From:

**Sent:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 10:01 PM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Let's keep Waterdog Open Space accessible for bikers!

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

From:

**Sent:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:05 AM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** 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. 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

From:

Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:07 AM

To:

City Council

Subject:

Open access and mountain biking at waterdog

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

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:26 PM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Save mountain biking at Waterdog Park!

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,

**Scott Langmack** 

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:00 PM City Council

To:

**Subject:** 

Mountain Biking at Waterdog

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

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:34 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Keeping Waterdog Park Open for Everyone, including bicycle use

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

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:13 PM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** 

Save Waterdog Preserve

Dear Members of the Belmont City Council,

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.

Please limit biking use and arrange for repair to trails damaged by biking in beautiful and sensitive Waterdog Open Space!

Thank you for your attention,

**Edith Cassel** 

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:10 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Keep Waterdog available to all.

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

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:29 AM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Concern about Waterdog

Dear 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 people from around the Bay 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.

Adam Knight /	
Addin Kilight /	

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:02 AM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Please keep Waterdog Open Space a multi-use area

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

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:56 AM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Keep Waterdog open for mountain bikes!

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.

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:23 AM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Lake 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."

David Malick

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:09 PM

To: City Council

**Subject:** Please keep water dog open to

Mtn bikers. I know when we go there on Tuesday evening there is no conflict w hikers. We eat out in Belmont after and support the city.

Eric

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:48 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Please preserve biking at water dog park

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

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:35 PM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** in support of multi-use access at Waterdog

### Dear Members of Belmont City Council:

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.

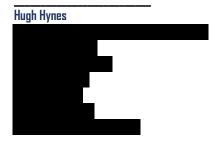
I first started riding at Waterdog after a work colleague happened to mention it. In all honesty, previously I had no idea where Belmont actually was or how to get there. But I quickly fell in love with the park and the city overall, bringing my family back to eat downtown and frequent the businesses there. Once my daughter grew old enough to ride herself, I brought her to Waterdog on some of her first outings. Its 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

--



From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:25 PM

To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm

**Subject:** Waterdog lake access

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.

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:46 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Multi-use access to Waterdog Open Space

## Dear 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 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

From:

Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:42 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Feedback on Belmont PRO/Water Dog Park

Dear Belmont City Council-

I am writing to you on the subject of the city's Park, Rec and Open Space Master Plan.

I understand this is in the early stages and therefore it was important for me to reach out to provide feedback.

As a recreational mountain bike user of the park, I am certain that I'm not alone in saying that the ability to get physical activity in Water Dog's open spaces has greatly improved my physical and mental wellbeing over the course of the pandemic.

There is a narrative being circulated about excluding mountain bike users from the park or closing off trails to MTB. I request the council to be inclusive of all sports. If there are specific concerns about habitat, let's discuss as a group with all stakeholders. To suggest that mountain bikers care less about the park simply fear-mongering.

Thank you in advance for reading my email.

-Amit

Foster City Resident

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:59 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

### 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

From:

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:57 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** 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.

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

From:

Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:33 PM

To: City Council Cc: P&R Comm

**Subject:** Belmont Master Plan comment, from Belmont homeowner

#### 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, dogwalkers, 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

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:14 PM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog multi-use

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have hiked and biked numerous times in Waterdog park, and know from experience that the bikers are incredibly courteous and the multi-use approach is appropriate for this park. Some hikers seem to feel that bikers and dogs should not exist, and they should be the only ones using trails, and this is ridiculous. There is a plethora of hiker-only parks in the region, including the nearby Edgewood Park, Huddart Park, Wunderlich (hikers and horses only), and there are very few multi-use trails open to bikes and dogs that are centrally located in the region. Waterdog MUST remain multi-use for dogs and bikers.

If you are going to restrict use of this park it should be to limit the hikers.

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,

Annie Kaskade

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:11 PM

To: City Council Cc: P&R Comm

**Subject:** Waterdog Multiuse

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** 

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:48 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog accessible to all to enjoy!!

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."

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:48 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Water dog Open Space

Hello,

I urge the council to consider continuing multi-use access in the Master Plan, as Waterdog is a treasured area for people of all recreational preferences. Sadly, not everyone shares this opinion and some anti mountain bike coalition(s) consider circular shaped objects to be demonic. I sincerely hope the council realizes the total benefit waterdog provides to every trail user and continues to allow its access to all.

Thank you,

**Concerned Constituent** 



Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:33 PM

City Council

**Subject:** Keep WaterDog Open Space accessible to Cyclist!

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

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:14 PM

**To:** City Council **Subject:** Water dog trails

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 and I hope to keep these trails open for generations to come,

Michael Tanz

Concerned community member and longtime volunteer

From:

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:01 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Keep Water Dog 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."

Sent from my iPhone

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:58 AM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** MTB access at 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.

Thank you,

Cody Stutzman

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:52 AM

**To:** City Council **Subject:** Water dog trails

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

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:00 AM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space

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

From:

Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:50 AM

To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm

**Subject:** Mountain Bike access at Waterdog 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 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

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:47 AM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Belmont Open Space Master Plan

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

From:

Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:40 AM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan Regarding Water Dog Lake

## **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

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:40 AM

To: City Council Cc: P&R Comm

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space for Recreation

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

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:25 AM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Mountain biking 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.
- 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.

From:

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:19 AM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Please continue to allow multi-use access to Waterdog!

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

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 11:14 PM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Support for multi-use trails at 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..
- 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. <a href="MTB">MTB</a><a href="MTB">Environmental Impact Study</a>, <a href="MTB">OFF-ROAD IMPACTS OFMOUNTAIN BIKES:A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION</a>,
- 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 <a href="SVMTB">SVMTB</a>, <a href="MBOSC">MBOSC</a>.

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

From:

Monday, March 1, 2021 11:09 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space

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

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 10:44 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space

### City Council members,

As a resident of Belmont, I am troubled by the proposal to reduce access to waterdog lake park for multipurpose use.

As a busy professional, it is becoming exceedingly difficult to access open, undeveloped space within walking/cycling distance. My family and I use these trails several times a week as a safe and accessible way to connect with nature in the middle of an increasingly urban area. (mostly hiking, and some mountain biking). Waterdog is quite unique and there is no other space quite like it within a 40-50 mile radius.

By reducing access to waterdog lake park I fear the message being sent is that the leaders in Belmont do not prioritize access to natural public outdoor space for its residents.

Thank you for your time,

-Norman Chow

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 10:43 PM

To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm

**Subject:** Waterdog multi-use access

### 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

Jozi Plut	
From: Sent: To: Subject:	Monday, March 1, 2021 10:41 PM City Council Waterdog Open Space mountain biking
Greetings,	
Waterdog Open S	grew up spending many years exploring and recreating at Waterdog, I support keeping Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and nity. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:
_	trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nunity-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
_	each and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
	ollaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and ne trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get ear.
exercise, revitaliza fostering commu	reation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, ation, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, nity pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational ter dog has served this public need well for decades.
Many thanks,	
Steven Serkanic	

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 9:23 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog lake park / open space plan

Hi

My name is Vilhelm Hedberg, resident of Foster city. My mother in law lives in Belmont.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I picked up mountain biking again for the first time in more than 5 years, because waterdog lake park was so easily accessible from her house. Because of the good attitude of people I meet, the conditions of the trails and the closeness to the city, this has become one of my two go to places for mountain biking.

I even ended up buying a new bike because of this.

Without this park, I would likely not have done any exercise at all during this pandemic which would've affected my health negatively. (I can't run much due to knee problems)

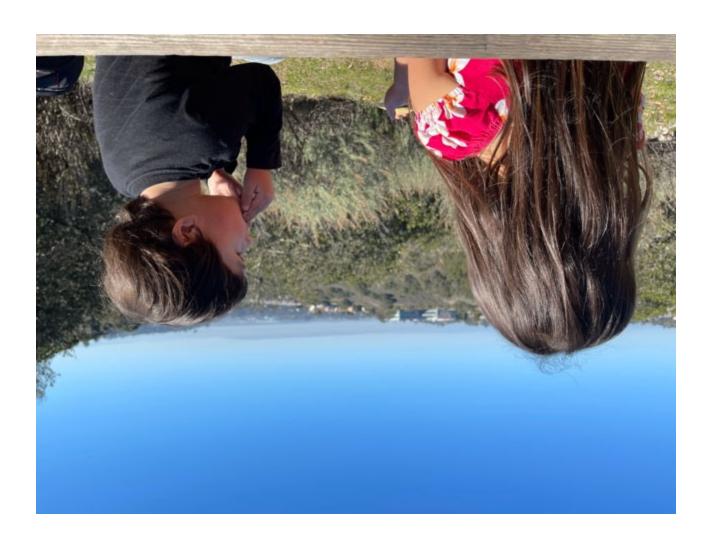
So big thanks to waterdog lake park for saving my sanity during this pandemic.

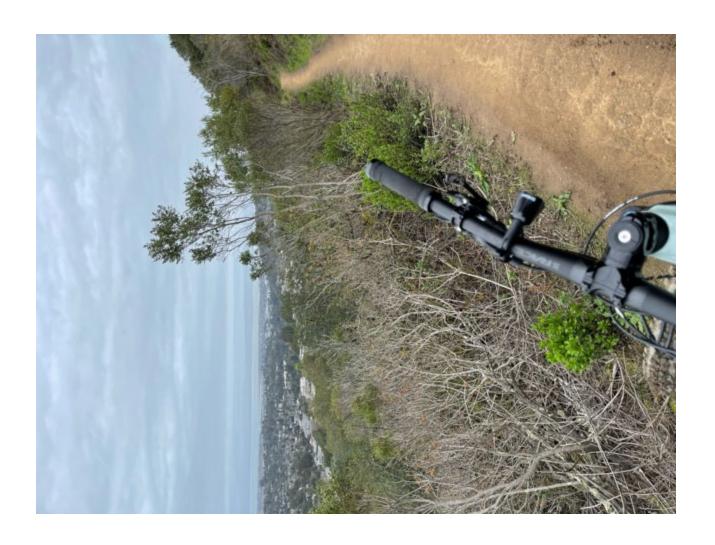
I really hope it continues to be open access and shared between families, dogs and bikers alike.

I also visit with my kids and mother in law to go hiking, and they enjoy it just as much!

#### Best regards,

- Vilhelm Hedberg





From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 9:16 PM

To: City Council

Subject: Belmont/Waterdog Open Space

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

From:

Monday, March 1, 2021 7:16 PM

To: City Council
Subject: Waterdog access

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.

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 7:13 PM

**To:** City Council **Subject:** Waterdog

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.

Best, Abigail Sinarle

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 7:13 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space

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,

Jennifer Merrill

From: Sent:

Monday, March 1, 2021 6:31 PM

To: Subject: City Council Waterdog Park

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a Belmont resident and use Waterdog Park daily. I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation for all, 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. 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 that lives 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.

Warrick Taylor

\_\_\_o \_\_`\<,\_ ((((((\_)/ (\_) Ride on!

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 5:47 PM

To: City Council Cc: P&R Comm

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space

# 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.

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

From:

Monday, March 1, 2021 3:51 PM Sent: City Council

To:

**Subject:** Maintaining Waterdog Park Access For All

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.

Kind regards,

- Peter

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 12:30 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Mountain bike access at Waterdog

I would just like to send this email to whom it may concern.

Please do not ban bike access to Waterdog park. Is one of the main reasons I visit Belmont on a weekly basis.

Always stop and eat at El Metate Taqueria as well.

This place is where I discovered the sport and In the 10 years I have been riding have had nothing but good experiences with Hikers sharing the trails.

Closing trails to Bikers would be very unfortune and I believe would de detrimental to the local economy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Carrillo

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 11:55 AM

То:

City Council

**Subject:** 

Evidence-Based Impact Review of Trail Usage

Dear Belmont City Council,

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 <a href="https://mbosc.org/mtb-impact-fag/">https://mbosc.org/mtb-impact-fag/</a> by scrolling down to the button labelled "<a href="Download a PDF">Download a PDF of All MTB Impact Review FAQs</a>" 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.
    - 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. The effects of fragmentation on wildlife vary depending on the species and the scale of analyses and impact. Fragmentation has been found to be more severe in areas where unsanctioned trails are common.
  - For instance, Red-legged Frogs can be adversely impacted if a trail traverses within 100 meters of its habitat.
  - o 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.
- 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. Most birds and mammals will react more strongly (i.e., flee) to off-trail recreationists than to on-trail users.
- 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).<sup>[16]</sup> [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 [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.
- o 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).
  - 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

From:

**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 10:36 AM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space Multi-use

Dear City Council,

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

From:

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:00 AM City Council

To:

Subject: letter in support of multi-use for Waterdog trails

Hello, Belmont City Council members:

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. 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 - 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 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

From:

**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:42 PM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Comments for Park and Recreation Open Space Master Plan

### Dear City Council 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. 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,		

From:

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:54 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Belmont open space 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 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.

From:

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:28 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Keep Waterdog park open to all!

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.

From:
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:51 PM
City Council

**To:** City Council **Subject:** Waterdog

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 Council 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

From:

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:05 PM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Please continue multi-use access to 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, 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

From:

**Subject:** 

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:36 PM City Council

To:

Waterdog Lake Park

Dear City Council,

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** 

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:16 PM

To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog park

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

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:26 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Water Dog OpenSpace

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 level this is one of my favorite places since I moved up to the Pennisula area. I go on meditative walks here and like to see the dogs when people bring them. I go here weekly and find so much peace and healing. I know many of my friends feel the same. It would be such a loss for people to not be able to experience this place for themselves. Please keep it open.

Thank you Best regards,

Kara lindahn

•

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:11 PM

**To:** City Council **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

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 6:00 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Alexander Park tennis courts

Dear All - Alexander park tennis courts are extremely filthy - the other day I found broken glass on the court, used masks, napkins, bottles, cans, fast food packaging and leftovers.



I tried to clean it myself, but, especially because of COVID, I would expect city of Belmont to take care of it. The
playground next door doesn't look any better. Thank you, Irina Worthey 650-303-1661

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:48 PM

To: City Council Subject: Waterdog

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

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:28 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As residents of Belmont [if you are not a resident "As a frequent visitor to Waterdog open space", 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,

Xenia Yeakel

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:29 AM

**To:** City Council **Subject:** water dog mtb

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,

Ramon Lafuente

From:

Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 5:01 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space

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.

From:

Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 2:43 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Keep Waterdog open to all, including mountain bikers

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

From:

Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:52 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space continued accessability

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

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Nicolas De Keyser

From:

Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:09 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Water Dog Park Master Plan

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

From:

Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:22 AM

City Council

To:

**Subject:** Letter in Support of Mixed Use in Waterdog Lake Park

Dear Belmont City Council,

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

From:

Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:25 AM

To:

City Council

**Subject:** Waterdog Recreational Open Space - for the entire Belmont community!

Dear Belmont City Council,

I have lived in the Cipriani neighborhood for the past 16 years with my wife and 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

From:

Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:00 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Dear Council members,

I sent this message via an online page for the Parks and Recreation Commission and wanted to share my opinions with you all as well.

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 of 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!!

Thank you,

Connie Tettenborn

Belmont

From:

Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:38 AM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Open Space Master Plan considerations

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

From:

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:58 PM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Belmont Open Space Plan

I am a resident of Belmont and member of our community who helps lead our youth in CubScouts and Scouts BSA.

Keeping WaterDog park as an open preserve is vital to the health and sanity of our community. During these times, it is critical to continue to allow these open preserves available to our shared community of hikers, dog walkers, trail runs, mountain bikers, and especially our youth groups.

For the last year, everyone is dealing with the pandemic, but our open preserves have been critical to keep our youth engaged and outdoors. We need these resources more than ever because our youth have lost the freedom to connect at school and in person. These outdoor activities become vital to our children and future leaders of tomorrow.

I strongly encourage you to consider keeping the parks open and furthermore expanding their uses.

Our youth groups need these outlets. If there's opportunities for our youth groups to get involved with restoring, repairing, healing, and expanding these outdoor areas for our youth let's talk and get them involved. We all need to be custodians of the outdoors and what better way than to get them involved now.

...Leonard

From:

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

From:

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 7:31 AM

**To:** City Council

**Subject:** Fwd: 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
- 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.

Thanks, Jakki Carlmont Drive