Please review the following new video illustrating Belmonts Waterdog Preserve
waterdogpreserve.org/beauty-destroyed

Regards,

5/1 Bill Kurtz

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

5/6 Belmont

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, QuinceMatt DeLuca 6217 E 26th Pl Tulsa, OK 74114-5125

5/10

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely, Ms. Shiela Cockshott 2753 Yosemite Dr Belmont, CA 94002-3019

5/10

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely, Ms. Danielle Christensen 3612 San Benito St. San Mateo, CA 94403-3522

5/10

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely, Melinda Lord Redwood City, CA 94061

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. paula goldberg

5/10 734 Webster St Apt A Palo Alto, CA 94301-2630

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely, Ms. Laura Nardozza 5/10 San Mateo, CA 94401

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brad Beldner

5/10 415 Cambridge Ave Ste 18 Palo Alto, CA 94306-1608

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. nan matthews

5/10 370 Carmel Ave Pacifica, CA 94044-2407

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Vera Loewer

5/10 636 Montezuma Dr Pacifica, CA 94044-4027

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

PE EP 5/10 Beverly Hills, CA 90210

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kendra Knight

5/10 1301 Sanchez Ave Burlingame, CA 94010-3643

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely, Karla Valenz

5/10 San Mateo, CA 94403

Dear Belmont Belmont,

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lisa Warden

5/10 2414 Casa Bona Ave Belmont, CA 94002-1508

Dear Belmont Belm	ont
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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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Reevyn Aronson

5/10 2802 Medford Ave Redwood City, CA 94061-1269

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Monica Wiesener

5/10 Palo Alto, CA 94306

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carol Taggart

5/10 1705 Valparaiso Ave Menlo Park, CA 94025-5560

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kate Aque

5/10 491 Sherwood Way Menlo Park, CA 94025-3738

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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Wilson 5/10 533 Poplar Ave San Bruno, CA 94066-4244

Dear Belmont Belmont,

As a San Mateo 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. Please vote to keep mountain bikes on wide fire-road trails ONLY.

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.

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 continuing to allow bikes on narrow trails will further the erosion of these trails, in addition to running over and running out wild animals and destroying habitat.

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.

Sincerely, Mara Vejby San Mateo, CA 94402

5/11

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. This must be done by reducing the number of trails and keeping mountain bikes on wide fire-road trails only. 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. 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 will continue the damage to trails, running over and running 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. Sincerely Mrs. Evghenia Greiner 340 Vallejo Dr Millbrae, CA 94030-2838 5/11 5/18 Please sign me up. Many thanks. interested in open space focus group 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 5/13 lennifer Lien I would be interested in participating in the Open Space focus group 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, 5/18 Bill Kurtz

	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?
5/18	Thanks!
	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
5/19	2. Youth
	Dear Belmont Belmont,
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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 5/22 your earliest convenience.

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. This must be done by reducing the number of trails and keeping mountain bikes on wide fire-road trails only.

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	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.
5/24	I strongly suggest that the Commissioners and Advisory Committee receive formal studies available. Thank you.
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	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.
5/24	I'd be pleased to provide a preview. I look forward to helping our community create a progressive and enduring open space master plan.
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	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.
	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 will continue the damage to trails, running over and running 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.
5/31	Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.
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