

Brigitte Shearer

From: Steve Welter
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 5:20 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Looks like the Belmont Heights curmudgeons are trying to rally their forces (if there are any) to keep the Waterdog trail system for their-selves (see the email below). If they were SO interested in the perceived damage being done in the trail system, you would think they would have at least one picture of dog crap (given there are thousands of pounds left in the trail system)! I am a dog owner, so nothing against dogs. I just want to point out where this group is coming from. This group has one goal and one goal only and that is to try and prohibit bikes in the Waterdog trail system. The same trail system that was build by bikers and continues to be maintain substantially by bikers, but I digress.

Go ahead & beat your drums, it seems to give you something to do in your retirement.

Below is an email sent from "Karen" Mercer - I mean Kristen Mercer

Belmont's Waterdog and adjoining open spaces are what drew many of us to make our home here. But this "jewel of Belmont" is threatened by widespread environmental damage and serious safety issues stemming from poor management. How can we claim to value the environment while allowing destruction of precious natural habitats here in our own community? Waterdog needs us to speak up for its preservation, and right now we have the perfect opportunity.

The Belmont Parks and Rec department is drafting a new Parks and Open Space Master Plan that will guide the future of Waterdog and all our open spaces for the next 20 years. Resident input is needed to ensure this plan prioritizes preservation, and puts in place concrete and meaningful policies to enshrine this priority.

I have collaborated with a large group of concerned residents to assemble a website – www.waterdogpreserve.org - to help the public understand the unique and valuable natural ecosystems in our backyard, and to expose the extensive damages. Please take a moment to learn about these issues that affect us all. Then please click on the "Take Action" tab at the top of the page and email your opinions and concerns to the Park and Rec Dept and City Council via the website.

As stewards and stakeholders of our little town, your voice in saving Waterdog Open Space from environmental destruction is so important to us, as well as to future generations.

Thank you for caring
Kristin Mercer

Brigitte Shearer

From: JoAnn Berridge
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 12:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Open Space Mater Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Members of the City Council,

As Belmont residents of some 55 years, we unequivocally support efforts to see policies prioritizing conservation and habitat protection incorporated in Belmont's new Open Space Master Plan. From our observations of activity in the Waterdog Open Space in particular, policy considerations should include:

Prohibiting bicycles on narrow hiking trails; prohibiting e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails

Destroying illegal trails, and restoring damaged ecosystems and wildlife habitat

Enforcing the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise

Allocating park spending to equitably fund Open Space maintenance

Vigilant enforcement of all policies

Thank you for listening carefully to the voices of the general public as you deliberate appropriate uses and stewardship of Belmont's open spaces.

Respectfully,
JoAnn and Ron Berridge

Brigitte Shearer

From: Keyuri Shah
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:42 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Best,
Keyuri

Brigitte Shearer

From: Linda Murphy
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a residents of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
 - Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
 - Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
 - Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
 - Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
 - Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance
- Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Linda and John Murphy
2680 Comstock Circle
Belmont, CA

Brigitte Shearer

From: bobbiiken
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 11:58 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

We are Ken and Bobbie Lebovitz, 10 Soho Circle.

The back of our property is now called the Soho Bike Trail. It is a man made trail, narrow and is illegal from our point of view. In addition, we feel that the illegal Soho Bike Trail could be on part of our property.

We have lived here for 48+ years and always enjoyed the peace and tranquility of our property. With this illegal bike trail, we are now confronted with noise, dogs barking and people talking. This is not what we originally planned for when we moved into our home.

In addition, on weekends and holidays we are also now confronted with an abundance of cars, people, kids and bikes on Lake Rd and Hallmark. It has become a parking lot with people walking across the street not in a crosswalk with lots of kids and not paying attention to drivers. It is our concern that one day there may be a serious accident. Its a challenge to drive thru this area on weekends and holidays.

We realize that during these times people need open space but it is unfair to the Belmont Heights Residences to subject them to the unwanted noise, congestion of the General Public.

It is necessary that the City Council and Parks and Recreation of Belmont develop a plan to minimize this congestion and not put all the burden on one small area of our City.

We would appreciate being kept informed at all times of your plans.

Thank you
Ken and Bobbie Lebovitz
10 Soho Circle
Belmont

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michelle Speert
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 10:35 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Sincerely,
Paul & Michelle Speert
2528 Hallmark Drive

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sammy Bastaki < >
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:55 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- 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!

Esmail Bastaki

10 Waterloo court
Belmont, CA 94002

Sent from my iPhone

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laura Draxler
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 7:19 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
 - Only allow bikes on multi use trails at restricted times of days (e.g. 10 AM - noon or 4 - 6 PM) to allow time for hikers only
 - Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
 - Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
 - Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
 - Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
 - Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance
- Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan.

Thank you -
Laura Draxler

Brigitte Shearer

From: Carol Cherkis
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 3:16 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As residents of Belmont, we support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
 - Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
 - Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
 - Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
 - Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
 - Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance
- Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank You

Carol and Kenneth Epstein, 2716 Wemberly Drive, Belmont, CA 94002

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryen Motzek < >
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:02 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Skateboarding In Belmont

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings,

My name is Ryen Motzek. I was raised in the town of Belmont in the 80's - 90's and started skateboarding then as well. I have been involved in the Bay Area skateboarding community for decades and about 14 years ago I co-founded Atlas with some good friends. Over the years we have seen a gradual uptick in skateboarding and various communities in the Bay Area have embraced the activity due to the many benefits it holds for the youth as well as a very broad age range. Now with skating in the olympics, and Covid skateboarding is growing at an unprecedented rate which is why I am reaching out to you. The city of Belmont is the home to many skaters and is in need of a skate friendly space. I realize there's other concerns that need to be addressed, it's something I'm very accustomed to hearing, but I'm really hoping to speak with you and have a chance to present the case.

Please let me know what works best for you... perhaps a zoom meeting this week or next?

Thank you for your time, talk soon.

-Ryen

Atlas
209 2nd Ave. San Mateo, CA 94401
www.atlasskateboarding.com

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 5:44 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Stefan Zuckut, Vice President
PRITCHETT, LP

MergerIntegration.com

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karen M
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 3:13 PM
To: City Council; info@belmontprosplan.com
Cc: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As residents of Belmont, we support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, we request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Exploring options for new trails to spread people out and relieve congestion
- Installing additional benches at key view spots

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inculcation of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Kind Regards,

Karen & John Moody
36 Elder Drive

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Bishop ·
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:57 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Brian Bishop
2406 Casa Bona

Brigitte Shearer

From: Esther Kim ·
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:59 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Hidden Canyon/Waterdog open space inclusive

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dearest City Council Members and Parks and Rec Commission,

My family and I visit Waterdog Open Space on a weekly basis, whether it's hiking together or biking together. It's literally our backyard, or right beyond the border of our backyard. As a resident and homeowner in Belmont (1100 Lassen Drive), I support keeping Waterdog Open Space accessible for the various use groups already allowed to use Waterdog for multi-purpose use.

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but unfortunately it seems I need to keep emailing in to voice my opinion. An added advantage of recreating at Waterdog is also the opportunity for us to participate in volunteer trail work and it's a great educational opportunity for our kids to learn about responsibility, volunteering and helping our community. I know typically the loudest voices come from the unhappiest voices in the community. I wanted to email in and say I'm a happy voice, love the current multi-use aspect and I hope that the Master Plan will continue to serve our recreational needs by continuing to allow and take into consideration the multi-use access of Waterdog. Thank you for your time.

-Esther Thomas

Brigitte Shearer

From: Christina Bonnington
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:22 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue to keep Waterdog Open Space free for multi-use recreation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I just wanted to voice my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

The Open space has been particularly helpful through COVID and during quarantine, when I was able to get out into nature while still remaining 5 miles from my home. The fire road is also a pleasant and safe alternative for bike riders looking to avoid the cars and traffic of Ralston Avenue. The fire road is amply wide enough to accommodate all manner of outdoor recreationalists.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan,
Christina Bonnington

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sarah Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:00 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space | Keep Multi-use!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont Heights since 1978, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Sarah Elliott

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robert Brouwer ·
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:39 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Open Space Master plan considerations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I moved to Belmont more than five years ago from outside the country. Living here I increasingly enjoy the Waterdog Open Space. It is great to have such a great piece of nature close to home. Especially this covid year it's great to be able to hike around the neighborhood and connect with nature. It is great to see the wide range of outdoor activities exercised in the park. It allows me to learn new activities from others and find new ways to enjoy nature. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Regards,
Robert Brouwer

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jay Wells
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:44 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont for the past 4 years, I absolutely support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jay Wells, Belmont Resident
2201 Semeria Ave.
Belmont, CA 94002

Brigitte Shearer

From: Clifford Ng
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:42 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: Marisa Thorne
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan Considerations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As an active Belmont resident (and former Cub Scout Den leader) with several young children and small dogs, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Cliff Ng and family

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Vance
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:01 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*
- The growing youth community needs these outlets, now more than ever. As we progress to a more digital life-style, our fellow citizens need these, but even more critical, our youth need more (not less) opportunities to connect with the outdoor community.*
- Rather than reduce opportunities, increase them. Get our youth involved with connecting and maintaining these open spaces. Involve our youth groups and build a model in which our youth can play key roles with restoring, repairing, healing, and expanding these outdoor areas. We all need to be custodians of the outdoors and what better way than to get our youth involved sooner.*
- As we deal with the current pandemic issues, these outdoor outlets are ways that we as a community can use as a way to reconnect with each other.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Chris & Julie Vance

1300 Ralston Ave

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sarah Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:26 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Open Space | NATURE PRESERVE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
 - Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
 - Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
 - Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
 - Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
 - Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance
- Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kim Bishop
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:50 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog Open Space Open!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Kim Bishop

Brigitte Shearer

From: Thaddeus Block
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:27 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space - for the entire Belmont community

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission,

I have lived in the Cipriani neighborhood for the past 16 years with my wife and now three children aged 14, 11, and 8. As a family we enjoy so many wonderful aspects of the city, from the fantastic library, to the rich parks and recreation programs, to our beautiful multi-use open space trail system. I volunteered as a Belmont parks and recreation commissioner for the city from 2012 to 2020, and I served as chair for one of those years.

Now is the time for the city council and parks and recreation commission to revise and redefine the parks and recreation open space master plan (PROS), as our currently operating master plan is from the 1990s. This broad reaching document will have an impact for decades to come on many parts of our city, and I am writing today to comment specifically on the future management of our beautiful recreational open space known as Waterdog. As you know, many of us are regularly out there hiking and biking, walking our dogs, and enjoying the fact that within just a few minutes we can depart the busy bay area and enter a beautiful and peaceful trail system for exercise and fresh air. The vision put forth in 1992 by the city to define this open space as recreational open space with a multi use trail system has served our community incredibly well. I believe that part of the reason our city is prospering and full of young and active families is due to the accessibility of our open space. I moved to Belmont in part because of the easy access to Waterdog open space for hiking and biking, and I know many people and families who have made similar choices in calling Belmont their home. I have met several people on the trail system who have decided to take jobs in the city of Belmont specifically because of the proximity of the trail system for hiking and biking.

For decades, our open space at waterdog has been a successful example of multi-use recreational trail systems. Any day of the week, you can see families hiking the trails with their children, folks walking dogs, hikers and trail runners, and mountain bikers. All, with big smiles on their faces, enjoying our amazing resource. I personally use the trails several times a week for hikes, dog walks, and bike rides. I can see that these trails build community, and that there is good understanding and respect among the different user groups – from dog walkers to hikers to bikers to trail runners.

So, it is my strong recommendation that while the council and commission review the important topics ahead for the PROS, we can rely on continuing a successful history of multi-use trail stewardship. We are all aware that one small but highly vocal group wants bikes removed from the park for unclear reasons. Why would we shut down the trails to one vibrant user group and keep it open to another? How would one even choose which group to eliminate? The answer is of course, continue our winning plan of embracing the entire community, allowing everyone to use their beautiful recreational open space trails. We can continue outreach and education to all trail users and groups to ensure continued safe and sustainable use of our trails. And of course, as a city I suggest we continue to support the wonderful volunteer groups that keep our trails safe, sustainable, and fun for all user groups.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Garrish ·
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:27 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Support for Waterdog as a multi-use open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont and avid cyclist, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for multiple forms of recreation including cycling, connecting with nature and building community.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining and improving the trails for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
 - I have mountain-biked in Waterdog since we moved to Belmont in 2002 and believe that this is a treasure on the Peninsula.
 - Even with the many uses, to me it is an example of how we can all recreate in harmonious ways - I've never seen or even heard of instances where all the various uses of the park could not peacefully co-exist.
 - Quite the opposite - my experience in the park is one of courtesy and friendliness.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
 - The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
 - I love Waterdog and I think everyone who has experienced it loves Waterdog! :)
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont Parks and Rec workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
 - Nothing comes for free, and that includes safe and environmentally friendly trails.
 - The great part about Belmont, and Waterdog, is that we are a committed community of volunteers.
 - I think it would be amazing to find ways to energize volunteerism around the park so that those who benefit from the open space also have a stake in its preservation for the future.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
John Garrish
2037 Belle Monti Ave
Belmont, CA 94002

Brigitte Shearer

From: Christina Gil
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:37 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Regards,

Christina Gil

Brigitte Shearer

From: Alice Yam
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:33 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

*Sincerely,
Alice Yam*

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mark Kramer
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:32 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Redwood Shores, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Mark Kramer
575 Seastorm Drive
Redwood City, CA 94065

Brigitte Shearer

From: Wendy Gradek
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont since 1980, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best,
Wendy Gradek

Brigitte Shearer

From: Gavin McMichael
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:09 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Park Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

-Gavin McMichael

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rusty < >
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: WaterDog Multi-Use Importance

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont for the past 15 years (and longer if you consider that we live in the house my wife grew up in), I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature, and building community. Our entire family uses the Waterdog open space frequently via a variety of modalities and have never had any trail conflicts with other users, whether they be walkers or pedalers.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

*Hopewell Family
916 Holly Road, Belmont*

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jill <
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:09 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: Jill Henrich
Subject: Open Space Master Plan: Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Emerald Hills and a long-term volunteer of not only maintaining the trails but also heavily involved with the construction of the Lake Loop trail, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers such as I to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in and around Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Fondly,
Jill Henrich
3639 Oak Knoll Dr
Emerald Hills, CA 94062

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tom Boyd
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 2:34 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent mountain biker and resident of Redwood City, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best regards,
Tom Boyd

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jeff Shelton
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:03 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Keep Multi-Use access at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Redwood Shores resident who enjoys mountain biking in the area, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jeff Shelton

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Hoffman
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 11:04 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog open space & Belmont Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks & Rec commissioners and City Council members:

I just learned about the ongoing open space planning process and of an effort to eliminate bicycling from Water Dog Open Space. As a Belmont resident and voter for the last 16 years, I think this would be a poor choice and not in the best interest of the community. I haven't been on a mountain bike myself in several years and have never ridden in Water Dog. But I enjoy walking and running in Water Dog routinely and I have no problem sharing the trails with cyclists. Although she'll never write you a letter about it, my daughter rides there often.

Eliminating cyclists from Water Dog would be a serious mistake and will be bad for both Belmont and for Water Dog itself. The way to keep our environment and our parks cared for is to keep them open and used by as many people as possible. Every person kept out of an open space is one less person to care for and advocate for that open space. I have no data, but it seems fairly likely that the demographics of mountain bikers skews significantly younger than those who would restrict the park to pedestrians. That means that this change would disproportionately impact younger people who won't have the same fondness for Water Dog that many of us do. The step from an excluded disenfranchised population to a neglected, not-valued open space is small. It's also the case that this younger group isn't going to engage in letter writing and speaking at meetings as much as those who would have you ban cycling. So please don't be misled as to where the community stands due to a vocal minority.

Restricting the use of Water Dog because of a vocal few would be a mistake which will have implications for many years to come. It would be bad for Belmont and would make Water Dog less secure in the future. Please keep Water Dog open and accessible to as many people and as many uses as possible.

Sincerely,
David Hoffman

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nicolas De Keijser
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:12 PM
To: P&R Comm; citycouncil@belmont.gob
Subject: Waterdog Open Space accessibility

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a former resident of Belmont, and now San Carlos, I'm a very frequent visitor to the Waterdog open space. In fact, the Waterdog park was a big contributing factor to move to Belmont. While I moved to San Carlos, I'm in fact even closer to the Waterdog park compared to my Belmont address. The park is a place where I hike with friends, ride my mountain bike with friends and my kids on a weekly basis. And of course a place where my dog loves to come for runs, hikes and of course swimming in the lake.

As such my family (and all my friends and close community) support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I would like to request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is exactly what we need!
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. The Trailkeepers group does an outstanding volunteer job to keep those trails in good shape, both for hikers and mountain bikers
- Exploring options for new trails to spread people out and relieve congestion
- Installing additional benches at key view spots

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live near the park- a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inculcation of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

As few more thoughts, when it comes to wildlife, I'm always amazed at what I see. Rabbits, deers, squirrels, the occasional rattlesnake and the elusive bobcats. How blessed are we to have this fauna in such a residential area. Even with the increased popularity of the park during Covid times, those creatures are thriving in the park. And having my youngest 8y old kid always ask to discover new trails on his little mountain bike is really making me smile! A lot better than 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,

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Carter
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 2:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please preserve Waterdog as recreational open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

As we embark upon the Master Open Space Planning processes, I write to encourage the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission to reaffirm Waterdog Lake Park and Hidden Canyon's ongoing success as recreational open space.

I am a physician and avid outdoorsman. I live next to Waterdog and frequently cycle to, and through, the park for exercise. My daughters and I "plike" (pick up litter while hiking) in the park regularly – to exercise, to teach them community service, and to cultivate environmentalism within them. I also lead the Waterdog Trailkeepers, a volunteer group that donates about 500 hours a year to the park for trail maintenance. I do all this out of a genuine love for the park.

Many of us refer to Waterdog as a "gem" of nature and recreation. It is a place to walk, jog, run, cycle, and exercise in a beautiful natural environment of trees, flowers, and wildlife. Recreational open space reduces stress, provides relaxation and revitalization, builds community, increases awareness of the natural environment, fosters environmentalism, and serves the public good. Many of us have moved our families and settled next to the park specifically because Waterdog is an oasis within the densely populated Bay Area. As a physician, I can attest to the need for community recreational open space for our mental and physical well-being. We all need a place to exercise in a natural environment. If not Waterdog, where would we go?

From a land use point of view, Waterdog's best use is continued recreational open space. It is small – 200-300 acres depending on how you measure – and ringed with suburban development. Although some have proposed re-designation as a nature preserve, the truth is that Waterdog is far too small, and has far too many humans around, to seriously be considered for this purpose. Even if we removed every trail and tried to keep humans out, the animals in the park would still be impacted by the dogs, cats, and humans who live around the perimeter of the park. Humans have a need for open space, too. When you consider that we have already protected the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed's 23,000 acres of oak woodlands, coniferous forests, and serpentine grasslands as a preserve, it is reasonable for the public to allocate 300 acres, just 1% of what has been preserved already, for open space recreational use.

With current recreational use, the park abounds with finch, towhees, quail, deer, bobcats, wild turkeys, rabbits, lizards, woodrats, snakes, and, yes, waterdogs! I personally have seen each of these in the past 12 months alone. These animals have adapted to human uses of Waterdog for over 100 years. There is no crisis here; the ecosystem of the park has been in a steady state for decades. Don't fall for the false narrative of others looking to weaponize environmentalism as a means to kick cyclists, runners, and other active users out of the park. These narratives serve only destroy community and pit neighbor against neighbor.

When I visit Waterdog, I see a community of hikers, dog-walkers, joggers, and cyclists enjoying the open space, respectful of one another and the wildlife that abounds. It is a place of joy. Waterdog is a testament to successful multiuse open space serving the public good. Please support the continued open space recreational use of Waterdog Lake Park.

Warmly submitted,

Jonathan Carter, MD

Professor of Surgery

University of California, San Francisco

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tomas M
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:05 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Belmont Parks and REC

My name is Tomas Miyazono and I am a junior at Carlmont high school living in Belmont. It has come to my attention that several people are advocating to ban bicycles from waterdog. I started mountain biking about 2 years ago, largely because of a Waterdog being near my house. Waterdog has taught me many things. From trail etiquette to respecting nature, I have fallen in love with Waterdog. Many of these people advocating against mountain bikes make baseless claims such as mountain bikes cause erosion and trail damage, among other things. These people have no scientific evidence to back up their claims. Rain water streams going down trails is the primary cause of trail erosion. In reality, mountain bikers are the primary people helping maintain the trails because we love the park so much. It would be unwise to ban bikers, one of the main reasons the park is as beautiful as it is, from riding there. I hope the committee of parks and recreation looks at the science and not at the baseless claims these people advocating for the banning of bike make.

Thanks for your time,

Tomas Miyazono

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Sisemore
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:25 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Advocating For Mixed Use Trails in Waterdog Lake Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners,

I'm a home owner in Belmont since 2006 and I relocated my business to Belmont in 2014. I have two kids. One just started at Carlmont and the other is in a BRSSD middle schooler. For seven years I managed my older son's little league baseball teams for the BRSLL so I am familiar with many of the outdoor park resources and playing fields in Belmont. My wife is currently the parliamentarian for our middle schoolers PTA. All of us are avid users of Water Dog Lake Park as hikers, dog walkers, trail runners and mountain bikers.

In fact, the close and easy access to trails for outdoor recreation are what brought us to Belmont. When we were shopping for a house on the peninsula in 2006 my one stipulation was to find something near trails. One day we visited an open house near Alexander Park in Sterling Downs and then drove around to get a feel for the neighborhood. On Old County Road we saw a sign pointing to a new bike shop. Behind the counter at Passion Trails we met Barry Stevens, an incredible Waterdog Lake Park advocate, who showed us a map of the park and described the local mountain bike community that had formed around the bike shop and Waterdog. When we got back in the car, I turned to my wife and said Belmont works for me. We quickly put an offer in on the Sterling Downs house and have been here ever since.

Having tuned-in to city council and parks and rec meetings over the last couple of months, I've heard a small yet vocal group complaining about mountain bike caused erosion and threatened wildlife along the trails in Water Dog Lake Park. I'd like to go on the record saying this is not my experience in the park.

Frankly, in my 15 years of hiking, birdwatching, dog walking and mountain biking in WDLP I don't think it's ever looked better. Thanks to the local Waterdog Trailkeepers there's been numerous improvements to the park this winter like converting wide segments of trails to narrow single track with vegetation restoration, maintaining the bridges as well as repairing vandalism.

On Pat CuvIELLO's new waterdogpreserve website he consistently juxtaposes pictures of old roads that are washed out due to erosion from rain with pristine sections of trail and infers that the erosion is 100% due to mountain bike riding. This is misleading at best and also a great example of "cherry picking". In fact, more mountain bikes are probably ridden on the pristine trail than the eroded sections (not all mountain bike riders are daredevils like Pat would like the public to believe).

My wife and I are sustaining members of the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy and Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). We value the environment and support the preservation of wild places. If I thought I was tearing up the ground and disrupting the animals that call Water Dog Lake Park their home I wouldn't be in there on my mountain bike. Furthermore, cycling is an amazingly positive response to our global climate crisis and a great way for youth and adults to safely get exercise and get outdoors during the pandemic.

Please count me as a meaningfully involved community member that cherishes the trails and nature in Water Dog and believes that we can have both. They are not mutually exclusive. I want to work with city officials, Gates and Associates and community members during the PROs process to keep the open space open to all that use it respectfully.

Thanks!

Scott Sisemore

Proprietor/Winemaker
Waxwing Wines

www.waxwingwines.com

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nathan Yeakel
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:23 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Multi-use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council,

I have lived on Hillman Ave since 2013. I am proud to call Belmont home, and that is the birthplace of our children, now age 3 and 6. Waterdog holds a special place in our family's hearts. We spend hours in the park weekly hiking, biking and walking our dog Scooter. There is abundant wildlife considering this is such a developed suburban area.

Now it seems a small, but very vocal group wants to assert influence, right at the time the Council is considering parks and recreation open space master plan (PROS). The group, most of whom own large houses that border the park, seek to strip our park and trails of their multi-use status. I first became aware of this anti-biking group while volunteering in a city-approved trail maintenance group, where we were harshly confronted and filmed without permission.

While I don't understand the motivation of this group, I do know that they stand in stark contrast to almost all other park visitors. People like us are out here every day. We welcome those from outside of Belmont. We say hi to those we pass on the trail. We pick up trash (and other gross stuff) that isn't ours. We respect the trails, the hikers, bikers, and dogs. We wear a mask.

Cycling in the park has brought so much richness to my life and my family. It is healthy and fun. Through group rides and volunteering, I have met so many of our neighbors that would have otherwise been strangers. My son took his first trail ride a few months back. I am greatly looking forward to biking with both my children all over Waterdog for years to come.

Kind Regards,
Nate Yeakel

Brigitte Shearer

From: Lotti Dunbar
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 8:31 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog access for all

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As I have easy access via Laurelwood Park and my whole family uses it multiple times a week, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for all recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits as a local park for stress reduction, exercise, bringing families together, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. More on a personal note, I thought my son to mountain bike there and spent many happy days together with him, even as a teenager. The close by location served us well as one could just hop on the bike and ride right from the house, without getting into a car. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades and even more during COVID.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan

Sincerely
Charlotte Dunbar

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Fry
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 12:49 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space Accessible

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a parent in our school district, volunteer in the community, and outdoor sports enthusiast, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Chris Fry

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mike Crusick
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 1:56 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

People come to Belmont just to mountain bike at Waterdog. It is probably the best "attraction " we have as a city for other people come to visit. I really can not think of too many other activities that would bring visitors to Belmont aside from games Sports Complex but i've seen most/all of the fans don't stick around just get back on 101 and go back home.

As a life long resident of Belmont I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining, improving and expanding the trails
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Mike Crusick

Brigitte Shearer

From: M Mitchell
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 2:44 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog open to all, including mountain bikers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Redwood Shores, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont and surrounding areas, a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Mike Mitchell

Shorebird Circle, Redwood Shores

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nickalus Ketcham
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 5:02 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am writing to support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for multi-use recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Building and opening more local multi-use trails to better distribute the increased usage seen in recent years.
- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for biking, hiking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the community - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Katie Liu
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 6:40 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Multi-use recreation in the master plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am writing to support multi-use recreation in the new Master Plan. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you consider:

- 1) Building and opening more local multi-use trails to better distribute the increased usage during the COVID pandemic.
- 2) Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc, consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- 3) Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.
- 4) Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the local community - stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inclusion of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.
Sincerely,
Katie Liu

Brigitte Shearer

From: Alex Abbas
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 9:34 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Lake & Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I recently became aware of a community action movement, waterdogpreserve.org, aiming to restrict mountain biking at Waterdog Lake & Open Space. I'm writing to oppose this position.

I love mountain biking, and I've been riding my mountain bike at Waterdog for fifteen years. I moved to Belmont back then in part because there were wonderful local trails that I and my family could ride. Keeping the park wide open to mountain biking makes Belmont a wonderful place to live.

I'm also an Eagle Scout and a PhD Biologist. I care about preserving the park... I've volunteered to maintain the park trails. Mountain biking does cause wear to trails, but not extreme wear, and the volunteer and city efforts to maintain the park seem largely effective.

I'd just encourage the city to continue to pursue a reasonable, balanced approach. Perhaps narrow trails should be closed right after heavy rain, like Arastradero Park does. Perhaps efforts should be made to contravene any illegal trail construction. Perhaps E-bikes should be restricted. But mountain biking is a positive recreational activity that should be encouraged, and it can certainly be allowed without compromising the important goal of stewardship of the park and its wildlife for future generations.

Thank you,
Alex Abbas

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Sheng
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 6:51 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Open Space Master Plan input

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

With the Open Space Master Plan process underway, I wanted to give my input as a Belmont citizen of nearly 10 years. My wife and I married in 2002 and had our first apartment together in the Carlmont Heights apartment complex on Hastings Drive. One of the things we loved about that apartment was that we could access the Waterdog open space right across the street and go hiking, mountain biking, and trail running almost right out our front door. We would have liked to stay in Belmont when we purchased our first house, but no good opportunities came up, and we bought a 2 bedroom / 1 bath house just over the border in San Mateo. We started our family in San Mateo, our first son was born in 2007, and our second son was born in 2009. When our daughter was born in 2011, and all three kids crammed into one bedroom, it was time for a bigger house.

The housing market was tough in 2011, and we were fortunate enough to get an opportunity to purchase a 3 bedroom / 2 bath house in the Cipriani neighborhood that year. A major factor driving our decision to make our permanent home here, instead of many of the other neighboring cities was the Waterdog open space. There is no where else on the Peninsula where one can live in such close proximity to such interesting and physically challenging multi-use trails.

When our kids were small, we spent many hours pushing strollers up and down the Lake Road Trail and going to the lake. As our kids learned to ride bikes, many of the trails were too hard for them, but we were able to introduce them to mountain biking on the easier trails in the park. Now our kids are 14, 10, and 9, and one of the greatest ways we can spend quality time together as a family is to ride our bikes to Waterdog and enjoy a real singletrack mountain bike ride together. As our kids have grown, having this resource available gives us the opportunity to teach them about trail maintenance, sustainability, and stewardship, and we hope they will pass these values down to the next generation. Once my kids get further into their teens, we look forward to them riding out there on their own with their friends.

I'm providing this personal example to illustrate how vital Waterdog is to Belmont's families. There are many other families like mine in our community of over 30,000 people. It is not just families, single people, dog owners, seniors, and people from all walks of life benefit from this recreational access. I am confident that the vast majority of Belmont's citizens support the continued successful existence of multi-use recreational trails. As long as it's managed in a sustainable way (which has been the case for decades), multi-use recreation is the highest and best use of the park.

Multi-use recreation at the park also fosters a real sense of community. I regularly run into friends and neighbors in the park. The other day I was biking and crossed paths with another dad I knew from the cub scout pack years back who was out there trail running. I ride on certain mornings and tend to see the same hikers and dog walkers and enjoy a friendly exchange with them.

I know there is a small but vocal minority clamoring to restrict recreational access to the park and demanding to have it designated as a nature preserve. From an ecological perspective, there is no rational basis for this. The park is surrounded on all sides by urban development. There is no need for this 300 acre park to serve as a restricted-access nature preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve less than a mile away (the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed). There is no scientific evidence that the park has been in anything less than an ecologically stable condition for decades. Based on my nearly 20 years experience as a park user, I feel the trails are less erosion-prone, and much better maintained now than when I first started riding them in 2003. This is due to our fantastic Parks department, which has been able to leverage the substantial volunteer resources of community groups such as the Waterdog Trailkeepers, which is mostly comprised of mountain bikers.

Hopefully I've illustrated the tremendous value that multi-use recreation brings to the community. I ask that the Council and Commission recognize this value during the Open Space Master Plan process and keep the success story of multi-use recreational access at the forefront during this process, so the generations to come will have the ability to enjoy this amazing recreational resource as we do now.

Very truly yours,

Paul Sheng

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rob Anagnoson
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 1:01 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Please support multi-use recreation in the master plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

I'm writing to encourage the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission to reaffirm Waterdog Lake Park and Hidden Canyon's ongoing success as recreational open space, as part of the master planning process.

I enjoy Waterdog for mountain biking, hiking with my family, and walking my dog. I have volunteered for trail maintenance with the Waterdog Trailkeepers. I can leave my home on my bike and be on the trails within minutes, providing a welcome respite from the stress of suburban life. I have introduced my children to the enjoyment of nature there, and shared my love of cycling with my teenage son.

Waterdog is unique and cherished as local open space in its commitment to multi-use recreation and its proximity to our homes. Although there are large amounts of undeveloped land on the Peninsula, vast amounts of it are closed to public access, such as the SFPUC watershed, or closed to bikes and dogs, as with most of the San Mateo County park trails. But people need recreational outdoors opportunities, which is what Waterdog and Hidden Canyon provide our community. It is relatively small and surrounded by homes on all sides - it's our local recreational outlet, not a nature preserve.

The stress and lockdowns during the COVID pandemic have driven more people than ever to recreate in one of the few open possibilities - parks. Usage is way up at open space all along the Peninsula. To accommodate this, we need to be finding ways to open more natural land for humans to recreate outside, not excluding some groups in favor of others. The Peninsula needs more multi-use trails, to spread out the increased usage better. I encourage the master plan to take this into account.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Rob Anagnoson

Brigitte Shearer

From: Frank
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:05 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog !

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

PLEASE keep Water Dog OPEN to Cyclers !

There ARE NO safety concerns!

I'm a LOVER of nature, (the purest thing on the planet) and the environment will not be harmed in continuing to have bicycles allowed on the trails !

Frank S Casale

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Hallock
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:11 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space: Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,
I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. Multi-use trails are valuable and important not to close off with broad strokes due to the acts of a few. Mountain biking has been a staple part of the area and a beacon of fun since I first learned to mountain bike. I grew up in Redwood city, lived right across the street from the Racoon Run trailhead for years, and now live in San Francisco but still visit Waterdog at least once a month, as Covid/travel restrictions have allowed. I support maintaining the multi-use access and allowing for all types of users to recreate. If however, there are restrictions for safety placed to aid blind turns, choke points, and convergences, with guidance, trail working crews can make interactions between different forms of transportation safer and not restrict anyone's access. An example can be to designate directionality of certain trails. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope to continue riding at waterdog for years to come.
-David Hallock

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karen Kvale
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:12 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: letter in support of multi-use trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident (10 years) of Belmont, I support keeping Water Dog Open space open for all users: hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, nature enthusiasts.

I have 3 children, ages 13, 11, and 9, we have enjoyed hiking, biking and walking our dog at Water Dog lake since my first child was a baby in a stroller. My sons attended the fishing class through the Parks and Recs and really enjoyed that class and have helped pick up trash through the Footsteps summer school camps.

The "Love Waterdog" campaign is doing a great job in ensuring our trails are safe. I attended your last virtual parks and rec meeting and have been impressed with Love Waterdog's recent endeavors. Keep it up, this is all about our community working together to preserving our trails for all to enjoy.

In fact, today as I write this letter my daughter (9 years old) will be biking with her friend (also a Belmont resident) at Waterdog lake. It is her friend's first time mountain biking and she is so excited. Their dads will be biking with them. They live in an apartment and do not have a backyard, but are very close to the Waterdog lake. I am hoping this chance to mountain bike with her friend will increase her confidence and foster a love for the outdoors for her whole family (including her 5 year old sister).

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new open space master plan.

Regards,

Karen Sheng (Belmont resident and mom of 3 children).

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bryce Sluman
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:59 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Mountain biking at waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that there is a movement to close parts of Waterdog to mountain bikers. As an avid mountain biker and hiker this causes me great distress. Mountain biking is a great family activity which involves fitness and being in the great outdoors.

As one of only a couple of mountain bike accessible trail networks on the peninsula Waterdog is very important to cyclists of all types. Mountain bikers are trail advocates often building and maintaining trail systems. Mountain bikers bring commerce to Belmont in the form of bike shops, coffee shops and eateries. During these covid times mountain biking is a healthy activity which does not involve close contact with other people. This is vital to the mental health of many.

Mountain bikers and hikers CAN coexist on trails.

Regards,

Bryce Sluman

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jamie Morgan
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:35 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Support Waterdog as multi-use open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent visitor to Waterdog open space for 15 years, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, we request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- I volunteer to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. The groups I support, are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Exploring options for new trails to spread people out and relieve congestion. Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Installing additional benches at key view spots to encourage more hikers

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inculcation of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jamie Morgan
Resident, Menlo Park

Brigitte Shearer

From: ...
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:04 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Maintain multi-use trails in Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident and home owner in Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Elisabeth Sargeant
2716 Belmont Canyon Rd.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Boone Spooner
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:36 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep water dog open for all!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Justin Mauck
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:43 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have been a resident of Belmont for nearly 10 years and my family and myself love Waterdog Open Space. My three kids (16, 14, and 9) are growing up hiking and biking at Waterdog and it's been a memorable experience that will be with them for the rest of their lives. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Best Regards,
Justin Mauck
915 Academy Ave
Belmont, CA

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jean-Pierre Dijcks
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:09 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep waterdog as is

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Hansen
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:49 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water Dog Open Space
Attachments: Dear City Council Members and Parks_Water Dog.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi City Council and Parks & Rec Board Members,

Please see my attached letter on the upcoming Master Open Space plan. Feel free to email me if you have any questions or need anything.

Best,
Scott

Dear City Council Members and Parks & Recreation Directs,

As a member of the Belmont community and frequent user of Hidden Canyon Park and John Brooks Trail (to be referred to as Water Dog going forward) I just wanted to reach out and share my thoughts on the Master Open Space planning process. Every time I go to Water Dog, I see bikers, hikers, runners, and nature enthusiasts all sharing and enjoying the park together. My general impression is that the vast majority of the community wishes to keep Water Dog as the multipurpose recreational Open Space that it currently is. I have heard rumblings that a small, but very vocal, group wishes to *completely change* Water Dog from a recreational Open Space to a Nature Preserve. While I am no ecologist, I would think the size and location of Water Dog would not suit it to being changed to a nature preserve, and instead would only serve in denying members of the community a place to enjoy outdoor recreation. As I am sure you are aware, during the past year Water Dog saw a vast increase in use as people turned to outdoor recreation to help cope with all the stress that the pandemic had induced. I truly believe that taking away such a needed asset to the community would be a devastating blow to Belmont; and all others who travel to Belmont to enjoy Water Dog.

I would suggest in the Master Open Space planning process, instead you look into adding more trails at Water Dog to help facilitate the increased use and popularity of the park. Working with groups such as the Water Dog Trail Keepers and other engineering and environmental consultants, I am sure new trails could be developed to further enhance the Water Dog experience and enjoyment for all.

I truly appreciate your service to the Belmont community. I hope that whatever you decide, it is in the best interest of the community and not the interest of a few, but incredibly vocal and disruptive, individuals who in my opinion wish to hurt the community for their own self interests.

Kind regards,

Scott Hansen

Brigitte Shearer

From: Keisuke Takemoto
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:16 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent visitor of water dog park I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for mountain bikers.

I have been biking in your great city for years and always support Belmont businesses on my visit there.

Thank you,
Kei Takemoto

Brigitte Shearer

From: Andrew Nourse
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:03 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Waterdog should remain open to hiking and mountain biking, as it has been for years.

It is in a residential area which makes use of it for recreation, as does the rest of the region.

Thank you

Andy Nourse

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sherri Sunahara ·
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:48 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Love MULTI-USE access at WaterDog Lake - Great Selling Point - Please keep open to all!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioners and Council,

I am writing to ask that as the new Open Space Master Plan is developing, you please keep Water Dog Lake trails open to all for multi-use purposes!

I have lived in Belmont for almost 30 years and have been a frequent and consistent user of the Water Dog Lake Trails. We use the trails mostly for walking the dog and hiking/exercise. Our son loves to take the occasional bike ride there. In my experience, a VAST majority of the bike riders on the main trails have always been very courteous (much more so than many of the dog walkers). I love to see that others are out enjoying a nice day, each in their own way.

I am also a local real estate agent and I can tell you that the question of local parks and trails comes up all the time when buyers or renters are looking for something else to distinguish Belmont, other than our great schools! It is a huge community selling point to have such a wonderful and close by open space that everyone can use and enjoy (and that many can walk or ride to... without the need to get in the car!). Water Dog open space has served the local community need for trail diversity for decades. Everyone can share! Please don't cut out the many uses, to subsidize the wants of the few!

*Sincerely,
Sherri Sunahara
2609 Read Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002
cel:*

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ryan Kauffman
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:35 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Multi-use trail access at WaterDog Lake Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Team and City Council,

As a hiker and biker, I support keeping WaterDog an accessible and multi-use trail network designed to meet the needs of all. The trails in and around waterdog lake are very well built and carry a colorful history of multi-use, from moto to mt bike origins, to everyday hikers and walkers. Drainage is super efficient and sight-lines and grades are very agreeable to a wide range of skill levels.

As part of the master plan, I request you to consider maintaining trails in their current form, with options for all skill levels of Mt biking and hiking. High quality mt bike trails are very hard to come by in San Mateo county, and represent a destination for Belmont that should be celebrated, not divided.

Access to nature is critical for the well being of adults and children alike. I would encourage the city to consider ways to expand trail networks and encourage more cycling and hiking. It's possible the carlmont cross country course could be enhanced to reduce all traffic at waterdog, I would encourage expanding this to cyclists as well as hikers and runners. Let's find ways to expand the supply of (not argue over the access to) trails and open spaces.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan Kauffman

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rowan Sheng
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:32 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water Dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

My name is Rowan Sheng I am 11 years old and go to Ralston Middle school. I love to ride my bike at Water Dog **Recreational** park, not Water Dog walkers only park. I also do not see any benefits of closing Water Dog to bikers like My family and friends and even people I dont know.

Thank you.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Karen Sheng <ksheng@cityofpaloalto.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:52 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water dog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,
I am Mallory. I am 9 years old and I go to Cipriani. I don't want Water dog to close down or bann bikes because I like to bike there. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mallory (3rd grade)

Brigitte Shearer

From: Rob Santos
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:47 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Re: Keeping Waterdog a multi-use trail

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a customer of small business mom and pop's store in Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces

*Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

*Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

Brigitte Shearer

From: tom cuschieri
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:12 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a former resident and now resident of San Carlos, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- * Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces
- * Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- * Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.
Thomas J Cuschieri

Brigitte Shearer

From: Randy Phan
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:50 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

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,

Randy Phan

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kelly Huffman
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:02 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog open for all

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to please consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades and should not discriminate on use based on misguided or misleading pleas from certain groups requesting limited access to their choice of recreation.

Thank you,

Kelly Huffman
5 Debbie Ln
Belmont

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laura Sullivan ...
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:53 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Maintaining Trails for Multi-Use at Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

*Sincerely,
Laura Sullivan*

Attachments are

Laura Sullivan, Grammy® Winning Composer and Billboard Top 10 Recording Artist

www.laurasullivanmusic.com

Find Laura's Music On

[iTunes](#) [Amazon](#) [Pandora](#) [Spotify](#)

Connect With Laura On

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Brigitte Shearer

From: Courtney Gong
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Preserve Multi-use Access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of San Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the great trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folk that live in Belmont and San Mateo County-- a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space-- Water dog has served this public need well for decades. Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Courtney Gong

Brigitte Shearer

From: aaron f
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I lived in Belmont for 7 years but recently moved to Redwood City. I am still an avid parks user in all of San Mateo County and especially Belmont. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;

Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.

Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

I support preserving wildlife habitat but not at the expense of long existing recreational use. People recreating on public land shouldnt have to choose between being pro wildlife and pro recreation. Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Why do I need to keep contacting the government to defend my rights? Why does my government not recognize mountain biking as a legitimate recreational activity and use of public space? I am tired of feeling continually threatened and attacked. please write mountain bike recreation into the master plan as a first class activity on equal footing with other human powered recreational activities.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael C
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:41 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Email in Support of Multi-Use trails at Waterdog Park.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a local resident, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces

* Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

* Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

In addition, I'd like to add that local Belmont businesses do benefit from the mountain biking community. Most mountain bikers like to grab a bite to eat and hang out after a ride, and I've always found myself at a local eatery after my ride at Waterdog. Banning bikes at Waterdog will further divide our community, hurt businesses, and have a negative effect on the health and well being of many riders who find Waterdog as their only recreational release.

I strongly urge you to keep the trails Multi-Use.

Michael Chalhoub
Compass

ct

DRE# 01721189

Brigitte Shearer

From: S B Olthof
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:19 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Continued use of Waterdog Open Space for ALL

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

We love our open space trails in Belmont, and we want them to stay open for EVERYONE to enjoy! Waterdog recreational open space is a great example of a successful multi-use trail system, with vibrant hiking and biking user groups out there daily. We all win when we can all get out for fresh air and exercise. These trails have been multi-use for decades, and there is no data to suggest that bicycles are causing problems for any particular user group, or to the environment. As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sijen Olthof

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jack Gaynor
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:32 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Belmont Open Space Master Plan Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

My name is Jack Gaynor and I am writing to provide a public comment for the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. My fiance and I have lived in the area and have enjoyed using the Open Spaces over the past three years that they were one of the deciding factors in our decision to settle here and start our family.

The various open spaces, particularly Waterdog, have been a constant source of joy over the past years, particularly during 2020. We are both hikers, mountain bikers and trail runners, and the multi-use nature of all the trails as they currently are has been one of the things we love about Waterdog as it means we can vary how we can enjoy the open space from day to day.

I have also volunteered with the Waterdog Trailkeepers to maintain the trails, fixing issues with drainage and adjusting the existing trails to better suit the multi-use nature, and I really appreciate that the Belmont Parks and Recreation department is collaborative in the care and maintenance of the trails.

As such I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community, for all trail users. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to all trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great, and the signage really helps to share the nature of Waterdog.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. Speaking personally I think we are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers, and our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the families that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space for all trail users - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades and I hope that the Master Plan will continue this great history into the future.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional comments.

Thanks,

Jack Gaynor

Brigitte Shearer

From: Tim Owens
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:59 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Parks and Rec Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council, As a Belmont resident, voter, long time Sierra Club Member, and parent of children in the Belmont/Redwood Shores school district, I support maintaining the Waterdog Open Space an accessible place for recreation, community, and connecting with Nature. With regards to the new Master Plan please consider:

- Maintaining trails for multi-use purposes, including hiking, biking, dog walking, and exercise.
- Continuing outreach, signage and education to ensure safe and sustainable trails (I Love Waterdog campaign is a great example).
- Continue collaborating with community groups and volunteers to support maintenance and preservation. The signs showing the efforts of Boy Scouts to repair bridges is a great example of how community involvement and particular kids can be both educational and community building.

I am not a mountain biker but have only experienced considerate, polite and thoughtful encounters with bikers when out enjoying the trails with my children and our dog. I don't see a reason to limit their access as the educational campaigns appear to be working.

Best,
Tim Owens

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Newdick
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:13 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I want to express my sincerest support to keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for the variable ways our residents recreate. This helps build a stronger community, build awareness of nature, and stay fit. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

The last year has magnified our community's need for open space recreation. As a veteran and transplant, Belmont is the first place I have lived since leaving the service. The mere existence of Waterdog helped me settle on this fine city and I could not be happier with this choice. Biking and running in Water Dog has helped me maintain my sanity and self-esteem over the last four years. Giving my unique outdoor skills in service of the city as a trail maintenance volunteer has continued to make me feel like I am contributing to society.

There is also a deep sense of belonging this encourages in those of us that use the space. It provides us with a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades and I look forward to seeing the ways in which Waterdog continues to evolve for the future of recreation and preservation.

Sincerely yours,

--

John Newdick
Capt, USMCR

Brigitte Shearer

From: Patty McTigue
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:11 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a resident of the Belmont Heights neighborhood and I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

I look forward to continuing to share this space with my husband and two year old son both hiking and riding.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thanks you,

Patty McTigue (Tahoe Drive)

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bryan Cheun,
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 4:12 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open for All

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- **Maintaining the trails**, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, **biking**, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mark Schulte
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:59 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a longtime resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Mark Schulte

Brigitte Shearer

From: Laura Schulte
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:50 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Laura

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Eastman
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:44 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting to nature, etc. Consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education for trail users and groups to ensure sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservations of the trails. They are already doing such a fantastic job. The trailers are IMPROVING over time!

On a personal note, Waterdog Open Space has been an essential part of my own mental health and well being. Especially during these times with Covid 19, it has been even more critical to get outside and share nature with the community in a healthy and safe way.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,
Eric Eastman

Brigitte Shearer

From: Sara <
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:13 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Water dog lake

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Sara <
Date: February 27, 2021 at 20:11:01 PST
To: citycouncil@belmont.gov
Subject: Water dog lake

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I strongly support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining trails as they are for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting to nature, etc. Consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education for trail users and groups to ensure sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservations of the trails. They are already doing such a fantastic job. The trailers are IMPROVING over time!

On a personal note, I have been running at water dog for over a decade and it is my sanctuary. I would be devastated if the place I consider so special would not be open for biking or running, it has been the most enjoyment I've had during covid. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Sara George

Sent from my iPhone

Brigitte Shearer

From: DC Gong
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:26 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Preserve Multi-use Access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of San Mateo County, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the great trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folk that live in Belmont and San Mateo County-- a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space-- Water dog has served this public need well for decades. Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Dana Marr

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kevin Hunt
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:10 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a 10-year resident of Belmont and I want to add my voice to those who are advocating for keeping Water Dog Open Space *open to all*.

I strongly encourage the development of a Master Plan that preserves or adds to recreational opportunities to Waterdog Open Space. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining **multi-use trails** for hiking, biking, dog walking, trail running, and so on.
- Encouraging **safe and sustainable** use of our trails through outreach and education.
- Engaging and **collaborating with community groups** and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. These improvements are noticeable.

We all agree Water Dog is one of Belmont's treasures. It is a treasure *because* it supports diverse activities, not in spite of it. It has served Belmont residents and their childrens' recreation for several generations as space that is Open to all. With your help, it will continue to serve the **diverse recreational needs** of today's and tomorrow's families as well.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Kevin Hunt

Brigitte Shearer

From: meremeev
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:05 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog Open Space open for everyone!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of San Mateo, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- * Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces
- * Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- * Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

Mark Ereemeev

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Strahorn
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:18 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Maintaining the Waterdog trails, as they are, for multi-use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a local resident and active user of Waterdog Open Space, I support keeping Waterdog as an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces.
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you,

Chris Strahorn

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jeffrey Magni
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:32 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Water dog park open to mountain biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a future resident and frequent visitor of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
- Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Fransisco Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Magni
La Honda CA



[singlespeed.org](https://www.singlespeed.org)

just another bleepin SSer
Joined Feb 6, 2006

1,452 Posts

Brigitte Shearer

From: Carol Cook
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:09 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I live on the Belmont-San Mateo border and am writing to support designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

It's so sad to see the trails and wildlife habitat destroyed by over-use, and lack of maintenance and rule enforcement. Please do all that you can to restore and preserve this jewel. Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Carol Cook
282 La Casa Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403

Brigitte Shearer

From: laura Peterhans
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:53 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am glad to hear that the whole Waterdog Open Space is under review for improvements that can be made. It is a grand community park with a tremendous amount of volunteer effort over many years which is evident in how trails were laid out, how bridges were constructed, how extra steps were created to make passage of steep areas possible ,etc As an 85 year old woman I can still go on all the trails, some being advisable only if I bring "poles". That is just fine. Those difficult areas should remain as challenges to younger walkers and hikers. Since I hike there at least twice a month, I wish to make the following suggestions.

1. It would be best to improve signage to indicate to bicyclists the trails closed to them. (I must say that most cyclists are respectful of hikers and stop in wide spots to let one pass but I agree that the narrow trails should be closed to them.)
2. Continue to discourage shortcuts taken by both cyclists and walkers by blocking them!
3. I do not know which trails are being considered for closure. I think that links to neighborhoods of Hallmarkk, etc. should remain. I do think that the parallel trails on the south side of the Waterdog Lake should remain. They may be close...but the highest one is wide and for most of its length is suitable for cyclists.
4. Continue the work that has been done to avoid washouts from storms that occur on some trails; these flooded areas are not necessarily caused by cyclists.
5. During the Covid, especially on weekends, there are many people enjoying the Open Spaces throughout the County. Volunteers could be at the gates at Lake, Carlmont, and Half Moon Bay with leaflets to show the pedestrian and cyclists the best routes for them and to make visiting cyclists aware of their responsibilities.
6. There is a new connection from Crystal Springs. Middle School to the "road trail". Maintenance of that trail should be the responsibility of the teachers and students. Also, the craft teacher and students! at CSU could work with Belmont to become involved in refinements of bicycle routes as they are using them a lot under normal non-covid circumstances.

These are my thoughts. I am a 22 year resident of Belmont, cousin of Hartley Laughed (now deceased) who was a fervent Promoter of Open Space.....Laura Peterhans, 2021 Belle Monti....650-637-8783. lkpeterhans@yahoo.com

Brigitte Shearer

From: Leah Walling
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:59 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Leah Walling
E: Leah.walling@gmail.com

Brigitte Shearer

From: Zhefei Li
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:02 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: In support of MTB at Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am reaching out to support increased access to trail at Waterdog park in the city's new master plan, including increasing access for mountain biking. It is one of the great things about this park and personally it is a shining example in the peninsula of contentious land access.

This is one of the few parks in the area that allows bikes, and has great trails. Many more park systems are completely off limits to bikes. It shows the pressure and demand that is there and is not going away anytime soon. I urge to consider this in your master plan. Thank you.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mark Harnett
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:45 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Waterdog is great for mountain biking and hiking.
I bike and run there 4 days a week.

Please keep it that way.
Thanks

Mark Harnett

Brigitte Shearer

From: jason emmett
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:53 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I have recently learned that one of my favorite places to ride my bike upon getting off work in the morning is being threatened to close. I find this very disappointing to say the least. This park has provided much stress relief as well as physical health benefits to the local mountain bike as well as hiking community. A lot of the park trails are maintained by local volunteers that are hikers and mountain bikers to begin with. I truly don't understand why this conservation group finds it necessary to make an attempt at closing off such a gem of a place to enjoy the outdoors when there are several acres upon acres of protected wilderness right next door.

I'm urging the Local Officials to please not allow Waterdog Park to close to those fellow hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, and families out on their daily walks. I am not a resident of Belmont but I do serve and am a part of this community.

I ask again, please do not consider the close of Waterdog Park.

Respectfully,

Jason Emmett

Sent from my iPhone

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Monsler
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:08 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog Trails.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I'm a Belmont resident.

Please keep the trails at Waterdog open for multiple uses, including cycling.

Thanks,

Eric Monsler

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brian Codianne ·
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:02 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Waterdog lake park trails

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I recently learned that there is a movement of people trying to disallow mountain bikers from using the trails at Water Dog Lake park in the upcoming Belmont Open Space master plan. I grew up in Belmont, attended Fox Elementary, Ralston Middle, and Carlmont High School. I've been riding my bike at Waterdog Lake Park with my brother since we were kids over 30 years ago, and my father rode his bike there years before that. We have always loved riding bikes in that canyon, and still meet there regularly to ride together, and even though our dad is no longer with us we share that connection in his memory. Mountain bikers have been instrumental in creating and maintaining those trails and I am incredibly disheartened that people are trying to take that away from us. Please do the right think and keep our Waterdog trails open for all who use them responsibly, including mountain bikers.

Sincerely,
Brian Codianne

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:18 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog/Hidden Canyon Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation COMmissioners a d City Council,

I want to commend you all on embarking on a Master Plan Project for Water Dog Park. I am resident of unincorporated San Mateo and don't have a city to call home so I have adopted Belmont due to its proximity and my love of the community and recreational opportunities.

Simply put, Water Dog park is a jewel and an incredible resource for Belmont residents and those of us in the surrounding communities. On any given day I see walkers, hikers, runners, mountain bikers, kids fishing, and teenagers simply hanging out. Plus, raptors of all sorts, rabbits, fox, coyote, and I imagine mountain lions though never seen one. All this in a small open space smack dab in the middle of a city.

I envision a master plan that listens to all users and in the end enhances all of the current recreational activities. I have no doubt the committee and consultants will be able to use park management practices to manage any user conflicts as in my experience these have been very minimal which speaks volumes considering how many people use the park.

Good luck and keep up the good work.

Alex Fernandez

Brigitte Shearer

From: Gary Yee ·
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:46 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog accessible for biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Park and Rec Commission of Belmont,

I am a homeowner and resident in San Mateo. I have enjoyed the many amazing Park and Recreation spaces in the peninsula for many years. Specifically, I have enjoyed hiking and mountain biking at Waterdog Open Space in Belmont. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space as an accessible and sustainable place for outdoor recreation. I am in favor of keeping the and maintaining the trails for hiking, biking, dog walking, and building community with neighbors. Please keep the Park and Recreation Open Space Master Plan inclusive to all outdoor activity.

In my many years of mountain biking in Waterdog, I have always had a positive and safe experience sharing the paths with hikers and dog walkers. The multi-use space brings community together. The Master Plan being open for all outdoor activities will continue to help support local restaurants and businesses in Belmont. Often times before and after my recreational activities, I have met with family and friends to buy food and support businesses around Waterdog.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Appreciate your work in building and supporting community.

Sincerely,
Gary Yee
668 Port Drive, San Mateo CA

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ignacio Rodrigo
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:17 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Waterdog park trails accessible for everybody

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Best,
Ignacio Rodrigo

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Hiester
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:14 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Multil-use access must be part of the plan for Water Dog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a frequent bike rider and hiker at Water Dog Park, and someone who has volunteered at trail maintenance days through the Water Dog Trailkeepers group of mountain bikers, I am concerned that a small, but very vocal group is using anecdotal data and NIMBY-ist tactics to try to restrict Water Dog park to one of its' key user groups: mountain bikers.

The answer to long-term space planning is inclusion, education, and planning for sustainable multi-use, not exclusion. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers, like the Water Dog trailkeepers, to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation and carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in and around Belmont. Every day I see families, on foot and on bikes, showing their kids the beauty of nature and the value of open spaces in their community. Closing off the park to cyclists will only serve to disconnect future generations of nature lovers and trail users from the park. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades. With an inclusive long-term strategy and thoughtful outreach to all user groups, it will continue to serve that purpose for many more.

John Hiester
Redwood City

--

John Hiester

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jon Wagner
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:59 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog open space use for hiking and biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a 10yr+ resident of Belmont and avid mountain biker, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

--
Jon Wagner
,

Brigitte Shearer

From: Mike Munrow
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:31 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: PROS Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council Members and Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

As a 30-year resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces. If the past year of COVID has shown us anything, it is that **outdoor recreation is vital** to our health and well being.

Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. **Our trails get healthier every year.**

A small but vocal group seems to want to ban mountain biking from the Open Space. They propagate **false choices** such as we can have recreation or wildlife, but not both. When any examples of "bad behavior" by a mountain biker is discovered, it is cited as an excuse to ban all mountain bikers from the trails. This would be like saying that if any car speeds on Ralston Ave. we should ban all cars!

As an alternative, shared access and understanding among the various user groups is a much preferred option, in my opinion. People can be educated as to the issues that others perceive, and we can teach all users that their actions affect others. **"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."**

Designating the open space as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. It is surrounded by all sides by residential development and is much better utilized for the citizens of Belmont as a place to take our families, walk our dogs, hike, run, and bike. One could argue that this 300 acre parcel is so small compared to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed (23,000 acres) that the benefit to wildlife is miniscule, especially when compared to the benefits to the citizens and voters of Belmont.

Thank you,
Michael Munrow
2718 Belmont Canyon Road

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric McGlennon
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:29 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open to ALL!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of San Carlos, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
- Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that that chooses to habitate there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francscico Public Utilites Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Brigitte Shearer

From: FIT Gmail
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:50 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Dear Belmont Parks & Recreation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

Thom Downing MA, ATC
Owner: FiT Silicon Valley
600 Fremont Ave
Los Altos, CA 94024
www.focusedtrainers.com

n: 140

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chris Ackerman
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:03 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Cycling is an important use of open space!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades.

-Best

Chris Ackerman

Brigitte Shearer

From: kevin farrell
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:05 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: Kevin Farrell; Thaddeus Block
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont and someone who actively enjoys the open recreation spaces in Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

In particular for this last year, where shelter-in-place was the norm, travel outside our local area was restricted, and many forms of recreation were sharply curtailed, the Waterdog trail system was a great outlet for my family in staying active and healthy. From our time on the trails, I see the multi-use opportunities as something to be strongly preserved--hiking, running, biking and dog walking--all activities my family has enjoyed at Waterdog.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

*Kevin Farrell and Family
209 Lyndhurst Ave
Belmont*

Brigitte Shearer

From: Simon North
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:26 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont Parks and Recreations Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I am a resident of San Mateo on the Belmont border and am writing to you to give my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community.

Although not a resident of Belmont, I would like to provide some background to my experience with the Waterdog open space recreation area and how this area is a valuable part of my life. I moved to the Bay Area from Australia in 2000 and have been using this open space for hiking, dog walking, and mountain biking for 20 years. Access to this open space has been extremely valuable to me as a place to enjoy the outdoors and now as a place to enjoy with my wife and two sons. I have gained many friendships from using this open space and enjoy seeing the smiles on faces when I visit multiple times a week with my busy work and family schedule. This has been especially prevalent during COVID-19 where access to open space has been essential for physical and mental health. Not having this open space would leave a huge void in my family's life and the many community members that seek this open space for much needed exercise and relaxation.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Simon and Karin North plus our two boys 12 and 15 years old and puppy
Resident of San Mateo

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Paulsen
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:37 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Lake Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

I'm writing - again - in support of keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for fitness and recreation. I have been a resident of Belmont for almost 7 years and use Waterdog Lake Park 2-3 times a week. I have also put in many hours of trail maintenance over the past 2 years. The park has helped me form a bond with area and with the nature it provides, adding immensely to my quality of life as a transplant patient, and has given me a sense of pride for the city I live in.

In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Keeping trails open as they are for multi-use, maintaining best practices as other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The new signs and trail markers are awesome.
- Maintaining collaboration between community groups, volunteers, and Belmont Parks and Recreation workers to support trail maintenance and preservation. I see real improvement here.

I hope we can put together a long term plan for sustained multi-use trails and avoid having to defend the park against half-truths, misinformation, and misleading statements made by the opposition to Waterdog Lake Park as a community investment in a shared public space that is the pride of healthy, growing, and active Belmont residents.

Sincerely,
David Paulsen

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael Plimier
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:06 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue multi-use access in Waterdog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails such as the excellent new "Love Waterdog" campaign.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- Open space recreation has enormous benefits for the community, it's a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.
- Designating the park as a wildlife preserve makes little sense. The park is surrounded by all sides by residential development. The wildlife that lives there have adapted to the presence of humans. There is no need to designate this 300 acre park as a wildlife preserve when there is a 23,000 acre wildlife preserve just on the other side of 280, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed.

Thank you,
Mike Plimier

Brigitte Shearer

From: Anthony J
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:54 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Belmont open space master plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, and community-building, consistent with best practices of other open spaces;
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Brigitte Shearer

From: Raul Ceja
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:15 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please Keep Waterdog Park Open Use

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As an avid mountain biker, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

* Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices if other open spaces

* Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

* Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmental ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water Dog has served this public well for decades.

I have only been to Waterdog once but it was an experience I'll never forget. I am looking forward to the next time I can come back with my friends and have an awesome day shredding then eating at the Dog Haus or one of the other restaurants on Ralston. Waterdog is truly a gem of a park and I envy those who live on the peninsula for having it so close. I'm strongly reconsidering relocating to Belmont solely so I can be closer to such an amazing park, I wouldn't move anywhere on the peninsula because nobody else has Waterdog.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Plan.

Regards,

Raul Ceja

Brigitte Shearer

From: zac s <
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:54 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Park Useage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a homeowner in Belmont, I STRONGLY support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces*
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.*
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.*

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Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Zac Sargeant

Brigitte Shearer

From: Jamie Glenn
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:39 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

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- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great.
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Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Jamie Glenn
1521 Vine Street, Belmont

Sent via [Superhuman](#)

Brigitte Shearer

From: Adam May
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:09 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please preserve Waterdog as a multi-use recreational area

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

We have lived in Belmont for 29 years, coaching our kids through AYSO, Little League, Basketball and proudly watching them graduate from Carlmont and go on to college. We love our city and regularly use Waterdog for hiking, dog walking, and to mountain bike. We support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.
- The only recommended change I see is we could have some of the trails setup as one way to reduce the number of times we pass people in this COVID age (similar to how Pulgas Ridge setup one way trails).

Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.

Thank you for your consideration as you develop the new Open Space Master Plan.

Adam May

Brigitte Shearer

From: Cgkmccarthy
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:03 PM
To: cotycouncil@belmont.gov
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog lake trail

Hello,

Where can I join the group wanting to keep cyclists off the Lake Loop Trail?

Can't walkers with their leashes dogs have one little loop away from cyclists tearing past them, causing us to scramble into the brush out of their way, sometimes with unleashed dogs?

Water dog trail is a free-for-all at the best of times, but count me as a Belmont resident who had to give up Lake Loop because of cyclists.

Thank you.

Cynthia McCarthy
2351 Lyall Way
Belmont

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

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City Manager's Weekly Update February 26, 2021

Post Date: 02/26/2021 4:25 PM



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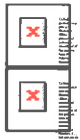
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Since the last recession the City has implemented financial best practices including five year forecasts, which are particularly helpful for identifying the impact of trends over time. This longer view is important in times of crisis, allowing the City to plan thoughtfully and avoid abrupt service impacts to the community. The City has a history of taking intentional, proactive, and strategic steps to ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of the City, including adopting a structurally balanced annual budget, funding long-term needs, and maintaining a minimum \$5.0 million General Fund emergency reserve level. During the Mid-Year Review, Council has approved a list of revenue recovery and expenditure reduction strategies, with staff continuing to pursue a variety of fiscal and legislative mitigation strategies.

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See <https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/heat-pump-water-heater/> for more details.



Brigitte Shearer

From: Nathan Yeakel [mailto:n.yeakel@belmont.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 10:23 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Multi-use

Dear Belmont City Council,

I have lived on Hillman Ave since 2013. I am proud to call Belmont home, and that is the birthplace of our children, now age 3 and 6. Waterdog holds a special place in our family's hearts. We spend hours in the park weekly hiking, biking and walking our dog Scooter. There is abundant wildlife considering this is such a developed suburban area.

Now it seems a small, but very vocal group wants to assert influence, right at the time the Council is considering parks and recreation open space master plan (PROS). The group, most of whom own large houses that border the park, seek to strip our park and trails of their multi-use status. I first became aware of this anti-biking group while volunteering in a city-approved trail maintenance group, where we were harshly confronted and filmed without permission.

While I don't understand the motivation of this group, I do know that they stand in stark contrast to almost all other park visitors. People like us are out here every day. We welcome those from outside of Belmont. We say hi to those we pass on the trail. We pick up trash (and other gross stuff) that isn't ours. We respect the trails, the hikers, bikers, and dogs. We wear a mask.

Cycling in the park has brought so much richness to my life and my family. It is healthy and fun. Through group rides and volunteering, I have met so many of our neighbors that would have otherwise been strangers. My son took his first trail ride a few months back. I am greatly looking forward to biking with both my children all over Waterdog for years to come.

Kind Regards,
Nate Yeakel

Brigitte Shearer

From: John McNamara <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 7:40 AM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont Heights, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Temporary ban on all mountain biking to allow for the healing of the open space terrain, until a time when it is determined this preserve can rebound from, and once again tolerate the destructive nature of cycling.

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Thank you.

John and Christine McNamara

Sent from my iPhone

Brigitte Shearer

From: John Aynsley
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:04 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Open Space Master Plan

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I strongly support designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize **trail safety**, conservation and habitat protection, including:

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces. I have had so many very dangerous near misses from bikes that I now avoid using any of the Belmont trails. The danger is so great that I now go to the parks in neighboring cities where there are designated hiker only trails which is enforced through clear trail signage, good maps and trail steps that discourage bikers. A friend had a serious accident with a cyclist while walking on a trail across the Bay so the danger is particularly real for me. From a legal standpoint a consideration is the potential city liability for hiker/biker accidents because of the current lack of enforcement of safety standards that other cities perform.
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Sincerely,

John Aynsley

Brigitte Shearer

From: Linda Murphy <lmurphy@cityofbelmont.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:18 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont, I support designating Waterdog Open Space as a **Nature Preserve**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should prioritize conservation and habitat protection, including:

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 - Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance
 - Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance
- Please incorporate these policies into the new Open Space Master Plan!

Linda and John Murphy
2680 Comstock Circle
Belmont, CA

Brigitte Shearer

From: Scott Hansen < >
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:49 AM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water Dog Open Space
Attachments: Dear City Council Members and Parks_Water Dog.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi City Council and Parks & Rec Board Members,

Please see my attached letter on the upcoming Master Open Space plan. Feel free to email me if you have any questions or need anything.

Best,
Scott

Dear City Council Members and Parks & Recreation Directs,

As a member of the Belmont community and frequent user of Hidden Canyon Park and John Brooks Trail (to be referred to as Water Dog going forward) I just wanted to reach out and share my thoughts on the Master Open Space planning process. Every time I go to Water Dog, I see bikers, hikers, runners, and nature enthusiasts all sharing and enjoying the park together. My general impression is that the vast majority of the community wishes to keep Water Dog as the multipurpose recreational Open Space that it currently is. I have heard rumblings that a small, but very vocal, group wishes to *completely change* Water Dog from a recreational Open Space to a Nature Preserve. While I am no ecologist, I would think the size and location of Water Dog would not suit it to being changed to a nature preserve, and instead would only serve in denying members of the community a place to enjoy outdoor recreation. As I am sure you are aware, during the past year Water Dog saw a vast increase in use as people turned to outdoor recreation to help cope with all the stress that the pandemic had induced. I truly believe that taking away such a needed asset to the community would be a devastating blow to Belmont; and all others who travel to Belmont to enjoy Water Dog.

I would suggest in the Master Open Space planning process, instead you look into adding more trails at Water Dog to help facilitate the increased use and popularity of the park. Working with groups such as the Water Dog Trail Keepers and other engineering and environmental consultants, I am sure new trails could be developed to further enhance the Water Dog experience and enjoyment for all.

I truly appreciate your service to the Belmont community. I hope that whatever you decide, it is in the best interest of the community and not the interest of a few, but incredibly vocal and disruptive, individuals who in my opinion wish to hurt the community for their own self interests.

Kind regards,

Scott Hansen

Brigitte Shearer

From: Cgkmccarthy
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:03 PM
To: cotycouncil@belmont.gov
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Water dog lake trail

Hello,

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Water dog trail is a free-for-all at the best of times, but count me as a Belmont resident who had to give up Lake Loop because of cyclists.

Thank you.

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2351 Lyall Way
Belmont

Sent from my iPhone

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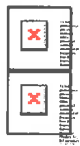
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