trail community. Popular perceptions are not in mountain bikers' favor, so the more we can do to dispel myths and help re-shape those perceptions, the better.
- For example, studies show that non-biking groups who actually encountered mountain bikers on trails had more positive opinions of mountain bikers compared with those who did not encounter mountain bikers.[4] [6]
  - We all use the trails for the common purpose of enjoying our beautiful environments, so the kinder and more communicative we can be with each other, the more enjoyment we will all get out of it.
- Reviews of conflicts on public lands indicate that the frequency of actual hazardous incidents between mountain bikers and other trail users is very low.[5]
  - Further research is warranted, but based on findings to date, actual incidents between mountain bikers versus hikers appears to be minimal.
  - MBOSC understands that a perceived safety conflict is still a significant issue, and we do our best as trail designers and stewards to address perceived and real safety concerns (such as facilitating positive social interaction, improving trail sight lines, and promoting the construction of user specified trails).

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ASK A QUESTION

Do you have another question to add to this list of Mountain Biking Impact Review FAQs, or would you like to submit more information on the topics covered in this document? Please contact the MBOSC Science Committee by visiting:

MBOSC.org/mtb-impact-faq_contact

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

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Projects like the Mountain Biking Impact Review FAQs would not be possible without support from the MBOSC community. If you want to help make Santa Cruz the best place to be a trail user, please consider supporting the organization by becoming a member, donating, or volunteering!

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When you become a member of MBOSC, you'll feel good knowing that you support building and maintaining Santa Cruz area trails. Your membership dues help fund:

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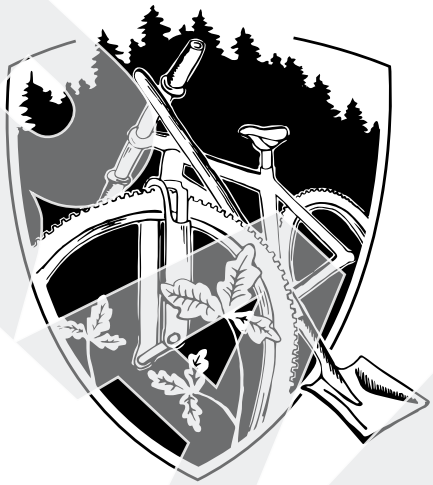




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A Comparative Study of Impacts to Mountain Bike Trails in Five Common Ecological Regions of the Southwestern U.S.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: A rapid increase in mountain biking participation over the past thirty years has led to concerns about ecological impacts to recreation environments, especially trails. It is widely accepted that recreational use of natural areas inevitably results in some degree of change to resource conditions, and managers must consider the social acceptability and ecological significance of such changes in their decision making. The ecological impacts of mountain biking, however, and relationships between impacts and trail features remain poorly understood.

This study uses Common Ecological Regions (CERs) as a mapped ecological framework to guide comparative analysis of differences in maximum trail incision and trail width at varying slope levels for mountain bike trails in five CERs in the southwest U.S. A point-measurement trail assessment procedure was utilized to measure maximum incision and width for 163.2 miles of mountain bike trails. Results show a significant effect of CER on trail width and maximum incision and a significant effect of trail slope on maximum trail incision. Maximum trail width and incision were greatest in the Arizona/New Mexico Mountains region, perhaps due to environmental features such as erodiable soils and sparse trailside vegetation, higher use, and/or user behavior. Maximum incision increased consistently with slope for three of five CERs.

Relative to other trail impact research, the sites assessed in this study were in similar condition to other trails on the specific parameters measured. The findings from this study reinforce results from previous research that certain impacts to mountain bike trails, especially width, are comparable or less than hiking or multiple-use trails, and significantly less than impacts to equestrian or off-highway vehicle trails.

KEYWORDS: Recreation ecology, recreation impacts, ecological impacts, impact assessment, trail management

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Mountain biking is an increasingly popular outdoor recreation activity in North America. Although use estimates vary, according to the recent National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (2003), general bicycling was the second most popular land-based recreation activity in the United States. Of those who bicycled, an estimated 45.2 million people, or nearly 21% of the American public biked on backcountry roads, trails, or cross country on a mountain bike at least once in the twelve months prior to the survey. Mountain biking provides important individual benefits (e.g., physical exercise and opportunities to experience nature), social benefits (e.g., family bonding), environmental benefits (e.g., preservation of natural areas for trails), and economic benefits (e.g., local and regional economic stimulus). Over the past two decades, technological improvements in mountain bike materials, components, and designs have facilitated dramatic increases in participation, allowing more and more people to realize the benefits of this recreation activity.

The rapid expansion of mountain biking also has led to concerns over the potential for undesirable social and ecological impacts to recreation environments. Management issues include safety of trail users, conflict, crowding, and resource degradation. The increase in mountain biking popularity thus far has outpaced efforts to understand this activity's associated impacts, leading to confusion, user conflict, and, in some cases, strict regulations for mountain biking on public lands (Edger, 1997). In some cases, managers have implemented actions such as spatial and temporal zoning, dispersal strategies, and trail closures to address concerns. Such direct management actions that limit access can be controversial and raise issues of equity. Furthermore, the lack of scientific understanding of ecological impacts on mountain bike trails limits informed decision making. A nationwide study of U.S. state park directors conducted by Schuett (1997) demonstrated the potential for uninformed management actions. Schuett found that 67% of state park directors felt that resource degradation from mountain biking was a problem in their parks, but less than 13% of the park systems had actually conducted any studies to assess the resource impacts from mountain biking. Similarly, Chavez (1993) cited studies that suggested U.S. Forest Service and U.S. National Park Service managers were concerned about resource degradation from mountain biking, but managers "could not discern whether damage was specifically because of mountain bike use" (p. 1). As Hendricks, Ramthun and Chavez (2001) noted, "Resource impacts attributable to mountain bikes have remained debatable and understudied. At this time there is not a well-developed body of research on the environmental impacts of off-road cycling" (p. 40).

It is widely accepted that recreational use of natural areas inevitably results in some degree of change to resource conditions, and managers must consider the magnitude, social acceptability, and ecological significance of such changes in their decision-making processes. In the absence of sound scientific information, however, managers may apply a precautionary principle, and choose to restrict use or take regulatory action that is based

on intuition, influence from advocacy groups, and questionable studies. Clearly, further research is needed to inform the development of best management practices to support sustainable mountain biking on established and properly constructed recreation trails.

Among the key factors affecting trail impacts deserving further study are: ecological attributes, such as vegetation and soil composition; use-related factors, such as amount and timing of use; and management factors such as trail design, alignment, and slope (Hammit & Cole, 1998; Leung & Marion, 1996). Although these significant influential factors and associated impacts have been identified, there have been relatively few quantitative studies of mountain bike trail impacts published to date that serve as building blocks for establishing relationships among the variables.

Furthermore, although there has been an increasing focus on the ecosystem concept in conservation and resource management in parks and recreation areas, the field of recreation ecology to date has not adopted a standardized mapped ecological region framework for organizing and comparing the studies that are conducted. Theoretically informed mapped ecological region frameworks are useful for classifying landscapes into hierarchical spatial units that represent characteristic patterns in the biophysical environment, human activities and impacts, and social and cultural meanings associated with landscapes (McMahon et al., 2004). Such frameworks are useful for describing and interpreting status and change in landscapes. McMahon et al. summarized the use of such frameworks by resource agencies in the U.S. and Canada which had mandated landscape assessments, biodiversity analysis, environmental monitoring and assessment, and selected indicators and standards for understanding environmental stressors and responses. According to McMahon et al., "The use of regions to stratify the underlying variability in natural conditions may increase the likelihood of detecting and understanding an environmental response generated by human activities" (p. 113). As recreation impacts are known to be related to both biophysical characteristics (e.g., soil, vegetation, and topography) as well as human activity (e.g., recreation type and amount, management intervention) it seems apparent that integrating impact studies with ecological regional frameworks might be fruitful. Also, using a standardized ecological region framework may facilitate the integration of recreation impact research into the widely accepted ecosystem research, assessment, and management framework.

To address these research needs, the goals of this study are twofold: one, to propose the use of Common Ecological Regions (CERs) (McMahon et al., 2001) as a mapped ecological region framework to guide comparative recreation impact research; and two, to evaluate the relationships between two influential factors and two common trail impacts. Specifically, this study assessed differences in maximum trail incision and trail width at varying slope levels for mountain bike trails in five common ecological regions in the southwest U.S.

Trail Impacts and the Emergence of Mountain Bike Research

The study of ecological impacts, often referred to as recreation ecology, has been, and continues to be a prominent field of inquiry for researchers, land managers, and academic professionals. Cole (1987) suggested that the field of recreation ecology began over 65 years ago with Meinecke's (1928) work on recreation impacts in the California Redwood State Parks. Recreation impacts research intensified during the 1960s and early 1970s as federal land management agencies sponsored studies to improve recreation management in natural areas. According to Leung and Marion (2000), the essence of today's ecological impact research and management lies in the desire to gain knowledge and to understand relationships among key causal and influential factors and significant effects. This knowledge is necessary to prevent, mitigate, and manage resource impacts. Campsites and trails receive the most attention from recreation impact researchers, with studies taking place in both remote backcountry and semi-remote front country settings.

The primary impact to recreation resources associated with trails occurs during initial trail design and construction (Birchard & Proudman, 2000; Sun & Walsh, 1998). Although this impact has the greatest magnitude and highest ecological significance, it is widely viewed as socially acceptable as the individual, social, and economic benefits of trail-based recreation typically outweigh the associated environmental costs (Cole, 1987). Most trail impact literature and recent research is organized around environmental and visitor-related factors (Hammit & Cole, 1998; Leung & Marion, 1996). Environmental impacts can be divided into four general categories: impacts to wildlife, water, vegetation, and soil. Visitor-related factors include amount of use, type of use, and user behavior. The foundation of recreation ecology research provides a platform for examining impacts associated with mountain biking.

The unprecedented explosion in mountain biking as a trail activity was sparked in the 1970s when cyclists began modifying bikes for off-road use (Schwartz, 1994). With balloon tires, a low, flat headset, and high clearance frame, mountain bikes brought drastic changes to places like Marin County, California. Fisher describes the early days: "In the mid-'70s we had a kind of cult riding everywhere on these clunkers" (Schwartz, 1994, p. 77). In 1981, Specialized Bicycle Components produced the first off-the-rack mountain bike, the Stumpjumper, and by 1999 mountain bike sales accounted to one-half of all units sold and one-third of all gross revenue for U.S. bicycle retailers (Bicycle Retailer & Industry News, 1999). In magazine articles from the 1980s, headlines portrayed mountain bikes as "Two-Wheel Terrors" (Foote, 1987) and "Vicious Cycles?" (Coello, 1989), and questioned whether mountain biking was "Sport or Spoil-Sport?" (Staub, 1984). Sensational captions depicted the "impacts" typical of mountain biking. Below a photo of bikers maneuvering a set of switchbacks, Foote included, "On the trail: cyclists pose a threat to nature" (p. 72). Next to a photo of two parallel bike tracks, Coello added the caption, "Along the

White Rim Trail, a jeep road in Canyonlands National Park, cyclists have gouged furrows on their way to the canyon rim" (p. 52). Cessford (1995a) questioned whether tread marks were an easy target, and one wonders if Coello would have made a similar statement about footprints leading to the canyon rim. Countering these claims, Grost (1989) noted that bikes "don't eat hay, grass ... or defecate" (p. 50) and "weigh about 872 pounds less than a horse" (p. 76).

In the 1980s and 1990s researchers began serious study of the social and environmental consequences of mountain biking. Hendricks (1997) recognized that "the 1990s have seen the mountain bike controversy mature from social and environmental issues debated with anecdotal evidence in board meetings, in popular magazines and through newspaper editorials to a land management issue supported by serious inquiry and examination" (p. 3). Researchers studied mountain biker demographics, preferences, and perceptions (Antonakos, 1993; Bowker & English, 2002; Cessford, 1995b; Goeft, 2000; Hollenhorst et al., 1995; Ruff & Mellors, 1993; Symmonds et al., 2000); manager preferences and management strategies (Baker, 1990; Chavez, 1996a, 1996b; Hendricks et al., 2001; Leberman & Mason, 2000; Mason & Leberman, 2000; Moore & Barhlow, 1997; Ruddell & Hendricks, 1997; Schuett, 1997); and social conflict (Banister et al., 1992; Carothers et al., 2001; Cessford, 2002; Ramthun, 1995; Watson et al., 1991).

The ecological impacts of mountain biking, however, remained poorly understood. In fact, several researchers indicated a need for further study in this area (Cessford, 1995a, 1995b; Chavez, 1996a; Chavez et al., 1993; Goeft, 2000; Goeft & Alder, 2001; Hendricks, 1997; Jacoby, 1990; Schuett, 1997; Thurston & Reader, 2001; Wilson & Seney, 1994). The absence of concrete information was evident in the earliest publications. In an early summary of mountain biking literature, Cessford (1995a) discussed ecological impacts and presented several astute observations, though the majority of his conclusions were derived from other forms of recreation, such as hiking and off-road motorcycling. His most notable inference was that mountain bikes will generate the most torque during uphill travel, but considerably less pressure on the trail in comparison to other users when moving downhill, although degradation is possible "in extremely wet conditions, on uncompacted surfaces, or due to poor braking practices" (p. 9). Cessford also admitted that the research available at that time could not reliably discern whether mountain biking was any more or less impacting than hiking, a sentiment shared by Ruff and Mellors (1993).

At the time of Cessford's (1995a) literature review, few physical impact studies included mountain biking. Wilson and Seney's (1994) quasi-experimental approach examined the effects of a mountain bike, hiker, horse, and motorcycle on runoff and sediment yield for trail sample plots in the Gallatin National Forest, Montana. The results of this analysis indicated that the four uses did not significantly alter runoff. With respect to sediment yield on pre-wetted plots, the horse and hiker dislodged more

material than the motorcycle and mountain bike. On dry plots, the hiker, mountain bike, and motorcycle produced similar sediment yields, but again the horse produced highest yield. Sediment yield for each use was greater for pre-wetted plots than for dry plots. Wilson and Seney acknowledged that soil texture and slope are equally important factors as used in determining sediment yield. Another comparative quasi-experimental design was applied to mountain biking by Thurston and Reader (2001), who assessed the effects of hiking and mountain biking on vegetation loss, species loss, and soil exposure. Their most pertinent finding was that there was no significant difference between the impacts of hiking and mountain biking for the three variables.

Bjorkman's (1998) dissertation included two studies conducted in Wisconsin's forests. In the first project, Bjorkman determined that sediment yield and erosion associated with mountain biking were lower on a surface treated with a nylon/polypropylene liner and covered with a material made from recycled tires than on an untreated trail. For the second analysis, Bjorkman monitored a variety of impact variables over the first five seasons of, and 90,000 passes on, two newly opened mountain biking trails. The primary findings were: the greatest change in vegetation loss, compaction, cross sectional area and centerline depth on steep slopes, and mean trampled width occurred early in trail use; impacts were largely confined to the trail centerline; and erosion and trail width were greatest on slopes with ≥ 24 percent grade, though erosion was not significant on less steep slopes. In similar research, Goeft and Alder (2001) examined changes in soil compaction, erosion, trail width, and vegetation cover over one year on both recreation and racing trails in southwestern Australia. They noted that erosion was greatest on downhill slopes and at curves, and that erosion and compaction were strictly on-trail impacts. Off-trail vegetation impacts and changes in trail width proved insignificant, though both were most pronounced following a race. Widening was also more likely on wet soils and during the rainy season.

From these studies, several key points are evident. The magnitude of ecological impacts attributed to mountain biking appear to be comparable to those of hiking, and appear less than motorized trail use and equestrian use. In many cases, soil structure, slope, and environmental factors are as influential as type and amount of use in determining impacts such as soil loss. If managed properly, impacts such as compaction and vegetation loss can be confined to the trail, with minimal damage to trail peripheries. Mountain bikes have the greatest potential to damage trails in wet and muddy conditions and on steep uphill (spinning tires) and downhill slopes (skidding), which may prove problematic for managers, as many mountain bikers prefer challenging technical sections. In Bjorkman's (1998) words, "Usage has little influence in explaining impacts to the trail... The first several thousand passes create the most change whether later total use levels are 10,000 or 90,000" (p., 122). Though these limited findings acknowl-

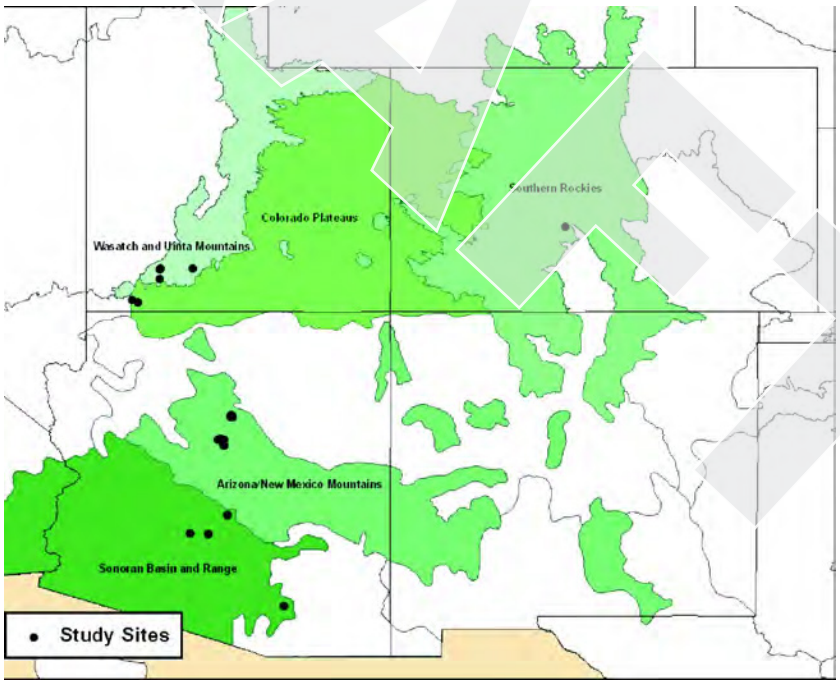
edge an incomplete understanding of the physical impacts of mountain biking, they do provide an early indication of conditions that may exist in the field.

Study Methods

Common Ecological Regions (CERs) Provide an Organizing Spatial Framework

This study was conducted in five common ecological regions in the southwest U.S.: Sonoran Basin and Range; Arizona/New Mexico Mountains; Colorado Plateau; Southern Rocky Mountains; and Wasatch and Uinta Mountains (see Figure 1). These ecological regions are a subset of a larger spatial framework developed through a cooperative partnership of nine U.S. federal earth science and resource management agencies. The CER spatial framework "is a mapped set of geographic regions that supports agency programs or studies" that was developed to guide cooperative ecosystem research efforts and facilitate "regionally generalized results from local investigations" (McMahon et al., 2001, p. 293-294). Thus, by using the ecological regions framework developed by the cooperating agencies, which include the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Man-

Figure 1
Map of Study Sites



agement, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service, researchers may obtain an "increased measure of confidence in moving from the results of their investigations to characterizing the region as a whole" (McMahon et al., p. 301).

The common ecological regions are based on similarities in biotic, abiotic, terrestrial, and aquatic features of the environment as well as social and cultural meanings attached to those environments (McMahon et al., 2004). These various factors were incorporated into the CERs from the amalgamation of three preliminary spatial frameworks developed by the Forest Service (USFS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) (McMahon et al., 2001). Each of these three prevailing frameworks was created according to agency agendas and management directions. The latest Forest Service framework, for example, was spawned from an agency focus on ecosystem-based approach to managing national forests and grasslands. The NRCS major land resources framework was shaped from practical USDA requirements for soil classifications necessary for assessing agriculture potential and land use. The MLRA and other NRCS frameworks and soil maps work in a hierarchical manner when placed under the umbrella of the CER framework. Similar to the original USFS approach, the EPA framework is aligned with an overall ecosystem view. McMahon et al. (2001) provided a thorough review of how these three original and contributing frameworks have undergone subsequent quantitative and qualitative analysis to create the interagency coordinated CERs.

The five CERs in which data were collected for this study are characterized by vegetation, soils, physiographic, land use, land cover, and geology elements represented in the contributing frameworks mentioned above. The Sonoran Basin and Range region is characterized by extensive areas of palo verde-cactus shrub and giant saguaro cactus and has large tracts of federally managed lands. The basins are marked by grama-tobosa shrubsteppe while the ranges are covered with oak-juniper woodlands, and ponderosa pine on the higher elevations. The Arizona/New Mexico Mountains region is a relatively dry, warm environment, with chaparral at lower elevations, pinyon-juniper, and oak woodlands at lower to middle elevations, and higher elevations covered by Ponderosa pine forests and smaller areas of spruce, fir, Douglas fir, and aspen. In the Colorado Plateau region, differences in elevation distinguish this region from nearby Arizona/New Mexico Plateau where it reaches lower and Wyoming Basin to the north as it is generally more elevated. In large, low-lying areas, saltbrush-greasewood vegetation is dominant. The pinyon-juniper woodlands of the elevated plateaus of this region include sheer sidewalls of abrupt changes in local relief, ranging from 300-600 meters. The Wasatch and Uinta Mountains region, also the westernmost region in this study, encompasses a central area of high, precipitous mountains with intermittent valleys, plateaus, and open high mountains. Vegetation is manifest in a banded pattern where aspen, chaparral, and juniper-pinyon and oak are

common at middle elevations. The region is also typified by less lodgepole pine and a greater emphasis on grazing livestock than in the neighboring Middle Rockies region to the north. Finally, the Southern Rockies region, which marks the eastern extent of the areas studied, includes high elevations and steep, rocky mountains. Large portions of this region are covered by coniferous forest, while the highest elevations take on alpine characteristics. Similar to the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains region, elevation banding dictates vegetation, soil, and land use in the Southern Rockies region. Lower elevations contain grasses and shrubs and are grazed heavily. Moderate elevations include grazing and are covered by Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, aspen, and juniper and oak woodlands. Higher elevations are abundant with coniferous forests that receive minimal grazing activity (US Environmental Protection Agency, 2005). Although there is variability in biotic and abiotic elements within ecological regions, this spatial framework provides a useful system for segmenting the region and providing context for interpretation and extrapolation of environmental research findings.

Trail Selection

The goal of the trail selection procedure was to identify mountain bike trails or trail segments within each ecological region that were generally typical of trail conditions in that region. A comprehensive list of potential trail segments was developed in cooperation with land management agencies and mountain bike and trail associations. The focus was to identify trail segments identified by the responsible management agency as system trails—in keeping with the purpose of the research to examine impacts to existing trails where mountain biking might be sustained as a legitimate activity. Some trail segments were initially user-created but had been adopted into the agency trail system if design parameters were within agency specifications. To isolate impacts associated with mountain bike trails to the greatest extent possible in a field research setting, trail segments were excluded from the sample frame if motorized use, equestrian use, or multiple-use was dominant. We initially planned to use a 3 x 3 x 5 full factorial design with three levels of use (low/medium/high) and three levels of slope (low/medium/high) across five ecological regions; however, once candidate trail segments were identified, the necessary diversity in use level in each region was lacking, given the use-type restrictions. Specifically, there were inadequate data points to fill cells for low use levels for four of the five CERs and medium use level for two of the five CERs. Ultimately, a total of 162.3 miles of trails were purposively selected in the five common ecological regions. Thus, several limitations of the completed sample should be noted, including the lack of diversity in use levels across the five study regions, the lack of verifiable use level information, and the small number of sample points collected in the Colorado Plateau region, which resulted from time and resource limitations for the field research data collection. Future researchers should consider collecting systematic trail use level information using trail counters or other methods.

The completed sample of trail segments in each region cannot be determined to be representative of that region and extrapolation of the study findings to the ecological region as a whole, is inappropriate at this time, and thus our findings should be cautiously interpreted at larger spatial scales. By adopting the common ecological regions as an eco-spatial framework for recreation impact research, however, we aim to encourage the long-term development of a comprehensive knowledge base of impact conditions across these regions. The CER framework is available for download as a GIS layer (US Environmental Protection Agency, 2005) and subsequent research utilizing this framework would facilitate comparative spatial analyses and ultimately confident generalizations about the relationships between specific causative and non-causative but related factors and specific impacts across different regions of the U.S., thus overcoming one of the limitations of recreation impact research—namely that research tends to be opportunistic, site-specific and driven by specific management concerns.

Trail Impact Assessment Procedures

A point-measurement trail assessment procedure was utilized in this study, focusing on measuring maximum incision and trail width. The point sampling method is most appropriate for assessing trail impacts, such as incision and width, which are continuous along the trail (Marion & Leung, 2001). For the point measurement method, a bicycle wheel measuring computer was used to identify systematic sampling points at intervals located every 805m (1/2 mile) along the trail after a random start point near the trailhead. Leung and Marion (1999) examined the influence of sampling interval on the accuracy of trail impact assessments for frequency of occurrence and lineal extent for four common impacts (tread incision, wet soil, exposed roots, multiple trailing) and found that intervals of less than 100m provided the most accurate estimate of lineal extent. Recognizing the inefficiency of such sampling intensity for most settings, however, the authors concluded that "sampling intervals between 100m-500m are therefore recommended to achieve an appropriate balance between estimate accuracy and efficiency of field work" (p. 178). Thus, a limitation of this study is a large sampling interval relative to other studies and the potential for loss in accuracy. The justification for this approach was to include as large a sample of trail miles as possible across a broad geographic region in this exploratory investigation.

At each sample point, trail boundaries were defined to include the area where the vast majority of trail use (>90%) occurred by identifying visually obvious disturbance indicated by changes in ground vegetation height, cover and composition. Temporary stakes were placed at the trail boundaries to establish a transect perpendicular to the trail tread. Trail width was defined as the distance between the trail boundary points and measured in inches to the nearest inch. A taut nylon cord was stretched between the base of the stakes and maximum trail incision (MIC) was measured as the maximum depth from the string to the trail surface in inches to the nearest

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quarter inch. At each measurement point, technicians used digital camera to capture site images and recorded locations using Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver. Data were collected between May 2003 and March 2005 during the primary use season for each ecological region, entered into an online Microsoft Access 2003 database and analyzed using SPSS (Version 12).

Results

Data for the study were collected from 162.3 miles of mountain bike trails across five common ecological regions, which resulted in 319 point measurements (see Table 1). Of the 162.3 miles of trails assessed, 91.7 miles were managed by the U.S. Forest Service, 27.5 miles by a county parks and recreation agency, 16.4 miles by a state government agency, 17.8 miles by the Bureau of Land Management, and 8.9 miles by a city government.

Table 1
Mileage of Mountain Bike Trails Assessed and Number of Sample Points Across Three Categories of Slope for Five Common Ecological Regions

	Mileage	Sample points			
		< 5%	5% to 10%	> 10%	Total
Colorado Plateaus	17.8	9	21	7	37
Wasatch and Uinta Mountains	26.8	16	19	19	54
Southern Rockies	29.3	15	25	12	52
Arizona / New Mexico Mountains	35.6	26	25	25	76
Sonoran Basin and Range	52.8	52	22	26	100
Total	162.3	118	112	89	319

Mountain biking was the dominant activity on all trail segments, with three trails engineered specifically for this use.

Trail slope is a key factor influencing potential for impacts to soil and vegetation on recreation trails (Goeft, 2000; Wilson & Seney, 1994) with trail slopes greater than 12% typically associated with higher potential for degradation. As shown in Table 2, 37% of the sample points had a slope of less than 5%, 35% had a slope of 5% to 10%, and 27% had a slope greater than 10%. The mean slope for all sample points in the study was 7.6% with a minimum of 0% and a maximum of 38%. Considering the trail segments in each of the CERs, the mean slopes were: Sonoran Basin and Range (7%); Arizona/New Mexico Mountains (8%); Colorado Plateau (7%); Southern Rocky Mountains (7%); Wasatch and Uinta Mountains (8%).

The mean maximum trail incision, or trail depth, across all sample points was 1.48 in. with a median of 1.0 in. and maximum 10.0 in. The

Table 2
Mean Trail Width and Maximum Incision at Three Slope Levels Across Five Common Ecological Regions

Common Ecological Region	Trail Grade	Trail Width (ft.)	MIC (in.)
Colorado Plateaus	< 5%	1.87	0.78
	5% to 10%	2.24	1.14
	> 10%	2.41	1.00
Wasatch and Uinta Mountains	< 5%	2.14	1.06
	5% to 10%	2.31	1.31
	> 10%	2.28	1.74
Southern Rockies	< 5%	1.94	1.73
	5% to 10%	2.10	2.00
	> 10%	4.02	1.67
Arizona / New Mexico Mountains	< 5%	3.45	1.62
	5% to 10%	4.12	1.88
	> 10%	2.61	2.20
Sonoran Basin and Range	< 5%	2.48	0.83
	5% to 10%	2.34	1.55
	> 10%	1.84	1.61

mean trail width across all sample points was 32 in., with a median of 26 in. and a maximum of 109 in. Table 3 displays the values for trail width and maximum trail incision by each trail slope category and across the five ecological regions. Multiple analysis of variance (MANOVA) was used to examine the relationships between the influential factors of CER and slope and the impacts of trail width and maximum trail incision. For MANOVA, the assumption is that dependent variables are multivariate normal; however analysis of variance is robust to departures from normality. The results, displayed in Table 4, showed a significant main effect of CER on both trail width and maximum trail incision. Average trail width for the sample points was significantly higher in the Arizona/New Mexico Mountains than all other regions; this was followed by Sonoran Basin and Range, Wasatch and Uinta Mountains, Southern Rocky Mountains, and Colorado Plateau. MIC was highest for the sample points in the Arizona/New Mexico

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Table 3
Multiple Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) for Impact Parameters

Source	Dependent Variable	*df*	*MS*	*F*	*p*
Model	Width[a]	14	11.35	5.576	<.0005
	MIC[b]	14	4.38	4.007	<.0005
CER	Width	4	37.04	18.196	<.0005
	MIC	4	6.96	6.371	<.0005
Slope	Width	2	1.80	.885	.414
	MIC	2	4.67	4.272	.015
CER*Slope	Width	8	0.75	.371	.936
	MIC	8	0.79	.723	.671

Note. [a]R^2 = .20 (Adjusted R^2 = .17); [b]R^2 = .16 (Adjusted R^2 = .12).

Table 4
Multiple Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) for Impact Parameters

Source	Dependent Variable	df	MS	F	P
Model	Width[a]	14	11.350	5.576	.000
	MIC[b]	14	4.380	4.007	.000
CER	Width	4	37.037	18.196	.000
	MIC	4	6.964	6.371	.000
Slope	Width	2	1.802	.885	.414
	MIC	2	4.670	4.272	.015
CER*Slope	Width	8	.754	.371	.936
	MIC	8	.791	.723	.671

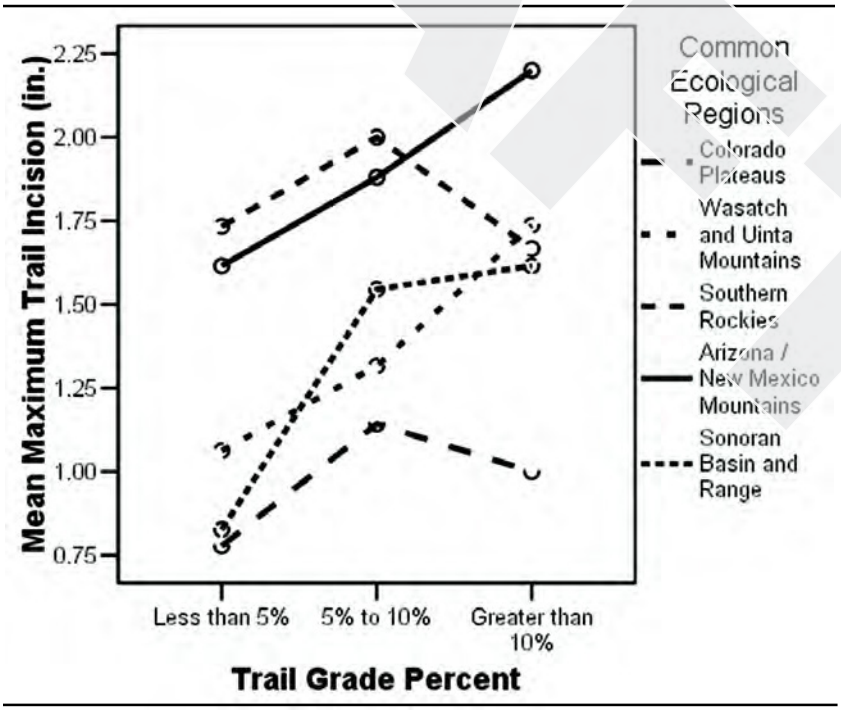
Note. [a]R^2 = .204 (Adjusted R Squared = .168); [b]R^2 = .156 (Adjusted R Squared = .117).

Mountains, followed by Southern Rocky Mountains, Wasatch and Uinta Mountains, Sonoran Basin and Range, and Colorado Plateau.

There was a significant main effect of trail slope on maximum trail incision—as slope increased, maximum incision increased. MIC for slopes of less than 5% was significantly lower than slopes of 5% to 10% and significantly lower than for slopes of greater than 10%. The latter two slope categories were not significantly different. There was not a significant main effect of trail slope on trail width, but, generally, as slope increased, trail width increased. Average trail width was 30 in. for slopes less than 5%, 32 in. for slopes 5% to 10%, and 34 in. for slopes greater than 10%. Figure 2 displays the findings for MIC across three categories of trail slope for each CER. For three of the five CERs—Arizona/New Mexico Mountains, Sonoran Basin and Range, and Wasatch and Uinta Mountains—incision was smallest on slopes less than 5%, higher on slopes 5% to 10%, and highest on slopes greater than 10%. In the two other regions, different patterns emerged. In the Colorado Plateaus, MIC increased from 0.78 in. at slopes less than 5% to 1.14 in. at slopes of 5% to 10%, but fell to 1.00 in. at slopes of greater than 10%. MIC for sample points in the Southern Rockies CER was 1.73 in. at less than 5% slope and increased to 2.00 in. at 5% to 10% slopes, but MIC lowest at slopes of greater than 10% (1.67 in.).

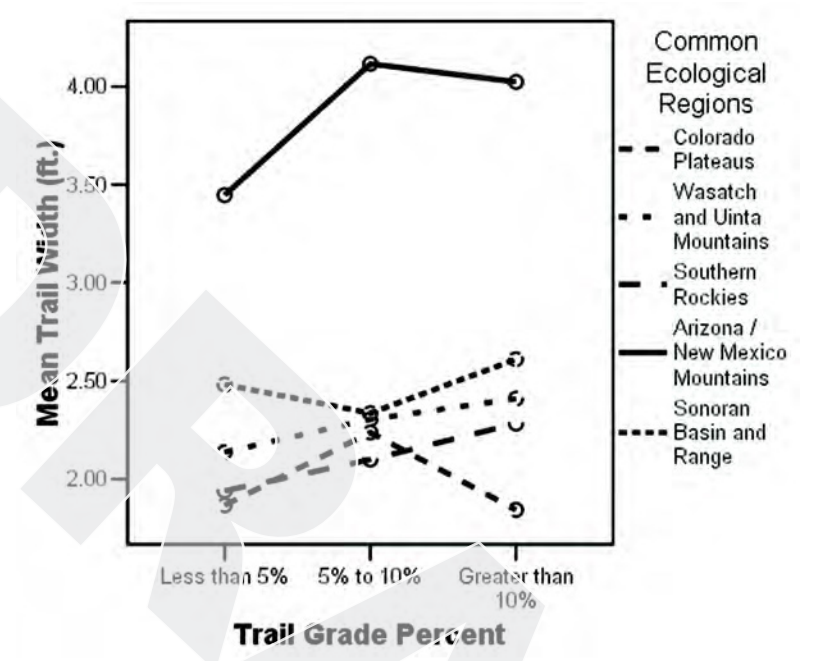
The effects of slope and CER on trail width are graphed in Figure 3. As noted earlier, slope did not have a significant effect on width for the sample points in the study, although in general higher slopes were associated with

Figure 2
Mean Maximum Trail Incision at Three Different Slope Levels Across Five Common Ecological Regions



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Figure 3
Mean Trail Width at Three Different Slope Levels Across Five Common Ecological Regions



higher trail width. For sample points in three of the five CERs—Arizona/New Mexico Mountains, Wasatch and Uinta Mountains, and Southern Rockies, the trend lines show higher slopes to be associated with increasing width, but the differences are small. Trail width for the sample points in the Arizona/New Mexico Mountains was significantly greater than all other regions at each slope level. In this region, width increased from 42 in. at less than 5% slope to 50 in. at 5% to 10% slopes and 48 in. at greater than 10% slope. For sample points in Colorado Plateaus, width increased from 22 in. at the lower slopes to 27 in. at the middle slopes, but then dropped to 22 in. at the steeper slopes. On the contrary, trail width for points in the Sonoran Basin and Range was lowest in the 5% to 10% slope category. The interaction between CER and slope was not significant.

Conclusions

Data for this study were collected from 319 sample points gathered from 162.3 miles of mountain bike trails in five common ecological regions of the southwest United States. Significant differences were identified between trails in different common ecological regions for both trail width and maximum incision. Trail width at sample points in the Arizona/New Mexico Mountains was significantly higher than sample points for all other

regions. These finding may be explained by environmental features such as vegetation associations or soil, or by use-related variables or management factors at the specific trails included in this study. Without adequate controls, it is not possible to isolate the effects of each contributing factor, but several explanations are plausible. Environmentally, the dominant vegetation for most trail segments in the Arizona/New Mexico Mountains was sparse chapparal and pinyon-juniper and the soil was mostly sandy-loam to loam. Such relatively sparse vegetation and fine, homogenous soils may not prevent trail widening as effectively as, for instance, the imposing trailside cactus vegetation and rockier soils in the Sonoran Basin and Range or the more densely forested portions of the Southern Rockies and Wasatch and Uinta Mountains. Regarding use-related factors, the sampled trails in the Arizona/New Mexico Mountains region are located in the Coconino National Forest near Sedona and Flagstaff, Arizona and these trails were the most heavily used in the study. The trails are popular for day hiking and it is hypothesized that heavy use and user behavior contributed to increased width. For instance, although systematic observation of recreation behavior was not part of this study, field researchers' notes suggest that as mountain bikers passed others on the higher-use trails, users leave the main tread, disturbing soil and vegetation. This use-related explanation is consistent with Marion and Leung's (2001) study of trails in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which found that trail width was the only impact condition significantly related to use level. Regarding maximum incision, values were significantly higher in the Arizona/New Mexico Mountains and Southern Rockies regions than all other regions.

Consistent with previous mountain bike trail research (Goeft & Alder, 2001; Wilson & Seney, 1994), increasing slope was associated with greater impact; in this case maximum incision. Specifically, MIC was greater at slopes of 5% to 10% than at slopes of less than 5% in all five CERs. This finding is significant, suggesting a direct relationship between slope and MIC, especially at small to moderate slopes. Future research might test this hypothesis through a multiple regression analyses to isolate the relative contribution of slope and ecological characteristics, as well as use level, and management agency. Although the interaction between CER and slope was not statistically significant, the pattern of results in the data show that MIC on sample points from two regions—Southern Rockies and Colorado Plateaus—was lower at slopes of greater than 10% than at slopes of 5% to 10%. This pattern may be explained by increased management attention to those trail segments at greater slopes, lower use on steep trail segments, or by more resistant soils. Further investigation is necessary to determine if environmental features, use-related variables, or management factors mediate the relationship between slope and incision at higher slopes. Trail slope was related to maximum incision but not trail width.

Relative to other trail impact research, the sites assessed in this study were in similar condition on the specific parameters measured. Average overall trail width for all sample points in our study was 32 in., with a median

of 26 in., and average maximum incision was 1.48 in. with a range of 0 to 10 and median of 1.0 in. The width and depth of the trails in this study are similar to the multiple use trails Great Smoky Mountains National Park discussed by Marion and Leung (2001), where point sampling method found the range of width to be 9 in. to 57 in. with a median of 17 in., and a range of incision within current tread boundary of 0 in. to 6 in. and a median of 0 in. Average width in our study was similar to lower use mountain bike trails in Australia studied by Goeft and Alder (2001), which found width to range from 17 in. to 26 in., and mountain bike trails in Tennessee assessed by Marion and Olive (2004), which found average width to be 24 in. In the Marion and Olive study, average width for horse trails was 81 in. and average width on ATV trails was 104 in.; in that study, bike trails had significantly less erosion as measured by cross-sectional area, and less muddiness than horse and ATV trails as well. Similarly, Aust et al. (2005) found an average width of 82 in. for equestrian trails in Hoosier National Forest in Indiana. The findings from our study thus reinforce results from previous research that certain impacts to mountain bike trails, especially width, are comparable or less than hiking or multiple-use trails, and significantly less than impacts to equestrian or off-highway vehicle trails. Although our study focused on only two impacts, when combined with the findings of previous studies (Goeft & Alder, 2001; Wilson & Seney, 1994), a consensus seems to be emerging that recreation impacts to mountain bike trails are largely confined to the main tread and mountain biking is likely a sustainable activity on properly managed trails, at least in the environments studied thus far. To determine the sustainability of mountain biking, however, further research is warranted into other, potentially more ecologically significant impacts, such as wildlife disturbance or introduction and spread of invasive species, and across a broad range of ecological regions.

Our study does suggest that moderate to severe slopes are an area of management concern for increased incision; although we did not assess erosion (e.g., through cross sectional area), this is also a concern for moderate to severe slopes. This is potentially problematic as studies have shown that mountain bikers tend to prefer trails with steeper slopes, downhill features, and sharp curves (Cessford, 1995b; Goeft & Alder, 2001; Hollenhorst et al., 1995). For the trails in our study, the impacts were relatively modest, but systematic monitoring would be prudent. Managers may also want to clearly define and encourage a narrow trail tread in environments, such as the Arizona/New Mexico Mountains, that facilitate free travel along the trail periphery and on multiple-use trails where hikers and bikers frequently pass one another.

A final contribution of this study is the introduction of CERs as an organizing eco-spatial framework for recreation impact research. Additional studies that use this framework will facilitate comparisons of findings and ultimately allow for increased statistical power and meta-analyses to isolate the relative importance of various causal and influential factors on a

wide range of impacts. Such studies, especially when using GIS analyses, have the potential to assist researchers and managers in moving from localized investigations to regionalized generalizations. Despite limitations, this study represents an exploratory first step in this progression.

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Belmont Waterdog Trail Keeper - Volunteer Hour Tracker

Date of Work	Project	Location	# of Volunteers	Hours/Volunteer	Total Hours
2/25/2018	Culvert and rolling grade reversal	Upper Rambler	2	4.0	8.0
3/24/2018	French drain addition	Lake Loop	2	6.0	12.0
3/31/2018	Trail corridor trimming	John Brooks	1	6.0	6.0
4/26/2018	Outslope tread, add grade reversal	John Brooks - CCC trail	2	4.0	8.0
5/9/2018	Trail corridor trimming	Finch	1	10.0	10.0
5/30/2018	Decking replacement	Ohlone	1	4.0	4.0
5/20/2018	Bridge replacement	Rambler-Canyon Creek	1	12.0	12.0
6/1/2018	Trail corridor trimming	Chap, Ohlone, Rambler,	3	12.0	36.0
12/2/2018	Tread sloping, grade reversals	Flow	2	5.0	10.0
12/14/2018	Tread outsloping, drainaige	Lake Loow	1	4.0	4.0
1/19/2019	Lake Loop muddy section outslope and drainage	Lake Loop	8	4.0	32.0
1/29/2019	Slippery ramp	Berry	2	3.0	6.0
2/23/2019	Trail maintenance to remove ruts	Chapparal	4	5.0	20.0
3/11/2019	Tire Brush for sudden oak death	Hidden Valley	1	6.0	6.0
3/15/2019	Trail maintenance to remove ruts on switch backs	Finch	1	5.0	5.0
5/14/2019	Trail corridor trimming	Lake Loop	5	4.0	20.0
5/24/2019	Vegetation Cleanup	Lower Rambler	5	3.0	15.0
5/27/2019	New Ladder Ramp trail corridor trimming	Chapparel	1	8.0	8.0
5/29/2019	New Bridge	Finch	1	20.0	20.0
5/31/2019	Bridge fix (gap in planks)	Rambler	1	3.0	3.0
6/15/2019	Vegetation Cleanup	Upper Creek & Finch	3	10.0	30.0
6/7/2019	Felled Tree	Chapparal	1	4.0	4.0
6/18/2019	Add chicken wire to bridges	Ohlone	2	3.0	6.0
1/2/2020	Reroute trail away from creek erosion	Lower Creek	1	6.0	6.0
1/4/2020	Tread maintenance, trail corridor trimming	Rambler	16	5.0	80.0
1/11/2020	Bridge over mud pit	Lake Loop	1	8.0	8.0
1/12/2020	Felled tree removal	John Brooks	1	2.0	2.0
1/11/2020	Lake Loop bridge replacement	Lake Loop	2	8.0	16.0
1/20/2020	Rambler bridge replacement	Rambler	2	6.0	12.0

Belmont Waterdog Trail Keeper - Volunteer Hour Tracker

Date of Work	Project	Location	# of Volunteers	Hours/Volunteer	Total Hours
1/25/2020	Ohlone shortcut removal	Ohlone	2	3.0	6.0
1/18/2020	Barrel art project	Flow	2	6.0	12.0
2/20/2020	Tread inslope, rolling grade reversals	Flow	2	4.0	8.0
2/28/2020	Lake Loop - West Side Drainage fix	Lake Loop	24	5.0	120.0
3/12/2020	Upper Finch - trail corridor trimming	Finch	2	4.0	8.0
3/13/2020	Rambler switchbacks trail corridor trimming	Rambler	2	3.0	6.0
3/25/2020	Lake Loop Fallen Tree Removal	Lake Loop	3	1.0	3.0
4/22/2020	Rambler trimming	Rambler	2	4.0	8.0
4/25/2020	Chapparal trimming	Chapparal	5	4.0	20.0
4/26/2020	Chapparal trimming	Chapparal	2	3.0	6.0
4/20/2020	Canyon Creek trimming	Canyon Creek	2	5.0	10.0
4/28/2020	pruning, removal of pressure treated wood	Rambler, Canyon Creek	1	2.0	2.0
4/29/2020	trimming	Ohlone, Ramb switchbac	3	3.0	9.0
5/1/2020	trimming	LLoop, Ensatina, Berry	7	5.0	35.0
4/30/2020	trimming	Chapparal	1	6.0	6.0
5/4/2020	trimming	Ensatina	1	3.0	3.0
5/6/2020	Canyon Creek bridge decking replacement	Canyon Creek	2	4.0	8.0
5/11/2020	trimming	Rambler	1	3.0	3.0
6/13/2020	trimming	Rambler switchbacks	2	3.0	6.0
6/12/20	litter removal - pliking	Hallmark side of park	2	2.0	4.0
5/30/20	trimming	Finch	2	4.0	8.0
6/6/20	trimming	Upper Creek trail	1	2.0	2.0
5/23/20	trimming	Flow	1	3.0	3.0
6/15/20	litter removal - pliking	John Brooks and Chap	1	2.0	2.0
8/2/20	litter removal - pliking	Chap and JB	1	2.0	2.0
7/25/20	litter removal - pliking	Racoon Run, Hidden Car	1	2.0	2.0
12/31/20	litter removal - pliking	John Brooks, Chap	1	2.0	2.0
12/28/20	cheater line removal Ohlone, Rambler retread	Ohlone	2	5.0	10.0
12/26/20	add GetAGrip	Rambler, Finch bridges	2	2.0	4.0

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Belmont Waterdog Trail Keeper - Volunteer Hour Tracker

Date of Work	Project	Location	# of Volunteers	Hours/Volunteer	Total Hours
12/19/20	Chap retread, rut removal, drainage	Chaparral	5	5.0	25.0
12/20/20	Chap switchback cheater removal, reveg	Chaparral	3	4.0	12.0
12/12/20	Chap new bridge over new pond	Chapparal	3	4.0	12.0
12/18/20	add GetAGrip	Lake Loop	2	1.0	2.0
11/28/20	close chute to Hidden Canyon	Elevator	4	1.0	4.0
11/28/20	shoulder rehabilitation / cheater removal	Canyon Creek	4	2.0	8.0
1/2/21	add nicks to drain puddles on Chap, Ohlone, Rambler, Hidden Canyon		1	4.0	4.0
1/9/21	repair damaged log ramp on Chap	Chaparral	2	3.0	6.0
1/12/21	GetAGrip on Lake Loop bridges	Lake Loop	1	3.0	3.0
1/24/21	clear felled tree on Flow	Flow	2	2.5	5.0
1/24/21	drainage on Canyon Creek and Upper Creek	Canyon Creek	1	3.5	3.5
1/31/21	remove felled tree on Ensatina	Ensatina	1	2	2.0
5/9/21	brush in cutthroughs on JB	John Brooks	1	3	3.0
4/25/21	chainsaw felled oak on Berry	Berry	2	3	6.0
5/22/21	close and brush in Quick Escape, JB connector	Berry	4	3	12.0
10/30/21	dead tree removal	Chaparal	1	2	2.0
10/23/21	nick cleanout	Ohlone, Chapparal, Raml	1	3	3.0
11/9/21	root removal and resurface	Finch	1	3	3.0
11/10/21	removal of trail braid, rehab of barren area	Rambler	1	4	4.0
11/27/2021	culvert cleanout	John Brooks	2	4	8.0
11/30/2021	fallen trees on Ohlone	Ohlone	3	3	9.0
12/4/21	culvert cleanout	John Brooks	1	4	4.0
12/11/21	more culvert cleanout	John Brooks	1	4.5	4.5
1/3/2022	removal of berms on Chap	Chapparal	2	5	10.0
1/8/22	walk after rain, cleanout nicks, drain puddles	Chap, Ohlone, Rambler,	1	4	4.0
1/8/22	culvert cleanout	Rambler	1	4	4.0
1/16/22	culvert cleanout	Rambler	1	4	4.0
1/18	fix ruts	Finch switchbacks	1	7	7.0
1/20/22	fix drainage, retread	Finch switchbacks	1	6	6.0

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Belmont Waterdog Trail Keeper - Volunteer Hour Tracker

Date of Work	Project	Location	# of Volunteers	Hours/Volunteer	Total Hours
1/22/22	french drain, cobblestone treafd	Chapparal	9	4	36.0
1/22/22	felled tree	Ohlone	1	2	2.0
1/28/22	Rambler concrete cleanup	Rambler	1	4	4.0
1/29/22	Rambler concrete cleanup	Rambler	15	1	15.0
1/28/22	Rambler culvert cleanout	Rambler	1	2	2.0
1/30/22	Tree branch removal on Chap	Chapparal	1	1	1.0
2/6/22	Rambler culvert cleanout	Rambler	1	4.5	4.5
					0.0
					0.0
					0.0

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Waterdog/Hidden Canyon Trail Work Summary

Year	Total Volunteers	Hours/Volunteer	Total Hours	Est. Cost Savings
2018	16	6.9	110.0	$3,300
2019	35	5.0	175.0	$5,250
2020	124	4.1	505.0	$15,150
2021	26	3.2	82.0	$2,460
Total	**201**	**4.3**	**872.0**	**$26,160**

DRAFT

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DRAFT

Hourly Wage for City Maintenance Worker	
$30.00	

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Waterdog Open Space Stewards
info@waterdogstewards.com

February 14, 2022

Via email bshearer@belmont.gov

Brigitte Shearer, Director
Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
30 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA

Dear Ms. Shearer,

We are the Waterdog Open Space Stewards (WDOSS), a local community organization with wide local membership, (193 active members and over 3,000 on our mailing list) consisting of cyclists, hikers, runners, and dog walkers. We advocate for sustainable, equitable and inclusive policies for Belmont's open space. Our platform is that Belmont's successful 30+ history of inclusive multi-use access to open space (bike/hike/run/dog) has served our community well. We want to see these policies continue both for the community of today, and for generations to come.

We respectfully request that you forward this letter to WRA Environmental Consultants, Inc. for consideration under Task 2 of its scope of work for Belmont's comprehensive open space management plan, which includes reviewing ". . .the report prepared by Mr. Scott Cashen. . . and any other relevant studies prepared by other local environmental groups." In this letter we hope to provide our perspective on sustainability and open space management issues, and we will provide a critique of the study prepared by Mr. Scott Cashen.

While we advocate for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable trail access for *all user groups* (hikers, cyclists, runners, dog walkers), this letter will focus primarily on cyclists, because a handful of people are lobbying for severe restrictions to recreational access, and are blaming any and all problems in the

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open space on the cycling community. In our view this position is not supported by science, local user experiences, or land management best practices.

Peer-reviewed studies on the impact of cycling on trail systems show that cycling has no more impact than hiking, and that trail maintenance is the most important factor in preventing erosion.

We have attached for WRA's consideration some peer-reviewed studies on the impact of cycling on trails. The key takeaways from these studies are that the existing body of research does not support the prohibition or restriction of mountain biking from a resource or environmental protection perspective.

Existing studies indicate that cycling differs little from hiking in its contribution to soil impacts. Other factors, particularly trail grade, trail/slope alignment angle, soil type/wetness, and trail maintenance, are far more influential determinants of tread erosion or wetness. Land managers should look first to correcting design-related deficiencies before considering restrictions on low-impact users. By enlisting the aid of all trail users through volunteer trail maintenance efforts, they can improve trail conditions and allow for sustainable recreation.

- *Environmental Impacts of Mountain Biking: Science Review and Best Practices* by Jeff Marion and Jeremy Wimpey
- *A Comparative Study of Impacts to Mountain Bike Trails in Five Common Ecological Regions of the Southwestern U.S.* by Dave White, Troy Waskey, et al.
- *Mountain Biking: A Review of the Ecological Effects* by Miistakis Institute prepared for Parks Canada

While not a true peer-reviewed academic study, we have also attached a publication by the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz Science Committee, *Mountain Biking Impact Review Frequently Asked Questions* which is a helpful resource.

Volunteer trail maintenance by the local cycling community is vital to the continued sustainability of trails Belmont's open space.

As you know, the Belmont Parks and Recreation Department has a staff of 10 who are responsible for 63 acres of parks, 25 acres of school sports fields, 300+ acres of open space, and approximately 155,000 square feet of city facilities. Parks staff also oversee tree removal permits and the city's medians and gateways. The leanly-staffed department does not have sufficient resources for the considerable task of maintaining Waterdog's trails. For many years, volunteers from the cycling community have served as an extremely

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valuable asset that the Parks and Recreation Department has been able to leverage to keep the trails properly maintained in the open space.

The vast majority of volunteer trail maintenance is provided the Waterdog Trailkeepers, a Facebook group with over 400 members, most of whom are cyclists. This group has provided volunteer trail maintenance for many years, but a detailed recordkeeping system did not begin until 2018. Attached is a current spreadsheet of the Trailkeepers volunteer hours. An article on trail maintenance can be seen here.

From February 2019 to February 2021, there have been 40 separate trail maintenance days with over 800 volunteer hours and 183 volunteers committed to the maintenance and improvement of trails at Waterdog. One of the largest projects the group has undertaken was to fix the drainage issue on the Lake Loop trail in February 2020, which involved 24 volunteers with over 120 volunteer hours to complete.

More recent examples of trailwork in 2021-2022 can be viewed here. The photos show a French drain and cobblestone rock tread added to Chapparal trail in a perpetually wet ravine, tread improvements on John Brooks and Rambler trails, a felled tree cleared on Ohlone trail, small bridges added to Rambler trail to prevent rutting in muddy spots, de-berming and re-sloping the tread on Chapparal to reduce water acceleration and channeling, restoring a previously barren area at Rambler trail, where trail braids have been eliminated and and six native California Oaks have been planted, eliminating a trail shortcut on Rambler trail, clearing of concrete drainage ditches, and bags containing approximately 1/2 ton of concrete fragments hauled out from Rambler trail.

Designating the 300 acre Waterdog / Hidden Canyon open space as a nature preserve makes little sense given there is a 23,000 acre wildlife refuge one mile away.

The Waterdog open space is approximately 200-300 acres in size, and since the 1970s, it has been completely surrounded on all sides by the large, single-family homes of the Belmont Heights residential development.

About one mile away from the western edge of Waterdog open space, there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve: the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Peninsula Watershed. It is a state-designated fish and game refuge, and a protected area within the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve.

Waterdog is far too small and has far too many humans around to seriously be considered to be set aside as a nature preserve. Even if humans were completely banned from the borders of the open space, the animals in the open space would still be impacted by the dogs, cats, and humans who

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completely surround its perimeter. Unlike the fleeting and transitory presence of trail users, those homes and roadways completely encircling the open space have an associated impact that is present 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More detail on this issue can be found in this article.

Continued multi-use access is clearly what the community wants.

As WRA will see when evaluating the PROS Plan documents, the PROS survey results showed that the public is overwhelmingly in favor of multi-use trails supporting hikers, bikers, trail runners, and dog walkers. For example, 2,153 respondents (77%) rated Waterdog's condition as excellent. The following respondents agreed the following would "greatly enhance" the open space experience: Trail Maintenance 2,448 (87%), adding trails 1,999 (71%), and improving trails 1,278 (46%) By contrast, only 945 (34%) respondents prioritized habitat protection, only 797 (28%) supported designating certain trails for certain uses, and a paltry 135 respondents (5%) checked off "Reduce number of trails." There was excellent turnout for the survey, and the results were clear. An article about the survey results is here.

Another data point to consider is that there was a candidate in the 2020 Belmont City Council election who was the only candidate to run on a platform of restricting recreational access to open space and having the Waterdog/Hidden Canyon open space designated as a nature preserve. That candidate was soundly defeated, getting only 7% of the vote.

Restricting bicycles to fire roads is unreasonable.

One of the radical changes to the status quo being demanded by anti-recreation lobbyists is banning bicycles from all trails except for fire roads. As we detail further in this article, segregating trails by user group and creating privileged classes of open space users contradicts the PROS guiding principles, which are to (1) Provide equitable access to resources and activities across the entire city; (2) Promote inclusion to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability, and (3) Make all users feel welcome and safe.

If bicycles were limited to fire roads, the only bike-legal trails would be the Lake Road Trail (1.3 miles), and two short, non-contiguous sections of the John Brooks Trail that add up to less than one mile. Cyclists would be shut out of more than 75% of the trail system mileage, and there would be no way to do a loop ride in the trail system.

Lobbyists attempt to justify a segregationist approach by claiming that hikers cannot hike in peace or have quiet solitude with cyclists on the trail. In actuality, it is the recreational needs of cyclists that are currently underserved by our regional network of open space parks. Cyclists are limited to Waterdog

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and El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve (25 minutes away), whereas hikers have a plethora of local options, completely free of cyclists, to choose from: Crystal Springs Cross Country Course (17 feet from the Upper Lake Trail trailhead, 299 acres, 3 miles of trails), Big Canyon Park (10 minutes away[1], 16 acres, 1.7 miles of trails), Pulgas Ridge Preserve (11 minutes away, 366 acres, 6 miles of trails), Edgewood Preserve (12 minutes away, 467 acres, 10 miles of trails), Eaton Park (14 minutes away, 58 acres, 2 miles of trails), Mills Canyon Park (16 minutes away, 1,500 acres, 1.4 miles of trails), Phleger Estate (22 minutes away, 1,000 acres, 4.6 miles of trails), Huddart Park (24 minutes away, 973 acres, 28 miles of trails), and Foothills Park (25 minutes away, 1,400 acres, 15 miles of trails). These areas provide ample opportunities for hiking-only trail access.

Hikers, cyclists, runners, and dog walkers have successfully shared Waterdog open space trails for decades. Bringing all of these groups together outside fosters park users' sense of shared community. Segregating trails by user group is not a viable option from an equity and inclusiveness perspective, and as the scientific studies provided show, there is no justification for restricting classes of users from trails from a resource or environmental protection perspective.

The study by Scott Cashen is biased, flawed, and was commissioned by anti-recreation lobbyists.

In our opinion, the report of Scott Cashen has the veneer of a scientific study, but upon further examination it reveals flawed methodology, it perseverates on cycling and exposes clear bias, likely in an effort to serve the ends of the patron(s) of the study. It is our understanding that it was presented to the PROS Committee by Pat Cuviello, who is a lobbyist demanding that Waterdog open space be designated as a wildlife preserve, and the candidate who lost the City Council election in 2020 on this platform.

It appears to us that Mr. Cashen specializes in serving clients who seek to stop projects based on impacts to wildlife. His top Google search results show he was hired by the Sierra Club to challenge a habitat protection plan, hired by a group to to oppose a solar project, hired to oppose a dam project, and so on.

Mr. Cashen serves as a litigation expert witness, and it appears to us he is hired exclusively by parties seeking to stop projects based on impacts to wildlife. When an expert is exclusively hired by one side of an issue, it raises questions in our mind as to whether that expert is in the business of providing unbiased scientific opinions, or serving as an advocate for a particular side.

[1] Driving times measured from Hidden Canyon Park parking lot to parking lot of the other location by car, per Google Maps.

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We question the scientific validity of the report, because it cites only to studies that support it's theme that mountain biking is the root of all environmental destruction. A truly scientific study would acknowledge and critically discuss the body of scientific literature showing that cycling differs little from hiking in its contribution to environmental impacts, and then provide evidence of how those studies are somehow wrong or inapplicable. The Cashen report does none of this. Rather, it "cherry-picks" studies that support the desired result. This fails the third and most important step of the basic scientific method, which is to (1) make an observation that describes a problem, (2) create a hypothesis, (3) *test the hypothesis*, and (4) draw conclusions and refine the hypothesis.

We also question the validity of the conclusions drawn in the report. In general, the report cites impressive-sounding literature on the threats to flora and fauna, but then provides tenuous and/or unsupported connections (or no connection at all) to how those phenomena actually occur in Belmont's open space. For example, without providing any citation or support for this proposition, the report declares "Wildlife injuries or fatalities are more likely to occur due to collisions with bicycles because mountain bikers travel much faster than hikers. Reptiles, including the endangered San Francisco Garter Snake, are especially vulnerable to collisions with mountain bikes because reptiles often use open conditions created by trails for thermoregulation..." yet the report concedes that the San Francisco Garter Snake only has the "*potential* to occur in the study area."

Mr. Cashen is a biologist, not a land use attorney, and his credentials do not describe any background, training, or experience in the law of charitable land conveyances. Yet the report offers opinions about the legality of the scope of the city's utilization of the open space based the original land grant by John Brooks. In our opinion, there is no credible basis for these conclusions, and when an expert opines on issues outside his scope of expertise to argue for a result, that demonstrates bias.

Ensatina and Flow trails are sustainable and have served the public well for years.

There are 14 trails recognized in the city's current published trail map. In addition, there are two public prescriptive / social trails that do not appear on the published trail map, but are well-established, well-maintained and have been enjoyed by the public for years. Both of these trails were solidly constructed, follow the topographic contour lines of the terrain for the most part, and are not causing any measurable environmental degradation. These trails provide variety, route options with shade, and reduce the chances of trail user conflicts by spreading out trail traffic over more trails.

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Some people try to characterize these trails as “illegal,” “unsanctioned,” or “rogue” trails. These characterizations are wrong. Both trails appear on the trail map approved by City Council in 1998 as and are identified in solid orange lines as “proposed single-use trail.” Although the reasons are not clear, these two trails did not make their way onto the published trail map back in the late 1990s. A copy of the resolution and trail map are attached. (Note: because the quality of the orange trail lines on the image is poor, two versions of the 1998 trail map are attached, one original image, and one with the two trails highlighted.)

The first trail is known as “Ensatina,” and connects the Lake Loop Trail with the John Brooks Trail. While this trail exists in a riparian area, it is well-compacted. Environmental impacts can be mitigated with continued maintenance, improvement, and construction of bridges over creek crossings.

The second one is known by various names including “Flow Trail” and “Labor of Love." This trail is a loop that connects with John Brooks Trail in two places, and runs behind Comstock Circle and Hallmark Drive. It is not feasible to remove this trail because it provides the only access to portions of the city storm drain infrastructure that runs throughout the open space. It runs alongside multiple drainage culverts and storm drain connections, which require periodic cleaning and maintenance.



Concrete storm drain culverts along “Flow” trail in need of maintenance.

DRAFT

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Thank you for considering the information in this letter, and we would be glad to provide any further information or resources that may assist WRA in performing its scope of work in creating the open space management plan.

Sincerely,

Waterdog Open Space Stewards

Enclosures:

Environmental Impacts of Mountain Biking: Science Review and Best Practices

A Comparative Study of Impacts to Mountain Bike Trails in Five Common Ecological Regions of the Southwestern U.S.

Mountain Biking: A Review of the Ecological Effects

Mountain Biking Impact Review Frequently Asked Questions

Waterdog Trailkeepers volunteer hours log

Cashen references

1998 Belmont City Council resolution

1998 Waterdog trail map (original)

1998 Waterdog trail map (Ensatina and Flow trails highlighted)

Cc: Belmont Parks & Recreation Commission prcomm@belmont.gov

Belmont PROS Plan info@belmontprosplan.com

Belmont City Council CityCouncil@belmont.gov

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Patricia Kurtz <
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 2:16 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Concerns about local parks

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the information that was provided last week on the status of parks in Belmont. I was interested in hearing about all the parks but my major concern is Hallmark Park since I live in close proximity to it. I was pleased to hear that most commissioners were not in favor of expanding the park. I walk through it frequently on my way to walking the cross country course. The tot lot is used infrequently and really does not need to be upgraded for older children. It is now a facility that is not used often and I do not think that the addition of modern equipment will increase its use. The tennis courts are though and need to be renovated as well as the sidewalks. I was also concerned about adding a bocce ball court or creating a facility on the hill. If a bocce ball court is added, you need to address ADA requirements and this area is not easily accessible. The area on the hill looks down into people's homes and impacts personal space. In addition, we may be the only park in Belmont that does not have at least one designated parking space. The only parking is on the street. Street parking can be busy with individuals parking to access the cross county course. I hope that you will continue to support no additional structures and facilities to Hallmark park. It is a beautiful wild life preserve and should be maintained as such.

I have also walked in the Hidden Valley area. I agree that safe paths need to be maintained for bikers and walkers. Bikers often come down quickly off the canyon path and can potentially be dangerous to people sitting or walking in the area. I agree that signage about the wildlife would be educational but it needs to be maintained. Weathering takes a quick toll on signage so that it becomes eyesore if not maintained.

Finally, I was very concerned that comments were made by commissioners that they had not visited some of the parks. How can one vote on changes to a park if they have not seen it? As an educational administrator, I attended board meetings twice a month for over 20 years. I recognize and appreciate the time that a commissioner volunteers to support a program. But I also know that accepting to be a commissioner comes with a responsibility to understand what one is reviewing and voting on. I suggest a field trip to the parks. I frequently watched such activities by board members to visit construction projects in my school district. It provided them with a better lens to make decisions. I encourage all commissioners to visit the Belmont parks so that they can be informed about their needs.

Thanks you for hearing my concerns.

Dr. Patricia Kurtz

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 5:45 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Hallmark Park

Please excuse any typos!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jozi Plut <>
Date: March 9, 2022 at 12:39:47 AM PST
To: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Hallmark Park

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: March 8, 2022 at 5:14:16 PM PST
To: City Council <CityCouncil@belmont.gov>
Subject: Re: Hallmark Park
Reply-To:

LETTER TO BELMONT CITY COUNCIL

Everyone supports recreation. But isn't walking through a natural setting recreation? Recreation is also enjoying the peace and quiet, exploring nature, seeing birds and hearing them sing. All ages can enjoy this rare and splendid natural environment. We already have a playground and tennis courts in Hallmark Park. We do not need to cover up what's left with yet more structures.

The reason most of us live here in this neighborhood has to do with the natural space around us. You have already cut down perfectly healthy trees of which only one out of four was dead or a problem in the first place. The "excuse" was that their roots were interfering with the path. The path could have easily been modified to accommodate the beautiful healthy trees you cut down and you did nothing to repair the path anyway!

Then you spent more money planting new trees. These new trees will take 20 or more years to begin doing what the trees you cut down were already doing. They were reducing the carbon in the atmosphere, providing a place for birds to nest and supporting the wildlife. You also cut down these trees at bird nesting time, so we lost even more of our habitats for wildlife.

You have claimed that you don't have enough money to maintain what is already there in Hallmark Park. But somehow you found the money to cut down perfectly healthy trees

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and plant new trees instead of spending a much lesser amount that could have easily modified the path. Now you want to build more structures which will add a cost you say you can't afford in the first place.

More important is what this park already gives us something most other parks can't: a peaceful natural setting. This little piece of nature sets it apart and is another form of recreation not found in virtually any of the other parks around us. Please don't ruin this little oasis by building more structures. Let's leave something of its natural setting for the enjoyment of peace and quiet and for wildlife to flourish. And think of the money you'll save!

Thank you for your consideration.

Mimi Iversen, resident of Hallmark neighborhood

DRAFT

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: alireza razavi <
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:29 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Hallmark planning

Hi there
I am the resident of 4 elder dr in hallmark. Upgrading the play structure is very helpful for our family and the rest of families that have younger children. We are in favor of resurfacing the tennis court. I also think it is not a bad idea to have some seating area. This can be few benches. Having a looped walking path is a plus. I am not sure i support other ideas. Adding/replacing fountain to drink water is good idea too. The existing fountain was out of service some times back.
Best
Alireza razavi
4 elder dr, belmont (part of hallmark)

DRAFT

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ignatius Passantino <
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 3:15 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Preserve Hallmark Park

We are 36-year residents of the Belmont Heights residential area. Our draw to this area was the "natural beauty" and serenity of the landscape, watershed and preservation of vegetation and wildlife. The walking trails afford residents the rare opportunity to enjoy all of the above.

The proposed plans to broaden, excavate, develop and populate one of the last remaining residential parks into a public community. This proposal will bring more automobiles into the area, and disturb the wildlife and peaceful community our families have enjoyed for years. Preservation of the unique and cherished gifts of nature we may ALL still enjoy without modernizing and injecting new development will destroy what has been preserved for years. We are one with nature here. Noise, cars, trash and disrespecting nature's gift is unacceptable.

The cross-country runs already bring hundreds of strangers and vehicles to our quiet community every Fall. Hallmark Park should not become a public recreation area.

We are strongly opposed to the proposed changes to Hallmark Park.

Thank you,

Nace and Bonnie Passantino
Hallmark Drive

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lynn Ashby
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 1:49 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Hallmark Park

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Lynn Ashby <
> **Date:** March 2, 2022 at 12:43:30 PM PST
> **To:** info@belmontprosplan.com
> **Cc:** Dick & Lynn Ashby < t>
> **Subject: Hallmark Park**
>
> Hello Belmont Parks Commission,
>
> I DO NOT support the proposed plan to "renovate" the Hallmark Park area.
>
> Currently the tennis courts, children's play structure, and walking paths are actively used, and enjoyed by Belmont citizens. The existing trees, other vegetation, and the open space should not be replaced with a dog park, additional play structures and bocce ball courts. Available funds should be put toward maintaining the tennis courts, existing vegetation, and walking paths. Older trees should be pruned, and parts of the walking paths have become dangerous trip hazards, and need to be repaired.
>
> Hallmark Park should remain as it is currently designed. Thank you for your consideration.
>
> Richard Ashby

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ines Salazar
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:47 AM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: proposed Hallmark Park plan

Hello,

I am a resident of Belmont Heights on Wakefield Drive since 2013. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed plan for Hallmark Park. Neighborhoods are defined by certain characteristics, and this plan threatens to undermine and even destroy what makes Belmont Heights special.

This is a quiet neighborhood that already attracts many people who live beyond its borders to enjoy the hiking and biking trails. Moreover, we and all our neighbors already experience the traffic congestion and related issues brought on by the frequent cross country meets. We were aware of the meets when we bought our home. This proposed plan, however, would irrevocably change the character of the neighborhood. When we purchased our home, our son was 4 years old. We knew that going to a playground would necessitate going to Fox School after school hours or driving to local park. However, we were drawn to the area for its quiet and for its easy access to nature as well as the excellent school district. We moved from Sunnyvale, which has numerous wonderful large parks, including one to which we we walked frequently as a family. But those parks have much dedicated parking and some separation from surrounding homes. Those parks have also been part of the landscape for a very long time.
Even at a young age, we took our son down the path to Waterdog lake and he now at 12, enjoys bicycling the paths on his own or with friends.

I am in favor of updating the tennis courts as as well as the tot lot without making it much larger. The path leading to the tennis courts is also in need of serious repair. I think Hallmark Park has no place for a bocce court or wider paved paths. Without additional parking, congestion would increase even further. Note the issues with parking and illegal U-turns and runners darting out into the streets that we already experience during country country meets. During the height of the pandemic when we were sheltering at home, I appreciated more than ever that our sidewalks offered us the opportunity to take walks at various times of the day. I don't see the need to create additional paths. These additional features also have the potential to attract late night gatherings. I hear from friends in San Mateo this is in issue at their parks.

Please do not destroy what makes this neighborhood special. A neighborhood can't be all things. We knew when we moved here that we would be unable to walk to errands or to a large park, but the quiet, the extraordinary views, access to nature as well as the surrounding community and schoosl drew us to Belmont and this neighborhood in particular.

Sincerely,
Ines Salazar

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: M Cohen
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 11:57 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Hallmark Park

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **M Cohen**
Date: Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 11:55 AM
Subject: Hallmark Park
To: <info@belmontprosplan.com>

Greetings!

For almost 35 years, we have resided in our home at the corner of Hallmark and Wakefield Drive – just across the street from the entrance to Hallmark Park. We have enjoyed our neighborhood park and appreciate and support a refresh and repair work for safety concerns and restoration of our wonderful views.

The asphalt pathways are unsafe and in great need of repair due to years of neglect and incursion from tree roots. Over time, our original expansive views from the benches above the tennis court have been obscured by fast growing non native pine trees.

We support restoring the natural landscape by removing all non native trees and increasing maintenance in order to reduce the possible fire danger in our area and restore our views.

We support keeping our natural landscape and wildlife habitat which provides us with access to wildlife viewing and environmental education. Interpretive signage should be added to enhance the learning experience. Walking paths in the meadow area would be helpful.

The current tot lot is suitable only for toddlers and preschoolers. We support enhancing it to meet current standards and provide amenities for our neighborhood elementary school children, while maintaining a look and feel that blends into the park's natural landscape. We suggest that the playground have a local wildlife and environmental theme to enhance the environmental component of the park.

We do not think we need additional amenities to Hallmark Park when the focus should be on the natural environment, a children's playground and a tennis court.

We are concerned that adding additional amenities, such as a dog run area, will increase the traffic in our neighborhood, negatively impact the natural setting, and increase city costs for increased upkeep and maintenance.

Sincerely,

Michele Cohen and Lewis Scarpace

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Russell Roeckel >
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 11:51 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain biking in Waterdog Park

Please do not limit mountain bike access in the WaterDog park. I really enjoy riding there during the weekdays as it is close to my house, the trails are well maintained, and it has a very good diversity of easy to technical trails. I personally try my best to be polite to all trail users, dog walkers, and whatever kind of animals I see and share the trails with.

It is my personal belief that mountain bikers should give way to all other trail users, which is something I practice each and every ride.

WaterDog also is a relative haven for young people who may not have access to drive long distances to enjoy outdoor activities, such as hiking and mountain biking. These outdoor activities should be encouraged and supported rather than discouraged and made impossible by a select, albeit very vocal, elites minority.

I believe most trail users share the same philosophy whether on bike or on foot. I also do hike those trails and walk my dog there on occasion and I've never had a bad interaction with any one yet. I also enjoy riding to the higher elevations, getting off the bike and admiring the views.

As for making it a nature preserve, what good is that if people aren't allowed to enjoy nature first hand? There is precious little open space left in the Bay Area where people can personally enjoy and interact with nature, especially on a mountain bike, please don't limit this further.

I have lived in San Mateo County my entire 63 years and have seen too much land taken away from residents in the name of 'progress' and conservation. We need to have someplace to ride, hike, and walk.

Sincerely,
Russell Roeckel

San Mateo, CA 94401

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:30 PM
To: PROS Committee; P&R Comm
Subject: Open Space Assessment by WRA Consultants

Dear PROS Committee and Park Commissioners,

At the April 5 presentation by WRA, the PROS committee appropriately refused to speculate on resource allocation for our Open Space until they see the written assessment of the current ecological conditions (to know our needs). While our open space may seem healthy to the casual observer, there are many issues that have degraded the natural habitat -- some in the past and some continuing. To omit, and thus ignore, these known issues will be simply greenwashing; *we can't tackle our issues until we acknowledge them and agree they need fixing.*

Some of these issues reflect a lack of standards, and others constitute vandalism pure and simple. Belmont lacks standards for trail construction, defined trail use policies, and enforceable laws against vandalism of public lands. So long as we allow damaging practices we will be stuck in a cycle of constant repair and maintenance – working harder yet falling behind. **However, if we first put a stop to *ongoing* damages, then we can free up *future resources to invest* in restoration and recreation.** This is a principle of *adaptive management*, which WRA urges for Belmont. **I expect to see the following issues included in the WRA Open Space assessment:**

Trails, geology, hydrology:

- Poorly designed trails; straight down slopes (causing erosion gullies, safety concerns), across steep cross-slopes (destabilizing slopes), encroaching on streams, and crossing mapped debris flows,
- Unsanctioned trails allowed to proliferate unaddressed,
- Active debris flows/landslides,
- Dumping of soil and cuttings into creeks, diverting natural flow, increasing silting and spreading invasives,
- Blockage of creek by wet crossings,
- Drainage culverts (concrete) clogged or overgrown,
- Exposed soils and destabilized slopes resulting from clear-cutting for fire breaks.

Habitat and vegetation:

- Excessive trail density fragmenting habitat (2-5 times more miles per acre than comparable open spaces),
- Unnecessary removal of native vegetation far *beyond the trail width*, including native white yarrow, sticky monkey, sage and oaks,
- Abutting homes' vandalism including: topping public trees, stairs and paths from gates, invasive species from back gardens, dumping of brush cuttings, broad spraying Roundup on open space, drainage pipes/culverts discharge into open space,
- Soil and cuttings shoveled downhill onto vegetation below,
- Encroachment on riparian habitats and vital water sources for wildlife,
- Sudden oak death,
- Invasive species, most notably broom but also thistle, pines, and pampas grass,
- Drainage diverted directly onto oaks, leading to the decline and death of the tree,
- Trails and shortcuts undermining or compressing tree roots, leading to instability and decline of the tree,
- Improper branch cutting destabilizing the tree or introducing pathogens,
- Lumber and tools from unknown sources unmonitored, bringing pathogens and invasives.

I hope WRA, PROS representatives and City officials will ensure the new master plan addresses these issues.
Thank you,

Kristin Mercer
Belmont resident

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 6:09 PM
To: PROS Committee; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Open Space Goals

Dear Commissioners and PROS Committee,

In the April 5 WRA presentation I was pleased to hear mention of several important issues long overlooked in Belmont; riparian habitats, redundant and poorly designed trails, benchmarking stewardship policies of other open space districts, and the concept of adaptive management. I'm optimistic that Belmont can create an enlightened vision for a sustainable, biodiverse and healthy native habitat for our open spaces.

However Belmont's Conservation Element policies regarding **wildlife and natural habitat** were largely omitted from the WRA draft goals. As you are aware, the Conservation Element is the section of our General Plan that addresses management of Open Space in Belmont, and as such is the most critical input into the Open Space plan. This is why the City RFP specifically cited awareness of Conservation Element policies.

Belmont General Plan section 4.1: *"The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element **bears a strong relationship to the Conservation Element**, which is required to provide direction regarding the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element addresses open space for outdoor recreation, while the **Conservation and Safety elements discuss open space for preservation of natural resources and open space for public health and safety**, respectively."*

Belmont Conservation Element: *"Human safety and recreation opportunities **must be balanced** with maintaining the **proper functioning of natural systems**.... The habitats of the natural resources open spaces found in Belmont are discussed in more detail in the General Plan EIR."*
*Goal 5.3: **"Protect and restore biological and ecological resources** in Belmont, including sensitive **wildlife species and their habitats**."*
*Policy 5.3-4: Maintain functional **wildlife corridors** and habitat linkage in order to contribute to regional **biodiversity** and the viability of rare, unique or **sensitive biological resources** throughout the city and region.*

A mere focus on a few "species of special concern" is not adequate; the Conservation Element calls for a **broad definition of functional habit for wildlife, including each of the sensitive natural habitat communities discussed in the Element.**
Belmont residents are counting on your influence. **Please ensure these VITAL goals are incorporated into the Master Plan, along with proposed policies to achieve these goals.**

Thank you,
Kristin Mercer
Belmont resident

"It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us." – Jane Goodall

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Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Needed - Another PROS ADVISORY Meeting devoted to Open Space

Brigitte, Commissioners and PROS:

On 4/5, I attended the Open Space PROS Advisory meeting but was dismayed to learn that this was the PROS Advisory's last meeting for the entire project! I believe a 5th PROS Advisory meeting devoted entirely to Open Space is absolutely necessary. Not allowing another PROS Advisory meeting for further discussion on our Open Space would be violating your last guiding principle to "Utilize a transparent Community Process to inform Decisions".

This was the first opportunity for the PROS Advisory Committee to hear and see the WRA overview slide presentation on Open Space with no prior information given to the Committee for review. In a series of 30 rapid slides, John Baas, the project manager quickly covered the goals/policies which included the right "buzzwords", trail maintenance, habitat restoration, adaptive trail management, wildfire, environmental protection, visitor demand and safety and management, use of e-bikes, new unauthorized trails and protection of riparian resources which could have been used in any open space presentation. He provided no specifics or details regarding Belmont's Open Space leaving both participants and observers bewildered, scrambling to take notes as he spoke. Without presenting any relevant information specific to Belmont's Open Space, he asked the PROS Advisory Committee to help determine the allocation of his hypothetical pie chart which despite hypothetical, put a very low priority on important issues of Trail maintenance and Adaptive Trail Management which was not defined clearly.

Both the PROS committee and Park & Rec Commission appeared confused and wondering what WRA expected from the Advisory Committee regarding each of these topics which could be an in depth discussion by itself. *Several Advisory members even commented it was premature to assess any pie allocation before seeing a report with more information. One member asked for another Advisory meeting and I agree that this request should be granted, not only to determine the pie allocation but to discuss each of the goals/policies for our Open Space.*

To devote only one PROS Advisory meeting to the most important issue for Belmont, Waterdog Open Space and San Juan Canyon, after devoting so much time and effort to other parts of the PROS plan such as Neighborhood Parks is not only unfair, it appears to be attempting to bypass the proper process due for this important topic. Clearly, more specifics and information on each of WRA's goals and policies for Belmont as well as much more clarification on his 2 management alternatives briefly mentioned with no explanations are sorely needed before any assessment can be given. The PROS Advisory Committee deserves another meeting to discuss WRA's recommendations and alternatives before any decisions are made.

The PROS process up till now has been fairly transparent and informative with proper focus groups and meetings providing guidance. Let's not mess up your hard fought process now by rushing through this most important topic of Belmont's Open Space without giving the PROS Advisory Committee their right to discuss and analyze WRA's recommendations and alternatives.

Thank you for your attention.

Jennifer Lien
Belmont

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Thaddeus Block
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 9:46 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm; Brigitte Shearer
Subject: 4/6 parks and rec meeting

Hello PROS plan advocates and commission,

Today I am sending you a quick note as follow up to the two nights of meetings this week, both of which I attended and participated in with public comment. Thank you all for your time and effort on this important matter!

I enjoyed WRAs presentation on Tuesday evening, and found their group to be well qualified given their extensive experience and credentials. It was great to hear from subject matter experts on the state of our open space, and was glad to hear that their scientists have already been out in the field for substantial time to catalog species and to gain a deep understanding of our recreational open space. And, I was heartened to hear WRA state that from their perspective the health of our forest and open space is quite good. This is what I personally believe to be true, but always nice to hear it confirmed by a real expert!

I express my condolences that you and others continue to take abuse from a small anti-recreation vocal minority. I cringe every time they come on for public comment just to criticize, lecture, and name call - often times deliberately trying to spread misinformation. But this is democracy, and so they must be heard.
Last night, after I made my personal comments in the public setting, I was derided by the next speaker Pat Cuvielo as 'Ignorant, ignorant, ignorant....' Now, given the source of the criticism, I'm not feeling too hurt! But I would suggest that this is the sort of behavior we don't want to tolerate as a city, and it may be worthwhile setting more concrete ground rules at the beginning of each contested meeting to inform folks that this sort of behavior is not acceptable - if you agree.

I also worry that the comments of myself and others who are in the camp of 'pro enviroment AND pro recreation' can also get repetitive. Personally, I tend to show up to these meetings in order to provide what I hope is a more balanced view. That said, I really appreciated commissioner Michaels comments last night. Paraphrasing, I heard that it would be appreciated if public comments would provide reasonable plans that incorporate both sides of the argument. Well said! I don't want the only public voices you hear to be from the anti-recreation group, because as we know from the citywide survey - the majority of our city is very supportive of recreational open space and multi use trail access. The challenge we have, is that the anti-recreation group seems to have lots of time on their hands, whereas most folks in the city have jobs and families to care for.....

The issue we face at home, is much like we see on the national level and abroad. Issues are ever more hyper-polarized, and so groups feel like they can only get what they want if they argue extremes - and this can get very boring and repetitive. How can we change the conversation? I'm open to suggestions and feel free to reach out to me directly for a conversation.

Last night I mentioned that our discussions feel like groundhog day - and they do! Its the same old arguments swirling around and around. The last speaker of the night, Mike, said it more eloquently. One statement he said I really liked. "we have to get to a point where we can make good use of this resource and be environmentally sound while we do it." I think that captures the issue perfectly in my mind.

I don't have a great or concrete solution to the problem at hand, other than we have to work through a process that at times feels slow and inefficient.

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I do think that setting stronger ground rules at the beginning of these meetings would be helpful. Let folks know that name calling or bullying is unacceptable, and remind folks that first and foremost we are neighbors and we all want the same thing - a continued vibrant and healthy open space system. I would also suggest that you consider setting concrete boundaries to disallow agenda related comments during the general comment period. Last night we all sat through 30 minutes of agenda related comments which were allowed into the general comments, and this then pushed the dog discussion and PROS discussion later than they needed to be.

So in summary, I want to thank you all again for your hard work and thoughtfulness as we approach this hot topic! I'm confident that we will get to a great solution for both the environment and for the entire community that loves and cherishes our beautiful open space.

All the best,
Thaddeus Block

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Sisemore <
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 9:25 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont's Healthy Open Spaces!

Dear Parks and Rec Commission,

At Tuesday night's PROS Advisory Committee meeting I was excited to hear from John Baas (PhD) and botanist and wetlands ecologist Ivy (I didn't catch her last name) from WRA Environmental Consultants. It was encouraging to hear their preliminary findings: the open spaces in Belmont including Waterdog and San Juan Canyon are currently in pretty good shape with regards to ecosystem health.

Ivy mentioned two species in particular that she considered important in her assessment, the San Francisco Dusky Footed Wood Rat and a yellow blossomed shrub that is endemic to the San Francisco bay area, the Wester Leatherwood. Both appear to have healthy populations in the parks.

My son and I were riding our bikes in Waterdog just yesterday (4/6/22) and while waiting for me to catch up on the Rambler trail, he spotted a bob cat sitting quietly on the trail ahead, about 50 feet away, watching him. It's common knowledge that apex predators prefer healthy ecosystems over degraded ones.

The analysis done by an independent and neutral third party (WRA), although preliminary, clearly demonstrates that the ecological health of the open spaces is reasonably good and therefore compatible with current recreational usage patterns.

Going forward, I hope that residents who continue to falsely assert that recreation is destroying the wildlife and the overall ecosystem in our open spaces are understood to be inconsistent with the professional ecologists.

Furthermore, we hear plenty of complaints from the same residents that the trail density is too high in our open spaces. Since our open spaces are not nature preserves, the city is under no obligations regarding trail density. Our current open spaces are considered healthy by professional ecologists so trail density at it's current level appears sustainable.

The public opinion poll conducted by Gates and Associates last year clearly shows that our residents like to get outside to hike, walk their dogs and ride bikes. What's wrong with priding ourselves on having abundant properly built and maintained trails?

Let's keep Belmont's open spaces open for everyone who uses them respectfully.

Sincerely,

Scott Sisemore

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:	Paul Sheng <
Sent:	Thursday, April 7, 2022 6:00 AM
To:	P&R Comm; Belmontprosplan Info
Subject:	Further comment on item 6.E. of 4/6/22 P&R meeting
Attachments:	1998 trail map (original).pdf; 1998 map (flow and ensatina highlighted).pdf

Dear Parks and Rec Commission,

Thank you for always-thoughtful consideration of the issues, and I'm sorry that you have to endure so much abuse from the group of anti-recreation partisans who seek to close off access to our open space. I'm sure this is not what you had in mind when you volunteered to serve on the Commission, and I admire your patience.

The anger in the voices of these public commenters was palpable. Perhaps they are frustrated that their narrative of environmental destruction by multi-use is simply without factual basis, and they are now resorting to name-calling and lashing out at the Commission itself. Generally, when a party to a debate resorts to name-calling and *ad hominem* attacks, that means they are unable to provide facts, evidence, reason, or logic to support their position. Attacking commenters who disagree with them as "ignorant" without providing any factual explanation of why the opposing party's position is somehow wrong does not add anything productive to the discussion.

I wanted to make the below points during the meeting, but refrained since the meeting dragged on very late. I am writing mainly to correct some of the misinformation that came out in these public comments. First, it is unclear why it is "ignorant" to point out that one mile away from Waterdog open space, there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve at the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed which is a state-designated fish and game refuge, and a protected area within the UNESCO Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve. While Waterdog can and should contribute to biodiversity, there is only so much it can do, given that it is 100% encircled by urban development and has a dam and a substantial amount of concrete storm drain infrastructure constructed within it to service those developments.

WRA's preliminary analysis shows that anecdotal tales of environmental destruction are without foundation. Apex predators such as bobcat and mountain lion sightings at Waterdog are commonplace. When a habitat is in decline, the first animals to leave are apex predators. The presence of these apex predators demonstrate that Waterdog remains a healthy ecosystem.

In his comments, Mr. Cuvielo lashed out at the cycling community for creating shortcuts and illegal trails. With regard to shortcuts, those are not a cycling-specific phenomenon. Unauthorized shortcuts are a problem in *every* trail system, whether or not they are multi-use. Hikers, runners, dog walkers, equestrians, and cyclists can all create them.

What is unique about Waterdog is that volunteers from cycling community actively and successfully *remove* shortcuts on an ongoing basis. For example, on John Brooks trail, the hill behind Highlands Court became barren with trail braids, which can be seen in this Google Maps photo: https://www.google.com/maps/@37.5051375,-122.3052449,216m/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en
Those trail braids worsened substantially during the Covid lockdown induced increase in trail use. Volunteers from the Waterdog have completely closed off and restored the trail braids, and re-

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vegetated that hill with soil and plant material from the concrete drainage culverts that were clogged. If you look at that hill now, the trail braids in the Google Maps photo are no longer visible.

On the other side of John Brooks in that same area, a social shortcut trail developed between John Brooks and Chaparral. The Trailkeepers completely brushed over and closed the entrance to that shortcut, and it is no longer usable. The formerly barren area at Rambler near the origin of Finch is in the process of being restored by the Trailkeepers. All trail braids have been closed, and it is being restored with plantings of native species, including six new California Oak seedlings which are taking root. A steep shortcut from that area to Elevator was also closed off by the Trailkeepers. A major shortcut on Chaparral near Berry trail was completely closed off. The list goes on and on. Photos of some of this trailwork can be seen in this Google Photos album: https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPD33TSN5_i4S6knTGCo2k53KWizGsV2s7-Zja6zp-D1BN6iYq6nFoKttJ1z0wCqg?key=b3UxZ2NpREpSbTREckJ2VlhxcXp2cWxIaDE3UTV3

Although there is no factual basis for this, Mr. Cuvelo, Ms. Bolbol, and Ms. Mercer continue to characterize the Soho Circle/ "Flow" trail and "Ensatina" trails as "illegal" or "rogue" trails. As pointed out in the Waterdog Open Space Stewards' February 14, 2022 letter, these characterizations are wrong. Those are legacy trails, and both trails appear on the trail map approved by City Council in 1998 as and are identified in solid orange lines as "proposed single-use trail." (Original and highlighted maps attached here for convenience.) For whatever reason, these two trails did not make their way onto the published trail map back in the late 1990s. These trails have been there for decades and are sustainable. These trails provide variety, spread out trail traffic which increases safety, and in the case of Soho Circle trail, provides access for maintenance of storm drain infrastructure.

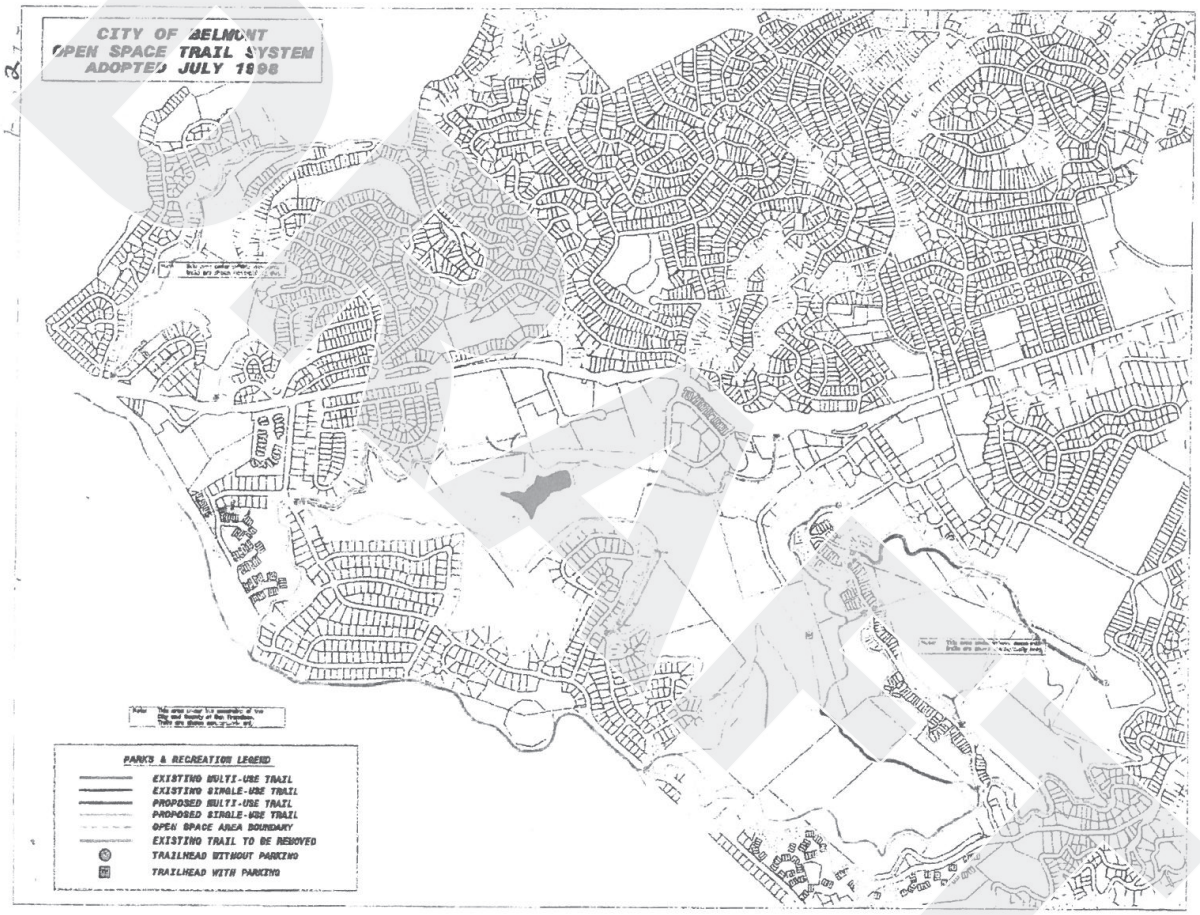
In response to commenter Pat Cuvielo's accusation to the Commission of changing its process for this item, I very much appreciated Comr. Mittelstadt's setting the record straight by calmly explaining what the process was, and how it was identical to the process that is always followed.

Thank you again for the substantial amount of time you volunteer to serve on the commission, receive public comment during meetings, and reading the additional written public input.

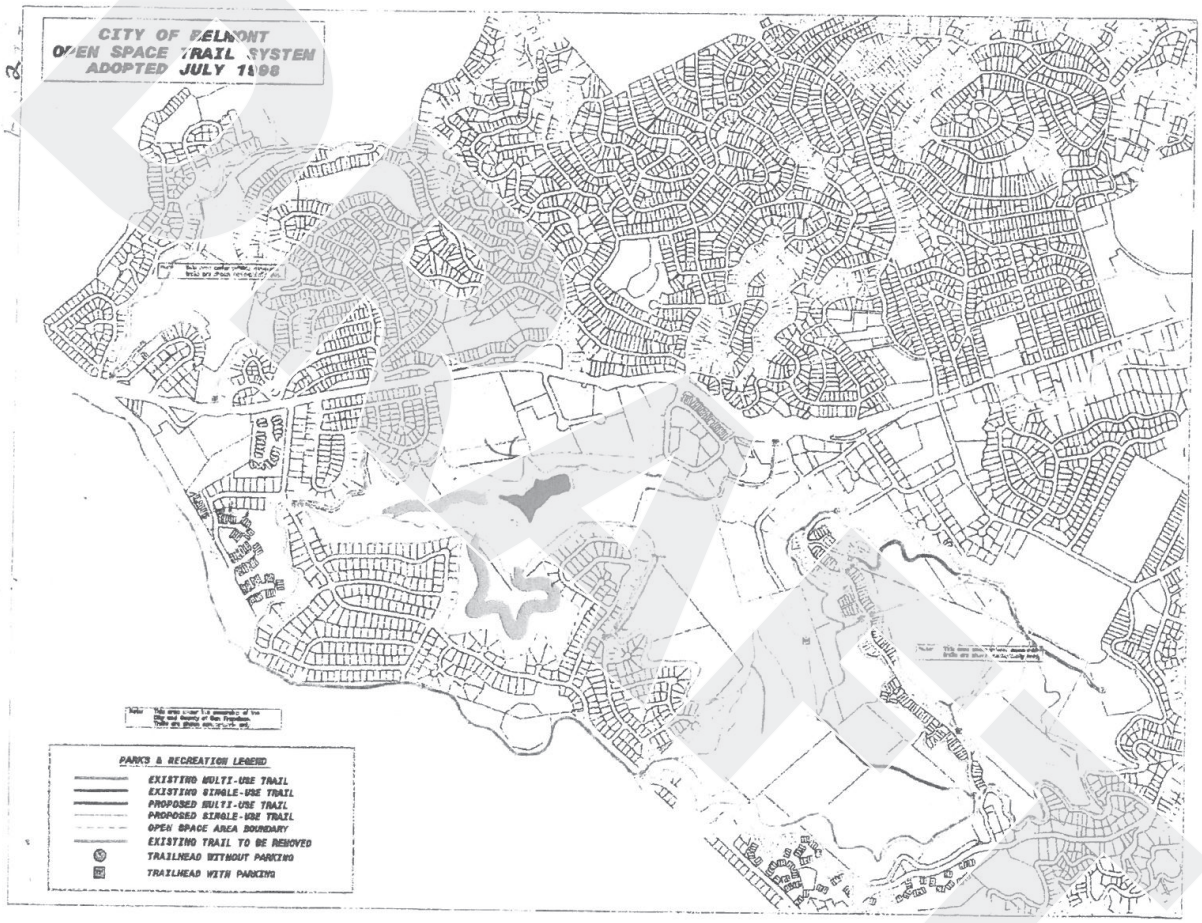
Sincerely,

Paul Sheng

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Ulla Foehr
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 5:32 PM
To: Jonathan Carter; Brigitte Shearer; Daniel Ourtiague; P&R Comm
Subject: Re: Open Space - What should the future Waterdog trail map be?

Hi Jonathan,

Thank you for your thoughtful analysis. I appreciate the time and effort you put into this, and I think the Belmont Creek trail concept is intriguing.

Thanks,
Ulla

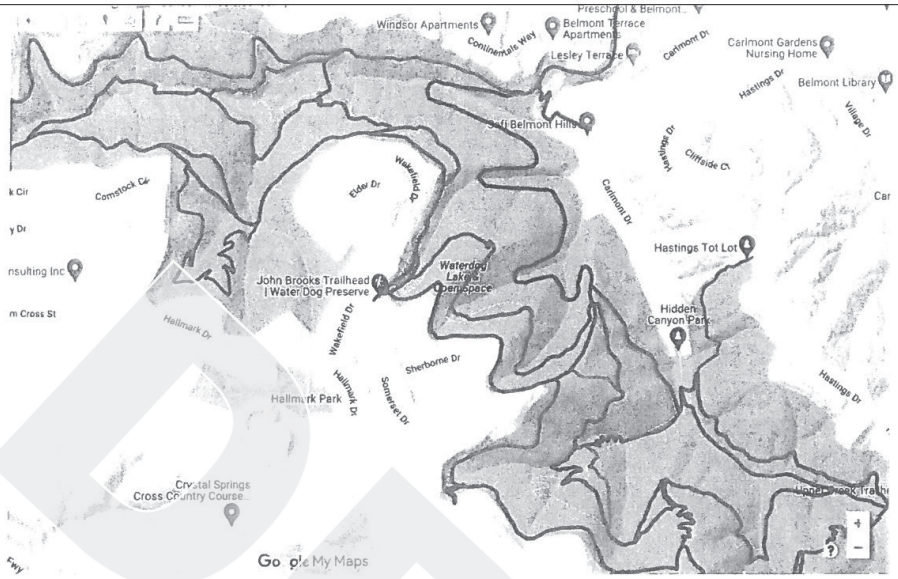
From: Jonathan Carter
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 8:49 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>; Daniel Ourtiague <dourtiague@belmont.gov>; P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>
Subject: Open Space - What should the future Waterdog trail map be?

This month, the commission will be discussing Belmont's open space as part of the overall PROS plan. At some point, we need to discuss what our Waterdog trail map should be in the future? Are there redundant trails to remove? Are there additional trails that would add to the experience of the open space?

I wanted to humbly suggest the following "Future Waterdog Trail Map" as a starting point for discussion of the open space. The green lines are existing trails. The blue line is a proposed new trail. The red lines are existing trails that I propose to remove. You can view this on Google Maps and play around with it by going to this link:
https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1iai29RPBIJMR8QFS0L1xM1fB-mbOpa8i&ll=37.50504526189196 5%2C-122.30845913638426&z=16

DRAFT

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Here are the ideas:

1. Create a Belmont Creek Trail below the dam that follows the isocontour shown in blue. This would be good for a few reasons. First, it would allow folks to get from the Lyall Road entrance (bottom of Lake Road) to Hidden Canyon without having to climb out of the whole canyon. Second, it bypasses Carlmont Drive so one doesn't have to drive/cycle/bike along the houses on Carlmont Drive, improving their privacy. Third, it would allow us to clean up Belmont Creek below the dam (as suggested by our former director Jonathan Gervais). Fourth, it would spread out users more and decrease trail user density. Finally, it would complete a perimeter trail and allow many more permutations of loops for recreationalists to use.
2. Remove the Elevator redundant fall-line trail (red). This is a fall line trail and redundant with Elevator. It doesn't add anything to the park and is basically impossible to maintain.
3. Remove French Trail (red). This runs parallel to Ohlone. Although some like it and would like to see it preserved, creation of a Belmont Creek Trail (blue) would likely be an acceptable compromise to these users.

Thank you for your continued support of our multi-use trail system at Waterdog.

Jonathan Carter, MD
Leader, Waterdog Trailkeepers Volunteers

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: erik cords <
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 9:21 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Please maintain mountain bike access to Waterdog park. It is the only park that allows mountain biking that is easily accessible and nearby the local cities. Many of the trails in the park were built and continue to be maintained by mountain bikers. I have participated in both of these activities. I feel it is so unfortunate that a small group of citizens want to restrict access to this park. Please keep the park open to multi-user access.

Thank You,
Erik Cords

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Judy Silverman <
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7:56 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog park

I would like to tell you of my support keep Waterdog a multi-use trail system. It is a friendly place, close to home, to get outside for exercise whether on bikes or hiking with the dog. We frequently go out to eat or get food at Lunardi.

I'd also like to remind you that many of the trails were built and are maintained by our mountain biking community.

Sincerely,
Judy Silverman

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Jacob Kwan
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 9:26 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: Cyclist access at Waterdog lake trails

Hi Belmont staffs,

I want to write to let you know about how awesome the trail access for mountain biker has been at waterdog lake.

I commute from southbay to SF regularly, and always make a stop midway at Belmont's Waterdog Lake mid drive to get a morning workout in. It reduces my commute in half with this midpoint stop, and I am more energized for the workday afterword.

Without this great and convenient access, I wouldn't normally stop in Belmont. Please continue to keep up the great access you offer to mountain biker like myself.

Thank you

Jacob Kwan

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Andy Lott
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:14 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Park Access

Hello,
I am a 62 year-old retiree and wish to express my support for continued multi-use access to Waterdog Park. A former runner, I am now a cyclist (due to bi-lateral hip replacements) who appreciates the mountain bike trails the park provides.
I also ride in many State, Santa Clara County and Mid-Pen Open Space parks and feel a multi-use approach has worked well over the years.

Thank you.
Andy Lott
Sunnyvale, CA

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Dave Evans
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 8:27 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: Supporting Mountain Bikes at Waterdog in the PROS Master Plan

Hello Belmont P&R Commission,

I would like to voice my enthusiastic support and gratitude for continued mountain bike access to Waterdog Park, especially as you finalize the PROS Master Plan.

Off-road cycling has been an ideal means to safely get my children off the couch and into the outdoors, while safely avoiding cars and traffic. Having access to mountain biking in a suburban setting on the Peninsula is a tremendous boon to the mid-Peninsula public, notably in San Mateo County as the county park system has largely marginalized the burgeoning cycling community.

Belmont's leadership in providing equitable, thoughtful facilities to all user groups is a beacon on the Peninsula. I personally live in Portola Valley, where I also manage the town trail map and thus receive vocal input from many shockingly hostile user groups. The fortitude the commission has regularly shown in seeking openness and community throughout this process has been profoundly refreshing. Similarly the openness and good vibes my children and I have consistently experienced on Waterdog trails, from a diverse body of users, are a local treasure to be maintained.

It is my sincere hope that trail access can be maintained for all, and that we can learn to embrace mutual community in the outdoors, rather than to seek the exclusion and division that some vocal minorities have been pushing for. May we *all* continue to safely have fun on trails together. I think the charter says it best!

> 4.4-4 Maintain and enhance trails in open spaces in Belmont. Continue to support opportunities for shared use of trails among multiple users, including pedestrians and mountain bicyclists. Promote knowledge, trail etiquette, and consideration of multiple users on trails through education programs and signage.

Thank you for your consideration, and my best regards,

:: Dave

Dave Evans

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Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 8:21 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Lake Mountain Bike Access

Hello,

My name is Jason Stewart. I am a mountain biker who frequents the trails at Waterdog lake. I first started riding there when I was a Carlmont high student back in the early 2000s. Waterdog is one of the few places that is close enough for those of us who live on the Peninsula to get a ride in after work or fit a quick ride in on a busy weekend. From my house on the San Carlos and Redwood City border, it is only a 15-minute drive to get to Waterdog. In order to get to similar trails in other open spaces, I would have to drive twice that distance if not further if Waterdog was closed to bicycles.

We as mountain bikers do not have as many options to get out and exercise as hikers do. Please do not limit us further.

Thanks,
Jason Stewart

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: CHARLOTTE DUNBAR <>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 7:16 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: love to mountain bike at Waterdog

I'm quite upset that we can't all get along and tolerate each other!
I'm 64 years old and love to mountain bike or walk my dog at Waterdog. It's a great place and I have access from my house without getting into the car. I thought our son to mountain bike there and he had so much fun riding there with his friends. That is a great alternative to screen time.
All the people that I have met on rides and walks are super friendly and respectful of each other.
During COVID, it was almost the only outdoor park where one could go to and enjoy some exercise and nature. During the stressful times it was a sanctuary. My son had a routine to bike for 45 minutes in a free period in High school. It kept him in shape with no PT and only Zoom school.
I hope for kinder people, that respect everybody and can enjoy Waterdog together as a community. Please keep Waterdog accessible for everybody.

Sincerely
Lotti Dunbar

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Dana Falk
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 11:57 AM
To: Sergio Raddavero; Jlla Foehr; Rui Bao; Belmont Redwood Shores SD; David Braunstein; Sanaa Kapur; Scott Sisemore; Austin Lee; Eli Latimerlo; Craig Michaels; Abby; dean; Caroline Pyrz; Karen Haas-Foletta; Nelson Corteway; Bob Stahl
Cc: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: RE: PROS Advisory Committee Update

Hi All!

You all should have received an email to join the Belmont PROS: Advisory Committee #4 as a panelist in the last few weeks. If you did not, please email me or Brigitte.

You can always register as an attendee (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BwxVAOs2QDGTLu80JiCfDA) if the panelist invite gets 'lost in the mail'. Please register with your full name so I can promote you to a panelist once the meeting starts.

We are looking forward to a great conversation tomorrow about the Open Space Management Plan!

DANA FALK | ASSOCIATE

From: Brigitte Shearer [mailto:BShearer@belmont.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:42 PM
To: Sergio Raddavero < Jlla Foehr < ;
Rui Bao >: Belmont Redwood Shores SD < David Braunstein
>: Sanaa Kapur Scott Sisemore
>; Austin Lee < >; Eli Latimerlo
Craig Michaels ; Abby >; dean < >;
Caroline Pyrz < Karen Haas-Foletta < elson
Corteway < >; Bob Stahl >
Cc: Linda Gates < >; Dana Falk Casey Case >
Subject: PROS Advisory Committee Update

Hello Advisory Committee!

It's high time to provide an update of where we are on the PROS plan for Belmont's Parks, Recreation and Open Space. Since we last met, the Consultants, Staff and Commission have continued to work on the following:

1. Refining the 'Big Ideas' of the plan
2. Sharing proposed park improvements via the City's website and social media to encourage the community to provide input on the draft recommendations.
3. Reviewing these improvements at the January, February and March commission meetings – trying to cover them all in one meeting was too onerous. So we've split them up over 3 meetings. The 3rd batch is Wednesday evening. Comments on any park are welcome at any meeting, but breaking things into more manageable batches has worked well so far. The Commission meeting video recordings are available online
4. Securing an open space consultant to address important Open Space topics that require unique expertise.

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The fourth and final Advisory Committee meeting will focus on open space topics. This meeting is scheduled for April 5 at 7pm. The Open Space Consultant will present an update of work completed to date. A meeting invitation will be sent soon.

In the meantime, please continue to encourage your neighborhood to share comments and feedback with us. There are several channels to do so:

1. Email to PRCOMM@belmont.gov to send comments to the P&R Commission
2. Email to info@belmontprospan.com to send comments to the PROS team – staff and consultant
3. Go to www.belmontprosplan.com and click on the green 'PROVIDE FEEDBACK' button to see the draft recommendations and send comments on a specific park.
4. Join the March 2 Commission meeting to provide public comment

We have received helpful comments already. For our two currently undeveloped parks, Hidden Canyon and Ralston Ranch, the consultants have provided revised draft improvements. For all other parks, we're collecting all the feedback and will be updating the recommendations following the March Commission meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
Belmont Parks & Recreation

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Parks & Recreation Director
City of Belmont

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Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mike Munrow <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 8:00 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

I am writing as a long-time (30+ years) Belmont resident to urge you to keep open space access open to all. Waterdog Open Space is the crown jewel of the Belmont Park and Recreation system and as such, we need to maintain inclusive access for all to enjoy.

There is a small group of vocal citizens who want to restrict activities in the open space, but I do not believe their views reflect those of the wider community. The survey results support this view.

Occasionally, I hear an anecdote about a "scary encounter" between mountain bikers and other trail users. I don't believe these are very common though we do need to work to make sure all users of the trails respect each other and share the trails responsibly.

I do have an anecdote of my own to share. This past summer, I was riding in Waterdog and saw a number of people with dogs. I decided to count how many were leashed. On the Lake Road 3 dogs of 4 were on leashes -- good. On the other trails in the Open Space, I saw 3 dogs, none of which were leashed. Does this mean we should restrict dogs in the Open Space? Of course not! It means that trail users need to be educated, respectful to others on the trail.

Thank you for your service to our community,
Michael Munrow

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Pierre Tremblay
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 4:29 PM
To: 8a35349a3e3a67b8900b801bca5a27be@discourse.wdoss.org
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog park

Dear Sir/Madam,
I regularly ride my mountain bike in Waterdog with friends and I am concerned about efforts to close it off to mountain bikers. My experience riding in Waterdog has always been positive and interactions with other users are always courteous and friendly. We are respectful of others and they always return the favor in kind. I trust that every effort will be made to keep the park opened to all users including cyclists.

--
Thank you,

Pierre Tremblay

DRAFT

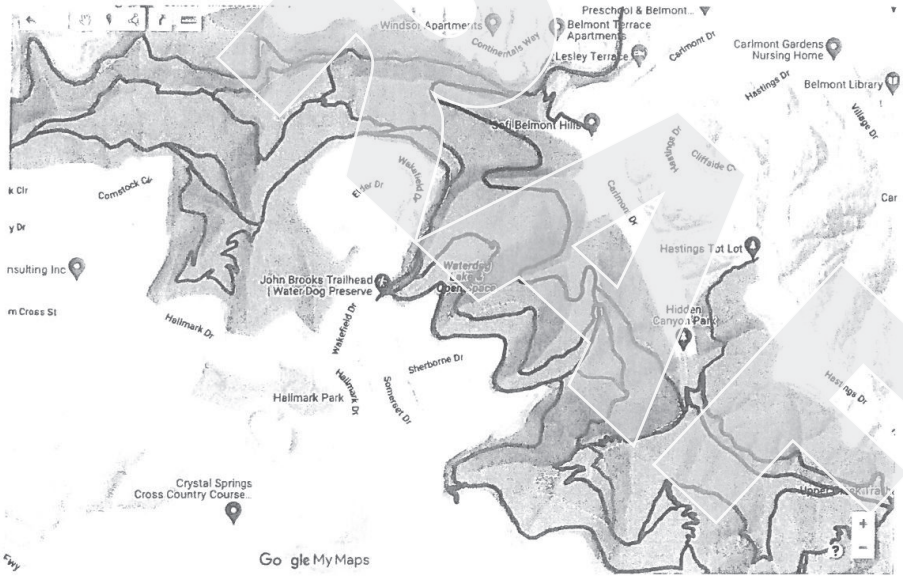
EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Carter
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 8:49 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; Daniel Ourtiague; P&R Comm
Subject: Open Space - What should the future Waterdog trail map be?

This month, the commission will be discussing Belmont's open space as part of the overall PROS plan. At some point, we need to discuss what our Waterdog trail map should be in the future? Are there redundant trails to remove? Are there additional trails that would add to the experience of the open space?

I wanted to humbly suggest the following "Future Waterdog Trail Map" as a starting point for discussion of the open space. The green lines are existing trails. The blue line is a proposed new trail. The red lines are existing trails that I propose to remove. You can view this on Google Maps and play around with it by going to this link: https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1iai29RPBIJMR8QFS0L1xM1fB-mbOpa8i&ll=37.505045261891965%2C-122.30845913638426&z=16



Here are the ideas:
1. Create a Belmont Creek Trail below the dam that follows the isocontour shown in blue. This would be good for a few reasons. First, it would allow folks to get from the Lyall Road entrance (bottom of Lake Road) to Hidden Canyon without having to climb out of the whole canyon. Second, it bypasses Carlmont Drive so one doesn't have to drive/cycle/bike along the houses on Carlmont Drive, improving their privacy. Third, it would allow us to clean up Belmont Creek below the dam (as suggested by our former director Jonathan Gervais). Fourth, it would spread out users more and decrease trail user density. Finally, it would complete a perimeter trail and allow many more permutations of loops for recreationalists to use.
2. Remove the Elevator redundant fall-line trail (red). This is a fall line trail and redundant with Elevator. It doesn't add anything to the park and is basically impossible to maintain.
3. Remove French Trail (red). This runs parallel to Ohlone. Although some like it and would like to see it preserved, creation of a Belmont Creek Trail (blue) would likely be an acceptable compromise to these users.

Thank you for your continued support of our multi-use trail system at Waterdog.

Jonathan Carter, MD
Leader, Waterdog Trailkeepers Volunteers

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Connie S. Tettenborn
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 4:00 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: PROS Master Plan--Waterdog Lake Open Space

Dear Commissioners,

I recently read the comments made during the April 6 Parks and Rec meeting and was both encouraged and disappointed. I am glad that the consultant, WRA, Inc., seems to be providing unbiased information. However, I noted that there continues to be two competing factions and that an appropriate compromise may not be reached. I am concerned that in an effort to appease a vocal group of mountain bikers, the true intent of the land gift will be dismissed. In regard to reaching a compromise, I believe the comment made by Jennifer who "called for all unauthorized trails to be closed, for some trails to be designated for hiking only (per the 1992 Plan), and for e-bikes to be banned," is a very fair and sound approach. While the city does want to encourage biking, it should be clear that biking to stores or work is different from recreational biking. E-bikes do not belong in the Open Space. I do not appreciate the buzz of a motor anywhere near me in what should be a quiet and peaceful place to enjoy nature. I do not want to worry about a cyclist trying to negotiate past me on a narrow trail. I do not like to worry about bikes whizzing by, but I can put up with that provided the path is wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,

Connie Tettenborn

Valley View Ave.

Belmont

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 5:28 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: PROS Draft Feb 22 not updated

Hi Brigitte,
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Residents were promised that this planning process would be transparent and reflective of community input. Please provide an actual updated PROS plan that truly reflects all of the resident and commissioner input.

Thank you,
Kristin Mercer

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bob Stahl
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 11:05 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Re: Belmont PROS Plan - Open Space and Hallmark Plan revised plan

I would like to comment on the WRA presentation presented in April and also ask about the revised plans for Hallmark Park.

First, regarding Hallmark Park. During the discussions of various park redesigns and future plans, it was discussed and I believe pretty much agreed that there is not a desire for a bocce ball court or an "event structure" at the meadow above Hallmark. The current website does not show any revision to the original proposed plan. When will the revision be posted on the PROS Plan website?

Regarding the Water Dog Open Space, I want to make several comments.
The presentation by WRA was extensive and overall well done but I feel several points need to be made.
As an Advisory Committee member, long time Belmont resident of 30+ years and daily hiker on the John Brooks, Rambler and Chaparral trails, I feel that the surveys done missed several things:

1. Currently there are very few animals seen in the Open Space compared to prior years. In the past, it was common to see deer, rabbits, quail, coyotes and other wildlife.
2. Due to bikers now coming from all over the Bay Area as a mountain biking destination, many of my Belmont neighbors do not hike the trails as they consider it too dangerous. My wife and I have been nearly hit over a dozen times over the last 2-3 years by speeding bikers coming around blind curves. Many of the trails are only 24-36 inches wide which is not wide enough for a biker and a walker/hiker to pass safely. Certainly, many bikers are careful but many are not and view the trails as a mountain bike race competition.
It's interesting to note that many residents feel it is literally safer to walk on the streets than walk on the WD trails!
3. The bikes have ravaged the trails in many cases destroying tree roots, cutting the roots and in many cases making the trails so slick that it is difficult to walk or hike them.
4. Some of the Open Space(John Brooks) was specifically granted as a donation with the proviso that it be a "preserve". Obviously this is not taken into consideration anymore and I don't understand why.
Currently it is almost impossible to have a quiet "nature" walk there with bikers or the fear of bikers running a person over.
5. Many illegally constructed trails have been cut into the Open Space by the biker community. Let's close these.
6. I strongly recommend that there be a separation of biker or multi purpose trails from hiker/walker trails. I truly believe it's important to allow bikers-young and old- to bike the area but keep these two areas separate. Bikers should only be allowed on trails 48 inches or more wide. As you probably know, many local open space parks do not allow bikers at all.

I'm very concerned about the future of this beautiful resource we have. Let's use it but protect it so it remains a sustainable habitat for nature and wildlife in our city.
Thank you!
Bob Stahl

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 4:25 PM
To:
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: RE: PROS Draft Feb 22 not updated

Kristen,
The website has been updated with the design that had been developed to reflect the comments from the community and commission.
This had been created a while ago, but was inadvertently not uploaded in a timely manner.
Thank you for bringing this oversight to our attention.

At this time, the only new proposed amenity is a multi purpose flex space (letter e). Shaded seating is suggested in this draft recommendation. As stated previously, these are draft recommendations. Outreach, particularly to the adjacent community, will be conducted before any improvements are undertaken.

Brigitte



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Thank you,
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Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Bob Stahl
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: RE: Belmont PROS Plan - Open Space and Hallmark Plan revised plan

Bob, we have updated the website with the updated Hallmark draft recommendations.

Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
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Belmont Parks & Recreation

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Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 5:51 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: PROS Draft Feb 22 not updated

Hi Brigitte,
Thank you for the updated PROS plan. Please disregard my email sent at 5:49 - I did ultimately find the updated link on the Belmont website. Sorry for the scare and confusion.
Kristin

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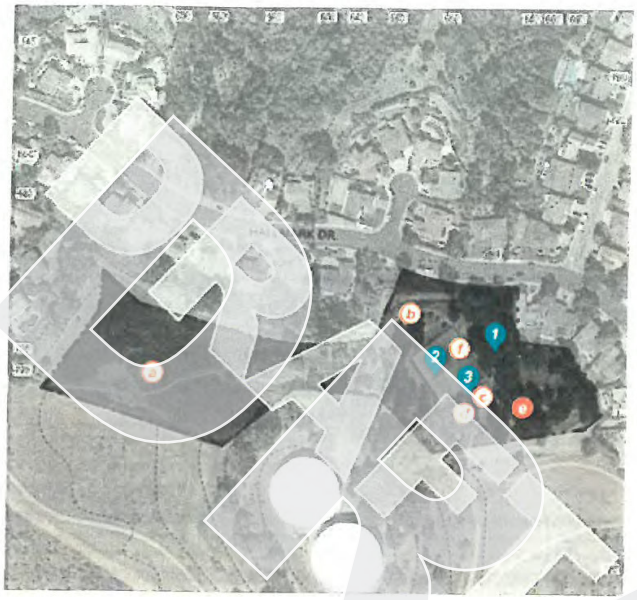
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Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Sheng >
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 9:03 PM
To: P&R Comm; Belmontprosplan Info
Cc: City Council
Subject: PROS Plan open space element
Attachments: 7cd54ce30e6669dc34813a8e363ffbfaf0aafd63.jpeg; 754456390625ed009a5a74b552a9625e81cd4aaa.jpeg; af74305d3f67b3ea595a03cf151576a58d160265.jpeg; cfd9c30357877619b1ab3104a84c3d194b8bf29e.jpeg

Dear Parks & Recreation Commission,

I watched the 5/4/22 Meeting and it seems to me that the consultant WRA is doing a very thorough and reasoned assessment of the open space. Their presentation was very informative, and validates what most community members have been saying all along, which is that the forests in Waterdog and San Juan are healthy, and contrary to what a tiny group of partisans keeps saying, the sky is not falling. It's becoming obvious now that the same four people in the community are the only ones who are making comments against shared multi-use access: Deniz Bolbol, Pat Cuvielo, Kristen Mercer, and the woman who has the screen name of "Jennifer" or "Jenn Jenn." I feel badly that both you and the consultant have to endure their tirades at every meeting. Please know that the community as a whole appreciates your all the time and effort you've been putting into this monumental task.

I was really taken aback at a public comment Kristen Mercer made. She said something to the effect that children and seniors can't use the Waterdog trails because they're too scared of bikes. No evidence to support this was cited of course. That is the complete opposite of my experience. I ride and hike Waterdog on at least a weekly basis, and I see plenty of seniors and young children on the trails. She tried to claim it was an equity issue, but couching an ageist statement like this in equity terms is beyond the pale. Seniors can and do ride mountain bikes. You don't need to take my word for it, please see the attached letters (which I got from the PROS plan resource page) from seniors and near-seniors who cycle the trails and support multi-use.

"Jenn Jenn" lodged some grievance that the consultant is failing to consider the impact of "all the mountain bikers from all over the bay area who ride all the trails." This over-the-top statement belies a complete misunderstanding of the role Waterdog plays in the local trail resource system. Waterdog is a small trail system and is good for maybe a two hour or so ride. It is not a "destination" trail system. Yes, cyclists from out of town will ride Waterdog every now and again, but there's not enough there to make it a major attraction - it's not worth driving an hour plus to get to. If cyclists drive all the way from the South Bay, North Bay, or East Bay to the Peninsula, it's much more worth their while to ride the exponentially larger trail networks in the MidPeninsula Open Space District such as El Corte De Madera, Russian Ridge, Skyline Ridge, Saratoga Gap, and so on. For example, in Santa Cruz County, there is a small trail system at De La Vega Park, similarly sized to Waterdog. I've ridden there once or twice, but if I'm going to drive all the way to Santa Cruz County, It's much more worthwhile to ride the much larger trail systems at Soquel Demonstration Forest, Wilder Ranch, and so on. Anyway, if cyclists from out of town want to ride our trails, we should welcome them just as parks and open space areas in other areas welcome us.

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"Jenn Jenn" does not seem to understand the first two guiding PROS principles, which are to provide equitable access to resources and activities across the entire city, and promote inclusion to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability. I always wonder if there is an undercurrent of racism behind these "locals only" attitudes. We saw this when this same group of folks were demanding that the Crystal Springs Cross Country Course be limited to local athletes only, which would shut out high school athletes from more diverse school districts from the East Bay and Central Valley. "Locals only" seems like a racist dog whistle for "whites only."

It wouldn't be a Parks & Rec Meeting if Deniz Bolbol and Pat Cuvielo didn't make public comment about some perceived environmental disaster, but what was unusual about this meeting was that they both made comment on the agenda item on the consultant update, and later in the meeting, after comment for that item was closed, and public comment was opened up for items not on the agenda. As soon as that comment period opened, they both took the opportunity to make public comments about the consultant report. During Ms. Bolbol's comment, a commissioner started to say "with all due respect this time is for comments on items not on the agenda..." but Ms. Bolbol talked over the commissioner and bullied her way into completing her comment. If feel the Commission should take stronger action when public commenters are abusing the process like this. The Commission would be well within its rights to cut these comments off. It is unfair to the public, when someone who has already made a comment on an agenda item takes a "Mulligan" and gets further comment in, during a period with others are not expecting those comments to be made and are not prepared to respond. I would respectfully suggest that the Commission consult with the City Attorney on how to handle this situation in the future, because it is certain to happen again.

Thanks again for everything you're doing, and keep up the good work. I think both the Commission and WRA are doing an excellent job of moving this process to the finish line in a measured, transparent, and considerate way.

Regards,

Paul Sheng

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Brigitte Shearer

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:59 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog MTB Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

In addition, I think mountain bikers are the primary users of most of the trails. People tend to walk up the fire road and walk to Waterdog lake, but the majority of the trails, other than the two just listed, appear to me to be primarily used by mountain bikers. Some people do hike them, but they are not the majority of the users. I live in Crestview Estates, which is next to the park. I cycle the trails often, and my experience is I mostly see other bikers and not that many hikers. The ones who do hike them appear to be more committed to outdoor activities (they are usually pretty fit) and are more passionate. They want the trails closed so only hikers have access. I am 57 years old. I very much enjoy cycling the trails and think it is a mistake to limit mountain bikers. Especially when there are already hiking only parks already nearby such as Edgewood Park and the Crystal Springs trails.

Best Regards,

[redacted]

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:26 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: OF aCESS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioners,

I have been a property and business owner [redacted] in Belmont for nearly 40 years. During this time, I have been able to enjoy riding bikes at Water Dog park with my son and now our grandson (three generations). We appreciate having Water Dog in our community; it has been an excellent place for our family to bond; we have made many memories.

Please let me know how I can help or can be used as a sounding board for the committee.

Regards,
[redacted]

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 6:39 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Preserve Multi-Access Use to Waterdog Lake and Hidden Canyon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council Members,

We have been Belmont residents for over thirty years and have raised our family here. Our three children have all gone through the local public schools; Central Elementary, Ralston Middle School and Carlmont High School (with the youngest now a Junior at Carlmont). In all these years we have greatly enjoyed the City's open space, including Waterdog Lake / Hidden Canyon and San Juan Canyon / Sugarloaf Mountain. This enjoyment includes walking, running, riding bicycles, exercising our dogs and enjoying nature. As you consider these open spaces in the new Master Plan, we urge you to maintain their current multi-use designation with no new restrictions.

Consistent with this, we fully support the "Love Waterdog" campaign and associated outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.

For the record, we are very grateful for the excellent work to maintain and enhance the trails and related facilities done by the partnership between the City's Public Works department and various volunteers.

One request: Please install dog waste bags and garbage cans at the trailheads for San Juan Canyon (for example at the bottom of San Juan Blvd).

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:28 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain biking at Waterdog Park!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great. We are always courteous and considerate of hikers along the trails! Coexistence is bliss.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

With best regards,

[redacted]
62 Years Old and still riding :-)

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Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2022 3:45 PM
To: PROS Committee; P&R Comm
Cc: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: FW: Wildlife Connectivity Corridors of Belmont Open Spaces
Attachments: Wildlife Corridor Benefits USDA.pdf

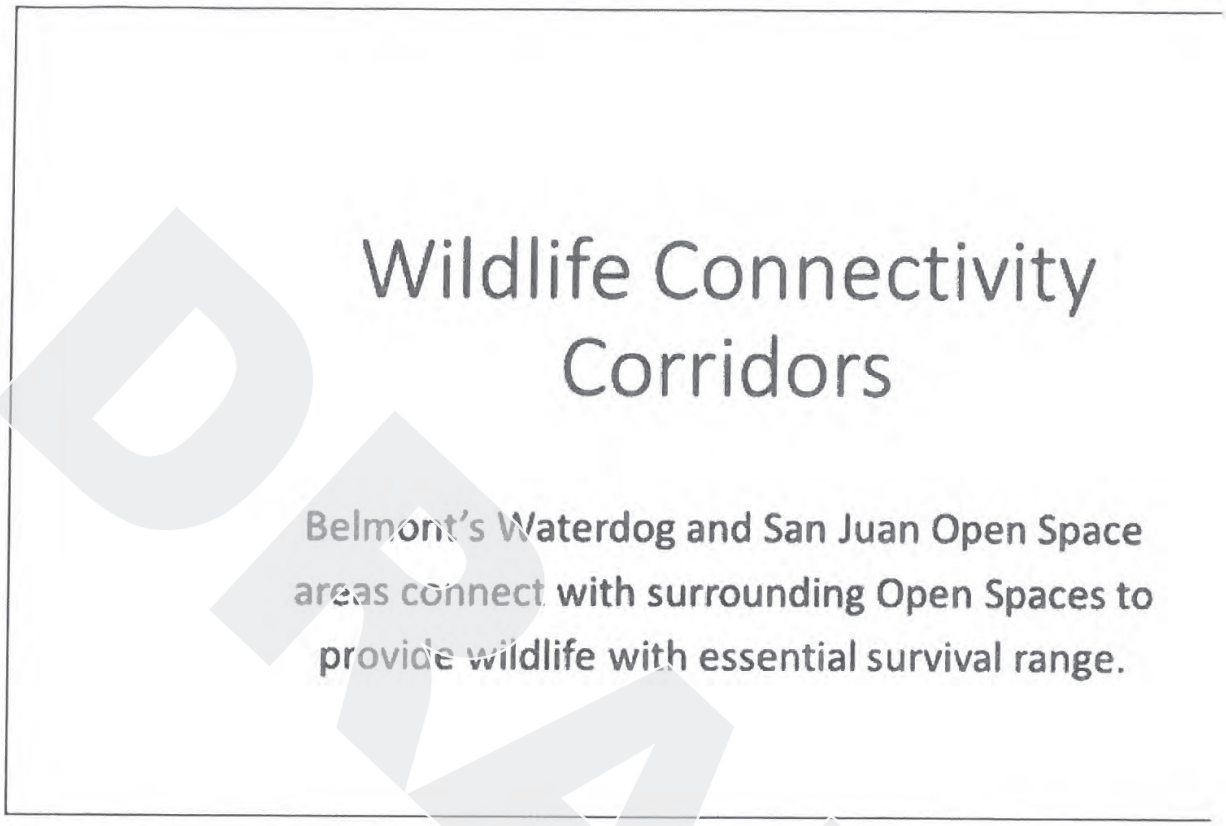
Dear Commissioners and PROS committee,
I was frustrated to hear WRA consultants deny that Belmont's open spaces serve as a wildlife corridor. It appears they confused the terms "wildlife *migration*" (long-distance seasonal movement of entire flocks or herds) with the correct term "*connectivity corridors*" (daily individual travel between interconnected open spaces).

All Belmont residents know we have wildlife in our canyons – we see them daily on trails and meadows, and our cameras capture their nocturnal ventures into our yards. And we also intuitively know they cannot survive within these open space pockets alone – they travel *between* canyons by crossing streets, yards, and even alleys. These open spaces are not isolated islands – they are part of a large habitat archipelago. The consultants who wrote the General Plan Open Space and Conservation Elements, and 1992 Open Space Master Plan, as well as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife all recognize Belmont open spaces as part of a network of connected open spaces, important in preserving the biodiversity of our native species. To familiarize you with these authoritative sources, and how wildlife corridors work, I've put the facts into a few slides, below, and attach here the USDA Information Sheet on the topic.

The presence of nature and wildlife is what drew us to live in these hills. Residents decry the saddening trend of fewer and fewer wildlife sightings, as human activity increases in their habitat. We entrust you to create plans and policies that embody our General Plan and preserve the habitat and connected corridors critical to our native wildlife.

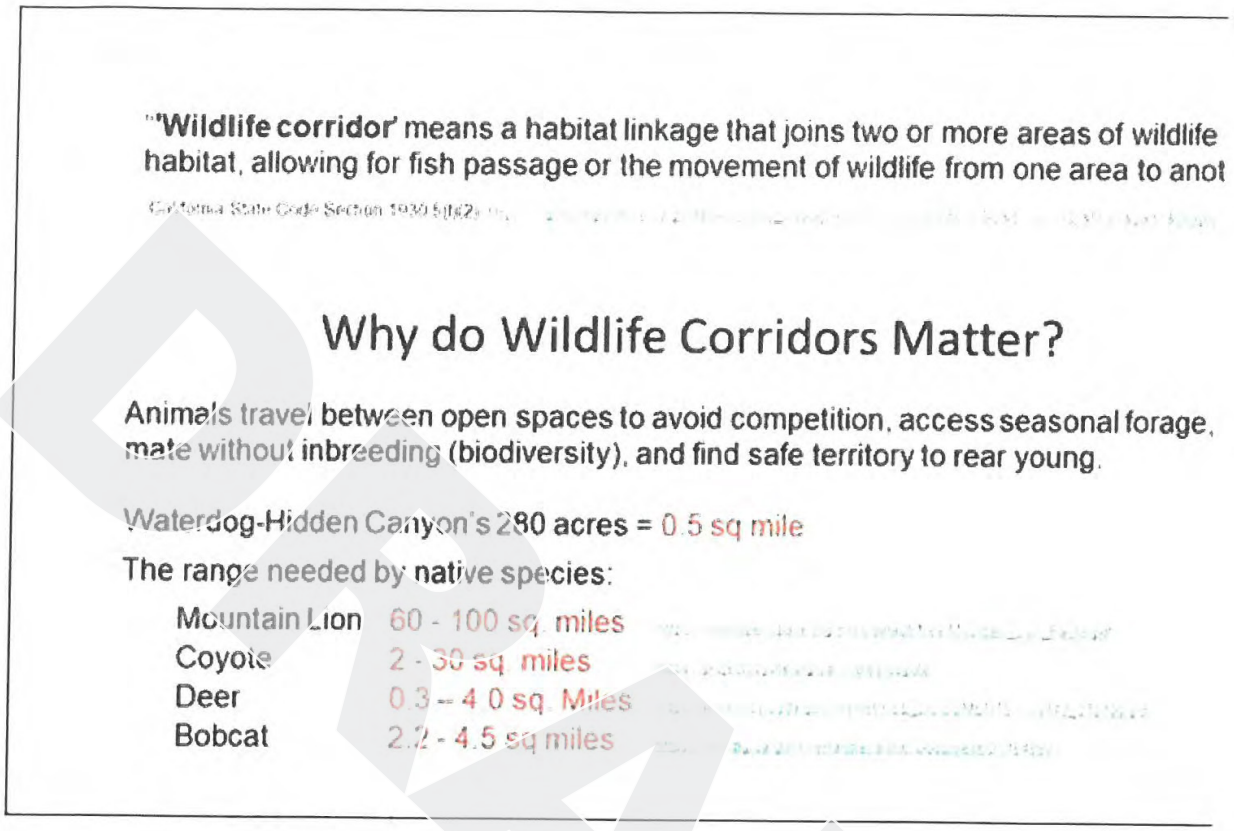
Thank you,
Kristin Mercer

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"**Wildlife corridor**' means a habitat linkage that joins two or more areas of wildlife habitat, allowing for fish passage or the movement of wildlife from one area to anot

California State Code Section 1930 5(b)(2)

Why do Wildlife Corridors Matter?

Animals travel between open spaces to avoid competition, access seasonal forage, mate without inbreeding (biodiversity), and find safe territory to rear young.

Waterdog-Hidden Canyon's 280 acres = 0.5 sq mile

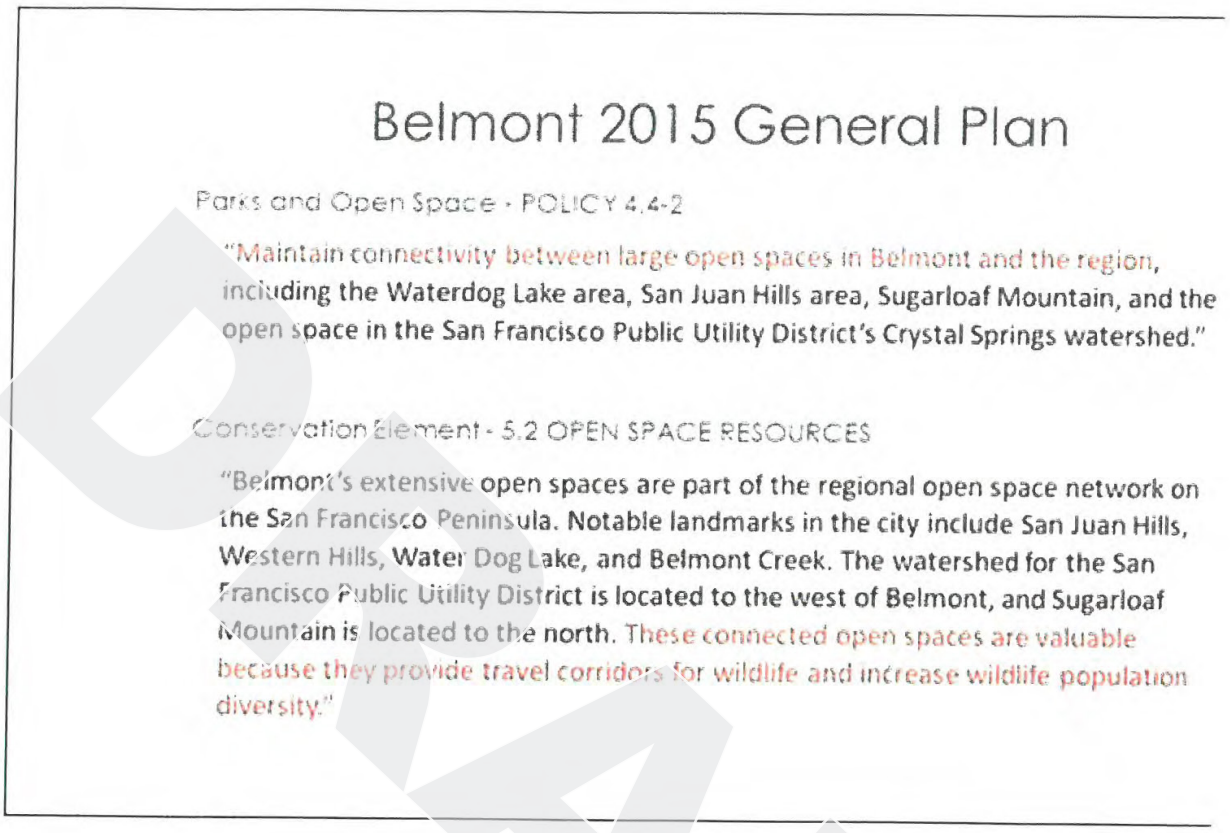
The range needed by native species:

Mountain Lion	60 - 100 sq. miles
Coyote	2 - 30 sq. miles
Deer	0.3 – 4.0 sq. Miles
Bobcat	2.2 - 4.5 sq miles

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Belmont 2015 General Plan

Parks and Open Space - POLICY 4.4-2

"Maintain connectivity between large open spaces in Belmont and the region, including the Waterdog Lake area, San Juan Hills area, Sugarloaf Mountain, and the open space in the San Francisco Public Utility District's Crystal Springs watershed."

Conservation Element - 5.2 OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

"Belmont's extensive open spaces are part of the regional open space network on the San Francisco Peninsula. Notable landmarks in the city include San Juan Hills, Western Hills, Water Dog Lake, and Belmont Creek. The watershed for the San Francisco Public Utility District is located to the west of Belmont, and Sugarloaf Mountain is located to the north. These connected open spaces are valuable because they provide travel corridors for wildlife and increase wildlife population diversity."

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California Essential Habitat Connectivity Pr

A Strategy for Conserving a Connected California

https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Connectivity/CEHC

"A functional network of connected wildlands is essential to the continued support of Californ diverse natural communities in the face of both human development and climate change."

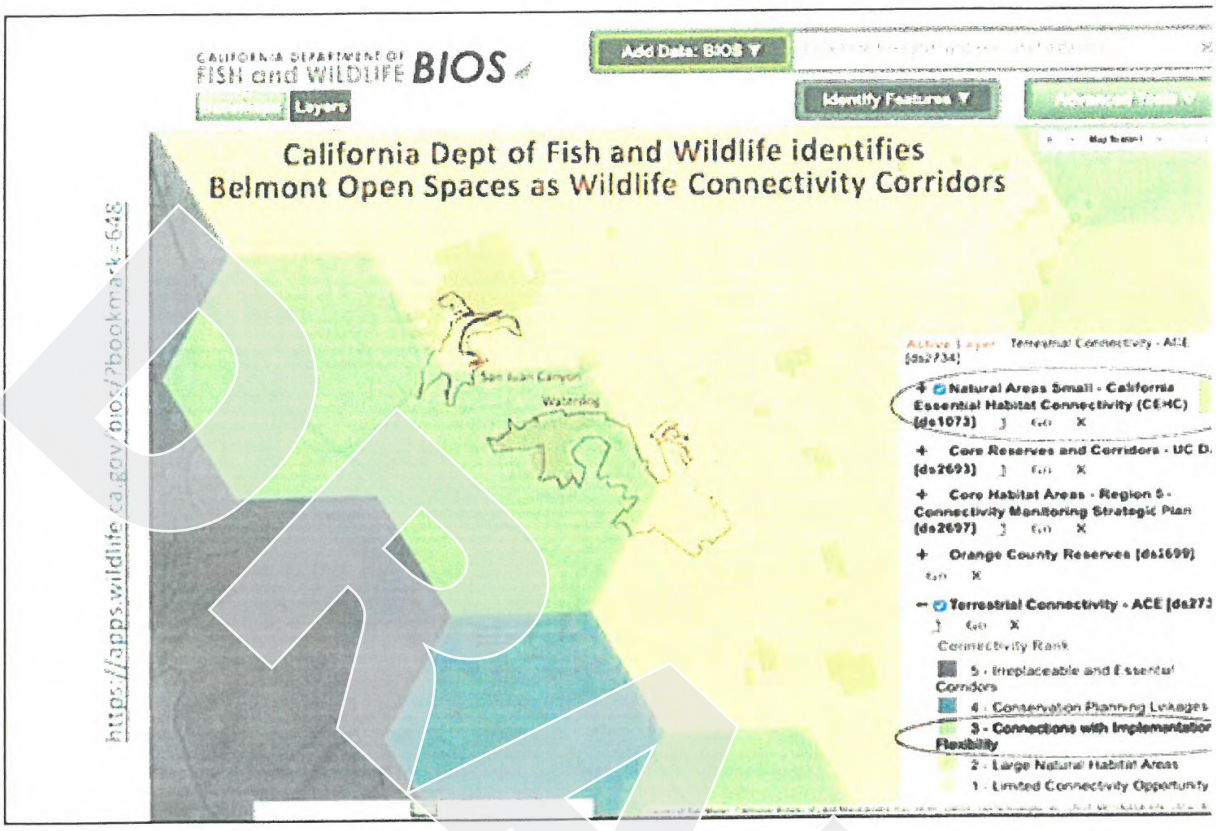
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) commissioned a team of consultants to produce a statewide assessment of essential habitat connectivity using the best available science, data sets, spatial analyses and modeling techniques.



The goal was to identify large remaining blocks of intact habitat or natural landscape and model linkages between them that need to be maintained, particularly as corridors for wildlife.

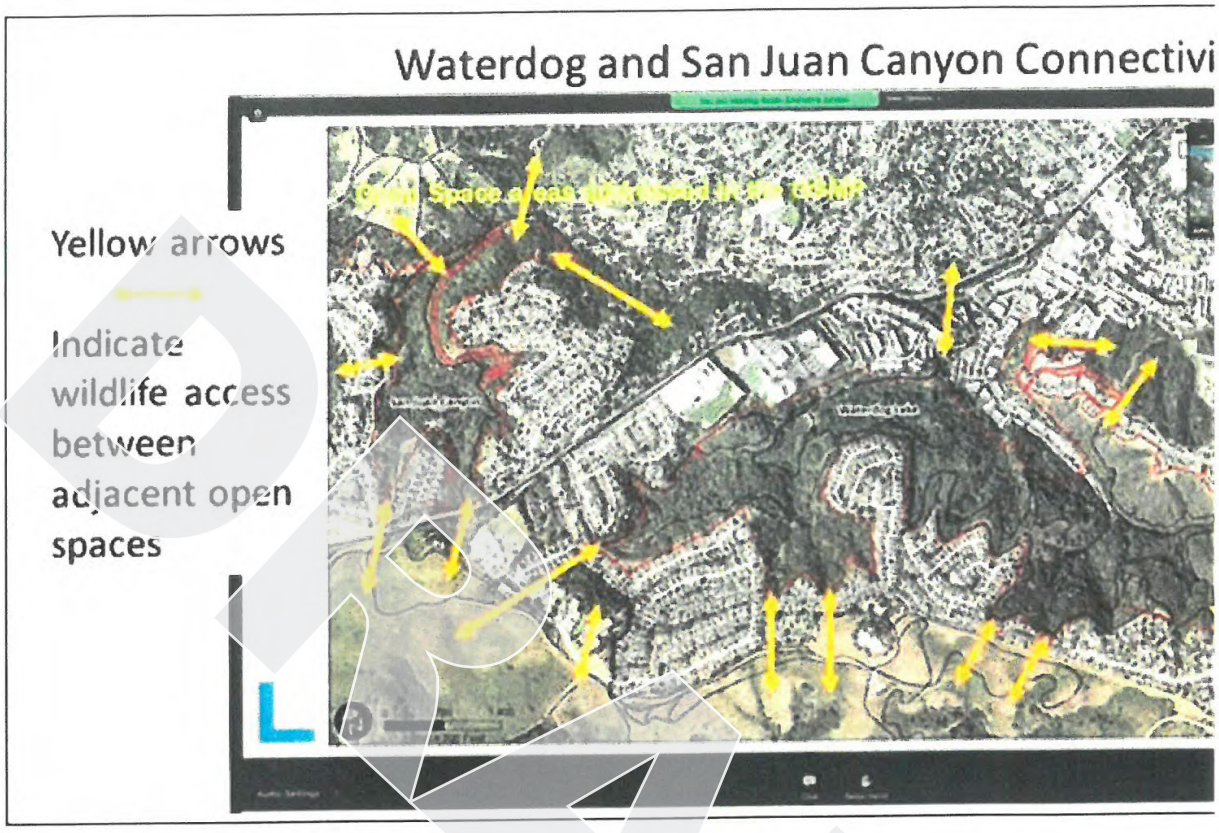
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Brigitte Shearer

From: Rick Newhauser <
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 5:30 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog support for multi-use

My name is Richard Newhauser. I live on Wakefield Dr. in Belmont and my backyard butts up to the Waterdog park.

I support continued multi-use access to Waterdog. Waterdog has been successfully managed as a multi-use trail system for decades, and the trails have been sustainable based in large part due to volunteer trailwork by cyclists, through the Waterdog Trailkeepers.

My family, which includes my two sons, wife, and a dog, enjoy the trails daily through hikes, dog walks and Mt Biking. We love getting into the park as well as looking at it from our backyard.

Please continue to allow multi-access to Waterdog.

All the best,
Richard "Rick" Newhauser

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Craig Gleason <
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:14 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: Comments on Waterdog trails and multi-use for May 31 meeting

Hello,

I plan to attend the Belmont PROS Advisory Committee meeting #5 on May 31. As the time provided for public comment is short and I am not a Belmont resident, I would like to provide some comments via email and let the local folks speak live.

I'm a hiker and mountain biker in Santa Clara County. I visit Waterdog periodically as I have friends in the area. I enjoy the preserve and value the opportunity to ride and hike there. I strongly believe that it should continue to support multiple use including cycling.

More and more, we are seeing that joint engagement from multiple user groups is leading to better open space opportunities. I am an active trail advocate and a frequent volunteer with the Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship. SCMTS evolved from a mountain biking advocacy organization into a multi-use advocacy and trail building organization, and we are seeing huge benefits from the partnerships the organization has developed with land managers and between user groups. The new trail system developments at Coloni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods, as well as completed projects such as Glenwood Preserve, use modern thinking in trail system and trail design to manage multiple uses. The Trail Stewardship harnesses the power of hundreds of volunteers to do great work for all types of trail users, and works to ensure that all users can have good experiences simultaneously – meaning that goal interference and user conflict is minimized. While the mountain biking advocates in Belmont may not be quite this organized, I see them consistently advocating actively for better behavior, to honor the requests of the land managers, and to maintain trails.

My point is that the route to better open space interaction and experience is to engage the broad community constructively to build better trails and systems, maintain the systems for optimal experiences, and appeal to users to interact respectfully. Mountain biking communities are often the most active and engaged in trail building and maintenance, because they care deeply about quality of trails and have historically been shut out of many trail systems. I believe that Belmont's best path will be to partner with the trail users including mountain bikers to do work in the system (maintenance; retrofitting for better experience and user interaction; or new trail building where appropriate) and to broadcast and promote the land managers' requests (trail interaction; respect for the environment; etc.) to their larger user groups.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Craig Gleason

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From:
To: [redacted]; P&R Comm; info@belmontpros.plan.com
Subject: Waterdog Trails Summary - 4 Issues and their Solutions
Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022 6:33:17 PM

Brigitte, Park & Rec Commissioners and PROS Committee:

After more than 2 years, you will be concluding the PROS Master Plan analysis and provide recommendations regarding our Open Space.

During this time, many Belmont residents have provided informational reports, photos, videos and public comments on Waterdog summarized on our Belmont resident website (www.waterdogpreserve.org). The goal of all our efforts has been to guide this new Master Plan toward more Equity and Sustainability than past practices.

This email presentation below summarizes the 4 main Waterdog trail issues with their solutions that allow All users to "Love Waterdog".
Please take time to read it and think carefully regarding the important decisions you will make that impact us and future generations for years to come.

Thank you for your attention.

Jennifer Lien
Belmont

P. S. Brigitte, please forward this presentation to WRA consultants.

Waterdog Trails Summary

4 Major Issues

1. Excessive Trail Density
2. Unauthorized and Altered Trails
3. Hikers Displaced by Bike Use on ALL Trails
4. E-Bikes Add Traffic and Trail Wear

With acknowledgement to many Belmont residents for their data references
www.waterdogpreserve.org

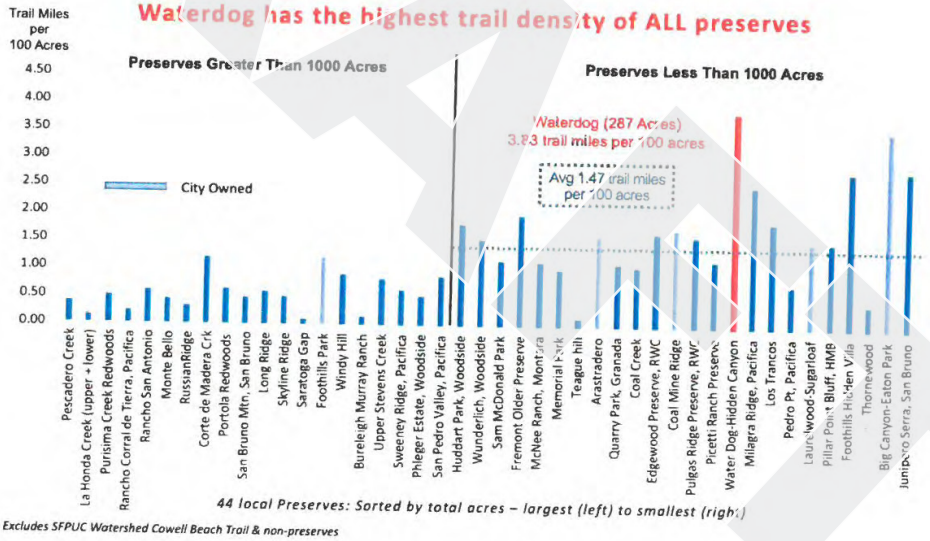
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Issue # 1 – Excessive Trail Density

Waterdog-Hidden Canyon High Trail Density Damages Habitat

- Highest trail miles per 100 acres among ALL local preserves
- 2.5 times the trail miles per 100 acres among smaller preserves under 1000 acres (Waterdog has 287 acres)
- Waterdog is overbuilt with too many trails



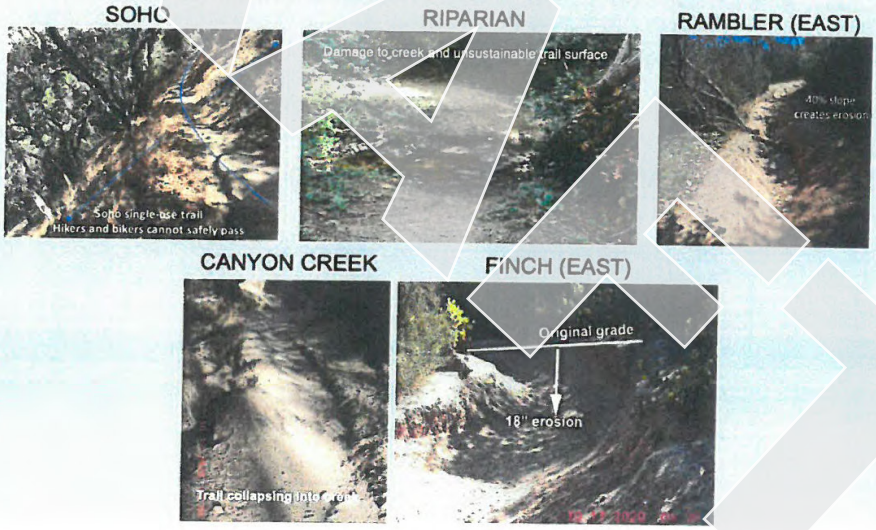
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Issue # 2 – Unauthorized and Altered Trails

Unauthorized Trails Are Dangerous, Steep, Eroding and Damage Habitat

- Soho, Riparian and Rambler (East) built without approval, with steep grades, are dangerous, eroding, and damaging natural habitat.
- Canyon Creek trail damages creek bank vegetation, silts creek and threatens water quality.
- Finch East built off-plan with steep zigzag switchbacks is dangerous, eroded, and unmaintainable.

Damages on Unauthorized and Altered Trails



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Issue # 3 - Hikers Displaced by Mountain Bikes

Families and Seniors denied equitable enjoyment of safe nature trails

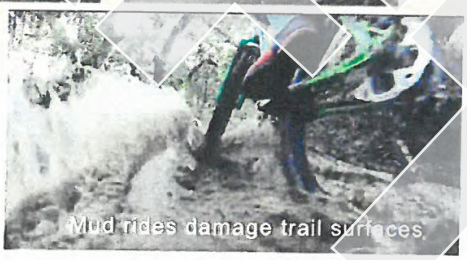
- Sport of Mountain Biking on ALL trails: both wide and narrow
- Heavy bike traffic at competitive speeds endangers ALL users
- Aggressive biking forces families and seniors to go elsewhere
- Bike jumps damage trails; skidding exacerbates erosion

Sport of Mountain Biking Creates Unsustainable Trail Wear









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Heavy Bike Traffic Displaces Hikers & Damages Trails

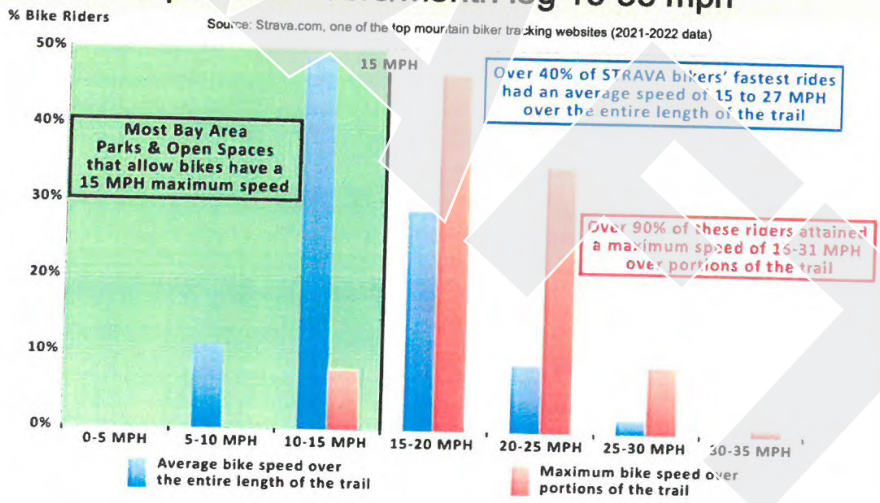
Source: Strava.com, one of the top ride-tracking websites (2021-2022 data)

Waterdog Map Trail or *New Unmapped Trail*	Rides/month May 2021-Mar 2022
Lake Road	970
John Brooks, mid	760
Berry	670
Canyon Creek	600
Rambler	650
John Brooks, upper	640
Finch	550
Chaparral	420
Upper Creek	400
Labor of Love/That Trail (Soho Trail)	500

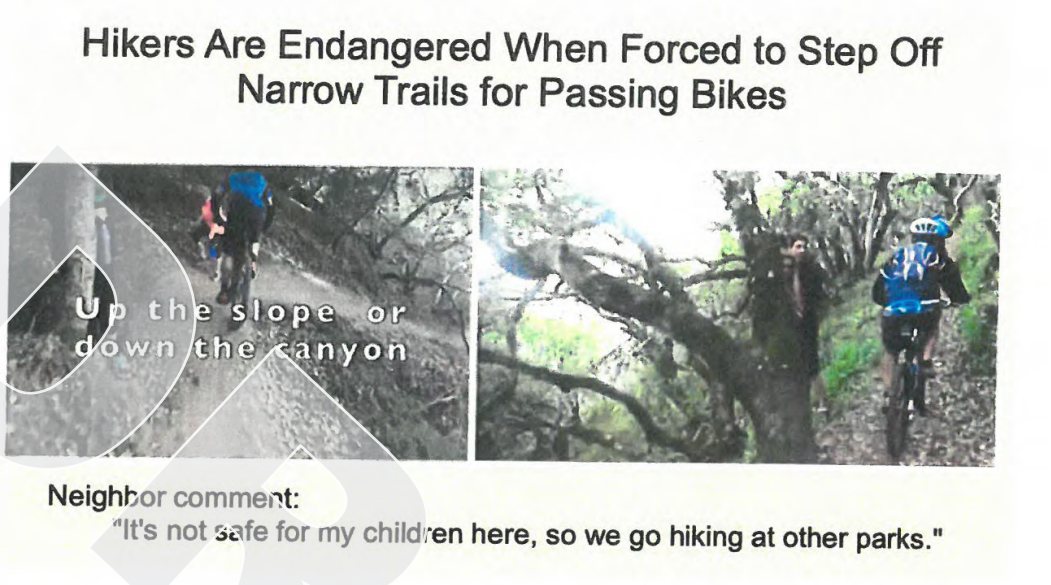
- Actual rides are several times higher than this self-reported Strava data.
- Current City Policies favor biking on ALL trails to the detriment of hikers.

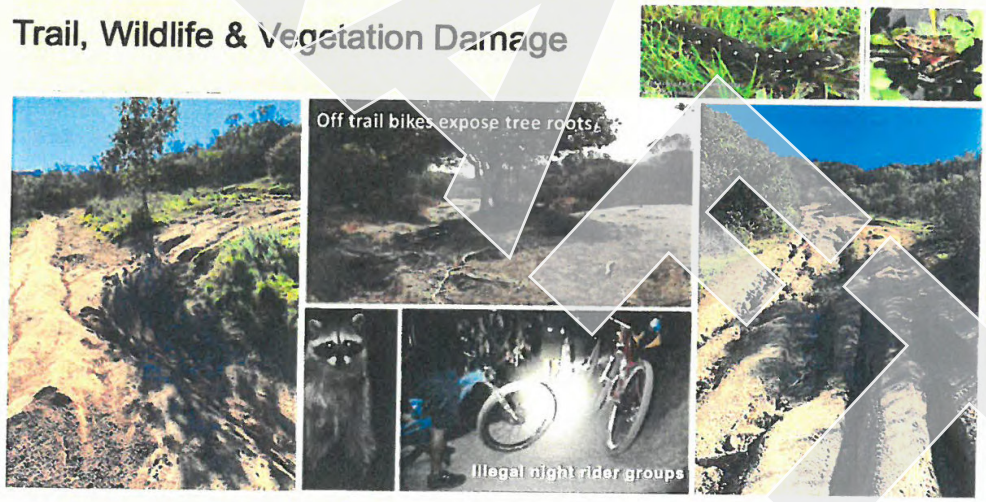
Single Use Trails for hikers only (current Master Plan) Unauthorized Illegal Trail

Canyon Creek Trail is a Speed Competition Track
Up to 600 riders/month log 15-35 mph



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Issue # 4 - E-Bikes

Rapidly Rising Use adds Impacts and Displaces More Hikers

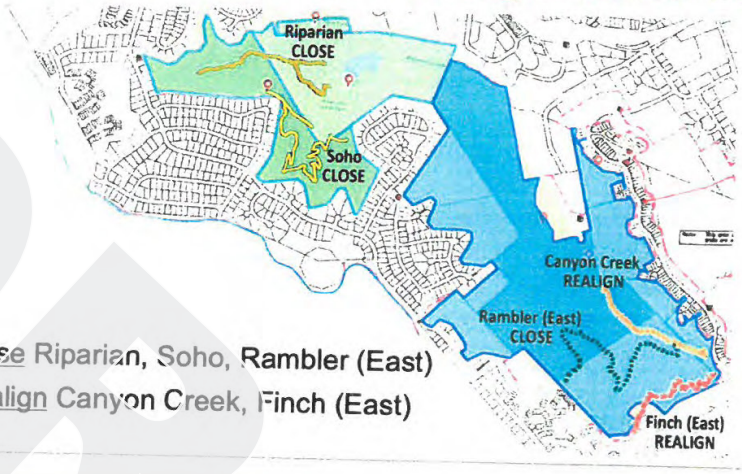
- E-bikes cover more miles, multiplying trail wear
- Faster speeds, motorized power, wider tires exacerbate current trail hazards and damage.
- E-bike classes are visually indistinguishable - Regulating by class is unenforceable.



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Solution # 1
Close Unauthorized Trails & Realign Altered Trails



- Close Riparian, Soho, Rambler (East)
- Realign Canyon Creek, Finch (East)

Solution # 2
Provide Equity of Safe Access for Families & Seniors
Narrow Trails for Hiking Only

Bikers and Hikers Share Multi-use Trails (6)

Lake Road Trail
Upper Lake Road Trail
John Brooks Trail
Elevator Trail
Rambler Trail (West)
Finch Trail (West)
Upper Creek Trail

Hikers Only – No Bikes Single-use Trails (7)

Lake Loop Trail
Berry Trail
Chaparral Trail
Raccoon Run Trail
~~Upper Creek Trail~~
Canyon Creek Trail
Ohlone Trail

Close

Soho Trail
Riparian Trail
Rambler Trail (East)

Realign

Canyon Creek Trail
Finch Trail (East)

DRAFT

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Solution # 2
Follow City Master Plan Policy for Multi & Single-Use Trails

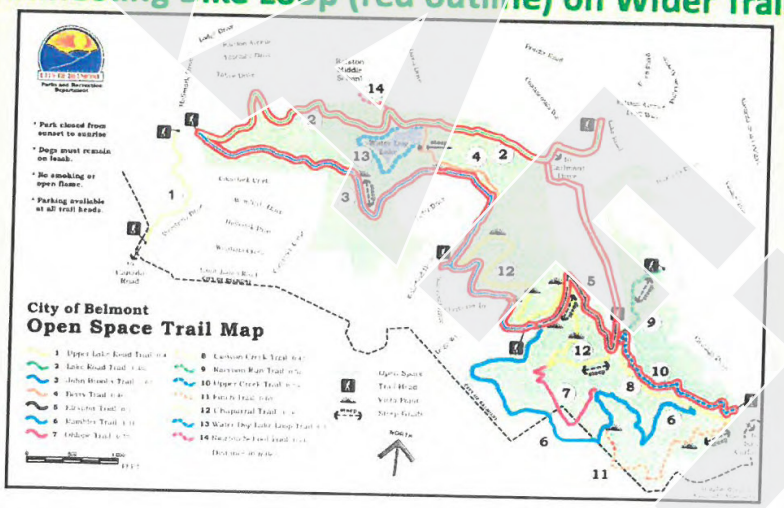
Multi-Use Trails:

- hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians
- Gravel-surfaced, **10 to12 feet** to allow emergency, service, and fire
- **higher elevations** where they would help create a fire break
- Trail gradients of **10% or less**, 15% considered maximum

Single-Use Trails:

- **Hikers** only
- **Narrow earthen paths from 2 to 4 feet in width**
- For the **lower elevations** including **valley floors**
- Provide more **secluded, natural hiking experience**

Solution # 3
Connecting Bike Loop (red outline) on Wider Trails



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Solution # 4 – Follow Sierra Club Bike Use Criteria

SIERRA CLUB

Appendix C - Criteria

When a land management agency reviews suitability of a trail for bicycle use, bicycle use should not be allowed where it would cause the following measurable effects. This list is not all-inclusive.

1. Significant soil erosion or significant damage to streams or fish habitat.
2. Rutting, impairment of trail drainage, breakdown of trail shoulders, and other forms of damage not correctable using U.S. Forest Service trail maintenance standards and techniques.
3. Significant disturbance of plants or animals or their habitat.
4. Damage to archaeological, scientific, historical, or other significant resources, including rare natural features of interest for scientific study.
5. Danger to the safety of bicyclists or other users because of bicycle speed, steep grades, steep terrain, sharp curves, slippery or unstable trail surfaces, or limited visibility. See Appendix D for design features that can improve safety.
6. Significant displacement or annoyance of other non-motorized users.

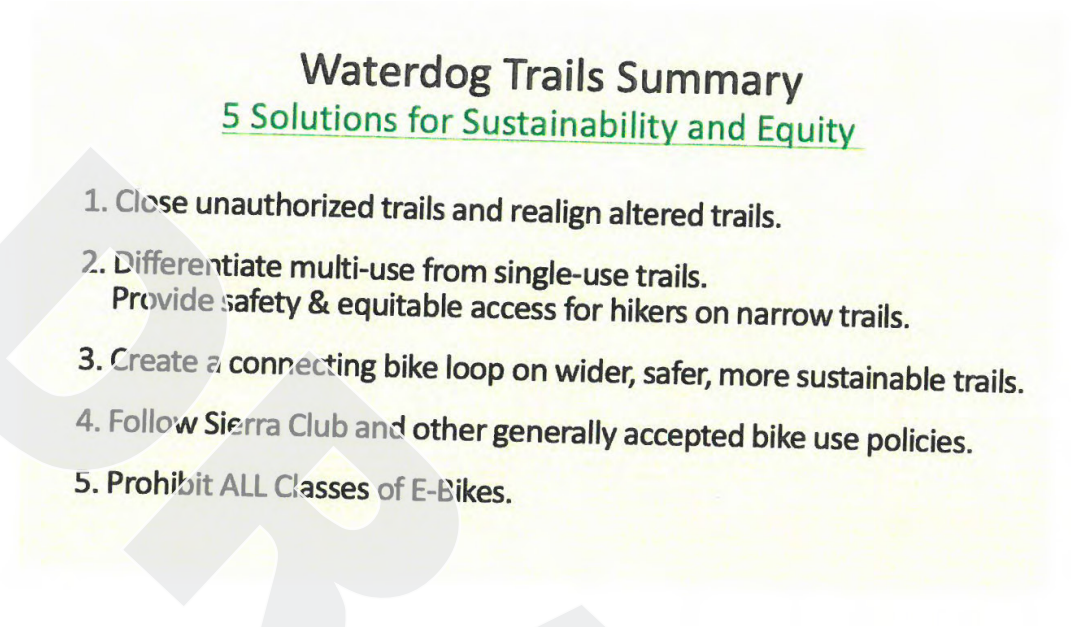
https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/road-use-bicycles

Solution # 5 – Prohibit ALL Classes of E-Bikes

- Recent e-bike technology makes it extremely difficult to differentiate mountain bikes from classes of motorized bikes.
- The impacts of higher speed, heavier weight and powerful motors threaten ecology and wildlife In Waterdog Open Space.



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Waterdog Trails Summary

5 Solutions for Sustainability and Equity

1. Close unauthorized trails and realign altered trails.
2. Differentiate multi-use from single-use trails.
   Provide safety & equitable access for hikers on narrow trails.
3. Create a connecting bike loop on wider, safer, more sustainable trails.
4. Follow Sierra Club and other generally accepted bike use policies.
5. Prohibit ALL Classes of E-Bikes.

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 3:14 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment
Attachments: DRAFT_OSMP-Memo_Combined_MgmtAlts_EA_5.26.2022-Formatted.pdf

Commissioners,
Attached is the DRAFT environmental assessment that will be shared on the BelmontPROSplan.com website and will be sent to advisory committee shortly

Have a great weekend,
Thank you
Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
Belmont Parks & Recreation

30 Twin Pines Ln, Belmont, CA 94002
P: (650) 595-7488 | E: bshearer@belmont.gov
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wra
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

MEMORANDUM

To: Brigitte Shearer, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Belmont

From: John Baas, WRA

cc:

Date: May 26, 2022

Subject: Draft Management Alternatives and Environmental Assessment for the Open Space Management Plan as part of the Belmont Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan

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Draft Memorandum: Management Alternatives and Environmental Assessment
for the Open Space Management Plan as part of the Belmont Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan

MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Introduction

The purpose of the Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) is to ensure the open space holdings of the City of Belmont (City) be maintained in perpetuity for the multi-benefits of recreation, plant communities and wildlife habitat, and hazard mitigation. The OSMP is a subset of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The OSMP affirms objectives, policies, implementation actions that will allow the City to enhance how its open spaces are monitored, managed, maintained, and reported on. Following feedback from the PROS Advisory Committee, City of Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission, and community input during the winter and spring of 2022, the City and Consultants have grouped the identified objectives, policies, and implementation actions into three categories: 1) environmental sustainability; 2) balancing recreation uses and trail management; and, 3) natural hazard mitigation.

The City is currently considering a range of alternatives to the OSMP that reflect desired outcomes. The Base Plan includes the "must-have" objectives and policies, while the Recreation Emphasis Alternative and the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative include additional objectives and policies to supplement of the Base Plan. These alternatives are introduced below.

Base Plan

The Base Plan builds on existing City planning document objectives, policies, and implementation actions to protect sensitive resources, guide trail maintenance and manage recreation, and mitigate the risk of natural hazards. This approach implements best practices for comparable open space environmental sustainability through policies that promote viable and diverse native plants and wildlife, and protect and restore natural water courses. The Base Plan utilizes balanced recreation policies aimed at sustainable trail design and visitor safety. Additionally, this plan reinforces natural hazard mitigation through detailed policies that prioritize reducing the risk and severity of wildfire within City open spaces and adjacent residential areas, as well as regional planning and coordination.

Recreation Emphasis Alternative

The Recreation Emphasis Alternative would supplement the Base Plan by augmenting trail and recreational use policies and implementation actions. This approach ensures trails and supporting amenities are proactively adapted to meet growing community needs.

Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative

The Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative would enhance the Base Plan by including additional policies to prioritize the protection of native plant communities and wildlife. Under this alternative, additional resources may be focused on the enhancement of natural areas through habitat restoration.

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n

TAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
and promote viable and diverse plant communities that are teristic of the region.		
in and promote healthy and diverse wildlife populations.		
and restore natural water courses, ds, and hydrologic processes.		
d document scientific knowledge of rable open space resources and accepted and well documented ce management techniques as a or management decisions.		
l ability to perform natural resource ement.		

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ON USE OBJECTIVES

Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
e diverse, nature-dependent ion activities in the city's open reas.		
e and maintain trails to be mentally sustainable.		
te and encourage multi-use tibility on trails.		
e partnerships and programs aimed oving recreation experiences.		

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TIGATION OBJECTIVES

Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
: the risk and severity of wildland d minimize the impact of fire ssion activities within City open and adjacent residential areas.		
: life and property from natural s, including neighboring unities during mitigation or hazard		
e cooperative planning to respond ural hazards.		

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TAINABILITY POLICIES

Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
trail construction, and facility lopment in riparian and other and areas (and associated buffers) otect them from disturbance. eational, educational, and other ramatic activities should be ucted in previously developed s, when possible, to minimize cts to riparian/wetland areas.		
itor open space conditions with an nasis on documenting the location, bution, and abundance of special- s plants and plant communities, e grasses, wildflowers, and other e flora.		
or relocate, modify trails to avoid cting sensitive habitats such as nds and areas where endangered es are present. Avoid aligning trails g the boundaries of sensitive ats.		
ect riparian ecosystems and habitat aintain natural hydrologic process, r quality, and wildlife benefits. If ssary, enhance and restore riparian ats to improve function.		

6

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Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
ect common native plant species disturbance, such as trampling, and ise, such as Sudden Oak Death.		
itor and control exotic or nuisance species.		
		Preserve and enhance riparian, stream, and other wetland communities locally and in coordination with other agencies to continue providing important habitat networks.
itor sensitive terrestrial and aquatic ife species in terms of their ence/absence and potential to occur ty of Belmont open space lands.		
dance of sensitive wildlife species, al breeding or nesting seasons, and al breeding or nesting habitats g trail or facility construction.		
ect common native wildlife species disturbance, and disease.		
		Preserve and enhance native wildlife habitat locally and in coordination with other agencies to continue protecting important habitat networks.

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Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
ect surface and ground water from nical contamination.		
nize unnatural soil erosion and nentation of waters and wetlands.		
lop performance measures when ning city projects for the purpose of space management and collect toring data to evaluate project ess.		
gnation and evaluation of trail ovement project proposals will be d the environmental sustainability on best available data, including ntories of wildlife, and vegetation urces. The city will undertake site fic and programmatic efforts to nd and improve upon the biological and recreational benefits rlying its decision-making criteria		
lop written agreements with nteer groups to perform natural urce management tasks.		
city will lead, coordinate, or partner institutions, agencies, and nizations when conducting natural urce management activities.		

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Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
		Expand volunteer restoration programs subject to established protocols to ensure optimal environmental protection.

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ON POLICIES

Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
l access should be provided for a range ser capabilities and needs (including sons with physical limitations) in a ıner consistent with State and Federal ılations. The Americans with ıbilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for door Developed Areas will inform trail rovement and maintenance where ditions permit.		
ign and improve trails to facilitate safe use by all visitors with a focus toward ving travel speeds, having long sight s, and establishing safe passing zones.		
city may prohibit certain trail uses or ly increased trail use restrictions ıin certain areas to enhance safety, imize conflicts between trail users, protect natural resources in sensitive ource areas.		
ntain high quality visitor experiences.		
ersify recreation opportunities in the n space areas, subject to policies that ly to all users of these areas.		
horized trailheads must include site trail identifying signage, allowed uses, ted trail map, garbage can with ırable lid, and a dog waste bag ıenser.		

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Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
nitor and evaluate open space trail ditions on city open space lands to ntify significant erosion, informally ted trails, trail redundancy or erwise unnecessary trail segments.		
ntain trails by improving drainage, dening, widening based on critical luations.		
dification to any open space resources pen space lands is prohibited unless horized personnel have given express roval to perform such tasks, including construction, improvement, closing, ecommissioning trails.		
horized trails must have wayfinding age and associated naming ventions		
	Evaluate opportunities to construct new trails that could connect with other regional trails, with existing city recognized trails, and by designating other trails not currently formally recognized as part of the city's open space trail system.	
provide visitor opportunities to erience natural sounds, no amplified nds - i.e. portable speakers - are wed on open space lands unless ressly approved as part of a group vity permit.		

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Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative Additions	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative Additions
multiuse trails, the following etiquette s apply: cyclists yield to all other trail rs, pedestrians yield to equestrians. vnhill travel yield to uphill travel. ntain safe speeds and announce rself when passing.		
of Belmont open space lands is ject to the City's existing regulation ere lands are open dawn to dusk. ttime use is prohibited.		
elop written agreements with nteer groups to perform trail ntenance or construction tasks.		
ntify locations where trails can be roved or established in open space to nect the City and other open space as neighboring Belmont, such as arloaf Mountain and San Juan Canyon. rdinate with San Mateo County and city of San Mateo.		

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LICIES

Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative
uction of wildfire fuel. Evaluate the ential to reduce forest fuel loading ough the removal of smaller trees to uce forest floor fuel buildup and ladder s.		
pare wildland fire response plans. Plans uld identify appropriate fire suppression vities for open space lands in the event wildland fire, as well as first responders any mutual aid agreements Plans uld include detailed maps of astructure such as roads, fuel breaks, ctures, water sources (hydrants, water s, ponds), as well as sensitive natural cultural resources to be avoided during suppression activities.		
nibit activities that have a high risk of rking fires during periods of extreme hazard.		
e open space areas of particular cern during extreme fire weather, as ermined by San Mateo Consolidated Department, and increase patrol levels re appropriate.		
nage dead and dying trees to limit wind w and falling trees and limbs.		
nage severe erosion areas on hill slopes near/within streams.		

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Base Plan	Recreation Emphasis Alternative	Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative
icipate in county Fire Safe Councils and relevant Community Wildfire tection Plan (CWPP) efforts.		
		Partner with abutting property owners to manage adjacent vegetation and fuel levels.

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Implementation Actions

Below are the recommended implementation actions for the Base Plan, with additional recommendations specific to the Recreation Emphasis Alternative and the Habitat Protection Emphasis Alternative. The Implementation actions are designed to accomplish one or more of the policies laid out in the Management Alternatives– policies are referenced by the policy number and the notation "P#". These actions have been developed from the recommendations described in both the Environmental Assessment (attached) and Recreation Use Assessment (forthcoming).

Categorization Method

Each action has been categorized using the scale below to estimate the feasibility and ease of implementation. Additionally, actions that are written in bold type have been determined to be urgent due to environmental or social impacts outlined in the Environmental Assessment or the Recreation Use Assessment documents. These urgent actions should be prioritized for implementation regardless of the feasibility and or ease.

TABLE 7. CATEGORIES OF FEASIBILITY AND EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS.

Easy	Medium	Hard
These actions can be performed immediately under existing City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.	These actions require additional planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes.	These actions may require substantial planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.

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EMENTATION ACTIONS FOR THE BASE PLAN.

Easy	Medium	Hard
l materials on Sudden Oak formation about how to d of SOD at high use	**Realign, add drainage or otherwise improve trail sections identified in the Recreation Use Assessment as having "high" erosion levels. The Rambler Trail was identified as a top priority given its severity.** Prioritize other trail segments for improvement and incorporate into a multi-year workplan. (P13/P26)	Periodically inventory trails and facilities to assess any impacts to watercourses, riparian areas, and wetlands, and prepare plans for protection or restoration, as appropriate. (P3)
l restrictions on and ment activities during . Work should be avoided o August 31. (P9)	Implement an "early detection and response" protocol, as defined in the environmental assessment memorandum to monitor and control new or spreading exotic or undesirable species. Create an agreement and work plan with existing volunteer groups to perform the work in accordance with the protocol. (P6/P16)	Conduct protocol surveys for sensitive wildlife or plant species, as defined by the USFWS or CDFW, in areas where these species have at least moderate potential to occur, whenever conducting ground disturbing activities. (P2)
vet conditions. Rain be determined by city uation of conditions and patterns. (P13)	Actively seek additional funding sources to support natural resource management. (P17)	**Improve trail stream crossings by either realigning the trail to prevent crossing the stream altogether or elevating the trail over the stream.** (P3/P4/P9/P13)

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Easy	Medium	Hard
in water bodies. Dogs are r any water bodies, nd marshes, on open ging and signage and e developed. (P13)		
r-related restrictions on ıctivities like trail onstruction activities. This d be avoided prior to rain		
and enforcement of open ıcluding dogs on leash, fied sound, etc. (P23/P31)	Adopt or decommission legacy trails identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following further public outreach. (P20)	Develop policies for the use of e-bikes and other electric transportation devices on open space lands and trails. The city will study other local open space policies and conduct visitor outreach to determine the direction of these policies. (P21/P23)
t visitor surveys to gauge trail users. (P22)	Decommission redundant trail segments. Conduct de-compaction and revegetation where needed. (P1/P20)	Add calming features on trails to reduce speed, and add landings for respite, passing, and vistas. (P20)
perty boundaries of open velop an education and am for adjacent ting illegal modifications s (e.g. building trails to lands from their house or 7)	Develop a policy for managing organized group use of open space lands, such as camps, school field trips, exercise classes, etc. (P23)	
l trail naming policy for ıe naming policy will be ı space signage and		

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Easy	Medium	Hard
signage at trailheads to sign across City open 2)		
ction treatments in areas in Waterdog Lake.	Develop annual fuel reduction treatment plan. (P36)	Inventory city open space lands to assess fuel loads and forest structure related to fire. Identify access issues and city and community or regional fire concerns. (P35)
	Encourage neighboring property owners to maintain adequate fire clearance around existing development. Consult with regulatory agencies to encourage that construction of new development maintains fire agency recommended setbacks for fire clearance between new development and city forest and woodland. (P41)	Conduct a field-based evaluation of fuel conditions in San Juan Canyon for possible reduction treatments. (P35)
	Actively seek additional funding sources to support wildfire hazard mitigation. (P35/P36)	Coordinate with fire agencies and neighboring communities to identify locations where additional fire suppression infrastructure is desirable and practical (e.g. hydrants, water tanks, helicopter zones, safety zones, fuel breaks, consistent with the incident command system. Work cooperatively with these groups to install needed infrastructure. (P36/P41)

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Alternative

EMENTATION ACTIONS FOR THE RECREATION EMPHASIS ALTERNATIVE

Easy	Medium	Hard
	Designate existing connection routes or build new trails between open space areas and to other adjacent protected lands. (P29/P34)	
	Implement single-use and one-way trail segments in areas identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following sufficient public outreach. (P20)	
	Evaluate potential new nature-based recreation programming for open space lands. Specifically, collaborate with environmental educators or other groups to develop a series of docent led nature walks for a variety of audiences. (P23)	

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mphasis Alternative

'LEMENTATION ACTIONS FOR THE HABITAT PROTECTION EMPHASIS ALTERNATIVE.

Easy	Medium	Hard
teer groups to monitor plant pecies using citizen science udubon Christmas Bird Count or (P5/P10)	Restore and expand native bunchgrass areas. (P2/P6/P18)	
	Install wildlife cameras at high activity locations or in riparian habitats to monitor wildlife presence. Coordinate with local agencies and non-profits (e.g. Felidae) to share wildlife camera data to support wildlife distribution study regionally. (P7/P17)	
	Install decontamination stations at high use trailheads to prevent the spread of SOD.	

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1.0 Introduction

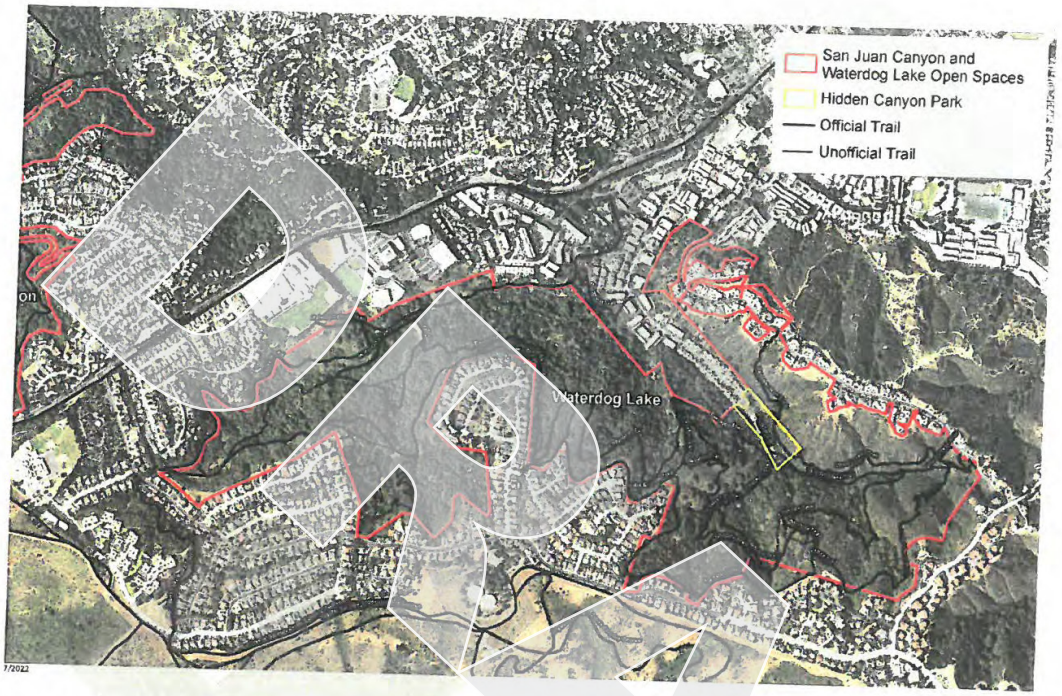
This memorandum provides an assessment of existing conditions pertaining to biological resources, recreation (including trail use), and wildfire hazards at Water Dog Park and San Juan Canyon Open Space in the City of Belmont, San Mateo County, California. Following the baseline information collected for these resources, management recommendations are provided to promote a balanced and fair approach that considers environmental protection, public health and safety, diverse recreation, and sustainability. This assessment was conducted by WRA, Inc. (WRA) at the request of the City of Belmont Parks and Recreation Department (City) to inform and support the parks, recreation, and open space (PROS) master planning process, particularly for the Waterdog Lake & Open Space and San Juan Canyon Open Space (Figure 1). This memorandum describes the results of the site visit, which assessed the open space areas for (1) the presence of sensitive biological communities, special-status plant species, and special-status wildlife species, (2) the potential for the site to support special-status plant and wildlife species.

In addition to documenting existing biological communities and sensitive habitats in both park units, WRA broadly assessed the baseline quality of such habitats located near the trails. This will enable the Parks Department to track and evaluate any changes in habitat quality, and implement management actions accordingly. Since this is a high-level planning effort intended to inform actions at a later time, there is no "project" in which impacts can be assessed. "Projects" include tangible actions undertaken by the City's Parks Department and can be, but is not limited to: trail repair, trail building, constructing footbridges, pruning back vegetation along trails, sediment dredging, and vegetative fuels management.

Waterdog Lake & Open Space (Waterdog or WDL) is approximately 293 acres and features the following: trails which meander through chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian habitats; a viewshed of the San Francisco Bay; and Waterdog Lake at its center. San Juan Canyon Open Space (San Juan Canyon or SJC) is approximately 82 acres, located approximately ¾-mile west of Waterdog, across Ralston Way. This open space features similar habitats as Waterdog. Both open spaces are generally surrounded by single-family residential land use.

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Waterdog Lake Open Spaces

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2.0 Regulatory Background

The following sections explain the regulatory context of the biological assessment, including applicable laws and regulations that were applied to the field investigations and would apply to any future, ground disturbing actions to sensitive and common species that the city may choose to implement following adoption of the Open Space Management Plan (OSMP).

2.1 Special-Status Species

Special-status species include those plants and wildlife species that have been formally listed, are proposed as endangered or threatened, or are candidates for such listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA). These Acts afford protection to both listed and proposed species. In addition, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern (SSC), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Species of Concern (SOC), are species that face extirpation if current population and habitat trends continue. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Birds of Conservation Concern, sensitive species included in USFWS Recovery Plans, and CDFW special-status invertebrates are also considered special-status species. Although CDFW Species of Special Concern generally have no special legal status, they are given special consideration under CEQA. In addition to regulations for special-status species, most birds in the United States, including non-status species, are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. Under this legislation, destroying active nests, eggs, and young is illegal. Bat species designated as "High Priority" by the Western Bat Working Group qualify for legal protection under Section 15380(d) of the CEQA Guidelines. "High Priority" species are defined as "imperiled or are at high risk of imperilment based on available information on distribution, status, ecology and known threats".

Plant species included within the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (Inventory, CNPS 2020) with California Rare Plant Rank (Rank) of 1, 2, and 3 are also considered special-status plant species and must be considered under the CEQA. Some Rank 4 plant species meet the definitions of Section 1901 Chapter 10 of the Native Plant Protection Act or Sections 2062 and 2067 of the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) that outlines CESA. However, the CNPS and CDFW strongly recommend that these species be fully considered during the preparation of environmental documentation related to CEQA. This may be particularly appropriate for the type locality of a Rank 4 plant species, for populations at the periphery of a species range, or in areas where the taxon is especially uncommon or has sustained heavy losses, or from populations exhibiting unusual morphology or occurring on unusual substrates. A description of Ranks is provided below in Table 1.

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TABLE 1. DESCRIPTION OF RANKS AND THREAT CODES

California Rare Plant Ranks (formerly known as CNPS Lists)	
Rank 1A	Presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
Rank 1B	Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
Rank 2A	Presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere
Rank 2B	Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but common elsewhere
Rank 3	Plants about which more information is needed - A review list
Rank 4	Plants of limited distribution - A watch list
Threat Ranks	
0.1	Seriously threatened in California
0.2	Moderately threatened in California
0.3	Not very threatened in California

2.2 Sensitive Biological Communities

Sensitive biological communities include habitats that fulfill special functions or have special values, such as wetlands, streams, and riparian habitat. These habitats are regulated under federal regulations (such as the Clean Water Act [CWA]), state regulations (such as the Porter-Cologne Act, the CDFW Streambed Alteration Program, and CEQA), or local ordinances or policies (such as City or County Tree Ordinances, Special Habitat Management Areas, applicable Local Coastal Programs, and General Plan Elements).

2.3 Waters of the United States

Section 404 of the CWA gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulatory and permitting authority regarding discharge of dredged or fill material into "navigable waters of the United States". Section 502(7) of the CWA defines waters as "waters of the United States, including territorial seas." Section 328 of Chapter 33 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) defines the term "waters of the United States" as it applies to the jurisdictional limits of the authority of the Corps under the CWA.

A summary of the definition of "waters of the U.S." in 33 CFR 328.3 as published in 1986 includes:

(1) All waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
(2) All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;
(3) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters: (i) which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; or (ii) from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold

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in interstate or foreign commerce; or (iii) which are used or could be used for industrial purpose by industries in interstate commerce;
(4) All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under the definition;
(5) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (a) (1)—(4) of this section:
(6) The territorial seas;
(7) Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (a) (1)—(6) of this section.

Areas not considered to be "waters of the United States" are exempted under the Preamble to the 1986 Rule and subject to a case-by-case analysis, including:

(1) Non-tidal drainage and irrigation ditches excavated on dry land.
(2) Artificially irrigated areas which would revert to upland if the irrigation ceased.
(3) Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating and/or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing,
(4) Artificial reflecting or swimming pools or other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating and/or diking dry land to retain water for primarily aesthetic reasons.
(5) Waterfilled depressions created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel unless and until the construction or excavation operation is abandoned and the resulting body of water meets the definition of waters of the United States (see 33 CFR 328.3(a)).

In the Corps Rivers and Harbors regulations (33 CFR Part 329.4), the term "navigable waters of the U.S." is defined to include all those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, and/or presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

The limits of Corps jurisdiction under Section 404 as given in 33 CFR Section 328.4 are as follows:
(1) *Territorial seas:* three nautical miles in a seaward direction from the baseline;
(2) *Tidal waters of the U.S.:* high tide line (HTL) or to the limit of adjacent non-tidal waters;
(3) *Non-tidal waters of the U.S.:* ordinary highwater mark or to the limit of adjacent wetlands; or
(4) *Wetlands:* to the limit of the wetland.

The Corps has developed standard methods and data reporting forms contained in the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Corps Manual; Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Arid West Supplement; Corps 2008) to determine the presence or absence of Waters of the U.S. The procedures described in the Corps Manual were used to identify wetlands and non-wetland waters in the Study Area that are potentially subject to regulation under Section 404 of the CWA.

2.4 Waters of the State

The Dickey Water Pollution Act of 1949 and Porter Cologne Act of 1969 established the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) districts in the State of California. The SWRCB and each RWQCB district regulates activities in Waters of the State, which include Waters of the U.S. Waters of the State are defined by the Porter-Cologne Act as "any surface

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water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state." In addition, the SWRCB has adopted a wetland definition that is similar to, but slightly different from, that used by the Corps. The state definition as adopted in April 2019 and currently in effect, states that:

> *An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation.*

The RWQCB regulates discharges of fill and dredged material under Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act through the State Water Quality Certification Program. State Water Quality Certification is necessary for all projects that require a Corps permit, or fall under other federal jurisdiction, and have the potential to impact waters of the State. In order for a Section 404 permit to be valid, Section 401 of the CWA requires a Water Quality Certification or waiver to be obtained. The Water Quality Certification (or waiver) determines that the permitted activities will not violate water quality standards individually or cumulatively over the term of the action. Water quality certification must be consistent with the requirements of the CWA, CEQA, the CESA and Porter-Cologne Act.

If a proposed project or portion of a proposed project does not require a federal permit, but does involve dredge or fill activities that may result in a discharge to Waters of the State, the RWQCB has the option to regulate the dredge and fill activity under its state authority in the form of Waste Discharge Requirements or Certification of Waste Discharge Requirements. In these cases, a Water Quality Certification is not necessary under Section 401 of the CWA because federal jurisdiction does not apply.

2.5 Streams, Lakes, and Riparian Habitat

Streams and lakes, as habitat for fish and wildlife species, are subject to jurisdiction by CDFW under Sections 1600-1616 of the CFGC. Alterations to or work within or adjacent to streambeds or lakes generally require a 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. The term stream, which includes creeks and rivers, is defined in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) as follows: "a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having a surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation" (14 CCR 1.72). In addition, the term stream can include ephemeral streams, dry washes, watercourses with subsurface flows, canals, aqueducts, irrigation ditches, and other means of water conveyance if they support aquatic life, riparian vegetation, or stream dependent terrestrial wildlife (CDFG ESD 1994). Riparian is defined as, "on, or pertaining to, the banks of a stream;" therefore, riparian vegetation is defined as, "vegetation which occurs in and/or adjacent to a stream and is dependent on, and occurs because of, the stream itself" (CDFG ESD 1994). Removal of riparian vegetation also requires a Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW.

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2.6 Other Sensitive Biological Communities

Other sensitive biological communities not discussed above include habitats that fulfill special functions or have special values. Natural communities considered sensitive are those identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW. The CDFW ranks sensitive communities as "threatened" or "very threatened" and keeps records of their occurrences in its Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, CDFW 2020). Sensitive plant communities are also identified by CDFW on their *List of California Natural Communities Recognized by the CNDDB* (CDFW 2020). Impacts to sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS must be considered and evaluated under CEQA (CCR: Title 14, Div. 6, Chap. 3, Appendix G). Specific habitats may also be identified as sensitive in City or County General Plans or ordinances.

2.7 Relevant City of Belmont Policies

Policies relative to management and conservation of the city's open space areas are found in the following planning documents:

- Belmont Parks and Open Space Plan (1992)
- City of Belmont General Plan, Parks and Conservation Elements (2017)
- The Western Hills Area Plan (1990)

2.7.1 Belmont Parks and Open Space Plan (1992)

Action focused recommendations from the 1992 Belmont Parks and Open Space Plan include the following:

- The preserved open space should be retained in a natural state for passive recreation, education, and aesthetic purposes.
- Vegetation management will be required to create and maintain native ecosystems and for fire control.
- Development should be limited to those types of facilities that support the intended passive uses, including trails, trailheads, signage, picnic areas, and small neighborhood parks.

Relevant policies from the 1992 Belmont Parks and Open Space Plan include the following:

- Assist the Fire Protection District to identify wildland fire hazard areas and develop fire access roads.
- Preserve large contiguous units of open space.
- Protect wildlife habitat by maintaining wildlife corridors and preserving habitat and corridors in new residential neighborhoods.

2.7.2 City of Belmont General Plan, Parks and Conservation Elements (2017)

Relevant goals and policies from the 2017 General Plan Parks and Conservation Elements (City of Belmont 2017) include the following:

- Continue to develop and support a balanced and integrated open space system reflecting a variety of considerations, including natural resource conservation, outdoor recreation, and public health

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and safety, to ensure synergies between various open space components and compatibility with land use planning.

- Continue to designate and protect open space lands for the preservation of scenic areas, natural drainage ways, and plant and wildlife habitats; for outdoor recreation; and for public health and safety. See also policies in the Conservation and Safety elements.
- Maintain connectivity between large open spaces in Belmont and the region, including the Waterdog Lake area, San Juan Hills area, Sugarloaf Mountain, and the open space in the San Francisco Public Utility District's Crystal Springs watershed.
- Consistent with the San Juan Hills and Western Hills area plans, cluster development in the hillside areas of western Belmont in order to maintain contiguous habitat areas, minimize grading, and limit exposure to steep slopes and other sensitive areas. See also policies in the Land Use Element.
- Develop programs to control invasive plant species that threaten the natural resources.
- Continue programs to reduce the fire danger in the open space.
- Preserve and protect open space resources using various methods available to the City.
- Protect Belmont Creek from future encroachment through regulation, development review, conservation easements, or other appropriate actions.
- Seek to preserve the existing open space areas in the San Juan Hills and Western Hills, consistent with the Area Plans, especially on steep hillsides and sensitive habitat areas.
- Protect and maintain open space for the preservation of natural resources.
- Ensure that any improvements recommended for open space areas are appropriate for the type of open space and the use proposed.
- In portions of Belmont that include significant open space resources, use area plans to address the balance and interface between natural and developed areas.
- Reduce risk of wildland fire, ecological succession, and pathogen threats (such as Sudden Oak Death) through active maintenance of public spaces and education and enforcement of development standards on private property.
- Ensure that future acquisitions of open space land are compatible with the City's open space strategy and long-term interests.
- Protect and restore biological and ecological resources in Belmont, including sensitive wildlife species and their habitats.
- Support the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of habitats of State or federally listed rare, threatened, endangered and/or other sensitive and special status species, and favor enhancement of contiguous areas over small, segmented remainder parcels.
- Continue to maintain, protect, restore, and enhance Belmont's ecologically important areas and seek to reduce impacts on them, including the creek corridors, the open space, and the wetlands around O'Neill Slough.
- To the greatest extent feasible, ensure that development does not disturb sensitive habitat and special status species by requiring appropriate and feasible mitigation measures.
- Maintain functional wildlife corridors and habitat linkage in order to contribute to regional biodiversity and the viability of rare, unique or sensitive biological resources throughout the city and region.
- In design and construction, require use of best practices that preserve natural resources, such as soil, trees, native plants, and permeable surfaces.
- Avoid light pollution and unnecessary glare by requiring development projects to use design features and shielding methods that cast outdoor light downward and minimize glare and to install the minimum amount of outdoor lighting necessary for safety and security.

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- Encourage the planting of native trees, shrubs, and grasslands in order to preserve the visual integrity of the landscape, provide habitat conditions suitable for native vegetation, and ensure the maximum number and variety of well-adapted plants are maintained.
- Goal 5.4 Preserve and restore Belmont's waterways and adjacent corridors as valuable community resources that serve as plant and wildlife habitats, groundwater recharge facilities, flood control and irrigation components, and connections between open space areas.
- Restore Belmont Creek to enhance ecological functions, biological resources, hydrology function, and flood control.
- Preserve, where possible, natural watercourses or provide naturalized drainage channels within the city. Where necessary and feasible, implement restoration and rehabilitation measures.
- Protect, restore, and enhance a continuous corridor of native riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat along Belmont's waterways, water bodies, and wetlands.
- Preserve and enhance the natural riparian environment along waterway corridors, including Belmont Creek, by minimizing environmental and visual impacts. See also Policy 4.5-2 in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element.
- Preserve water quality by promoting the protection of Belmont's creeks and other natural water bodies from pollution.
- Continue to participate in the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program.
- Encourage residents and businesses to use best management practices (BMPs) to reduce water pollutant loads that result from daily activities, such as using landscaping chemicals and fertilizers and repairing and washing cars outdoors.
- Require development projects to incorporate structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate or reduce the projected increases in pollutant loads, in accordance with the NPDES permit guidelines.
- Ensure that the design and construction of new infrastructure elements does not contribute to stream bank or hillside erosion or creek or wetland siltation, and incorporates site design and source control BMPs, construction phase BMPs, and treatment control BMPs to minimize impacts to water quality.
- Implement water pollution prevention methods to the maximum extent practicable, supplemented by pollutant source controls and treatment.

2.7.3 The Western Hills Area Plan (1990)

Relevant goals and policies from the 1990 Western Hills Area Plan include the following:

- Encourage Open Space Protection: Encourage the preservation of open space in areas of scenic, natural resource, and recreational value, as well as areas that are geologically hazardous or steeply sloped. Assist private landowners in finding ways for them to manage and permanently preserve private open space.
- Preserve and maintain existing open space areas.

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3.0 Methods

On March 8, 21, and 22, 2022 WRA biologists, Ivy Poisson and Brian Kearns, traversed over 10 miles of existing trails within the Study Area to:

1. Ground-truth vegetation communities obtained from the San Mateo County vegetation mapping dataset (2021)
2. Determine if existing conditions provide suitable habitat for special-status plant or wildlife species,
3. Determine the baseline conditions of habitat quality within view from the trails,
4. Conduct a qualitative trail assessment, and
5. Determine the open spaces' consistency with existing regulations and policies.

A list of incidental species observations was also compiled. Plant nomenclature follows the Jepson Flora Project (2022), except where noted. For cases in which taxonomic discrepancies occur between Baldwin et al. and the Inventory, precedence was given to the species classification used in the Inventory.

3.1 Sensitive Biological Communities

The San Mateo County vegetation mapping dataset (2021) was examined to provide baseline information on plant communities. Biological communities present in the Study Area were classified based on existing plant community descriptions described in the *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland 1986) and *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer et al. 2009). However, in some cases it is necessary to identify variants of community types or to describe non-vegetated areas that are not described in the literature. Biological communities were classified as sensitive or non-sensitive as defined by CEQA, and other applicable laws and regulations. Each biological community is given a state or global ranking, ranging from 1 to 5. These rankings are defined below, with G indicating global status, and S indicating state status for California. State and/or global rankings of 1, 2, or 3 are considered sensitive.

1 **Critically Imperiled** — At very high risk of extinction or elimination due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, very severe threats, or other factors.
2 **Imperiled** — At high risk of extinction or elimination due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.
3 **Vulnerable** — At moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors.
4 **Apparently Secure** — At fairly low risk of extinction or elimination due to an extensive range and/or many populations or occurrences, but with possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors.
5 **Secure** — At very low risk of extinction or elimination due to a very extensive range, abundant populations or occurrences, and little to no concern from declines or threats.

Non-sensitive biological communities are those communities that are not afforded special protection under CEQA, and other state, federal, and local laws, regulations and ordinances, and generally are ranked 4 or 5 on a global or state level. These communities may provide suitable habitat for some special-status plant or wildlife species and are discussed below. Sensitive biological communities are defined as those communities that are given special protection under CEQA and other applicable federal, state, and local

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laws, regulations and ordinances. Applicable laws and ordinances are discussed above. Special methods used to identify sensitive biological communities are discussed below.

3.1.1 Wetlands and Waters

The Study Area was surveyed at a reconnaissance level to determine if any wetlands and waters potentially subject to jurisdiction by the Corps, RWQCB, or CDFW were present. The assessment was based primarily on the presence of wetland plant indicators but may also include any observed indicators of wetland hydrology as defined by the Corps Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the ***Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region*** (Corps 2008). Any potential wetland areas were identified as areas dominated by plant species with a wetland indicator status of obligate wetland (OBL), facultative wetland (FACW), or facultative (FAC) as given on the U.S. Department of Agriculture: National Wetland Plant List (Corps 2020). Evidence of wetland hydrology can include evidence such as visible inundation or saturation, surface sediment deposits, algal mats and drift lines, and oxidized root channels. Given that the site visits did not include a routine-level wetland delineation and was only reconnaissance level, soils were not examined in the field as part of this assessment. Streams were remotely mapped in ArcGIS using hydrologic modeling tools. Using the 2010 ARRA lidar dataset, streams were modeled using a 3-acre watershed with a nearest neighbor algorithm to determine flowlines.

3.2 Special-status Species

Potential occurrence of special-status species in the Study Area was evaluated by first determining which special-status species occur in the vicinity of the Study Area through a literature and database search. Database searches for known occurrences of special-status species was for the San Mateo and eight surrounding 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangles. The following sources were reviewed to determine which special-status plant and wildlife species have been documented to occur in the vicinity of the Study Area:

- CNDDB records (CDFW 2022)
- USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation Species (USFWS 2022)
- CNPS Inventory records (CNPS 2022)
- California Bird Species of Special Concern (Shuford and Gardali 2008)
- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper (USFWS 2022)

Special status species are defined as federally or state listed species (threatened or endangered; FT, ST, FE, SE), CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC) and CDFW Fully Protected (FP). In addition to federal and state listing status for plant species, species with a California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) of 1 through 4 is also included in this report.[1] Bats are also given special consideration if they are listed by the Western Bat Working Group (WBWG) as Medium or High.[2]

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[1] *Definitions of CRPR ranking is available here: https://www.cnps.org/rare-plants/cnps-rare-plant-ranks*

[2] *WBWG "High" designation represents those species considered the highest priority for funding, planning, and conservation actions; "medium" designation indicates a level of concern that should warrant closer evaluation, more research, and conservation actions of both the species and possible threats.*

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3.3 Habitat Quality

The overall habitat quality of the Study Area was evaluated based on the cover of native versus non-native plant species, presence and extent of invasive plant species, and extent of anthropogenic disturbance. General notes and observations of plant species composition were made throughout the Study Area by WRA biologists while traversing throughout the existing trail network, followed by a review of aerial imagery, in order to assign a general value to the Study Area. This assessment is qualitative in nature and should not be interpreted to be a comprehensive assessment of each biological community that is identified within the Study Area. The definitions of habitat quality ranking are listed below.

TABLE 2. HABITAT QUALITY CATEGORIES

High Quality / Mostly Intact • Vegetation is composed of greater than 75% native plant cover • Invasive species are generally absent based on visual estimates from the trail network • Visible evidence of vegetation trampling by trail users is absent or negligible
Moderate Quality / Moderately Altered or Impacted • Vegetation is composed of greater than 50% native plant cover • Invasive species are present but was observed to be less than 50 square feet based on visual estimates from the trail • Visible evidence of vegetation trampling by trail users is present but not extensive
Low Quality • Vegetation is composed of less than 50% native plant cover based on visual estimates from the trail • Invasive species are present, comprise more than 100 square feet, and is observed to be crowding out/negatively impacting native species within the vegetation community • Visible evidence of vegetation trampling by trail users is present but not extensive
Low Quality / Extensively Altered or Impacted • Vegetation is composed of less than 50% native plant cover based on visual estimates from the trail • This habitat features an invasive species as a dominant or codominant in the tree/shrub/herb stratum • Visible evidence of vegetation trampling by trail users is present and extensive

3.4 Trail Assessment

The purpose of the trail environmental condition assessments was to generally characterize environmental conditions on open space trails, which could be used to develop recommendations that could be implemented as part of the OSMP. A qualitative assessment of trail conditions on both existing mapped trails (those shown by City maps) and existing unmapped trails (those which are not shown on City maps) was made based on the level of erosion and vegetation impacts observed. Categories include high, medium, and low erosion; these categories are defined in Table 3 below, along with a representative photo of the category. Point data were collected along the existing mapped trail feature. In addition, WRA also noted if adjacent vegetation shows signs of impacts (trampling, what appears to be obvious/illegal vegetation trimming). Maps of trail conditions can be found in the *Recreation Use Assessment*.

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TABLE 3. TRAIL CONDITION CATEGORIES

High	**High Erosion** There are more than two deep ruts located along the length of the trail, and there are several observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities where it causes trail users to create additional pathways to avoid this erosion feature. For this category, evidence of trail user impacts resulting from the erosion feature includes more than one of the following: trail widening, braided trails, unsanctioned trails, soil compaction, and vegetation trampling.	
Medium	**Medium Erosion** There are one or two noticeable ruts forming along the length of the trail, and there are some observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities. For this category, evidence of trail user impacts resulting from the erosion feature includes one of the following: trail widening, braided trails, unsanctioned trails, soil compaction, and vegetation trampling.	
Low	**Low Erosion** There is a shallow rill forming along the length of the trail, but there are no observations that it significantly interferes with pedestrian and cycling activities. There is no evidence of trail users negatively impacting adjacent vegetation to avoid this erosion feature.	

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4.0 Results

4.1 Biological Communities and Vegetation Management

Non-sensitive biological communities in the Study Area include developed areas, coast live oak woodland (*Quercus agrifolia*, S4 G5), eucalyptus groves (*Eucalyptus* spp., not ranked), coyote brush scrub (*Baccharis pilularis*, S5 G5), California sagebrush scrub (*Artemisia californica*, S5 G5), chamise chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*, S5 G5), non-native annual grassland (not ranked), and developed. Sensitive biological communities include California bay woodland (*Umbellularia californica*, S3 G4), arroyo willow thickets (*Salix lasiolepis*, S3 G4), and California buckeye groves (*Aesculus californica*, S3 G3). **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** shows the location of each biological community for WDL and SJC, respectively. Descriptions for each biological community are provided below, the mapped extent of each biological community within each open space is identified in Table 4.

TABLE 4. BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Biological Community[1]	Natural Community[3]	Waterdog (acres)	San Juan Canyon (acres)	% of Study Area
Non-Sensitive[4]				
broadleafed upland forest	coast live oak woodland	146.75	48.59	52.1
broadleafed upland forest	eucalyptus groves	1.59	0.05	0.4
coastal scrub	coyote brush scrub	18.82	18.45	9.9
chaparral	California sagebrush scrub	22.84	-	6.1
chaparral	chamise chaparral	52.01	-	13.9
chaparral	mixed shrub	8.97	-	2.4
valley and foothill grassland	non-native annual grassland	8.78	4.93	3.7
developed[2]		0.84	2.07	0.8
Sensitive[4]				
broadleafed upland forest	California bay woodland	22.62	-	6.0
riparian woodland	arroyo willow	7.23	5.87	3.5
riparian woodland	California buckeye groves	1.70	1.68	0.9

[1]Holland (1986), [2]Biological community not described in Holland (1986), [3]Sawyer et al. (2009), [4]Determination based on the *List of California Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2021)

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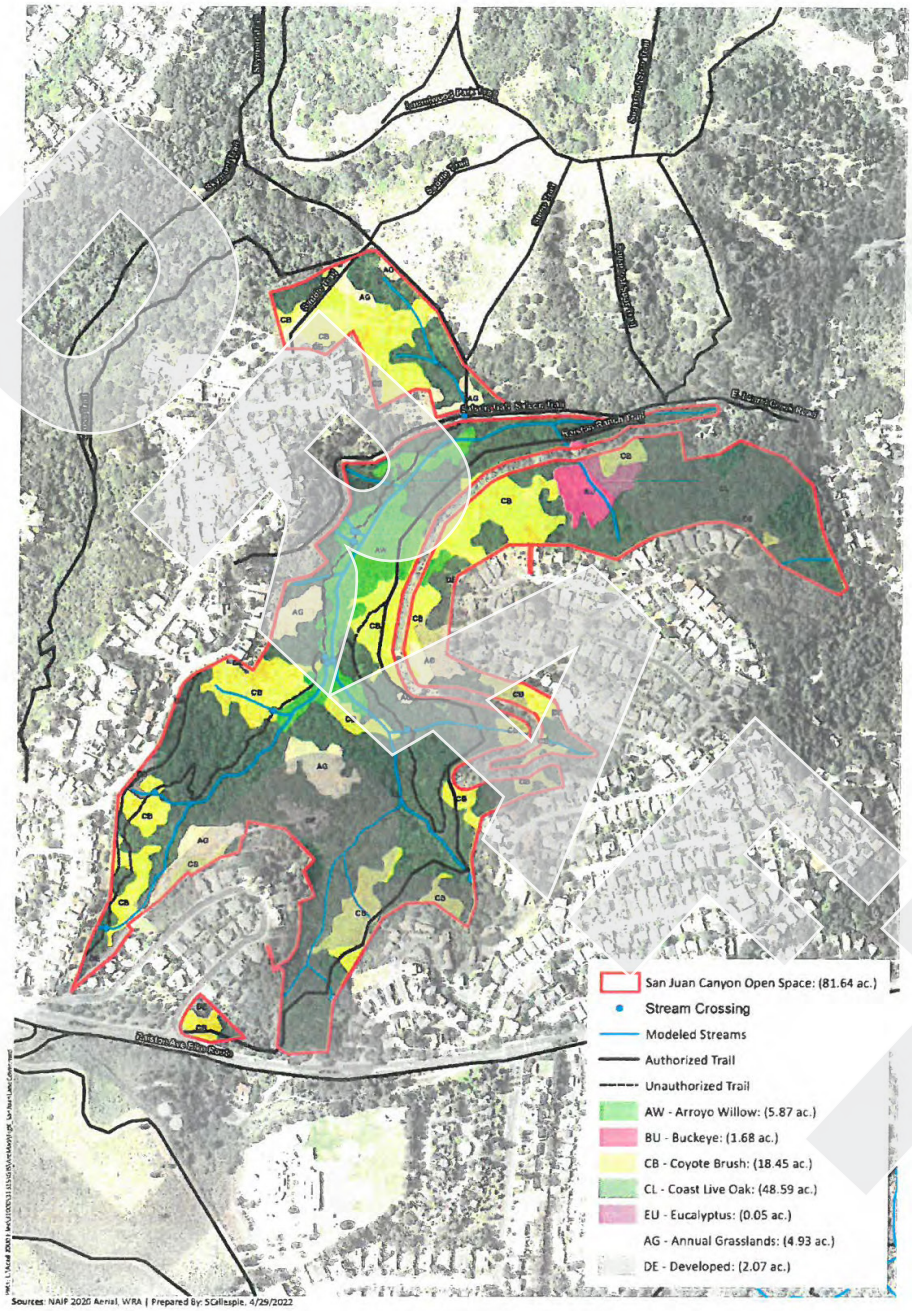


Figure 2. San Juan Canyon Open Space Land Cover Types

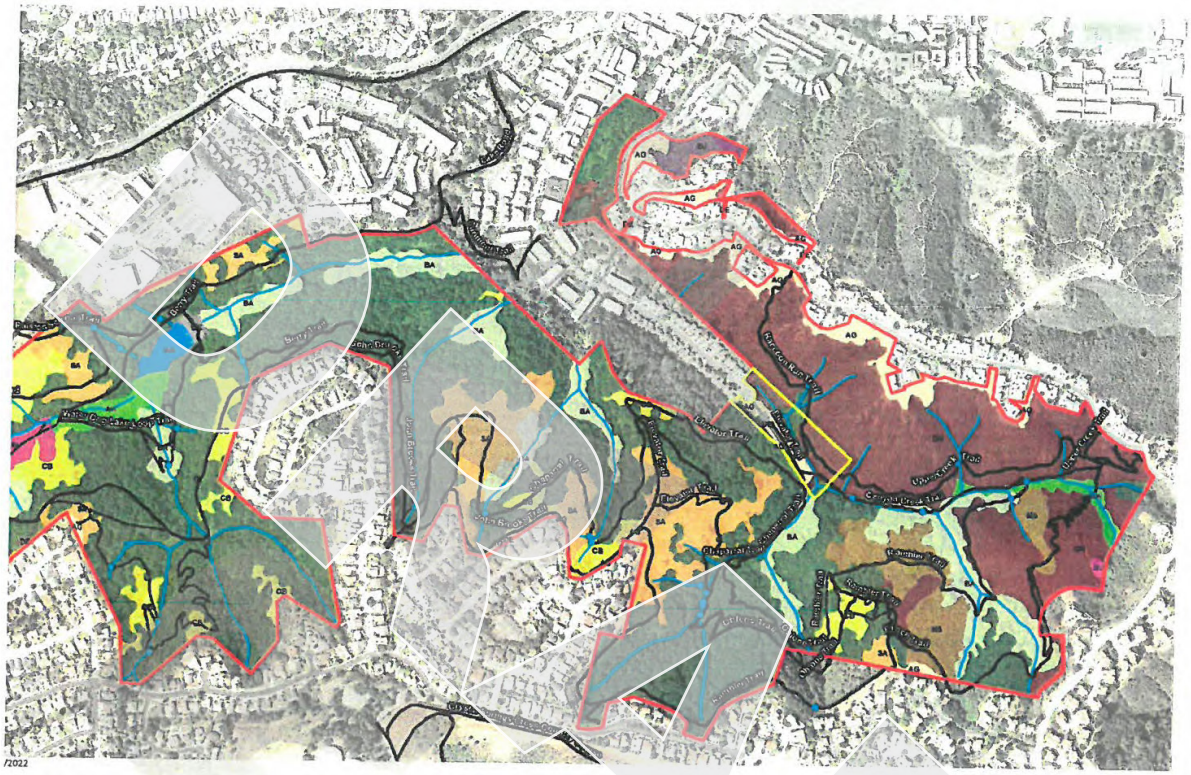
San Juan Canyon Open Space
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n Space Land Cover Types

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Coast live oak woodland (*Quercus agrifolia*, S4 G5) are known from the outer and inner Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges, and southern coast from northern Mendocino County south to San Diego County. This vegetation community is typically located on terraces, canyon bottoms, slopes, and flats underlain by deep, well-drained sandy or loam substrates with high organic content (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, coast live oak woodlands occupy approximately 194 acres, or 51.8 percent. Coast live oak woodlands are generally found in the cooler, north-facing slopes in Waterdog and throughout San Juan Canyon. Dominant species in the tree layer include coast live oak, California bay, and California buckeye, with coast live oak comprising greater than 50 percent of the relative cover in this stratum, with less than 30 percent relative cover of California bay. Most stands contain a relatively dense and well-developed tree canopy reducing the density of a shrub layer to scattered individuals. Shrub species observed in the coast live oak woodlands include poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), coyote brush, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), and blueblossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*). The herbaceous layer is dominated by a mix of shade tolerant native herbs and non-native, invasive forbs. Native species includes but is not limited to the following: common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), California mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), soaproot (*Chloragalum pomeridianum*), bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*). Non-native herbaceous species include oat grass (*Avena fatua*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), scarlet pimpernel (*Lysimachia arvensis*), and sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*).

Eucalyptus groves (*Eucalyptus* spp., not ranked) are known from the Coast Ranges and Central Valley, typically as planted woodlands and shelterbelts to buffer coastal winds and provide shade. These groves are not described in Holland (1986), but are included in Sawyer et al. (2009), which describes eucalyptus groves as *Eucalyptus globulus* Semi-Natural Woodland Stands. This vegetation alliance is dominated by one of several eucalyptus species, which are not native to North America. Eucalyptus groves are frequently situated in rural and semi-urbanized settings, along streams, and coastal hills and prairies. Eucalyptus groves comprise 0.4% of the Study Area and is limited to a small stand in the within the northeastern corner of Waterdog, at the end of Cliffside Court. A small stand of trees was observed in San Juan Canyon, along Ralston Ranch Road.

Coyote brush scrub (*Baccharis pilularis*, S5 G5) is described by Sawyer (2009) as known from the outer Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada Foothills from Del Norte County south to San Diego County. This vegetation community is typically located on river mouths, riparian areas, terraces, stabilized dunes, coastal bluffs, open hillsides, and ridgelines on all aspects underlain by variable substrate of sand to clay (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, this biological community often intergrades with coast live oak woodland and California sagebrush scrub, and share many of the common species found in the understory, like poison oak, California sagebrush, blue blossom, and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*).

California sagebrush scrub (*Artemisia californica*, S5 G5) is known from the outer Coast Ranges, western Transverse Range, and Peninsular Ranges from Marin County south to San Diego County. This vegetation community is typically located steep, well-drained slopes underlain by shallow alluvial and colluvial derived soils (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, California sagebrush scrub is only found within Waterdog. This community often intergrades with coast live oak woodland, California bay woodland, and coyote brush scrub. The majority of California sagebrush scrub occurs in the southeastern section of Waterdog. Coast live oak was occasionally observed within this scrub community, but the individual oak trees were still relatively small and is at low cover. Other shrub species observed include coyote brush, poison oak, and sticky monkey flower. Species within the herbaceous layer consist of a mix of native and nonnative species; native species include purple needle grass and Pacific sanicle, non-native species include compact brome and scarlet pimpernel.

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Chamise chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*, S5 G5) occurs across cismontane California in a variety of topographic settings from coastal bluffs to steep, lower montane slopes (Sawyer et al. 2009). This biological community is found only at Waterdog, on the arid, south-facing slopes. Other shrub species observed within this community include California sagebrush, coyote brush, poison oak, blueblossom, sticky monkey flower, and common manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*). Occasionally, French broom was also observed (*Genista monspessulana*). Native species observed in the herbaceous layer include purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*), manroot (*Marah fabacea*), and soap plant. Non-native species include compact brome (*Bromus madritensis*), scarlet pimpernel, and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*).

Mixed shrub (no ranking) consist of an even mix of California sagebrush, chamise, and coyote brush in the shrub layer. Since these three species are co-dominants (approx. 30% relative cover each), this does not fit into any of the vegetation classifications and membership rules described by the Manual of California Vegetation (CNPS 2022b). Other non-dominant shrubs include sticky monkey flower, toyon, fuchsia flowered gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), and buck brush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*). Species observed in the herbaceous layer are similar to the other shrub-scrub communities described previously.

Non-native annual grassland (no ranking) is described by Holland (1986) as a dense to sparse cover of non-native annual grasses with flowering culms 0.2- to 1-meter-high and is often associated with numerous species of showy-flowered annual forbs. Most species found in this biological community within the Study Area include non-native grasses and forbs that are characteristic of disturbed areas. This includes oatgrass (*Avenua fatua*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), common stork's bill (*Erodium botrys*), Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), barley (*Hordeum murinum*), burr medic (*Medicago polymorpha*), Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and lesser trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*). Native species observed in this habitat type include purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*), nude buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum*), California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), and Torrey's melic grass (*Melica torreyana*). Occasionally, there are small individuals of coast live oak or coyote brush appearing in this community, but this generally appears at less than 1% absolute cover – i.e., not in large enough absolute or relative cover to be classified as coast live oak woodland or coyote brush scrub. Generally, no clear dominants for any of the species listed above were observed in this habitat type; as such, there was no vegetation community from the Manual of Californica Vegetation that was suitable to be applied. Non-native annual grassland is found in both open spaces, has no ranking, and is not considered to be a sensitive habitat type.

Developed areas are areas within the park extent that have been cleared of natural vegetation communities and sometimes consist of impermeable surfaces like concrete. Developed areas are fairly limited within the open space areas (approximately 2% of the Study Area) and are restricted to the outer edges of the open spaces that are adjacent to residences.

California bay woodland (*Umbellularia californica*, S3 G4) are known from the inner and outer Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges, and Sierra Nevada Foothills from Del Norte County south to San Diego County. This vegetation community is typically located on terraces, canyon bottoms, north-facing slopes, and rock outcrops underlain by shallow to deep sand to loam substrates (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, this community type is found along streams in canyon bottoms and intergrades with arroyo willow thickets. Dominant species in the tree layer include California bay and coast live oak with California bay comprising greater than 30 percent of the relative cover in this stratum. In most locations, the tree canopy is extremely dense, therefore reducing the shrub and herbaceous layers within these communities.

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Scattered individuals of shrubs include poison oak, and fuchsia flowered gooseberry. The herbaceous layer is relatively depauperate and dominated by shade tolerant forbs including California maidenhair (*Adiantum jordanii*), miner's lettuce, California bedstraw (*Galium californicum*), manroot, Pacific sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), and chickweed (*Stellaria media*). California bay is a noted alternate host for sudden oak death (SOD) caused by the water mold, *Phytophthera ramorum*.

Arroyo willow thickets (*Salix lasiolepis*, S4 G4) are common throughout the state of California and consist of a canopy dominated by arroyo willows. To qualify as a true arroyo willow thicket, there must be 50% relative cover in the shrub or tree canopy (Keeler-Wolf et al. 2003) or at least 25% absolute cover. Understory plants consist of typical scrub vegetation which varies throughout the community's geographic range. This community is typically found along stream banks and benches, slope seeps, and along drainages (CNPS 2020b). Within the Study Area, arroyo willow thickets are found along canyon bottoms, adjacent to streams. Coast live oak trees are also found within the tree stratum but are typically around 10-15% of the relative cover. Poison oak is found growing among the arroyo willows, with stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), bee plant, common snowberry, and soap plant occurring in the herbaceous layer.

California buckeye groves (*Aesculus californica*, S3 G3) are known from the southern Cascade Range, Coast Ranges, northern Transverse Range, and Sierra Nevada Foothills from Siskiyou County south to Ventura County. This vegetation community is typically located on shallow, moderate to well-drained soils in canyons and alluvial terraces (Sawyer et al. 2009). Within the Study Area, California buckeye groves can be found along canyon bottoms, adjacent to streams; this commonly intergrades with the California bay and arroyo willow thickets along the riparian corridor. California buckeye groves are limited, at 0.9% of the Study Area. Co-dominant species within the tree stratum include California buckeye, California bay, and coast live oak. The understory is fairly depauperate, with coyote brush and stinging nettle being the most observed species.

4.2 Special-Status Species

Since both Waterdog and San Juan Canyon contain similar habitats (e.g., coyote brush scrub, coast live oak woodland, arroyo willow thickets, and annual grasslands), the assessment of special-status species applies to both parks, unless otherwise noted.

A total of 94 special-status plant species and 59 special-status wildlife species were evaluated for potential to occur within the Study Area. Of these, 11 special-status plant species and 7 special-status wildlife species have moderate/high potential to occur or are present within the Study Area. Species were ruled out if the Study Area was not within the known/expected range for the species, if the Study Area does not contain suitable habitat/microhabitat necessary to support this species, or if the species is generally understood to be extirpated from the region. All plant and wildlife species observed during the March 2022 site visits are included as Attachment A. The full list of the special status-species considered for this project is listed in Attachment B. Each species that has moderate/high potential to occur on site, or are present, are discussed below.

4.2.1 Plants

Franciscan onion (*Allium peninsulare* var. *franciscanum*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present.** Franciscan onion is a perennial forb in the lily family (Liliaceae) that blooms from May to June. It typically occurs on dry hillsides underlain by clay substrate, often derived from serpentine, in cismontane woodland and valley and

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foothill grassland habitat at elevations ranging from 165 to 975 feet (CDFW 2022, CNPS 2022). This species has a serpentine affinity rank of weak indicator (1.8) (Safford et al. 2005). Associated species include California bay, California buckeye, coast live oak, leather oak (*Q. durata*), and purple needlegrass (CDFW 2022). This species was documented within both Waterdog and San Juan Canyon open spaces in 2015, located within coast live oak woodland (CDFW 2022). This species was not observed during the March site assessments; however, the surveys did not take place during the blooming period for this species and was not intended to be a rare plant survey.

Bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), CRPR 1B.2. **Moderate Potential**. Bent-flowered fiddleneck is an annual forb in the forget-me-not family (Boraginaceae) that blooms from March to June. It typically occurs in open areas within cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, and coastal bluff scrub habitat often underlain by clay substrate at elevations ranging from 10 to 1,625 feet (CDFW 2022, CNPS 2022). Associated species include coast live oak, buck brush, poison oak, common yarrow, goldenback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*), one-sided bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), and slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*) (CDFW 2022). Cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland habitats are present within the Study Area. The nearest documented CNDDB occurrence is 1.5 southwest of San Juan Canyon open space, and 1.5 miles northwest of Waterdog, in 2018 (CDFW 2022). This occurrence was in native and non-native grassland on a south-facing slope; similar habitats are found within the Study Area.

Pink star-tulip (*Calochortus comosa*), CRPR 4.2. **Moderate Potential.** Coastal scrub and meadows and seep habitat are present within the Study Area, along with seasonally moist meadows and forested habitats. The nearest occurrences are 5 miles to the northwest, within the Crystal Springs reservoir recreation area.

San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present.** San Francisco collinsia is an annual herb that blooms from March to May. It typically occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest and coastal scrub at elevations ranging from 100 to 900 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include poison oak, coyote brush, California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), snowberry, California blackberry, western leatherwood, oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), and California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*, CDFW 2022). Coastal scrub habitat and moist, shady scrub or forest microhabitat is located within the Study Area boundary; there is one CNDDB occurrence in San Juan Canyon and two CNDDB occurrences in Waterdog Lake Open Space.

Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present**. Western leatherwood is a deciduous shrub in the mezereum family (Thymelaeaceae) that blooms from January to April, but is typically identifiable via vegetative structures into late summer and/or early fall. It typically occurs on brushy, mesic slopes in partial shade in broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, riparian forest, and riparian woodland habitat at elevations range from 165 to 1,285 feet (CDFW 2022, CNPS 2022, Baldwin et al. 2012). Associated species include coast live oak, California bay, poison oak, toyon, California buckeye, coyote brush, yerba buena (*Clinopodium douglasii*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Pacific sanicle, and Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) (CDFW 2022). Western leatherwood has several CNDDB occurrences within Waterdog and was observed during trail and habitat assessment surveys in March.

California bottle-brush grass (*Elymus californicus*), CRPR 4.3. **Moderate Potential**. California bottle-brush grass is a perennial graminoid in the grass family (Poaceae) that blooms from May to November. It typically occurs along stream banks or other mesic sites within broadleaf upland forest, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, and riparian woodland habitat at elevations ranging from 45 to

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1,530 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), California bay, red alder (*Alnus rubra*), California hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*), California coffeeberry, California blackberry, sword fern, hedge nettle (*Stachys ajugoides*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and woodland brome (*Bromus laevipes*) (CNPS 2022, California Consortium of Herbaria 2022). California bottle-brush grass has a moderate potential to occur in the Study Area due the presence of broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, and riparian forest habitats are located within the Study Area, and microhabitats of sandy humus soils are also present to support this species. The nearest documented CNPS occurrence is 2 miles to the northeast.

San Mateo woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum latilobum*), FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1. **High Potential.** San Mateo woolly sunflower is a perennial herb that blooms from May to June. It typically occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats at elevations ranging from 150 to 1085 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include coast live oak, California buckeye, California bay, foothill needle grass (*Stipa lepida*), California sagebrush, and white globe lily (*Calochortus albus*) (CDFW 2022). Suitable habitat of cismontane woodland and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Study Area, microhabitats of roadcuts are present, and most of the associated species were also observed throughout the Study Area. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is 1.5 miles to the northwest, along a road.

Harlequin lotus (*Hosackia gracilis*), CRPR 4.2. **Moderate Potential.** Harlequin lotus is a perennial forb in the pea family (Fabaceae) that blooms from March to July. It typically occurs in wetlands or ditches in broadleaf upland forest, coastal scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, meadow and seep, marsh and swamp, North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland habitat at elevations ranging from 0 to 2,275 feet (CNPS 2022). This species has a wetland indicator status of facultative wetland (FACW). Associated species include coyote brush, little quaking grass (*Briza minor*), California oat grass (*Danthonia californica*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), subterranean clover (*Trifolium* subterraneanum) (CCH2 2022). Suitable habitat of broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, and meadows and seeps and microhabitats of wetlands and roadsides are present. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2 miles west of the Study Area.

Bristly leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon acicularis*), CRPR 4.2. **Moderate Potential.** Bristly leptosiphon is an annual forb in the phlox family (Polemoniaceae) that blooms from April to July. It typically occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, and valley and foothill grassland habitats at elevations ranging from 175 to 4,875 feet (CNPS 2022). Bristly leptosiphon has a moderate potential to occur within the Study Area due to the presence of associated species and vegetation types; however, this species typically occurs in natural open or herbaceous serpentine and/or volcanic areas. The nearest CNPS occurrence is 2.5 miles to the west.

Arcuate bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus arcuatus*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present.** Arcuate bush-mallow is a shrub that blooms from April to September. It typically occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland habitats at elevations ranging from 50 to 1165 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include coast live oak, bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*), chamise, western leather wood, California sagebrush, coyote brush, and buck brush (CDFW 2022). Chaparral and cismontane woodland habitat and gravelly alluvium microhabitats are present within the Study Area, in addition to a documented CNDDB occurrence within Waterdog as of 2013. This species was not observed during the March 2022 trail assessment and habitat reconnaissance surveys, which was conducted before the bloom period.

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Woodland woolythreads (*Monolopia gracilens*), CRPR 1B.2. **Present.** Woodland woolythreads is an annual herb that blooms from March to July. It typically occurs in broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, north coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland habitats at elevations ranging from 330 to 3935 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include yerba santa (*Eriodictyon* spp.), chamise, buck brush, poison oak, bigberry manzanita, and sticky monkey flower (CDFW 2022). Suitable habitat of broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland and microhabitat of grassy sites in openings is present to support this species. There is a CNDDB occurrence within/adjacent to Waterdog; this record was documented in the 70s, and location is approximate, not exact.

Choris's popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*), CRPR 1B.2. **Moderate Potential.** Choris's popcornflower is an annual herb that blooms from March to June. It typically occurs in chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub at elevations ranging from 10 to 525 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include common yarrow, coyote brush, common toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), brass buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*), fringed willowherb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), California blackberry and Buck's horn plaintain (*Plantago coronopus*) (CDFW 2022). Chaparral and coastal scrub habitats are located within the Study Area, and microhabitats of mesic sites (and low-lying depressions) are present to support this species. The nearest CNDDB occurrence is approximately 2 miles to the southwest.

Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*), CRPR 2B.2. **Present.** Chaparral ragwort is an annual herb that blooms from January to April. It typically occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub at elevations ranging from 50 to 2625 feet (CNPS 2022). Associated species include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), nude buckwheat, stork's bill, redstem filaree, black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California sagebrush, and soap root. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats are present within the Study Area, and a there is a CNDDB occurrence within or near Waterdog.

4.2.2 Wildlife

Moderate or higher potential to occur

Western (Pacific) pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. The western pond turtle is the only native freshwater turtle in California. This turtle is uncommon to common in suitable aquatic habitat throughout California, west of the Sierra-Cascade crest and Transverse Ranges. Western pond turtles inhabit perennial aquatic habitats, such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and canals that provide submerged cover and suitable basking structures, such as rocks and logs (Zeiner et. al. 1990). Western pond turtles prefer to nest on unshaded upland slopes close to their aquatic habitat, and hatchlings require shallow water with relatively dense emergent and submergent vegetation for foraging for aquatic invertebrates (Jennings and Hayes 1994).

A small number of turtles were briefly observed swimming in Waterdog Lake, although it could not be determined whether the turtles were invasive red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta*) or pond turtles. Turtle habitat in general within the Study Area is limited to waterdog lake, as no other perennial water bodies of this size exist. Emergent vegetation is present on the side of the lake most distant from the existing dam, and downed timber and rocky shorelines could provide suitable basking sites. Breeding habitat at this location would mostly be limited to the slope against the existing levee, which appears highly trafficked by recreational users. Given the presence of suitable habitat and the observation of turtles in

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waterdog lake, it is highly likely that native turtles such as western pond turtle could be present in this aquatic habitat and occasionally in adjacent uplands.

Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. The olive-sided flycatcher is a summer resident in California, wintering in Latin America. It breeds in a variety of forested habitats, typically coniferous forests at higher elevations, but also in mixed forest and woodlands at lower elevations. Breeding habitat is often associated with forest openings and edges, both natural (e.g., meadows, canyons) and man-made (e.g., logged areas) (Altman and Sallabanks 2012). Nests are usually in conifers, and placed at variable height on the outer portions of branches. This species forages for insects, usually from prominent tree snags.

Although this species was not observed during site visits, mixed low-elevation forests are common within the Study Area and could support nesting by this species. This species may be more commonly observed foraging within the Study Area.

White tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), CDFW Fully Protected Species. The white-tailed kite is resident in open to semi-open habitats throughout the lower elevations of California, including grasslands, savannahs, woodlands, agricultural areas and wetlands. Vegetative structure and prey availability seem to be more important habitat elements than associations with specific plants or vegetative communities (Dunk 1995). Nests are constructed mostly of twigs and placed in trees, often at habitat edges. Nest trees are highly variable in size, structure, and immediate surroundings, ranging from shrubs to trees greater than 150 feet tall (Dunk 1995). This species preys upon a variety of small mammals, as well as other vertebrates and invertebrates.

While this species is usually observed in closer proximity to San Francisco Bay, higher elevation areas characterized by small trees interspersed with grasses and low shrubs could provide nesting or foraging habitat for this species within the Study Area.

San Francisco (saltmarsh) common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. This subspecies of the common yellowthroat is found in freshwater marshes, coastal swales, riparian thickets, brackish marshes, and saltwater marshes. Their breeding range extends from Tomales Bay in the north, Carquinez Strait to the east, and Santa Cruz County to the south. This species requires thick, continuous cover such as tall grasses, tule patches, or riparian vegetation down to the water surface for foraging and prefers willows for nesting (Shuford and Gardali 2008).

Although this species is more typically documented nesting in salt marshes around the San Francisco Bay Area, more isolated patches of riparian vegetation within the Study Area could potentially support nesting by this species. This type of vegetation exists around Waterdog Lake and along stream drainages adjacent to trails.

Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), WBWG Medium. Hoary bats are highly associated with forested habitats in the western United States, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. They are a solitary species and roost primarily in foliage of both coniferous and deciduous trees, near the ends of branches, usually at the edge of a clearing. Roosts are typically 10 to 30 feet above the ground. This species tolerates a wide range of temperatures and has been captured at air temperatures between 0 and 22 degrees Celsius. They usually emerge late in the evening to forage, typically from just over one hour after sunset to after midnight.

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Many of the CNDDB occurrences in the immediate vicinity that document this species are older "specimen samples" from the early 1900's. However, this species is known to occur in forested habitats within the San Francisco Bay Area and immediate vicinity. Forested habitats within the Study Area, particularly in the vicinity of riparian areas that could provide sources of forage, should thus be considered to have moderate potential to support Hoary bat and other non-status bats with baseline protections.

San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. This subspecies of the dusky-footed woodrat occurs in the Coast Ranges between San Francisco Bay and the Salinas River (Matocq 2004). Occupied habitats are variable and include forest, woodland, riparian areas, and chaparral. Woodrats feed on woody plants, but will also consume fungi, grasses, flowers, and acorns. Foraging occurs on the ground and in bushes and trees. This species constructs robust stick houses/nests in areas with moderate cover and a well-developed understory containing woody debris. Breeding takes place from December to September. Individuals are active year-round and generally nocturnal.

Woodrat houses were observed widely throughout the Study Area, both along riparian strips and in more upland thickets of various types of shrubs. Densest concentrations of houses, however, were observed along creek drainages. While no woodrat individuals were observed, this species should be assumed to have potential to nest in any portion of the Study Area with a relatively dense understory.

American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), CDFW Species of Special Concern. The American badger is a large, semi-fossorial member of the Mustelidae (i.e. weasel family). It is found uncommonly within the region in drier open stages of most scrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats where friable soils and prey populations are present. Badgers are typically solitary and nocturnal, digging burrows to provide refuge during daylight hours. Burrow entrances are usually elliptical (rather than round), and each burrow generally has only one entrance. Young are born in the spring and independent by the end of summer. Badgers are carnivores, preying on a variety of fossorial mammals (especially ground squirrels) and occasionally other vertebrates and their eggs. Home ranges for this species tend to be large, depending on the habitat available; population density averages one badger per square mile in prime open country (Long 1973).

This species is likely to avoid highly trafficked areas where trails have been relatively compacted, or densely forested or vegetated habitats that dominate the Study Area. However, friable soils and more open habitats exist in higher elevation locations within the Study Area that could support this species. It thus has moderate potential to occur.

Unlikely to occur

California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). Federal Threatened, CDFW Species of Special Concern. The California red-legged frog (CRLF) is the only native "pond frog" found throughout much of California. Suitable aquatic breeding habitat is characterized by deep and still or slow-moving water associated with emergent marsh and/or riparian vegetation, typically with at least 20 weeks of continuous inundation (USFWS 2010). Suitable features include ponds (perennial and non-), streams/creeks, seasonal wetlands, springs, seeps, man-made features (e.g. stock ponds, roadside ditches), marshes, dune ponds, and lagoons. Dependent upon local conditions, CRLF may complete its entire life cycle in a particular habitat patch (e.g., a perennial pond suitable for all life stages), or utilize multiple habitat types. In aquatic features that dry down seasonally, CRLFs often undergo aestivation (a period of inactivity) during the dry months, retreating to small mammal burrows or other substrates that provide suitable refugia (Thomson et al. 2016). Adults and sub-adults (newly metamorphosed individuals) may disperse from breeding

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habitats to nearby riparian and/or aestivation areas in the summer. Conversely, during the rainy season CRLFs may migrate from aestivation sites to waters suitable for breeding. During such dispersals, frogs can travel over one mile over a variety of topographic and habitat types (Bulger et al. 2003). Upland dispersal habitats are variable and typically include riparian corridors, grasslands, and oak savannas.

CRLF has been documented to occur in the vicinity of the Study Area, mainly within Crystal Springs reservoir and wetlands immediate adjacent (CDFW 2022). However, no occurrences have been documented within the Study Area or in locations immediately adjacent. Interstate 280 also constitutes a near complete dispersal barrier for this species, except in locations where hydrologic connectivity allows passage of this species from known occupied habitats and source populations (e.g., San Mateo Creek). The Study Area does not contain any potential corridors that would allow the passage of this species from known occupied habitats to habitats within the Study Area. Potentially suitable breeding habitats for this species within the Study Area are also extremely limited, given that most stream features are intermittent or ephemeral and do not possess appropriate vegetation for the attachment of egg sacks. Waterdog Lake has potentially suitable habitat for this species given that it is a perennial water body, but to WRA's knowledge the species has not been identified within this water body and dispersal to this isolated location is unlikely. Considering barriers to dispersal and the relative lack of suitable habitat, CRLF is unlikely to occur within the Study Area.

4.3 Habitat Quality

Except for developed portions of the site, eucalyptus groves, and the non-native annual grassland, the plant species observed within the Study Area are mostly native. This is also demonstrated by the biological communities listed in the previous section; over 90% of the Study Area consist of native biological communities. Invasive species were observed but was generally limited to patches of less than 50 square feet and represent a small portion of the overall Study Area. Unsurprisingly, the primary cause of vegetation impacts is from unauthorized trails and the inadvertent expanded width of trails (resulting from braided trails).

As such, the overall habitat quality of the Study Area is high quality to moderate quality, with the areas adjacent to trails and residential development generally being moderate quality. Areas adjacent to development/residential tend to be disturbed, via fire breaks that are then recolonized by non-native species annual species (non-native annual grassland). Some areas adjacent to homes were observed to have large patches of ice plant, and vegetation clearing where the tops of coast live oak and other shrubs were removed. Areas with limited anthropogenic influence (set back from residential uses and major trails), have high quality habitat.

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4.4 Trail Environmental Conditions

The number of instances where erosion was noticed on both existing mapped and existing unmapped trails is shown in Table 5. The instances of erosion are categorized by the qualitative level, low, medium, high. In addition, approximately 50 stream crossings were identified along existing trails, and these crossings varied in terms of crossing mechanism. This ranges from a free-span wooden footbridge to a plank placed across the stream, to stepping stones.

TABLE 5. TRAIL EROSION INSTANCES.

Location	Low Erosion	Medium Erosion	High Erosion	Total Erosion Instances
Waterdog				
Existing Mapped Trails	127 (56%)	77 (34%)	25 (11%)	229
Existing Unmapped Trails	59 (83%)	7 (10%)	6 (8%)	71
San Juan Canyon				
Existing Mapped Trails	5 (38%)	7 (54%)	1 (8%)	13
Existing Unmapped Trails	11 (85%)	2 (15%)	0 (0%)	13

4.5 Wildfire Hazard Analysis

4.5.1 Wildfire Hazards

Based on the San Mateo County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Calfire has rated Belmont's two open space areas as having very high wildfire hazards for WDL, and high hazards for SJC. These hazard ratings are based on multiple factors including:

- Vegetation type and density
- Topography (fires that start on slopes tend to travel uphill)
- Weather (including wind speed and direction, and relative humidity)
- Potential Fire Behavior (e.g., flame lengths, ability to generate embers)
- Potential to damage human life and structures

The two open space areas include steeply sloped, vegetated areas adjacent to residential areas and thus have been assigned relatively high wildfire hazard ratings. Figures 2 and 3 depict vegetation types across the city's two open space areas. The majority of vegetation in WDL and SJC is coastal live oak.
According to the wildfire hazard reduction and resource management plan prepared by East Bay Regional Park District, the following fuel reduction methods are typically used to reduce wildfire fuels on Bay Area open space lands:

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- Hand Labor;
- Mechanical Treatment;
- Chemical Treatment;
- Prescribed Burning and;
- Grazing.

Due to the configuration of, access to, and slopes within the WDL open space area, the only practical treatments for wildfire fuel reduction are hand labor and grazing. In contrast, SJC has better access for vehicles and large types of equipment, and therefore could be appropriate for using mechanical treatments to reduce wildfire fuels. Due to the proximity of Belmont's residential areas to adjacent open space areas, neither chemical treatment or prescribed burning are recommended as fuel reduction treatments.

4.5.2 Fuel Hazards by Vegetation Types

Both ignition potential and fuel hazards are rated depending on the vegetation type as shown in Table 6.

TABLE 6. FIRE HAZARD RATING FOR FUEL TYPES VEGETATION TYPE.

Vegetation Type	Hazard Rating	Ignition Potential[1]
Grasslands and Herbaceous Vegetation		
Coastal Prairie	Moderate	2
Serpentine Bunchgrass Grasslands	Low	2
California Annual Grasslands	Moderate	1
Ruderal Vegetation	Moderate	3
Scrub Vegetation		
Maritime Chaparral (Manzanita-Chinquapin)	Extreme	6
North Coastal Scrub-Xeric	Extreme	4
North Coastal Scrub-Mesic	High	8
Coyote Brush Scrub	High	4
Non-native Scrub	High	6
Woodlands and Forest Plantations		
Mature Eucalyptus Forest	High	1
Young Eucalyptus Forest	High	2
Mature Monterey Pine Forest	Moderate to High	2

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Draft Memorandum: Management Alternatives and Environmental Assessment for the Open Space Management Plan as part of the Belmont Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan

Vegetation Type	Hazard Rating	Ignition Potential[1]
Young Monterey Pine Forest	High	2
Oak-Bay Woodland	Low	6-8
Redwood Forest	Low	8
Riparian Woodland	Low	8

Source: Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan, EBRPD, 2010
1 ignition potential was ranked 1 to 10, where the highest potential is represented by a "1" and the lowest potential is ranked by a "10."

Wildfires tend to start in vegetation that ignites easily such as annual grasslands, or coastal scrub. Once ignited, these vegetation types have a significant influence on a wildfire's rate of spread. Woodland areas tend to ignite much more slowly than grassland and shrub vegetation types, but once ignited can contribute to greater heat per unit area, and higher flame lengths. Under extreme weather conditions all vegetation types have the ability to contribute to a wildfire's rate of spread, heat per unit area, and flame length.

The majority (approximately 147 acres) of vegetation in the WDL open space area is coastal live oak (Figure 3), which has a low hazard rating and ignition potential, since it is associated with oak-Bay woodland. This situation also applies to the SJC open space area, with the majority of vegetation there mapped as coastal live oak. However, the area west of Hastings Drive is classified as chamise which is associated with the North Coastal Scrub-Xeric vegetation type, and has an extreme fuel hazard rating. Based on aerial photograph review, the open space areas that abut residential areas have little to no vegetation. The city engages in wildfire fuel reduction activities in the WDL open space area, as depicted in Figures 4 and 5. There were three areas that were treated in 2021, and another group of areas treated in 2019 and 2021, also shown in Figures 4 and 5.

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ment Alternatives and Environmental Assessment
ent Plan as part of the Belmont Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan



Reduction Areas Near Hastings Drive

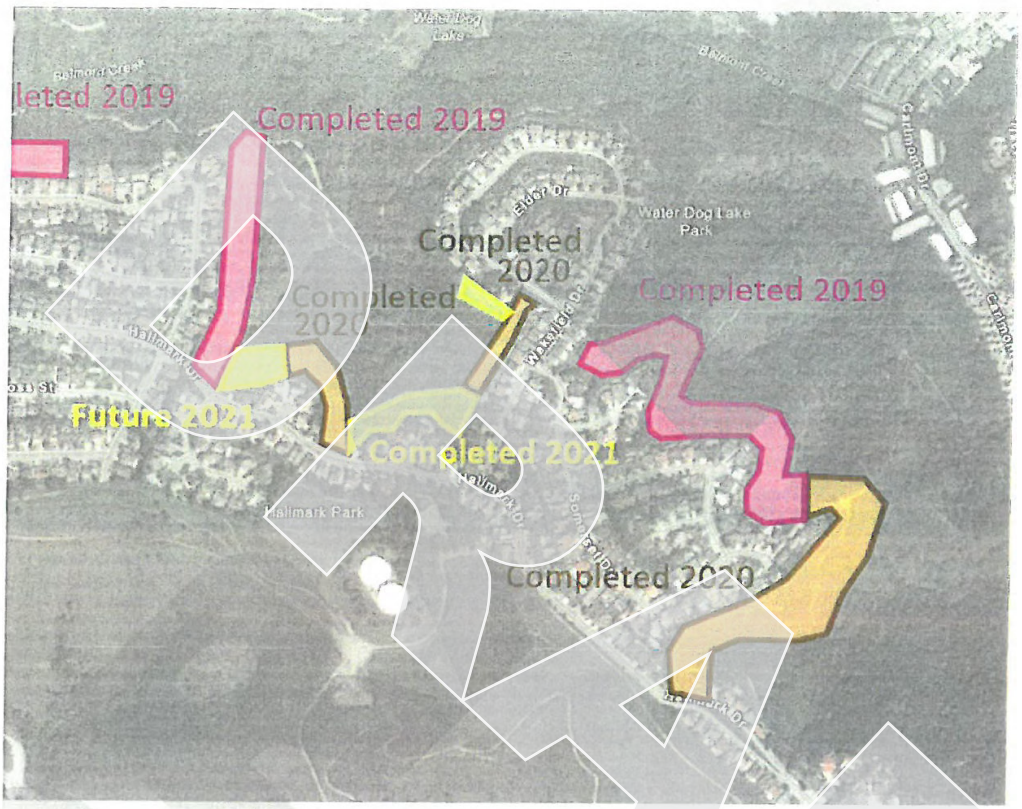
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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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DRAFT

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ment Alternatives and Environmental Assessment
ent Plan as part of the Belmont Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan



Reduction Areas Near Hallmark Drive

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Habitat and Species

Although the habitat within the open space areas appears to be in good health, there are still management considerations and actions that should be taken to ensure this valuable community resource continues to thrive, for both residents and wildlife alike. The following recommendations are a result of observations from the reconnaissance site visits and community feedback.

Sudden Oak Death.

Sudden oak death (SOD, or *Phytophthora ramorum*) is a pathogen that is a common management concern for Belmont's Open Spaces. Although SOD has been detected in San Mateo County (and much of the west coast), there are no current or active cases reported by statewide, citizen science SOD mapping efforts through Calinvasives or University of California Berkeley's SODmap (Calflora 2022 and UC Berkeley 2022). There are no reported cases in San Juan Canyon open space, and there are three confirmed positive cases documented in Waterdog. These three cases are located along Lake Road Trail on a bay tree in 2014, one along Berry trail on a coast live oak tree in 2008, and another off-trail (southwest of Berry Trail) on a bay tree in 2013. However, these cases are inactive according to follow-up visits to the same infected trees as part of the Calinvasives mapping program in 2016, 2016, and 2014, respectively (Calflora 2022).

Although there are no known active cases according to these databases, it is still possible that SOD is present and dormant within Belmont's Open Spaces. Therefore, recommendations for SOD management include adding educational signage and decontamination equipment at all trailheads for these open spaces. Educational signage may include but is not limited to the following: photos that show what symptoms of SOD look like, how to report cases to the citizen science programs mentioned previously (if observed), how to reduce the risk of spread by avoiding trails 24-48 hours after a significant precipitation event and encouraging trail users to remove tracked mud found on the bottom of shoes and bike tires. Decontamination stations located at access points may include boot brushes and 70% isopropyl alcohol spray bottles that are mounted to the educational signage.

Invasive Species.

Several observations of invasive species were detected within Waterdog and San Juan Canyon.[3] This includes ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*, Cal-IPC: High), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*, Cal-IPC: High), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*, Cal-IPC: High), and English ivy (*Hedera helix*, Cal-IPC: High). Trail working groups like Friends of the Waterdog and Waterdog Trailkeepers indicated current efforts to control these species, and these efforts were observed during the site assessment. For example, only the

[3] *Invasive species are typically defined as California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) species rated Moderate or High. Species ranked as "high" is defined as "... species [that] have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Most are widely distributed ecologically." Moderate is defined as "... species [that] have substantial and apparent—but generally not severe—ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal, though establishment is generally dependent upon ecological disturbance. Ecological amplitude and distribution may range from limited to widespread."*

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vegetative (non-flowering) portions of pampas grass were observed, as someone had removed the flowering heads to prevent the species from re-seeding.

Recommendations for managing invasive species found within the Study Area include early detection and response. Early detection and response is a best management practice for invasive species control that focuses monitoring for new or spreading occurrences of undesirable species, then applies the most effective management action for the control of the species. For example, if an invasive species is primarily spread via seed, then attempts would be made to remove the flowering portion of the plant before the seeds have a chance to develop, mature, and spread. Another example would be species that spread via rhizome/stolons; the entire plant would be manually removed to prevent further spread.

Public community meetings for the open space planning efforts indicate that "Friends" groups already have this type of program in place; therefore, continued collaboration between the City and community groups would be helpful for invasive species control efforts. Another advantage of the SOD decontamination stations (brushes and rubbing alcohol) also reduces the inadvertent introduction of weedy species by trail users.

Additional Surveys.

Due to the large Study Area and number of special-status species with potential to occur, protocol-level surveys for these species are recommended once the City has a clearly established project, with a project description (which includes the limits of disturbance). Having clearly defined project footprints, or smaller study areas, for protocol-level surveys will allow the City to use resource management budget wisely and comply with applicable federal, state, and local policies. This is because the number of species with potential to occur may be tailored based on the habitat present within the project footprint and will generally result in reduced species that need protocol-level surveys to determine presence/absence.

Generally, appropriately timed work can avoid or minimize impacts to special-status species and sensitive natural resources. For example, vegetation management activities should take place during September through January to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Nesting bird season is generally accepted as February 1 through August 31 for the City of Belmont. Another example includes conducting ground disturbance activities during the dry season (June through October), particularly if the project footprint will be located near waterways.

Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Opportunities.

While most of the habitats found within the open spaces were in good condition, there are still opportunities for habitat enhancement and restoration, particularly within the non-native annual grassland and creek crossings spots within riparian corridors. As stated in the habitat description, the non-native annual grassland was observed to have mostly non-native species, with some native grasses and forbs. The presence of small patches of purple needlegrass (perennial bunchgrass) found in the understory of shrubs and within disturbed areas is promising, and this could be expanded by additional seeding, or planting more plugs of other perennial native bunchgrasses to compete with the non-native annuals. This should be followed up by monitoring these re-seeded or revegetated areas, with some supplemental water to help perennial bunchgrasses get established.

Generally, stream crossings should be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. Paths may be re-routed or consolidated to reduce the number of stream crossings. Retired crossings should be decommissioned

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by placing signs indicating trail closure and habitat restoration, with physical barriers placed, like logs, while vegetation is filling back in. Vegetation will generally grow back in abandoned trails, but intervention may be needed if soil compaction or vegetation impacts are extensive. Revegetation methods like willow staking are common in riparian restoration efforts and would be appropriate for most creek crossing decommissioning locations within the open space. Where crossings are inevitable, a hydrologically appropriate crossing (that allows passage during high water flow events) should be planned and placed. This helps the waterway take its natural course with minimal anthropogenic influence, like increased erosion due to mechanical erosion from trail users. Collaborations between the City and with citizen science groups or "Friends" groups could help ensure the success of these efforts.

5.2 Wildfire Reduction Hazard

1. If the city desires a more aggressive fuel treatment plan, develop and implement an annual fuel treatment plan.
2. Maintain the currently treated areas as depicted in Figures 4 and 5.
3. Evaluate wildfire fuel conditions in San Juan Canyon for possible treatment. There are multiple areas with coyote brush scrub that could be treated to reduce wildfire hazards.
4. Continue to maintain the low vegetation area west of Hastings Drive, and consider expanding this area downhill, subject to avoiding nesting bird season, and any other types of environmental requirements.

5.3 Environmental Strategy for OSMP Implementation

The OSMP Base Plan and two management alternatives have multiple implementation actions that will involve various forms of ground disturbing activities. Actions fall into three categories: environmental sustainability, balanced recreational uses and trail management, and natural hazard mitigation (focused solely on wildfire hazards). Potential actions to support environmental stability could involve habitat restoration of native bunchgrass or installing drainage features or a trail bridge to reduce trail erosion. Actions associated with balanced recreational uses and trail management might include designating some trails one way, designating a parallel segment of trail as one-way or single use, or constructing a new separate trail adjacent to an existing trail to separate pedestrian and bicycle trail use. Actions intended to reduce naturals could involve cover reduction of highly flammable vegetation in areas where feasible and safe to do so via manual labor.

As noted in the table 7 below, to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), most, if not all, of these types of actions could be achieved by preparing a Categorical Exemption (CE), which is generally the most expeditious means of complying with CEQA. CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301-15323 describe a variety of categories that might apply to OSMP implementation actions. In some cases, the applicable CE class may not apply if mitigation measures are required to protect biological resources, or any other type of resource.

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TABLE 7. CEQA COMPLIANCE FOR OSMP IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

OSMP Implementation Actions	Applicable Categorical Exemption Categories	Activities and limitations
Installing a trail bridge	Section 15303: Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.	A new bridge installation would need to avoid placing any bridge feature below the ordinary highwater mark (OHWM).
Native bunchgrass restoration	Section 15333: Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration projects	Projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife.
Installing trail drainage features	Section 15304: Class 4, Minor Alterations to the Land	Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent.
Designating with new signage a trail as one-way	Section 15311: Class 11, Accessory Structures	Consists of construction and placement of minor structures including but not limited to on premise signs.
Designating with new signage a parallel trail segment as one-way or single use	Section 15311: Class 11, Accessory Structures	Consists of construction and placement of minor structures including, but not limited to, signs on premises.
New trail construction	Section 15303: Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.	Applicability would depend on avoiding trail construction below the OHWM, avoiding construction activity during nesting bird season, and avoiding any impacts to sensitive habitats or species.
Vegetation removal or pruning	Section 15304: Class 4, Minor Alterations to the Land	Fuel management activities within 300 feet of structures to reduce volume of flammable material

To qualify for a CE and comply with CEQA, an implementation action cannot:

- Occur in a location where the implementation action could impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern in an area mapped by a local, state, or federal agency;
- Create cumulative impacts spatially or over time;
- Have a significant impact due to extraordinary circumstances;
- Adversely impact a state designated scenic highway;
- Be located on a site designated as hazardous per Government Code 65962.5; or
- Adversely impact a historic resource.

Finally, it should be noted that there are several types of potential implementation actions associated with the OSMP that mostly likely could not covered by completing a CE. These could include:

- Armoring a streambank;
- Constructing a new trail if it crosses a creek; and
- Tree removal during bird nesting season.

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Joanne Adamkewicz
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:12 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm; Brigitte Shearer
Subject: question: 2035 population projections for PROS plan?

Dear Ms. Shearer, Parks commissioners, and staff:

Can you please point me to the 2035 population projections that were used as inputs to the current draft PROS master plan?

I am specifically concerned that the updated draft Housing Element, which won't be released until June 8 and won't be finalized until late summer, includes much higher population figures than those in the current General Plan or even the 2017 Belmont Village Specific Plan. It would be good to confirm that the PROS work was done with the most up-to-date population figures.

Thank you,
Joanne Adamkewicz
Yorkshire Way

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Martin, Ronald <
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 12:47 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Bike access to Waterdog

To Whom it May Concern,

I just want to express my support for mountain bike access to Waterdog. Unbiased data shows very limited trail damage by mountain bikers. Data also shows minimal disruption to wildlife. Continuing access to Waterdog not only encourages a healthier lifestyle, the presence of mountain bikers also help the local economy as they support local businesses and restaurants.

Ron

Ronald Martin

DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Bushman
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:50 PM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Access

Dear PROS Committee, I have lived in San Mateo for 10 years and now in San Carlos for 3. I regularly ride my bike at Waterdog for recreation and fitness 3-4 times a week. I have never had an encounter with anyone in the park that was negative. Hikers, Bikers and Dog walkers all get along great. Limiting access to any of them would greatly impact the local economy in my eyes. From the local bike shop to the starbucks and Lunardis all within minutes for a post ride snack. I just took my 7 year old for his first mountain bike ride last Saturday and he was hooked.

Waterdog is an absolute gem and I would love to continue to ride there for years to come.

Thank You, A Concerned Citizen.

--
Chris M. Bushman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Joanne Adamkewicz
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: RE: question: 2035 population projections for PROS plan?

Thank you for your inquiry Joanne,

To date, as the PROS project began in early 2020, it has been using the 2035 forecasted population projection of 30,500 residents from the 2035 General Plan (2017) for all build-out scenarios.

The scope of the housing element analysis assumes that the City will complete subsequent General Plan and BVSP amendments to ensure all documents are consistent with the updated growth projections. In the meantime, as our planning document is currently underway, I'll share these recently updated projections with the PROS plan consultant

Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
Belmont Parks & Recreation

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I am specifically concerned that the updated draft Housing Element, which won't be released until June 8 and won't be finalized until late summer, includes much higher population figures than those in the current General Plan or even the 2017 Belmont Village Specific Plan. It would be good to confirm that the PROS work was done with the most up-to-date population figures.

Thank you,
Joanne Adamkewicz
Yorkshire Way

1

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Joanne Adamkewicz
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:26 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Cc: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Re: question: 2035 population projections for PROS plan?

Dear Ms. Shearer,

Thank you very much for getting back to me promptly! I really appreciate that.

It makes sense that the PROS planning process started with the 2017 population projections. However, it is not finalized yet, and I very strongly hope that the latest figures can be incorporated somehow into this 2022 version of the PROS plan update, for two reasons.

- First, the new number is much higher than the old forecast of 30,500 residents in 2035. The current population of Belmont is 28,360 per the recent Districting process. The Housing Element projects an additional 4500 (RHNA target build out) to 8250 (full build out) residents, for a total of **32,860 - 36,610** residents by the year 2030. The total by 2035 is unknown but will be even higher - likely more than **25% greater** than the 30,500 forecast.

- Second, the new population will not be evenly distributed throughout the city. In fact, 99% of the 4500-8250 new residents will be added to the eastern area of Belmont, raising the existing population of 7100 to **as many as 15,000 people**, with only nominal growth in the remaining areas of the city. Such lopsided development is a challenge for any city plan, including roads, sewers, schools -- and parks.

I understand that the General Plan and the BVSP can and will be amended to address the growth envisioned in the Housing Element. But those documents deliberately leave the details up to the supporting elements, which includes the PROS master plan. But a plan based on a population forecast that is 25% too low, and with no consideration for geographic distribution of the growth -- such a plan will be obsolete within a year or two, and will fail at its goal of providing a useful blueprint for the future.

I acknowledge that the entire planning exercise unfortunately cannot be re-done with the correct population forecast. It's too late. The table entitled "IDEAL AMENITY QUANTITIES FOR 2021 AND 2035 POPULATIONS" will remain unadjusted for the City's latest and most accurate population forecast, thus creating an obstacle to accurate planning by other City departments.

So what I am requesting is that the text of the PROS plan acknowledge this disconnect. A statement should be added to the effect that the plan was developed with population forecasts from 2017; that the updated 2022 forecast shows growth to be faster, more dense, and more geographically concentrated than envisioned in the PROS plan; and that therefore, future modifications to the PROS master plan, the General Plan, and the BVSP should be pursued as appropriate to match this growth.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you for passing this on to your consultants as well.
Best regards,
Joanne Adamkewicz

On Tue, May 31, 2022 at 4:16 PM Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov> wrote:

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DRAFT

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:39 PM
To: Joanne Adamkewicz
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: RE: question: 2035 population projections for PROS plan?

Joanne,
The PROS plan document has not yet been completed. I'm working with the consultant to review our benchmarking and amenity ratio analysis to see what impacts this new population information may have on the plan.

I also understand your concern about where in Belmont this increase is likely to occur.
In anticipation of that, the draft recommendations already include additional amenities at the Belmont Sports Complex, Alexander Park, and O'Donnell Park and new opportunity (park) sites in the downtown area. These draft recommendations will undergo further community engagement before any improvements or final designs are implemented. (exception: Alexander Park tennis court resurfacing which will be underway shortly)

Thank you very much
Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
Belmont Parks & Recreation

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To date, as the PROS project began in early 2020, it has been using the 2035 forecasted population projection of 30,500 residents from the 2035 General Plan (2017) for all build-out scenarios.

The scope of the housing element analysis assumes that the City will complete subsequent General Plan and BVSP amendments to ensure all documents are consistent with the updated growth projections. In the meantime, as our planning document is currently underway, I'll share these recently updated projections with the PROS plan consultant

Brigitte

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

Parks & Recreation Director

Belmont Parks & Recreation

30 Twin Pines Ln, Belmont, CA 94002
P: (650) 595-7488 | E: bshearer@belmont.gov
www.belmont.gov/parksandrec | Join our e-newsletter!

"Enhancing Quality of Life for the Community"

"As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!"

From: Joanne Adamkewicz
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:12 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>; Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Subject: question: 2035 population projections for PROS plan?

Dear Ms. Shearer, Parks commissioners, and staff:

Can you please point me to the 2035 population projections that were used as inputs to the current draft PROS master plan?

I am specifically concerned that the updated draft Housing Element, which won't be released until June 8 and won't be finalized until late summer, includes much higher population figures than those in the current General Plan or even the 2017 Belmont Village Specific Plan. It would be good to confirm that the PROS work was done with the most up-to-date population figures.

Thank you,

Joanne Adamkewicz

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brook Burley
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 5:47 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Recreation Trails

Hello Belmont,

Waterdog was the origin of a great ride tradition where I formed some of the best friendships in my life.

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you,

Brook

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tushar Nair
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2022 9:44 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Water dog | Support multi-use recreation on all trails

Hello,

As Belmont resident and an avid user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write in support of multi-use recreation of the trails in Water dog. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree with the draft recommendations published recently with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. I've been hiking and biking in Water dog for over a decade hand never felt a situation where trails had to be restricted for enjoying a nice outdoors.

In the decade we have been living in Belmont, we love the city for all it has to offer. I am committed to doing my part to make Water Open Space safe an inclusive to all.

Please leave all trails in the park open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Best Regards

Tushar

1

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Joel Wilson
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 1:48 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Dear Belmont City Council and PROS Commission,

I am a frequent user of Waterdog open space, and I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I also support the use of e-bikes there and don't see them as making any impact on the trails or other users due to their quiet operation and very low power compared to a dirt bike.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Joel Wilson

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: susannah pratt <
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 10:22 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Recreation Trails - support multi-use recreation

Hello,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you,

Susannah Calvin, Belmont residents

DRAFT

2

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Lamb
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 9:46 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog park

Hello Belmont/Waterdog decision-makers,

Please retain multi-use trails at Waterdog. I have ridden my mountain bike at Waterdog for years. It is truly a great park to ride and wouldn't want it to change in any way, if possible. I know that mountain biking has become more popular in recent years and amidst the pandemic, and this has brought new users to the park, and possibly some riff-raff.

Here is the copy/paste version.

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Regards,

Jonathan Lamb

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Shelby Gol
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 3:51 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Multi-use open trails

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

-Shelby Golan

DRAFT

4

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 12:23 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: I support multi-use recreation on the Waterdog trails

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you, Eduardo

Eduardo F. Llach

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lindsay Helmuth
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 9:15 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog

Hello,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you

Lindsay

DRAFT

6

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Peter Coward
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 1:37 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Recreation at Watedog Open Space

Dear Parks & Recreation Commission,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog, please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you very much for your attention in this matter!

Peter

Peter Coward

Belmont, CA 94002

DRAFT

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chuck Becker
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 10:38 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.
I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.
I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.
Sincerely,
Chuck Becker

DRAFT

8

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Matt Herman
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 8:40 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog

Dear Belmont City Council,

As a local who was raised in Belmont (Fox Elementary, Ralston Middle School, Carlmont High School), a current local resident in neighboring San Carlos and as a lifetime time user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I was first introduced to Waterdog open space by my parents in the mid-1970s as we would enjoy weekly family hikes. As I grew older, I started riding the Waterdog trails and have enjoyed them for over 30 years! I am now a father and enjoy the same hiking and riding with my own family that I grew to love over the years. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been for as long as I can remember!

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Regards,

Matt Herman

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Justin Carr
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 6:43 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Access

Hello,

I am writing in support of multi-use recreation on the trails at the Waterdog open space. The trail system was built, and continues to be maintained, by the entire community. All trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. The singular group that is trying to change and remove access to the park for a much broader segment of multiple user groups is a niche segment of the community that does not represent the actual diverse population of Belmont and the broader population that enjoys Waterdog. Please keep this in mind when making a decision that could potentially prevent children, adults and families from enjoying this park as they have been, for generations to come.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thanks,

Justin Carr

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mike Barad
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 8:49 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,
Mike Barad

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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Devin Sezgen
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 12:11 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Recreation Trails

To Belmont City Council,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Best,
Devin Sezgen

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Miro Miklos
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 9:18 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Recreation at Waterdog

Hello,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision-making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Miro Miklos

San Carlos Resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Strahorn
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 3:35 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: I support multi-use recreation on the trails at Waterdog

To whom it may concern,

As a local resident and frequent user of the Waterdog open space, I strongly support multi-use recreation on the trails there.

The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all the trails should continue to be available for hikers, dog walkers, and cyclists to enjoy equally.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exception that I am opposed to any trail closures and to the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

Thanks,

Chris Strahorn

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Johnson · om>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 12:52 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Multi-Use Park Support

Dear Community Officials,

I bike in Waterdog park approximately three days a week year around. It is an amazing multi-use park that needs to remain accessible to all. I wear bells on my bikes and always yield to others on the trails and have had no issues with walkers, runners, etc. I've found people to be very hospitable, especially when bikers are careful and thoughtful like most are.

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Kind regards,
David Johnson

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryan Fell
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 10:27 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: I support continued multiuse recreation on all trails in Waterdog

I regularly use Waterdog open space, so wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

Specifics to your draft recommendations:

- I do not support the restriction to hiking only on Ensatina Trail, the low hanging tree cover is a uniquely beautiful charm that my soul loves. I choose to enjoy while riding my bike, and would deeply like to continue to use this trail.
- I do not support changing Labor of Love into a bike only trail, it too has a really fun, low tree cover, but maily oak trees that I love. Please leave this open to all users. *I do support making this trail one-direction only.*

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Best regards,

Ryan

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Thad Trent
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 9:56 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thanks,

Thad

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jamie Morgan
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 9:16 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: I support WDOSS recommendations for Waterdog and San Juan canyon

Council Members,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

--
Jamie Morgan

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Matt Leonard
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 7:19 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog PROS

I'm hoping to attend the open house this evening at Waterdog/Hidden Canyon. However, if I don't get a chance to speak, I want to get some of my thoughts out in advance.

I've been enjoying Waterdog for close to 20 years, and a resident of San Mateo for a little over 10 years. In those 20 years, I've worked with Charles Ialgunas and Patti Ciesla (formerly of Passion Trail Bikes) and now the Trail Stewards of Waterdog during many trailwork days. One of the projects I'm most proud of is helping Patti construct the new lake loop trail, bringing my son on several occasions when he was maybe 3-5 years old. He's 14 now, and just finished his freshman year at Serra HS.

During the pandemic, we got much more involved in mountain biking as a safe, social outdoor activity and found the Woodside Beasts. What we found with the Woodside Beasts was such a welcoming group who are passionate about the outdoors. Kids of all types and abilities are welcomed with open arms and provided the opportunity to enjoy many of the parks and open spaces in the Bay Area, incentivizing them to get outside and off of their devices. For me, this was so important during the pandemic, and will continue to be a great life lesson moving forward.

Sadly, it appears there are a small, very vocal minority that are trying to limit access to trails for cycling in Waterdog. I've seen first hand how these teens and pre-teens have fallen in love with being outside, meeting new friends, and learning new life skills (first aid, trail maintenance, philanthropy, civic duty, etc.). However, there are people in our community that brand these kids as criminals or outlaws, and portray them in a negative light. That message can't be further from the truth. What infuriates me is that during a trail maintenance day, working alongside the Belmont Parks and Rec, the neighbors called the police on us (and the kids). It was so frustrating trying to explain to my son why the police were questioning the work we were doing, and that it was approved by the city.

How can the city help change the neighborhood's perception of these young kids? They spend countless hours working to maintain trail systems and better communities from San Francisco down to Santa Cruz, only to be told they aren't welcome and are often scolded on the same trails they help maintain.

Please keep Waterdog open to all users. It's such a beautiful space that should remain accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Kind regards,
Matt Leonard

San Mateo, CA 94403

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karen Moody
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 7:03 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog open space

As a resident of Belmont living in the Belmont Heights neighborhood and frequent user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I regularly hike, bird watch and explore nature in the Waterdog OS and occasionally bike the trails. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Regards,

Karen Moody

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Miller
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 4:52 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Fwd: Waterdog Open Space

I am reaching out to you as an avid user of the Waterdog open space area. I'd like to share my position to continue to support the multi-use recreation for all of the trails for all types of users to enjoy. I am also an advocate for the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and appreciate the policies that have been established for the well being of this area and the community.

I ask that you please reconsider the proposal of certain trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails included in the open space. I would very much like to see this trail system, that was built and is being maintained by the community, remain open on a fully inclusive basis for all hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy.

I look forward to enjoying this open space with all of my various community members for many years to come.

Respectfully,

Chris Miller

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rob Anagnoson
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 9:02 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Multi-use Plan for the Belmont Open Space

Dear Belmont City Council,

As a weekly user of Belmont's open space at Waterdog Lake and San Juan Canyon, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft Recreation Use Assessment released by the Belmont PROS Commission is what the community is asking for, with a few exceptions. In particular, the single-use designation of two trails in the open space seems opposed to the community-building that Waterdog has always provided. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. However, designation of some trails as directional may help reduce conflicts.

Additionally, I oppose the elimination of "redundant trail segments." Not only do minor alternatives provide for a more varied experience by frequent users such as myself, but the additional trail space reduces the possibility of conflict by spreading out users more.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Belmont; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails designated for single-use, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,
Rob Anagnoson

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mike Munrow
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 7:55 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com; City Council
Subject: Comments on Draft Report

Dear Belmont City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and PROS committee

I am a resident of Belmont for over 30 years, and have enjoyed the Belmont Open Spaces over all of that time. Hiking, Running, and Biking in those spaces has been an incredible experience for me. Over those years, I believe the conditions of Waterdog Open Space have improved greatly. I have been attending Parks and Recreation Commission meetings for the past couple of years, and have heard all the arguments over and over again.

With the publication of the Draft Report, we have an unbiased appraisal of the condition of the Open Spaces and some recommendations for improvement going forward. This document, along with the results of the survey taken earlier in the planning process, and the results of the past city council election all point to the following conclusions:

- The open spaces are in very good condition, though there is room for improvement
- Wildlife are generally in good condition in the open spaces
- People really enjoy the opportunity to make use of the open space
- Restrictions on biking in the open spaces are opposed by a large majority of the public (data from the survey and results of the last city council election)
- Trails should be multi-use and we should encourage all to use the resources

Some improvements mentioned in the Draft Report, including closure of the highly eroded "fall line" section on Rambler, and improving the riparian crossings with bridges, make a lot of sense to me. I hope that they will be implemented.

I was heartened to hear several Park and Recreation Commissioners voice support for keeping the trails multi-use. This seems very much in line with the values of the Belmont community. The draft report does endorse making one trail one-way bike only and one trail hiking only. I think this is a recommendation that **should not** be implemented. Starting to designate trails as accessible to one group and not another is counter to the inclusiveness we strive to maintain in Belmont. Also, once this president is set, I can imagine a never-ending series of calls for evermore restrictive policies in the future. While this suggestion may appear to be a fair one-for-one trade, I do believe it would be a mistake to implement it.

There was also a vague recommendation to close "redundant" trails. I'm not sure this is a good idea either. In some instances having more than one way to walk or bike may enhance the experience for all. We will see different things on different trails, and spreading out the users over more trails can make the trip more enjoyable for all.

There has been a lot of work done to get to where we are today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parks and Recreation Commissioners for their service to the community. I am hopeful that we can come away with a Master Plan that will continue to keep the Open Spaces great places for everyone to enjoy over the coming years.

Respectfully,
Michael Munrow

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sally Schroeter
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 6:39 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog

Hello,
I lived in Belmont for many years and enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog park and continue to do so. It's great fun to go for a ride there and then have dinner at the Waterdog Tavern afterwards. I have also been involved with trail maintenance there starting in 2005.

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, including me, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for everyone to enjoy as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you for your time and effort and support for trail use at Waterdog!

Best regards,
Sally Schroeter

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

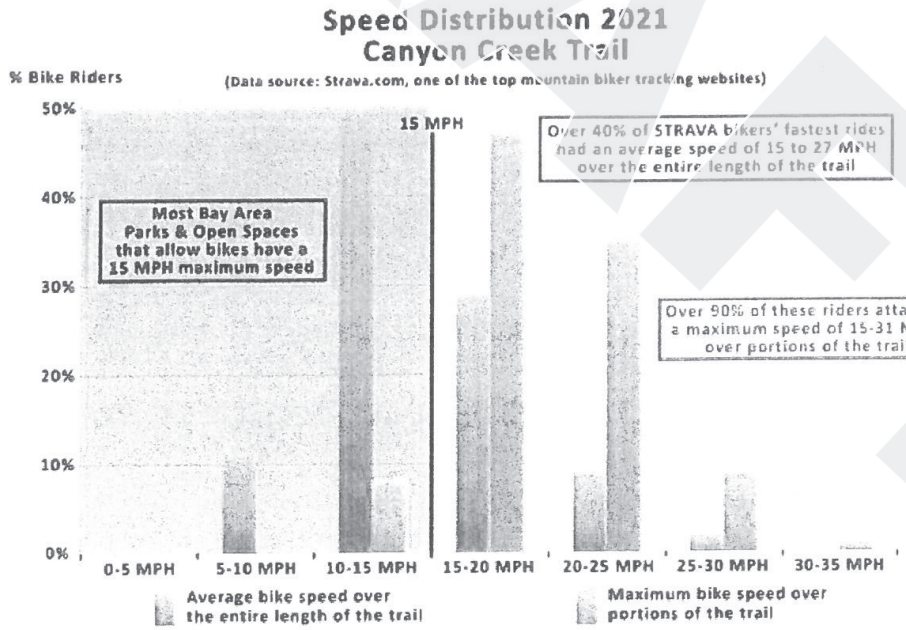
Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 5:21 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; John Baas; info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: Feedback - WRA Recreational Assessment

Hi Robin and John (please forward this email to Robin),

1. I couldn't agree more with WRA assessments that visitors to San Mateo County parks as well as Belmont Open Spaces reported walking/hiking and running are the *predominant* reasons for their visits while a much smaller proportion reported biking as their reason. This clearly indicates that OSMP should be focusing more on Pedestrians than currently is the case and WRA's recommendation to **"designate trails as single use to improve feelings of safety by increasing predictability by allowing activity type"** should be implemented. All visitors can share all trails but bike speeding is not appropriate use on **narrow** trails which should be reserved for purposes of "exercising, communing with nature and experiencing peace and quiet" No amount of passive bells, loaner bells, proper etiquette and signage will improve the pedestrian safety when mountain bikes speed past at **30 mph** and take away from the natural experience of peace and quiet and improvement of mental well-being.

Just on *Canyon Creek alone,* over 40% of Strava bikers report an average speed of 15-27mph on the entire trail while over 90% report maximum speeds up to **30 mph** on portions of the trail putting pedestrian safety at risk with absolutely no peace or quiet.



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2. I vehemently *disagree* with designating Soho (labour of love), a previously unmapped trail as a one way bike trail. This is legally in **flagrant violation of the John Brooks Preserve donation contract to preserve it in its natural state.** For WRA to recommend that this unauthorized, unmapped trail be legalized for bikers only (no hikers) is a contradiction to their recommendation that previously unmapped trails (which have the highest number of categories of erosion) should be decommissioned or closed. Bikers want this trail as a one way downhill trail for **speed racing,** an active and competitive sport; hardly passive recreation**.** It sets a very bad precedent for allowing bikers to continue to build illegal, unmapped trails in anticipation they will be approved in the future. **The Soho trail should be decommissioned and closed.**

3. I *agree* that Waterdog has the highest trail density per acre at .04 miles per acre for both mapped and unmapped trails. It has 2.5 times the trail density of other local comparable small preserves which contributes to erosion, fragmented habitat and disruption of wildlife. **Waterdog is already overbuilt with mapped and unmapped trails.**

4. I *agree* with the use of **remote motion activated cameras** for gathering more data and information regarding pedestrian and cyclist activities, monitoring wildlife and monitoring a **maximum 15 mph speed limit** for cyclists. This additional data will be helpful in providing missing information to P&R for a complete analysis of the Open Spaces.

5. I *disagree* with E-bike approval for Waterdog as WRA failed to acknowledge that different classes of E-bikes are visually impossible to distinguish: therefore allowing Class 1 E-bikes means allowing ALL classes of E-bikes. The higher classes have larger, heavier motors and wider tires that will damage trails as their report clearly states that "motorized trails experience most soil loss and erosion". **There is no need to authorize E-bikes when they currently already violate our open spaces!**

6. I *agree* with **passive recreation ideas** such as P&R sponsored nature photography contests (particularly for kids), nature-led walks identifying vegetation and wildlife and weekly hiking trips by trail; all are ideas that support the predominant reasons why visitors visit our Open Spaces.

Thank you for your attention.

Jennifer Lien
Belmont

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Peter Salkowski
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 3:18 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Recreation Use Assessment - Belmont Open Space

Belmont City Council,

As a regular user of the Waterdog open space for the past 3 years (and an occasional user of the park for the 15+ years before that), I am writing to express my support for the multi-use recreation on the trails within the park. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails within the park should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I am an avid mountain biker, runner and occasional hiker of the Waterdog trails. I've found the park to be a gem that is enjoyed by all uses. In addition, my interactions with other park users have always been friendly, courteous and enjoyable. If followed, the standard rules of conduct that already exist for bikers, runners, hikers and dog walkers are sufficient to allow all user groups to enjoy the park to its fullest extent.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All trails should be open to all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making on the two trails that are designated for single use. I believe that data will show that these trails should remain open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Regards,

Peter Salkowski
Belmont, CA

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nolan Nichols
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 11:31 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Support For Multi-use Recreation

Dear Belmont City Council,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog, please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails and leave them open to all users.

On a personal note, my 65 year old father and I (39) have greatly enjoyed riding e-mountain bikes (eMTB) at Waterdog. Waterdog is one of the only parks on the mid-peninsula that allows eMTBs and it is a game changer for my dad who can ride single track again. Being able to relive the nostalgia of my childhood by riding bikes with my dad is truly special, and I have Waterdog's support for multi-use recreation to thank for that.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Nolan Nichols

--
B. Nolan Nichols III, Ph.D
Data Platform Lead
Maze Therapeutics

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryan Kauffman <
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 10:20 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Bikes in WaterDog

Hello,

Please maintain access to waterdog for cyclists. These trails are well built, have a ton of amazing history, and enable low-cost recreation for anyone with shoes or a bicycle. Belmont should expand and embrace this regional gem.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan Kauffman
20+ year user of WaterDog (arriving by bike, not car)
San Carlos Resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bob Estes
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 8:51 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog recreation plan

I've been biking amd hiking at Waterdog park for 15 years and have always been impressed by how well everyone gets along. I wish there were more such areas in the Bay Area.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

- Bob Estes

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chuck Spiteri >
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 5:56 AM
To: P&R Comm; Ice Kathy Spiteri; Ice Frank Spiteri
Subject: Waterdog trail space

I'm a 63-year-old Mountain Biker/Hiker born and raised in the area. My wife and I, our children, and our grandchild have been using the Waterdog open space for over 40 years. I support the multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I'm seeing better communication than ever between Hikers and Mountain Bikers on the trails.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All the trails should be available for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision-making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Regards,
Chuck Spiteri

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Bishop
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2022 4:14 PM
To: P&R Comm; Belmontprosplan Info
Subject: Waterdog PROS Recommendation

Dear Belmont City Council,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Brian Bishop

Belmont CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Fabio Mincone
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2022 1:45 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: About WATERDOG

Hello team!

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. **Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.**

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come

Thanks and best regards :)

Fabio

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Marc Siddens
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2022 8:44 AM
To: info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Openspace

Good Morning!

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you,

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Marc

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: r b
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2022 7:41 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog plan

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Russell

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryan Hollowell
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 9:05 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog multi use recreation support

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

-Ryan Hollowell

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: MICHAEL WRIGHT
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 6:55 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog open space use

Hi all,

For the past 15 years my wife and I have enjoyed Waterdog for both hiking and mountain biking. We consistently go hiking there together every week or two, and I have biked there once or twice a week until I retired three years ago, and now I bike at Waterdog three times a week.

I strongly support multi-use access to all the trails, in particular Ensatina and Labor of Love.

These trails both provide unique challenges and joys for both hikers and bikers. I've never had a moment of "conflict" on the Labor of Love trail, either with another biker or with a hiker.

I have had moments on the Ensatina trail where I had to yield the right-of-way to an uphill biker, or, as a biker, to a hiker going either direction. In all my interactions on Ensatina, there has never been an uncomfortable moment—I cheerfully and insistently give the right-of-way to all hikers, always encourage them to have a "great hike", and frequently offer advise on route selection (as someone who has been in Waterdog probably almost 2000 times!).

I personally see no reason not to keep all trails open to all users. It is true that in our use over 15 years that I have had maybe 4 moments (either as a hiker or a biker) where I felt uncomfortable by the behavior of a mountain biker. Things being what they are, I've had at least as many moments where I felt that hikers were discourteous or acted in an unsafe manner. In maybe 2000 times using the resource, this is pretty negligible.

I feel that if anything should be done to make Waterdog more enjoyably and safely usable for all users, it should be an education campaign. The existing signage is useful, but could be made more explicit with regards to right-of-way and suggestions for courteous behavior. I truly think that this would almost completely solve any issues that come from multi-use, and would leave all the trails open to all users.

Thanks you,

Mike Wright

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nicolas Olivares
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 5:05 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog park

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, and bikers, as they always have been. I think that further enforcement of on-leash laws is needed for dog walkers.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. I also agree with allowing e-bikes, as they are limited as to speed and generally do not go any faster than normal bikes.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rob Labatt
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 4:45 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Supporting Waterdog multi-use trailers forever

Hello,

As a hiker, dog owner and mountain biker my family and I love and use the Waterdog open space area several times a week.

I am writing to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Rob

Robert Labatt

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tom <
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 4:37 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog trail use

Hello. For the past 30 years or so, I've been a user of the Waterdog open space, and I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community (including by myself in years past), and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I do oppose the use of e-bikes, as those are more like motorcycles, and do not fit into the people-powered ethos of waterdog, IMO

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.

Thank you--Tom S, San Carlos CA

Sent from my iPhone

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Stevenson
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 3:29 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Please Keep Waterdog open for multi-use on all existing trails

As a user of the Waterdog open space for the past 20 years, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I enjoy both biking and hiking with my family and our dog in this park and feel this is a place where we can all enjoy the various recreational opportunities the park has to offer.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Brian Stevenson
San Mateo County Resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jill <
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 3:26 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Feedback on Waterdog Open Space

Hi,

I live in Emerald Hills and have been involved with trail building (Lake Loop trail) as well as routine trail maintenance at Waterdog over many years (I started mountain biking at Waterdog in 2006). As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community - me personally included, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you for your time and effort and support of trail use at Waterdog!

Best regards,

Jill Henrich

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nigel Ray
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 3:09 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Community input on draft recommendations

Dear Belmont City Council,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. My son and I have both worked on maintaining and improving trails in waterdog (at organized trail work days). The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Best,

Nigel Ray

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mark & Marie Lefebvre
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 3:05 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Water Dog

Hi

As a user of the Waterdog open space, (mostly enjoying the space as a responsible mountain biker) I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Regards,
Mark Lefebvre
Redwood City, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: michael schocket
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:52 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: open space support

As a user of the Waterdog open space for the past three (decades), I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. While to population has grown over the last e decades the open space has also improved i workers with Passion Trail bikes (Charles) to help fund , maintain, and build trails for all.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sam Chao
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:28 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Use

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Regards,

Sam Chao

Coronet Blvd., Belmont Resident

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Hill <
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:24 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Draft Recreation Use Assessment Feedback

I've read the recently released draft Recreation Use Assessment, and wanted to thank you all for the thoughtful approach to these recommendations. I'm a member of the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree with their positions on the recommendations in this draft posted at https://waterdogstewards.com/articles/update-on-recreation-at-waterdog.

I'm a frequent user of the park, and volunteered when many of the trails we enjoy there were being built. I'm thrilled at the recommendation to officially recognize the trails that are currently not on the maps, but are well-built and enhance the open space. I also support the erosion remediation recommendations.

I also support the WDOSS position that the trails at Waterdog should remain open (there are no redundant trails!) and multi-use. Waterdog has a wonderful community, and we should continue to embrace and foster it!

Thanks again for your patience and thoughtfulness in this process. I know that the vocal minority who want to shut users out of Waterdog have been loud, and I'm happy to see that they have largely been unsuccessful in their hateful campaign here and at the Cross Country Course.

--Scott

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chad Lencioni
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:20 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. **I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy**. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog, please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Lencioni Construction Inc.

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Norman Fong
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:18 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thanks,
Norman

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rich Schwerin
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:09 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Thank you for supporting Waterdog multi-use recreation

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write **this email in support of multi-use recreation on the trails there**.

The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. Years ago, I personally worked on building the (still feels "new" to me) Lake Loop Trail, as a volunteer, and it gives me pride to ride that trail.

Please note that **I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards**, and **I agree that the draft recommendations published recently.** These recommendations are mostly what the community is asking for, **with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space**.

I feel strongly that **all the trails should be open for all** user groups to enjoy.

Thank you for using a *scientific approach* to policy making in Waterdog. Please apply the same kind of data-informed decision making to these two trails, and **leave them open to all users**. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,
Rich

Rich Schwerin
Shelford Avenue
San Carlos

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lorna Stucky
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:04 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: Lorna Stucky; Lora Stucky; Linda Stucky; paul Bradicich
Subject: Keep Water Dog Park Open For All Users

Dear Belmont City Council,

We are the Stucky family and we live next to Water Dog Park. We enjoy walking with the kids and grandma, running, biking and strolling with our puppy Emil. As users of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

Please keep all the trails open for all of us.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely, The Stucky Family - Lora, Linda, Lorna, Lyla, Lexy & Paul

Belmont CA

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Frank Babbitt
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 1:58 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Another rider for the plan

I have been biking water dog for 26-years and just rode my favorite loop this morning. I strongly support the plan to keep all trails all access, including ebikes as I see the day not far off when I'll have to switch!

Water dog is my favorite place to ride in California. I support the following.

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Max Vaillant
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 1:56 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Keep Water Dog Multi-Use

Hi,

In addition to the template below, I also want to add that mountain biking is a fast growing sport that promotes responsible outdoor use and that the Bay Area as a whole should embrace the recreation desires of its users.

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Thanks for your consideration,

Max Vaillant

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Balakrishna Narasimhan
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 1:50 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog open space

Hi,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails (Ensatina and Labor of Love), and leave them open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Best,
Nara Balakrishna

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bob Stahl
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 9:49 AM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc:
Subject: Fwd: Water Dog Open Space-Park & Rec recommendations

As a long time Belmont resident, Advisory Committee member, and an individual who hikes the Water Dog trails 200+ days per year, I was very shocked and disappointed that the majority of Park & Rec Commissioners have already stated that they will recommend "multi use" trails in the Water Dog Open Space. This was stated at the Park & Rec meeting last week. I feel this decision does not take into consideration the numerous Belmont residents who feel that the most trails are unsafe due to the preponderance of bikers on narrow trails. It also is in conflict with the recommendation of the WRA report which lists on Table 9 to "Implement single-use and one-way trail segments in areas identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following sufficient public outreach".

The WRA study also states that the trails should be designed and improved to facilitate safe trail use by **all** visitors. The decision to make all trails multi use violates this WRA recommendation in section P20.

In section P21, WRA states "the City may prohibit certain trail uses or apply increased trail use restrictions within certain areas to enhance safety, minimize conflicts between trail users, and protect natural resources areas". Why can't a certain number of trails be designated for hikers/ walkers only and this be implemented so that hikers do not have to worry about their safety and being run over by bikers? These should be the following trails: Berry, Chaparral, Raccoon Run, Rambler, Ohlone, Canyon Creek and Raccoon Run.

As I stated, I and my wife hike the WD trails 200+ days per year and have done so for many years. We have been nearly hit by bikers 6 times in the last 12 months. The bikers have stated: "show us the statistics of injuries or accidents caused by bikers". Obviously the near misses to me and my wife do not show up in records but I can guarantee you that these near accidents have happened. Many of these near accidents occurred when bikers came around blind curves. They could not see us and we could not see them until the last seconds. We had to jump off the trail to avoid being hit. I must also say that numerous residents we meet walking on Belmont streets will no longer hike the WD trails due to the danger posed by the bikers. Many residents say it is not enjoyable or conducive to a peaceful walk anymore as they have to constantly watch out for bikers.

In the past two years we see less animals(deer, rabbits, quail, etc.) than in the past. Whereas we used to see deer on a weekly basis, we've seen only 3 deer since the beginning of this year.

In addition, many of the trails are damaged by bikers who have worn down the trails and made it so slick it is hard to climb some of the hilly areas. The bikes have also damaged many tree roots.

I must also request that you restrict the use of E bikes on the trails. E bikes go up to 28 MPH. Even Class 1 E bikes go 20 MPH and that can cause a severe injury if someone is hit by an E biker going 20 MPH. E bikes usually are 45-50 pounds and if someone is hit by an E bike at 15-20 MPH, they will be severely injured. Many are designed just like motor cycles and do not need pedal assist. These bikes are not safe for other users on the trails.

Please take these ideas into consideration before finalizing your recommendations to the City Council.

I believe it is your duty to represent all trail users. So far, you have shown favoritism to the bikers-many of them who do not even live in Belmont.

Thank you.
Bob Stahl
Wakefield Drive

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 1:37 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: FW: revised Recr Use Assess and attachments

Commissioners,

The draft Recreational Use Assessment document from WRA has been posted on the PROS Plan website. This complements the draft Environmental Use Assessment document and the Management Alternatives documents previously posted and shared with the advisory committee.

Resources — Belmont Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan (belmontprosplan.com)

Thank you
Brigitte

Brigitte Shearer
Parks & Recreation Director
Belmont Parks & Recreation

30 Twin Pines Ln, Belmont, CA 94002
P: (650) 595-7488 | E: bshearer@belmont.gov
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"Enhancing Quality of Life for the Community"
"As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!"

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Connie S. Tettenborn
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:30 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Lake improvement suggestions

Dear Commissioners,

I was deeply disturbed by the suggestion to add structures to the lakefront apart from the pier that exists already. A yoga platform? An art installation? ABSOLUTELY NOT!! Please remember that this is Waterdog Open Space which should really be called the John S. Brooks Open Space Preserve. It is NOT a park!! It should be maintained in a natural state to the degree possible. NO water sculpture! National wilderness areas request that people not build rock sculptures for good reason. Open space and wilderness areas are supposed to be undeveloped and give the visitor the feeling of the great outdoors away from urban amenities! If there is a concern for the safety of kids in the natural setting of the lake, bring along more adults for supervision. Do not try to conform the lake to your idea of what a beach should be. NO PICNIC TABLES! I equate the Open Space to a small version of a wilderness area. It is what it is-- leave it as is. Having a shuttle for handicap persons is possibly OK, so long as the shuttle does not remain in the area. Greater use is not always good. Be careful that you do not love the lake to death. And please leave nature to provide her own art!

Thank you,
Connie Tettenborn

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From: Connie S. Tettenborn
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:07 PM
To: P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Waterdog Openspace

Dear Commissioners and Committee members,

I spoke briefly after the PROS plan advisory committee meeting last night and thought it might be helpful to provide the following link. As I mentioned, the WRA, Inc., consulting firm neglected to review the documentation regarding the land gift of Waterdog Open Space. A discussion of it at a council meeting can be found here:
https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/brooks-contact-violated
There were two requirements: That it be named something like "The John S. Brooks Memorial Preserve" and that it be retained in perpetuity as open space with perhaps trails that are low use as at that time.
Considering "Habitat protection emphasis" an alternative is simply wrong. It is not an alternative option--it is the PURPOSE of an open space. "Preserve" is in the actual name that was suggested! Any consideration of new trails must take this into account. For example, putting in a connecting path for bikes would possibly create an unacceptable increase in usage levels. No e-bikes should be permitted because they are motorized, including pedal-assist bikes. (Except for officers enforcing the leash law!) I did not have time to clarify my concluding remark about single-use trails. I would only be willing to allow bikes on the narrow trails if they slowed WAY down to pass and did not make me step close to poison oak to let them by.

Thank you,
Connie Tettenborn
Belmont, CA

DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 5:26 PM
To: P&R Comm; PROS Committee
Subject: Compromise Trail Plan for Waterdog Open Space
Attachments: Compromise Trail Plan.pdf

Dear Park Commissioners,

At the PROS meeting David Braunstein rightly called out the elephant in the room. To paraphrase: *both sides repeat the same arguments without listening to the other – we've missed an opportunity to build community.*

I have listened and I propose an **equitable compromise solution**; a trail use plan that provides space for a safe experience for users of differing interests and abilities, while protecting sensitive habitat.

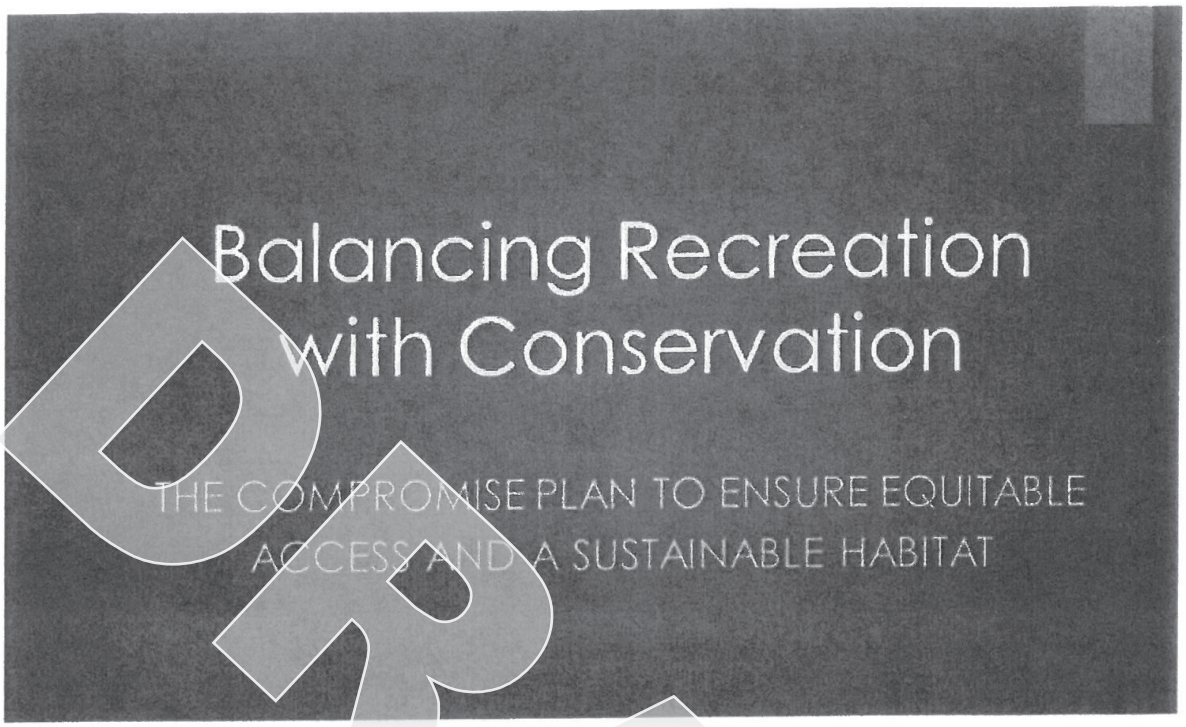
Seniors, families with little children, and those seeking tranquil nature are displaced by speeding bikes on narrow trails, and this imbalance is not equitable. On our streets, pedestrians are not asked to jump off the sidewalk for oncoming bikes.
I have never suggested banning bikes – only that they be limited out of respect for the *majority of residents who are NOT mountain bikers*. ALL visitors have a right to use trails, but bikes are machinery for a sport that requires *appropriate trails*.

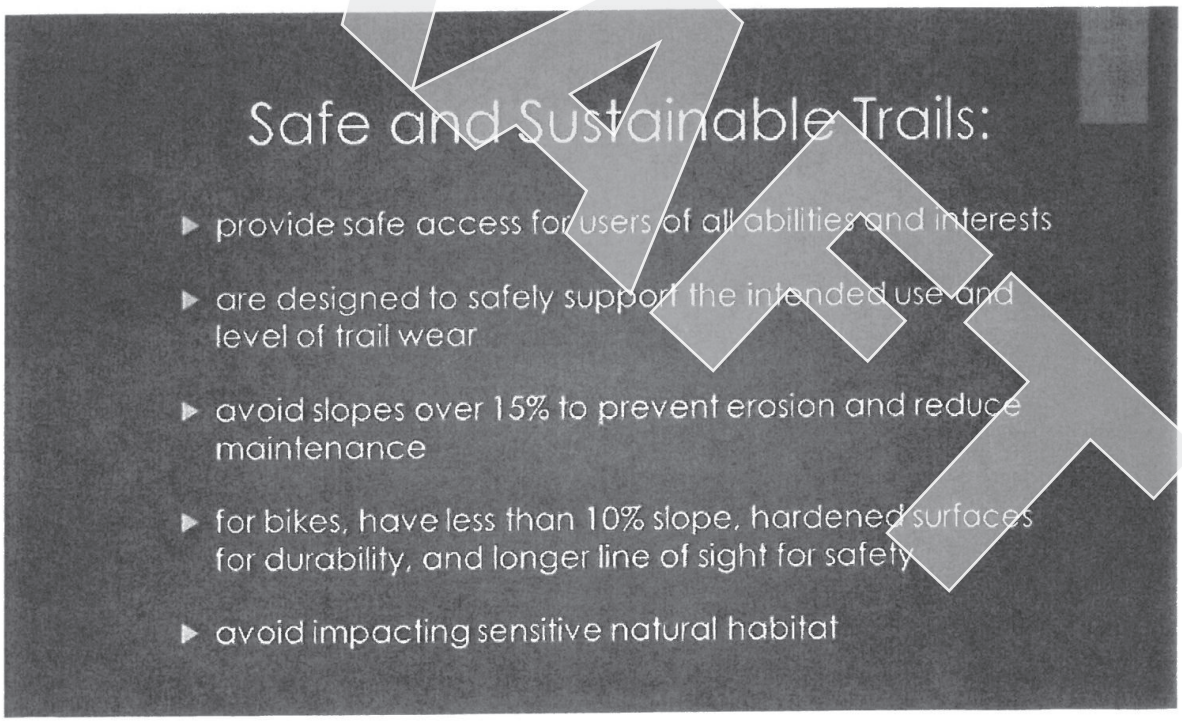
I think this plan checks all the boxes! But I hope to inspire discussion with "the other side", who also have a right to enjoy their hobby in a safe and sustainable manner. I hope this compromise plan can move us forward to a solution that is equitable for all abilities and interest groups.

Thank you
Kristin Mercer

DRAFT

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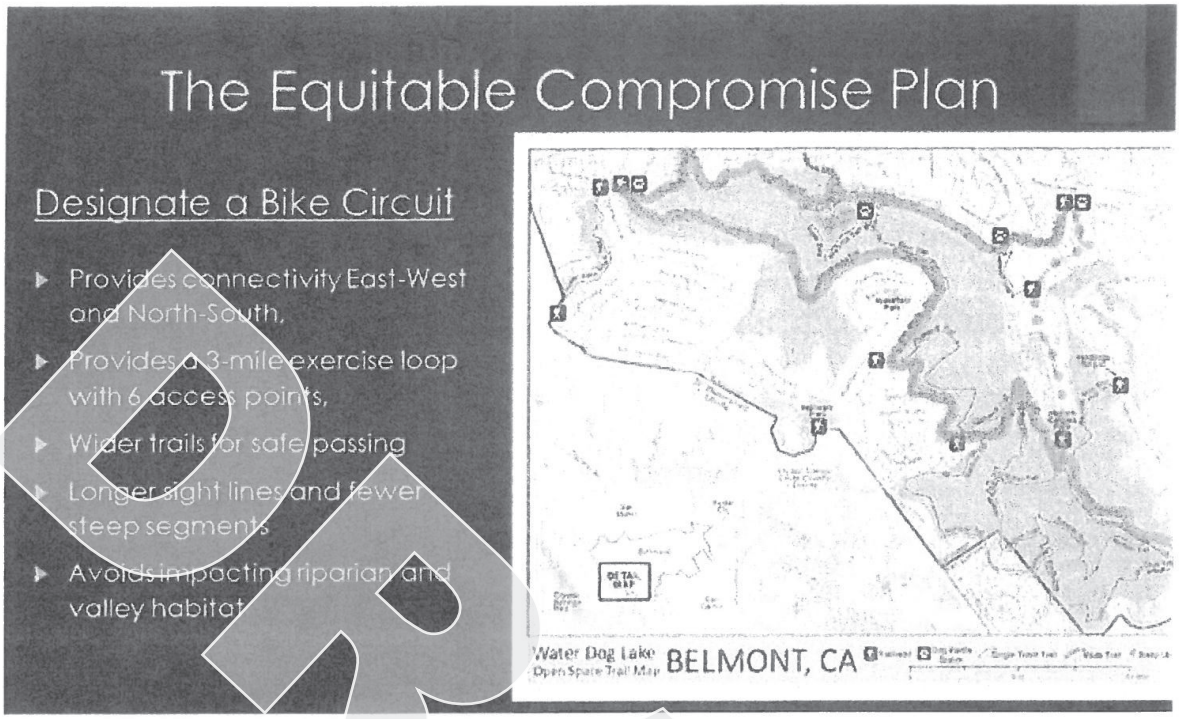


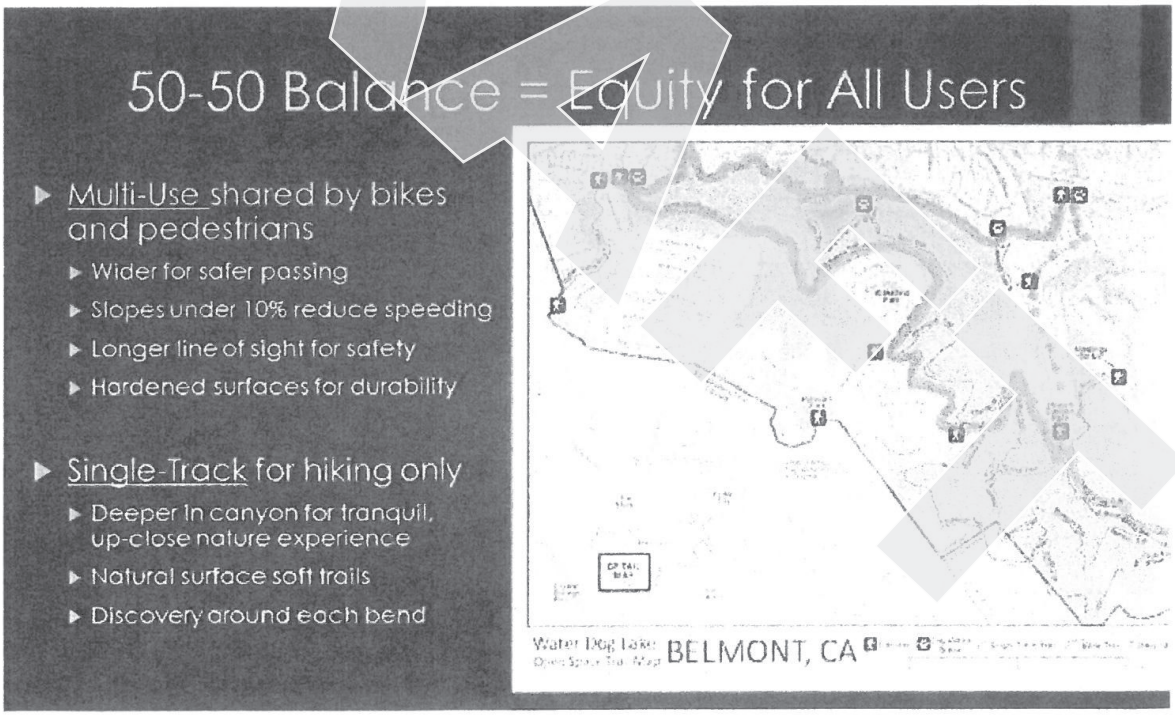


DRAFT

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DRAFT

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EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Bill Kurtz < >
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:46 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; council@belmont.gov
Subject: Preserving Belmont's Open Space

Brigitte,

Thank you for your response in that the City or P&R did not open up the trails. However, someone has. So it occurred to me that Vandals are prevalent in the Open Space, they build trails whenever and wherever they please. The City closing the trails is irrelevant, for over 10 years now vandals have built trails, cut down trees and foliage, rerouted critical drainage, polluted creeks and waterways, created increased fire hazard, enabled erosion of trails that cannot be corrected, cut trails into hillsides rendering them unstable and susceptible to landslides, and driven out 90% of the wildlife that use to occupy the area. I walk the trails 2-5 times a week and have not seen a deer in over two years.

Until recently, the small canyon area off the entrance at Wakefield and Somerset, we used to see hundreds of Banana Slugs migrate through the area this time of the year. Now, I cannot find one. How much additional ecological damage is occurring that you have no clue about. In my opinion, over time, there are homes on the rim of the Open Space that could be in danger from landslides.

Why is this happening? I believe it is because the City has turned a blind eye to this activity and allowed it to occur and continue. It is why when the city has many trails closed, the vandals have just ignored the city, signs and barriers. They have gone behind the barriers, cut away damaged hillsides to create new trails around severely damaged ones, without regard to engineering or environmental concerns, or seeking permission from the City of Belmont itself. They believe the Open Space trail system is their private sporting domain, not public property and vital natural habitat.

Intentional damage of city property is vandalism. I believe most of these Vandals do not even live in the City, but come from all over the Bay Area. My question to you all, is what and when are you going to do something about it. This is a resource the City must protect for future generations and it is failing miserably to do so.

Bill Kurtz

Belmont

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DRAFT

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From: Scott Hill <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 5:36 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: RE: Waterdog Trail Closures & PROS Progress

Brigitte,

Thanks for the response.

I'm not concerned about the storms or associated damage...nature happens. What I'm worried about is the weeks-long lack of response to the damage, the seemingly permanent closures, and the glacial pace of the CEQA review. The damage isn't all _that_ bad, from what I can tell: a ~30-ft slide on Chapparal, some fairly short damaged sections on Rambler, and needed remediation near the foot bridge that had erosion around it. This is the kind of work that the Trailkeepers are capable of handling, and I understand that a proposal was sent in.

I fear that the complaints and nuisance lawsuits of the few regular misanthropes have paralyzed the city management, and effectively locked the regular users of the park—and its volunteer force—out. Other areas have managed to stabilize and open their trail systems; as far as I can tell, it's just Belmont that is frozen in its tracks. It's now May and—aside from the rain for the past couple of days—the park has already been drying out. If work isn't started while there's some moisture to work with, I fear it will be months until repair/realignment can be put in place on Chapparal.

The CEQA review is a completely opaque process to those outside it. I'd love to hear some details, milestones, and associated dates in the P&R update on the plan to repair and reopen the trails, as well as the PROS plan.

--Scott
On May 3, 2023 at 5:05 PM -0700, Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>, wrote:

> Scott,
>
> Thank you for your email. My apologies for the delayed response – I was out of the country for 2 weeks.
>
> We, too, are saddened that the trails were subjected to multiple heavy rains this year. We're consulting trail and Geoengineer sources to determine the best course of action to re-establish safe and sustainable trail beds.
>
> Volunteers will be able to assist with vegetation management shortly, but not yet with trail repairs.
>
> Finally, the CEQA process is progressing. I expect to hear back from the consultant any day on the status and timeline. Unfortunately, I do not have any further substantive information at this time, but will let you know as soon as I have more helpful information.

1

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

Brigitte

From: Scott Hill <
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:05 PM
To: P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>
Subject: Waterdog Trail Closures & PROS Progress

Commissioners,

I'm writing today to express my frustration at the apparent lack of progress—or at least, the lack of communication of progress—regarding the trail closures at Waterdog. The trail closures are unprecedented in my experience at the park, and I don't understand why the volunteer efforts have been blocked. This shoulder season is prime time to do trial maintenance, repair, and re-routing, yet it feels like we're wasting the opportunity. I know that the Waterdog Trailkeepers are willing and eager to do this work, and yet haven't been given clearance to do it. We've had damage of this magnitude before, when the Rambler trail suffered from winter landslides a few years ago, and it was repaired by the community quickly, and was completed without wholesale closure.

We're now in some of the most beautiful weeks to enjoy the open space, and it's marred by having two important trails closed, with no apparent plan in place to repair them. The lack of information in the updates in the recent P&R meetings has been equally frustrating.

When can we expect volunteer work to be unblocked, and the trails re-opened?

On another note, the CEQA review for the PROS plan was supposed to have started last Fall. When is this scheduled to complete, so that the plan can move forward? Again, the lack of communication and information has been frustrating.

--Scott

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 12:00 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Cc: 'PROS Committee'; P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: RE: Dangerous trail conditions warrant immediate closure

I'm pleased to hear that. However there is no indication of that at the numerous *unsanctioned* entrances. I addition to the 7 sanctioned trail entrances to Waterdog/Hidden Canyon but I can point to at least 4 others.
Thanks,
Kristin

"It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us." – Jane Goodall

From: Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 11:56 AM
To: t
Cc: PROS Committee <info@belmontprosplan.com>; P&R Comm <PRComm@belmont.gov>; City Council <CityCouncil@belmont.gov>
Subject: Re: Dangerous trail conditions warrant immediate closure

The trails were closed on 12/31 and remain closed. We will be reiterating that later today.

Brigitte

On Jan 3, 2023, at 11:15 AM, wrote:

Hi Brigitte,
The heavy rains this week led to multiple mudslides and flooding, and it's quite obvious that the open space trails are dangerous in these wet conditions. Further, even bikers acknowledge that they should not be riding on muddy trails as it damages the surface and leads to channeling of water that further erodes trails. Yet by noon on Sunday - 12 hours after record rains and flooding - the bikers were back in number, entering the trail system at the Hallmark Parklet – an unauthorized entrance.

2 weeks ago I sent video of numerous bikers entering via this unauthorized trail and even falling on the steep and muddy surface. On Sunday Jan 1 – hours after flooding and landslides, I took this video and photo of a parent who dropped off a teen to ride *alone*, knowing the trails were flooded and in places simply gone. Many others entered throughout the day. The fact that the City posted trail closure at other *sanctioned* entrances only drove bikers (no hikers) to this *unsanctioned* entrance in larger numbers. The lack of clear policy and enforcement is damaging our trails and endangering the public. We are in for two more rain events this week. I strongly urge the City to adopt a clear and enforceable policy immediately and to close trails at ALL entrances including the unsanctioned ones.

Thank you,
Kristin Mercer

EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



EMAILS RECEIVED: PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



DRAFT

WEBSITE COMMENT FORM SUBMISSIONS

SUBJECT	COMMENT	COMMENTER
Belmont dog residents	Hi there, Love our parks and recreation in Belmont. Thank you for all you do. As you know Covid brought the number of dogs to an all time high in our community. We love our dog parks off leash, occasional sidewalks, parks and trails. We've met so many wonderful neighbors and dogs - it's a delight! We appreciate the effort to try and provide off-leash time on the grass for the dogs at Barrett. While disappointing, we know Cipriani field is not technically for dogs. My question there a way to post a sign, amend the rules that dogs use the grass space "when children are not present"? That field has grown so unusable for soccer teams, I've never seen the field used in the last 2-3 years except recreationally. While I'm very grateful dog park, its smaller size prohibits many dogs from using it and there are typically little scuffles there between them as they vie for space and balls and dog toys. There's just no where to move to. Whereas the grassy area is bountiful and results in many happy dogs and humans. Thanks so much for trying to create the space for everyone. You are appreciated!	Angela Raffin 6/18/2022
Support the Multi-Use plan	Please count my support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan. In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you, Mike Timpano	Mike Timpano 7/12/2022
Open Space Brush Clearing in Western Hills	Hi, we have owned and lived in our current home since 1996. Every year we clear grasses and brush from the city-owned land behind our home in cooperation with neighbors. The last few years invasive weeds (i.e., scotch thistle, cotton thistle, and scotch broom) have take over the hillsides making clearing increasingly difficult. Because these plant spread aggressively it would be beneficial if a broader program could control them, such as by using goats to clear the open space. Goats consume the entire plant and it's seed pods. However, contracting to do this on a broad area such as the city land below and adjacent to our home on Cliffside Court and Hastings Drive is beyond the capabilities of any single homeowner. We will be continuing to eliminate growth annually behind our property, but the rapid spread of the invasive weeds will continue to make the situation harder to maintain every year as each season new plants are seeded and grow. This represents a growing fire danger and increasing expense for homeowners. I'd like to discuss how a coordinated abatement of the invasive species can be achieved with the City of Belmont. I know this is a widespread problem and perhaps you have recommendations or actions that we can support. Please let me know who we can discuss this with. Sincerely, Stephan Joe Hielscher	Joe Hielscher 6/19/2023
Dead Monterey pine at trailhead	You probably already know this, but in case it hasn't been reported or noticed, there is a large dead Monterey pine at the open space trailhead on Hastings near the Generac generator. There are many houses nearby and this is a large fuel load in the neighborhood. I live up on Club Drive and worry about the fire danger in the canyon. I hike the trails often and when I see cigarette butts I shudder, as I did this morning. Thanks very much.	Lucy Dobson 11/3/2023

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PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) MASTER PLAN

City Council

March 12, 2024

CITY OF BELMONT

PROS PLAN VISION

Re-imagine the Belmont PROS system to create the City's Backyard that fosters **inclusive, experiential, and nurturing public spaces** by setting the framework for decision makers in planning, maintenance, development, and/or rehabilitation, implementable over a **15 year horizon**.

GATES +ASSOCIATES

AGENDA

MEETING PURPOSE

1. Possible resolution to approve PROS Plan and CEQA Addendum

MEETING TOPICS

- Document organization + framework
- Strategies + recommendations
- Recap revisions to date
- EIR Addendum
- Next steps

OUTREACH **UPDATE**

ON THE WEB

Project website: home page button to documents + FAQ tab

www.belmontprosplan.com

City website: home page banner and spotlight on P&R page

www.belmont.gov

www.belmont.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation

EMAIL

Citywide eNews: Jan 12, Jan 19, + Feb 2

P&R eNews: Feb 5

Direct email: Jan 19

SOCIAL MEDIA

P&R: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

Citywide: Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P&R Commission: Jan 10 (agenda item: introduction) +

Feb 7 (agenda item: recommendation to Council)

City Council: Jan 23 (verbal announcement from Mayor Mates)

PROS PLAN PURPOSE

Study the existing parks, recreation, and open space system

- Identify gaps
- Develop strategies
- Present recommendations
- Assess opportunities
- Establish a framework for prioritization

that can be periodically revisited as resources become available + circumstances evolve

DOCUMENT **ORGANIZATION**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PART 1. WHERE WE ARE

CHAPTER 1 **INTRODUCTION** 3
- Purpose + Vision
- Guiding Principles
- Planning Process
- Document Organization

CHAPTER 2 **CONTEXT** 7
- The City of Belmont
- Planning Context
- Recreation Trends

CHAPTER 3 **EXISTING CONDITIONS** 27
- Overview
- Park Typologies
- Parkland Distribution
- Access + Connections
- Amenities
- Park Site Assessments
- School Site Assessments
- Open Space Assessments

PART 2. WHERE WE WANT TO BE

CHAPTER 4 **COMMUNITY INPUT** 101
- Overview
- Community Themes
- Informing the Big Ideas

CHAPTER 5 **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** 109
- Amenity Ratio
- Ideal Amenity Quantity

CHAPTER 6 **GOALS** 121
- Framework

PART 3. HOW WE GET THERE

CHAPTER 7 **STRATEGIES** 129
- Strategies
- Open Space Objectives + Policies

CHAPTER 8 **RECOMMENDATIONS** 145
- Overview
- System-wide Recommendations
- Park-specific Recommendations
- Opportunities
- Open Space Recommendations

CHAPTER 9 **IMPLEMENTATION** 215
- Overview
- Prioritization
- Funding Strategies
- Partnerships
- Action Plan
- Open Space Priorities

APPENDICES

UNDER SEPARATE COVER

A. Advisory Committee
B. Definitions
C. Park Inventory
D. NRPA Benchmarks
E. Amenity Projections
F. Open Space Management Plan
G. Prioritization Matrix
H. Probable Costs
I. Community Outreach

PROS **FRAMEWORK**

WHERE WE ARE

Purpose + Vision → Guiding Principles → Needs Assessment

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Community Themes → Big Ideas → Goals

HOW WE GET THERE

Strategies → Recommendations → Prioritization

Recommendations → System-Wide; Park-Specific; Opportunities; Open Space

OSMP **FRAMEWORK**

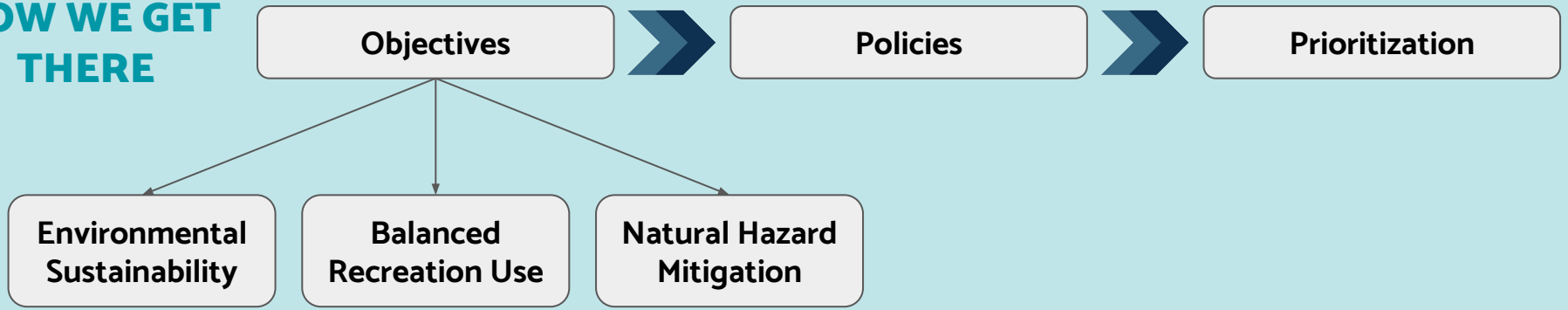
WHERE WE ARE

Environmental Assessment + Recreation Use Assessment

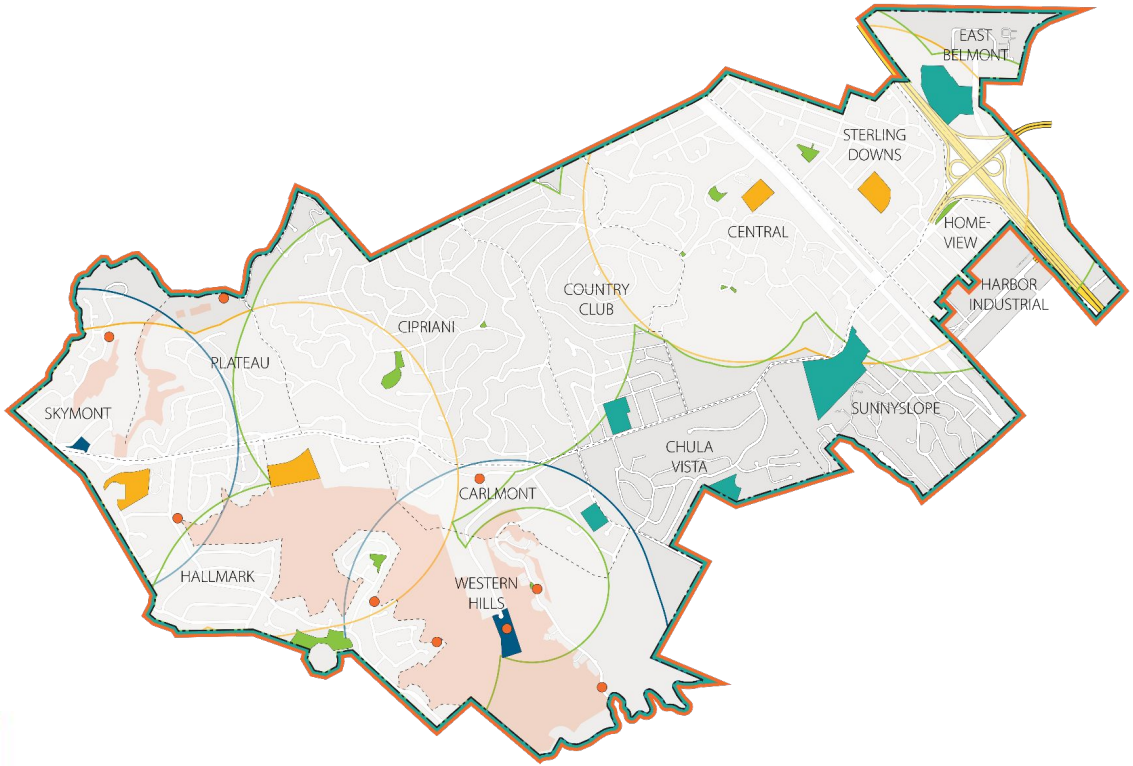
WHERE WE WANT TO BE

PROS Goal 7: Develop and implement an Open Space Management Plan (OSMP)

HOW WE GET THERE



ENVISIONING **CITY-WIDE PARK ACCESS**



An Interconnected Park System

- Identify areas with low access
- Ensure amenities are well distributed
- Investigate new opportunities
- Align with ongoing ped + bike efforts

Park Typologies

Neighborhood Park	¼ mile (Tier 1) or ½ mile (Tier 2)
Community Park	Entire City
Undeveloped Park	½ mile
School (JUA)	½ mile
Open Space/Trailhead	Entire City

STRATEGIES: BROAD INITIATIVES THAT WILL...

- Accomplish the PROS goals
- Benefit the PROS system as a whole
- Provide guidance for future decisions
- Align with existing planning efforts







SYSTEM-WIDE **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Inclusive + All-Abilities Play



Social Gathering Space



Pop-up Park Installations



Interconnect Toolkit

Activation Plan

Usage Study

PARK-SPECIFIC **RECOMMENDATIONS**

INCREASING MAGNITUDE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Magnitude	EXISTING MASTER PLAN	MINOR IMPROVEMENT	UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY	PARK REDESIGN	UNDEVELOPED PARKS	NEW PARK OPPORTUNITY
Existing Condition	Master plans recently adopted Created with extensive community input	Parks recently developed or in very good condition	Current park functioning well	Rethink accessibility and park layout No change in use	Existing park is undeveloped	Add parkland To fill gaps in park access City-owned property
Recommendation	Implement existing master plan	Minor improvements identified to maintain high quality	Upgrade existing amenity or new amenity to meet identified needs or gaps	Undertake park design plan	Develop and amenitize site	Create, develop, and amenitize site

STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 1)

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Identifiable Amenity

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (TIER 2)

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity

COMMUNITY PARK

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity
- (g) Off-Street Parking
- (h) Permanent Restroom
- (i) Athletic Field or Community Facility

EXAMPLE: **IMPLEMENT MASTER PLAN**

TWIN PINES PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT EXISTING MASTER PLAN

ACCESSIBILITY

1. Restructure arrival zone to strength visual and physical connections
2. Prioritize pedestrian experience in Town Square area
3. Develop trail connections beyond park boundaries
4. Add looped walking path

AMENITY

5. Renovate playground structure and expand with Inclusive+All-Abilities Play
6. Add water play element
7. Renovate picnic area
8. Add bocce ball court
9. Add teen outdoor space
10. Add multi-use lawn

LANDSCAPE

11. Establish and improve visual and access connections to Belmont Creek

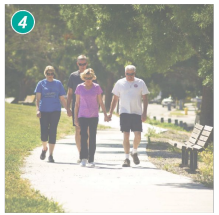
THE HEART OF BELMONT

MASTER PLAN (2019)



Source: Twin Pines Park Master Plan (2019)

CHARACTER IMAGES



Looped Walking Path



Water Play Element



Bocce Ball Court

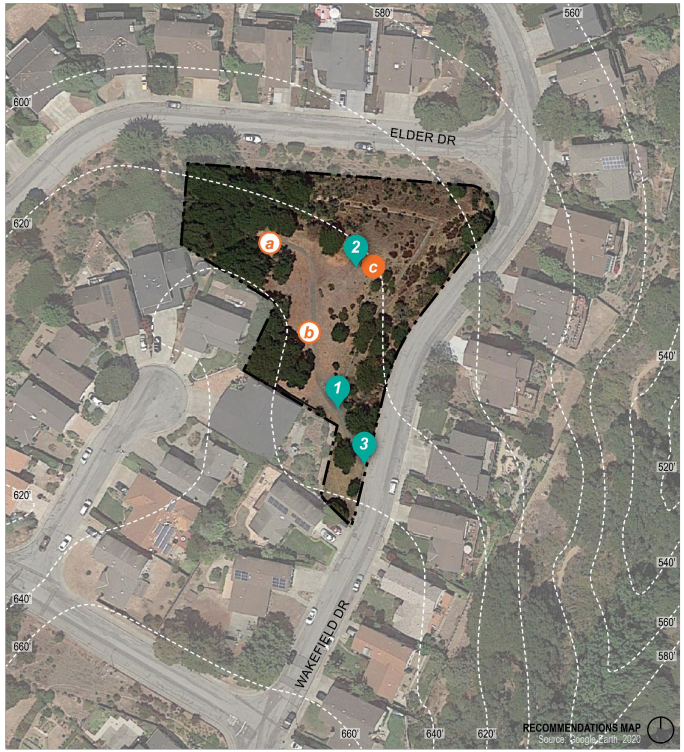


Teen Outdoor Space

EXAMPLE: **MINOR IMPROVEMENTS**

WAKEFIELD PARK

THE PARK WITH THE VIEW



ICON LEGEND

- Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

WAKEFIELD PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 1 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- a — Natural Environment
- b — Seating
- c — Identifiable Amenity *(Create overlook opportunity)*

ACCESSIBILITY

- 1 — Improve existing walking path

AMENITY

- 2 — Add benches
- 3 — Add entrance signage to increase park visibility

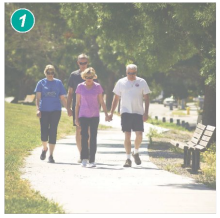
LANDSCAPE

- Plant trees to increase shade
- Add native planting areas
- Public art opportunity

CHARACTER IMAGES



Identifiable Amenity



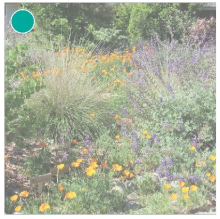
Walking Path



Seating



Trees for Shade



Native Planting Areas

EXAMPLE: **UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY**

MULTI-USE NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE



ICON LEGEND

- (a) Existing Standard Baseline Amenity
- (a) Recommendation: Add Standard Baseline Amenity
- (#) Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Specific location recommended within the park)*
- Recommendation: Add accessibility, amenity, or landscape *(Apply throughout the park OR has numerous possible locations)*

O'DONNELL PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS UPGRADED OR NEW AMENITY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TIER 2 STANDARD BASELINE AMENITIES

- (a) Natural Environment
- (b) Seating
- (c) Play Amenity
- (d) Picnic Opportunity
- (e) Multi-Purpose Flexible Space
- (f) Recreation Amenity

ACCESSIBILITY

No recommendations

AMENITY

1. Establish as a reservable picnic area (small)
2. Replace BBQs
3. Refurbish the existing half basketball courts
4. Add shade, tables, and outdoor games

LANDSCAPE

- Refresh planting areas with native plants
- Maintain high-quality landscape condition across the site

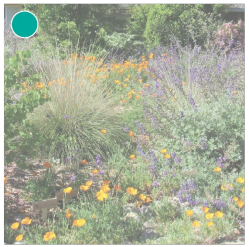
CHARACTER IMAGES



Reservable Picnic Area (Small)



Shade, Tables, and Outdoor Games



Native Planting Areas

OSMP **PURPOSE**

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

A SET OF OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PRIORITIES BASED ON…

- **Environmental Assessment**: trails, stream crossings, habitat, vegetation
- **Recreational Use Assessment**: impact of recreation on sensitive resources
- Site visits + data collected in the field
- Relevant databases + peer-reviewed literature
- Community input
- Regional best practices, guidelines + regulations



Environmental Sustainability



Balanced Recreation Use



Natural Hazard Mitigation

OSMP **FINDINGS**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Overall habitat quality is high
2. Existing nature-based recreational use can continue on trails
3. Continue wildfire fuel reduction efforts

PRIORITIES

TIER 1

- Improve stream crossings (H)
- Seasonal/weather-dependent restrictions on maintenance (E)
- Fuels reduction plan (M)
- Monitor recreation use (H)

TIER 2

- Nature-based recreation programs (M)
- Volunteer restoration programs (E)
- Trail calming features (H)

Easy

These actions can be performed immediately under **existing** City programs, funding, or with minimal additional effort.

Medium

These actions require **additional** planning, equipment, staffing, funding – either internal or external, or other operational changes.

Hard

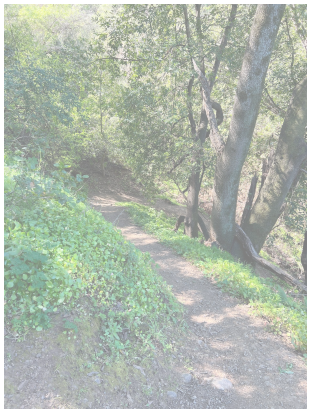
These actions may require **substantial** planning, interagency coordination, staffing, funding, or other operational changes.

NEXT STEPS

- Utilize the methodology presented in the OSMP for ongoing observation + monitoring
- Develop an annual Fuel Reduction Plan
- Conduct engineering studies for future stream crossing projects
- Adopt trail design guidelines

(specific to Belmont OR adopt an existing set from the State or other reputable source)





IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIZATION: BASED ON THE ABILITY OF A RECOMMENDATION TO...

- Further the PROS goals
- Respond to community priorities
- Resolve an existing deficiency
- Address an existing condition

FUNDING + PARTNERSHIPS: OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE ON...

- Capital improvements
- Maintenance + operations

ACTION PLAN: IMPORTANT TARGETS IN THREE TIME FRAMES...

- Short term > Long term > Ongoing

RECENT **REVISIONS**

THE PROS PLAN WAS **RECOMMENDED** BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ON JULY 6, 2022 TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL **WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS**...

1. Consolidate the OSMP's Base Plan and Management Alternatives objectives, policies, and implementation actions into a single plan.
2. Clearly present priority recommendations in the OSMP by theme - environmental sustainability, balanced recreation uses and trail management, and natural hazard mitigation.
3. Pursue the creation of dedicated parkland in downtown Belmont and the Belmont Village Specific Plan area in response to potential residential density increase in the area due to anticipated housing unit development as outlined in the 2023-2031 Housing Element update.
4. Apply consistent terminology to remove ambiguity.
5. Refine specific graphics for clarity.

2024 COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

REVISION **SUMMARY**

FORMATTING

1. Color-coding graphics, tables, headers
2. Reorganizing sections
3. Presenting information visually

CONTENT

1. Defining terminology
2. Streamlining text for clarity and flow
3. Elaborating on new concepts
4. Reflects latest meetings + available info

NOT CHANGED: THE PRIMARY TAKEAWAYS OF THE DOCUMENT...

- Inventory + Needs Assessment
- Opportunities + Recommendations
- Prioritization Matrix + Action Plan

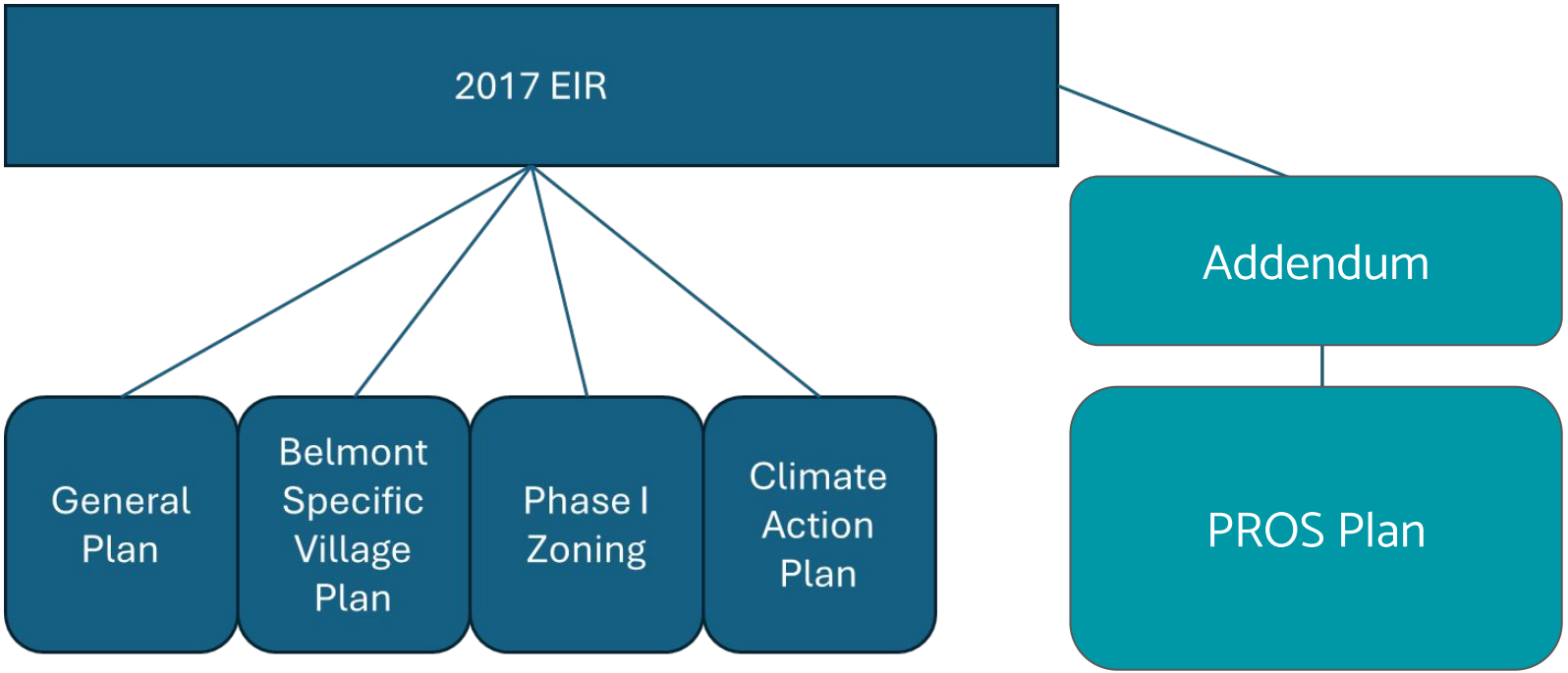
CEQA PATHWAY

- The PROS Plan was reviewed according to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Policies and actions in the PROS Plan (including OSMP) were largely already addressed in the General Plan EIR
- To retain consistency and reduce redundancy, **an addendum to the 2017 EIR** was prepared
- The addendum and the 2017 EIR are programmatic – ***they address potential impacts that may result from the implementation of policies and actions***

Addenda are used to make changes or additions to prior EIRs or NDs without major changes to the

- Project,
- Circumstances,
- Information.

CEQA **UPDATE**


2017 EIR
General Plan
Belmont Specific Village Plan
Phase I Zoning
Climate Action Plan
Addendum
PROS Plan

EIR ADDENDUM

- The addendum analyzed the potential impacts from the PROS Plan as they relate to the impacts discussed in the 2017 EIR

FINDINGS

- Limited new impacts were less than significant
- No new significant impacts that had not already been discussed - no additional review is needed
- All mitigation measures will apply

NEXT **STEPS**

1. ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROS PLAN AND CEQA ADDENDUM

2. AS SPECIFIC PROJECTS EMERGE, INITIATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3. PERIODICALLY REVISIT THE PROS PLAN AS RESOURCES BECOME AVAILABLE + PRIORITIES CHANGE

www.BelmontPROSplan.com

Info@BelmontPROSplan.com



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: March 12, 2024
Agency: City of Belmont
Staff Contact: Jozi Plut, City Clerk, jplut@belmont.gov, 650-595-7414
Agenda Title: Appointment to City Commissions and Committee
Agenda Action: Motion

Recommendation

(1) Motion to appoint at least two residents to the Planning Commission;
(2) Motion to appoint at least two residents as voting members and up to two non-voting youth members to the Parks and Recreation Commission;
(3) Motion to appoint one resident to the Measure I Committee.

Strategic Focus Area

Fiscal and Organizational Sustainability

Background

The City of Belmont has two Commissions, and a Committee. During the Months of November 2023 to January 2023, the City of Belmont held an open recruitment for applicants to fill open positions on the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Measure I Committee. Each Commission and Committee is charged with advising the City Council on policy matters and completing assignments as directed by the City Council. Some bodies like the Planning Commission have a regulatory role.

The Planning Commission is a regulatory body and a quasi-judicial body. The Commission makes land use decisions for the City based on the City's General Plan and other focused regulations, such as the Zoning Ordinance, the Belmont Village Specific Plan (BVSP), and area plans.

Presently up to ten commission seats are potentially available, with up to four on the Planning Commission if Council wishes to increase the current five-member Planning Commission to a seven-member Planning Commission, and up to four voting seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission and two non-noting youth seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Council may choose to fill five or seven seats on the two commissions. Measure I Committee has one seat available. Appointment periods are at the Council's discretion and are typically for one, two or three years.

The Planning Commission currently has five members, two of which have reached the end of their appointment periods. To fully staff the five-member Planning Commission, the Council would need to make two appointments which may be for the typical three-year appointment period. If the Council chooses not to make an appointment from among the current applicants, the commission could continue to function with three filled seats, but all three current commissioners would need to be present to establish a quorum.

The Parks and Recreation Commission currently has seven voting members, four of which have reached the end of their appointment periods. To fully staff a seven-voting member commission, the Council would need to make four appointments. To fully staff a five-voting member commission, the Council would need to make two appointments. If the Council chooses not to make an appointment from among the current applicants, the commission could continue to function as a five-member commission with three filled seats, but all three current commissioners would need to be present to establish a quorum. Appointments are for two years under Belmont City Code Section 2-166(b)(2) unless the Council sets a different period.

Additionally, in late fall 2023 the Council Conducted interviews for the Measure I Committee and appointed four members to the five-member board. Recruitment continued in early 2024, and one member of the public applied and was interviewed. In order to stagger the appointment periods, the Council may wish to consider making the appointment through either October 2026 or October 2027.

Analysis

The City Council held panel interviews of commission and committee applicants for consideration of the available positions. The applicants are as follows for each body:

Planning Commission Applicants

Brad Lewis
Cherry Twigg
David Kramer (I)*
Honsan Chung
Joanna Adamkewicz
John Selin
Nathan Majeski (I)*

Parks and Recreation Commission Applicants

Austin Lee (I)*
Bubby Whitmore
Craig Michaels(I)*
Loren Thomas
Pat Cuviello
Scott Hill
Scott Sisemore
Valerie Newhouse

Non-Voting (youth) Parks and Recreation Applicants

Aiden Lee
Ben Michaels
Catherine Wang
Peter Harrison

Council may appoint a minimum of five positions and maximum of seven on each commission, plus two non-voting youth seats for the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Measure I Committee
Emily Tuupo

*(I) – Incumbent

Alternatives
1. Council may direct staff to reopen recruitment to seek additional candidates

Attachments
A. none

Fiscal Impact
☒ No Fiscal Impact
☐ Funding Source Confirmed:

Source:	**Purpose:**	**Public Outreach:**
Staff	Statutory/Contractual Requirement	Posting of Agenda