

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.





Kevin Sullivan



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

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 Cuvillo 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

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Marcelo Quiroz
[REDACTED]