

Brigitte Shearer

From: Stanley Acton
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Charles Stone - Mayor; ufoer@belmont.gov; City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Biking

Greetings Belmontonians!

Thank you for your service.

I am writing to ask you to support mountain biking in Waterdog Open Space. Being an old geezer, it keeps me young(er). I could go on, but won't - you're smart enough to get the rest.

Thanks so much.
Stanley Acton
Founder - Acton ADU

Brigitte Shearer

From: Patrick Wheeler <p.
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 6:39 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Preserve Multi-Access Use to Waterdog Lake and Hidden Canyon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council Members,

We have been Belmont residents for over thirty years and have raised our family here. Our three children have all gone through the local public schools; Central Elementary, Ralston Middle School and Carlmont High School (with the youngest now a Junior at Carlmont). In all these years we have greatly enjoyed the City's open space, including Waterdog Lake / Hidden Canyon and San Juan Canyon / Sugarloaf Mountain. This enjoyment includes walking, running, riding bicycles, exercising our dogs and enjoying nature. As you consider these open spaces in the new Master Plan, we urge you to maintain their current multi-use designation with no new restrictions.

Consistent with this, we fully support the "Love Waterdog" campaign and associated outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails.

For the record, we are very grateful for the excellent work to maintain and enhance the trails and related facilities done by the partnership between the City's Public Works department and various volunteers.

One request: Please install dog waste bags and garbage cans at the trailheads for San Juan Canyon (for example at the bottom of San Juan Blvd).

Sincerely,

Patrick & Mai Wheeler
1133 Villa Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002

Brigitte Shearer

From: M.Dorota Ornatkiewicz
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 12:25 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Future of Water Dog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I support operating Waterdog Open Space as a **Mountain Biking destination**. In the new Master Plan, all Open Space policy decisions should include and as possible prioritize this use, including:

- Designate trails for Mountain Biking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces
- Maintain and restore the trails to support this sport
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails and enforce this closure
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance

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

Brigitte Shearer

From: Eric Storne
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 10:37 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Support for multi-use of trails in Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear government officials,

I am in support of shared-use for all trails in Waterdog. Shared use brings with it occasional conflicts, all of which are addressed effectively in other parks through better trail user education and signage reinforcing trail etiquette and local trail rules. Waterdog is no exception. As a hiker, trail runner and mountain biker, I understand that sharing trails places a responsibility on all users, and I do not believe that excluding one group of users because of perceived issues by a small group of other users is the right course of action. As we see with recent political situations, convincing arguments can be made for any point of view, which appeal to an individual group's desires and ignores the right to (responsible) access by all users. So I believe that the right approach is through education, signage and to a lesser degree, enforcement.

Eric Storne

Menlo Park, CA

Brigitte Shearer

From: Albert Lee <albert.lee@sfist.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 4, 2021 11:12 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Water Dog Lake Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

Water Dog Lake Open Space is a gem and unique experience for all who use it. I am very concerned that the mixed use of its narrow trails will soon, if it hasn't already, lead to a serious or fatal accident.

There are two distinct groups of bicyclists using the trails. One group is very courteous and safety conscious. They ride slowly and will yield for hikers and make accommodations for seniors or the disabled.

The other group is intently focused on beating their time and are riding too fast for the narrow and winding conditions. They see hikers as a nuisance and just blow by at high speed and rely on the hikers to get out of the way. A collision on a trail could cause serious injury. The downside of the trails are very steep in certain areas and someone could get pushed down the hill and if the bicyclist doesn't stop they might now be noticed in the dense brush. This mentality has no regard for others and has resulted in a death of a senior in San Francisco.

https://sfist.com/2012/04/05/cyclist_who_struck_pedestrian_at_ca/

With respect to the narrow single track trails, there are only a few options to keep everyone safe and protect the City from liability:

- 1 Allow bikers only
- 2 Allow hikers only
- 3 Alternate hikers and bikers on odd/even days

More people have found Water Dog and the trails are busier than ever. Please make it safe for everyone, the writing is on the wall.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Greg Gavalakis <
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 1:34 PM
To: P&R Comm; citycouncil@belmont.com
Subject: "Stop the Destruction of Waterdog Open Space"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

I was unpleasantly shocked with whoever created the website "<https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/>" Specifically the demonization of mountain bikers. Firstly, the video depicting mt. bikers as environmental terrorists is laughable. I've lived in the San Carlos/Redwood City area for 12 years now and have been riding mt. bikes at Waterdog since 1999. It has become more popular with day hikers since then, but 98% of the ones I encounter are extremely pleasant. I stop or they move out of the way, one party passes safely with a wave and a "thank you!" All good, everyone's happy. That video couldn't be further from the truth.

For over 10 years (more, maybe) mt. bikers were the stewards of the park, building new single track (narrow) trails with the guidance and approval from the city council. Now all of a sudden (although I'm sure there's always been complainers) we are environmental and human terrorists? Hardly. There are PLENTY of open spaces preserves where no bikes are allowed. Just down the street is Edgewood park, for example. Belmont is a gem for everyone to use and share responsibly, which is exactly what's been going on for more than 20 years. Please don't let these "social terrorists" ruin it for so many.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Gavalakis
Redwood City, CA 94061

Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Bonifacio
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 9:12 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I am writing to you in support of continuing to designate all trails in waterdog as multi-use in the master plan.

I've been mountain biking there for many years and have never had any negative experiences with hikers. We are usually both very courteous to each other and allow the other to pass when appropriate. Almost all hikers say have fun when we pass, and I always return the sentiment.

There are already many other open space parks, such as Edgewood, that are hiking only. I think it would be a mistake to also limit mountain biking in waterdog and cause further ill will between bikers and mountain bikers. The desires of a few should not

Thanks,
Paul Bonifacio
M

Brigitte Shearer

From: James Paugh >
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 5:26 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Cc: James Paugh
Subject: Waterdog Open Space and the PROS Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council Members, Parks and Recreation members:

I have been a resident of both San Carlos and Belmont for the past 28 years. In that time I have also been an outdoor enthusiast and mountain biker. I started riding the trails in Waterdog in the early 90's and continue to enjoy this open space to this day. Waterdog has always been my "backyard" ride, where I can enjoy some fresh air, a challenging workout and some beautiful vistas, all within a couple of miles of my home. The beauty of riding Waterdog includes riding the single track trails, many of which were designed with cycling in mind. Pursuing mountain biking in any of the many open spaces in the greater Bay area requires a cooperative spirit and a willingness to lend a hand, whether that be offering some fellow park users some trail directions, volunteering time to help with trail maintenance or contributing to the many organizations that work with the trail stewards to maintain multi-user access. Myself, along with my fellow mountain bike enthusiasts always treat other trail users with respect and friendliness, making sure that any encounters are safe for everyone. This includes slowing down to a walking pace or stopping depending on the circumstances, as well as communicating the safest way to get by each other without jeopardizing anyone's safety. In all the years that I have ridden in Waterdog, I have never had a negative encounter with a hiker or fellow trail user.

I would ask that in any planning regarding the future of Waterdog, that it continue to be open and welcome to all trail users, whether that be on foot or bicycle.

Regards,

James Paugh
609 De Anza Ave
San Carlos, CA 94070

Brigitte Shearer

From: Bill Kurtz
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 12:47 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; Ulla Foehr; P&R Comm; City Council
Cc: Bill Kurtz
Subject: Again bikers don't care

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Brigitte,

Per our emails regarding new trail making just inside the Somerset gate, you had P&R people put a sign at the new trail that is being made around the existing log barriers. I thought, with the bee sign it was going to be a waste of time and a bit of a joke. Last Friday I found the sign moved out of the way and the trail extensively being cut and used. I replaced the sign as well as a lot of brush etc to hide the trail. Today on my walk, I see the brush removed, and your sign now thrown down over the hill. You have to get the message the bikers are sending - "we're going to do whatever we want wherever we want and no one is going to stop us". I'd like to know what P&R is going to do about this, because so far you haven't been able to do much to stop them and I'm getting really frustrated at the ongoing destruction.

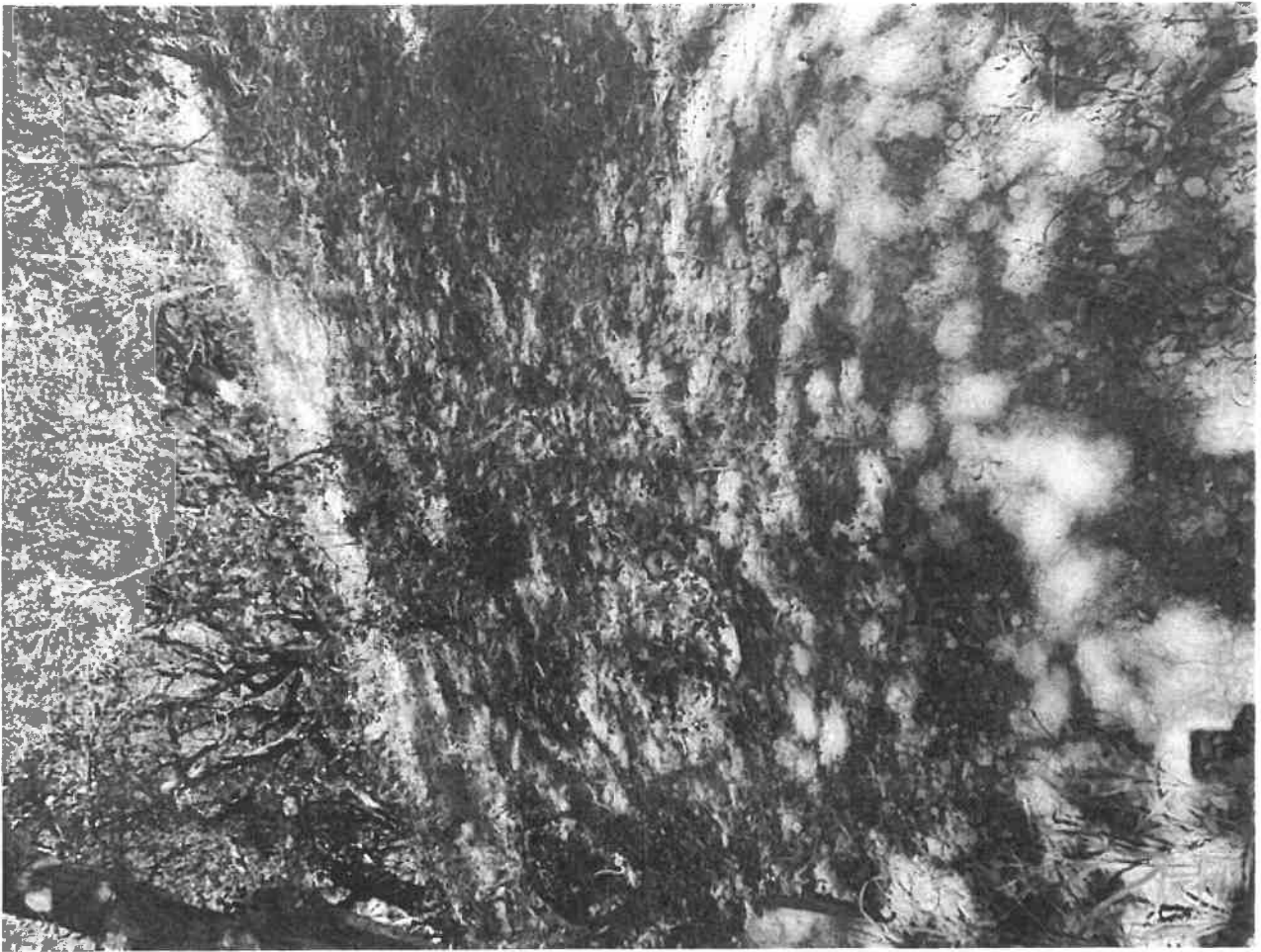
Below this area, 50 yds, on the John Brooks Trail, there is another cut through that is trashing the environment. An attempt to stop this was done 2-3 months ago, also to no avail.

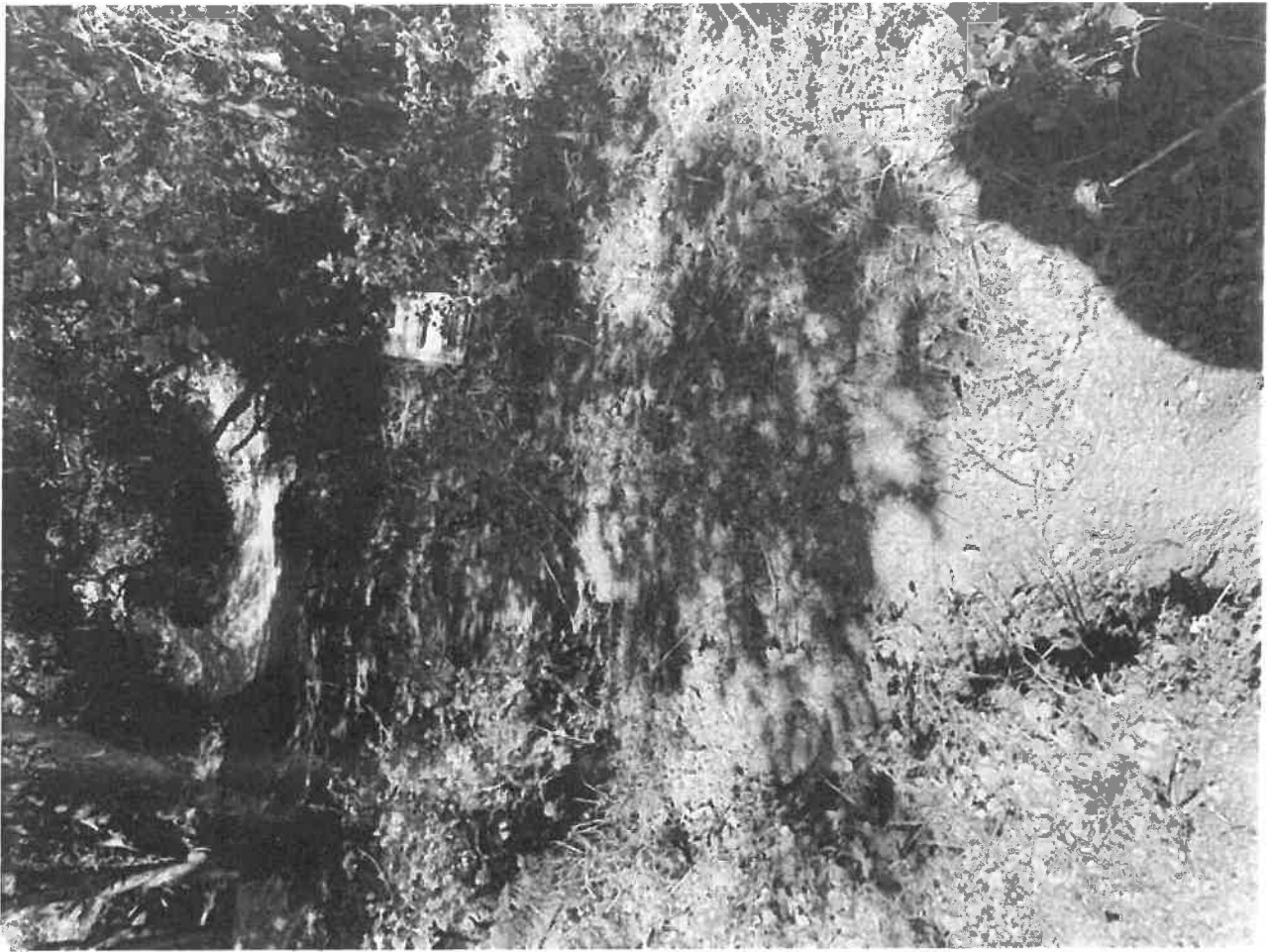
I mentioned another new trail (with Pictures) in the last email, you asked where it was. It's at the top end of the Rambler Trail, where it merges with the Finch. I would be glad to show it to you.

Bill Kurtz











Sent from my iPhone

Brigitte Shearer

From: Nic Amaroli ·
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:22 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space - Please keep our Mountain Bike Trails!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

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

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

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

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

Brigitte Shearer

From: Raymond McNaughton - [mailto:raymond.mcnaughton@cityofbelmont.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:21 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Please continue Multi-Use access to Waterdog

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I live in Redwood City and have lived on the peninsula my entire 61 years. I'm a mountain biker and am grateful to have frequently had the opportunity to ride in Waterdog Park these many years. I'm able to ride to and from it directly from my home on Canyon Road.

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Raymond McNaughton

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael Jaron
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:17 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I support keeping Water Dog Open Space as a mountain biking friendly area. There are very few places like this in the Bay Area (maybe even country) and none on the Peninsula. Most other spaces in the Bay Area are for hikers only. This should be just thought of as a mountain biking park, it should get more funding to maintain the park but stay open to all types of use.

It seems that people who are against this are very Not In My Backyard, as there are plenty of nearby places for great hiking but none for mountain biking. More people need to get outside and mountain biking offers people an outlet. Bikers love the outdoors and appreciate it. The more people who enjoy the outdoors and can appreciate it the more likely they are to care about the environment in other ways, i.e eat less meat, drive less, recycle, consume less, etc.

All in all this is one of the best places to mountain bike in the area, people will have to drive hours to get to something similar. On top of that there is a very strong community around mountain biking at Water Dog and for years hikers, bikers, dog walkers, etc have all been able to enjoy the space with no real problems.

So I would like to see more funding in the master plan to support mountain biking and other uses at Water Dog.

Thanks,
Mike

Brigitte Shearer

From: Glenn Sweetwood <gsweetwood@cityofwaterloo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:48 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog open to Mt. Biking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

In addition to keeping Waterdog open to Mt Bikes, the trail system should be extended and improved. Here is a good study from Wisconsin regarding increased economic activity based on trails: <https://www.pinkbike.com/news/study-shows-78-million-economic-impact-of-mountain-bike-trails.html>

-Glenn

Brigitte Shearer

From: Matt DiFonzo
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:10 PM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fwd: Mountain Biking at Water Dog Lake

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioner,

Since things can often get lost in the shuffle, I wanted to reiterate my point below, and let you know that my passion for mountain biking at Water Dog Lake and other open spaces has not waned. Unnecessary usage limitations will hurt my family dearly.

Thank you,
Matt DiFonzo
(Home owner at:)
1130 Continentals Way,
Belmont, CA

Begin forwarded message:

From: Matt DiFonzo <mdifonzo@gmail.com>
Date: August 11, 2020 at 1:04:51 PM PDT
To: PRComm@belmont.gov
Subject: Mountain Biking at Water Dog Lake

Dear Commissioner,

During quarantine, I have discovered and fallen in love with mountain biking. I am so fortunate to own a home just a short walk or ride from the trailhead on Lyall Way.

It was recently brought to my attention that there is a desire from hikers about wanting to restrict bike access to the trails, and I know that would be an immense blow to the community.

I recently taught both of my kids how to ride a bike, and my wife just picked up her first mountain bike today to join us on the trails. We are so grateful to live in such a beautiful city with such amazing trails, and would be heartbroken if our access was restricted.

I believe that there could be clear messaging to hikers that there are also mountain bikes on the trails, so they are not surprised and disdainful when they encounter them. I am a conscientious rider, and those that I ride with are as well. I am confident that we can rally as a community to keep our beloved outdoor space open for all.

Thank you,
Matt DiFonzo

1130 Continentals Way
Belmont, CA

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 11:33 AM
To: P&R Comm; PROS Committee
Subject: Hidden Canyon and the Western Hills Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi PROS Advisory Committee Members and Park Commissioners,

Last September I was given the opportunity to lead a few Park Commissioners on a walking tour of Hidden Canyon. It's very aptly named; most residents are largely unaware of this southern end of the Waterdog Open Space. But in fact Hidden Canyon is larger than the Waterdog acreage and the John Brooks acreage *combined*:

- Waterdog 51 acres
- John Brooks 49 acres
- **Hidden Canyon 180 acres**

On our hike we stopped and discussed the extensive damages. We observed heavily eroded trails, especially on the southern slope where Rambler trail has ditches 4 feet deep and is widened to 30 feet in places. We saw drainage issues – some natural and some from homes above - that contribute to trail and slope damage. We hiked down the notorious Finch switchbacks, noting that no amount of maintenance could make them safe or sustainable. And we saw dirt and debris tossed into the creek – a direct violation of state guidelines for protection of riparian habitats.

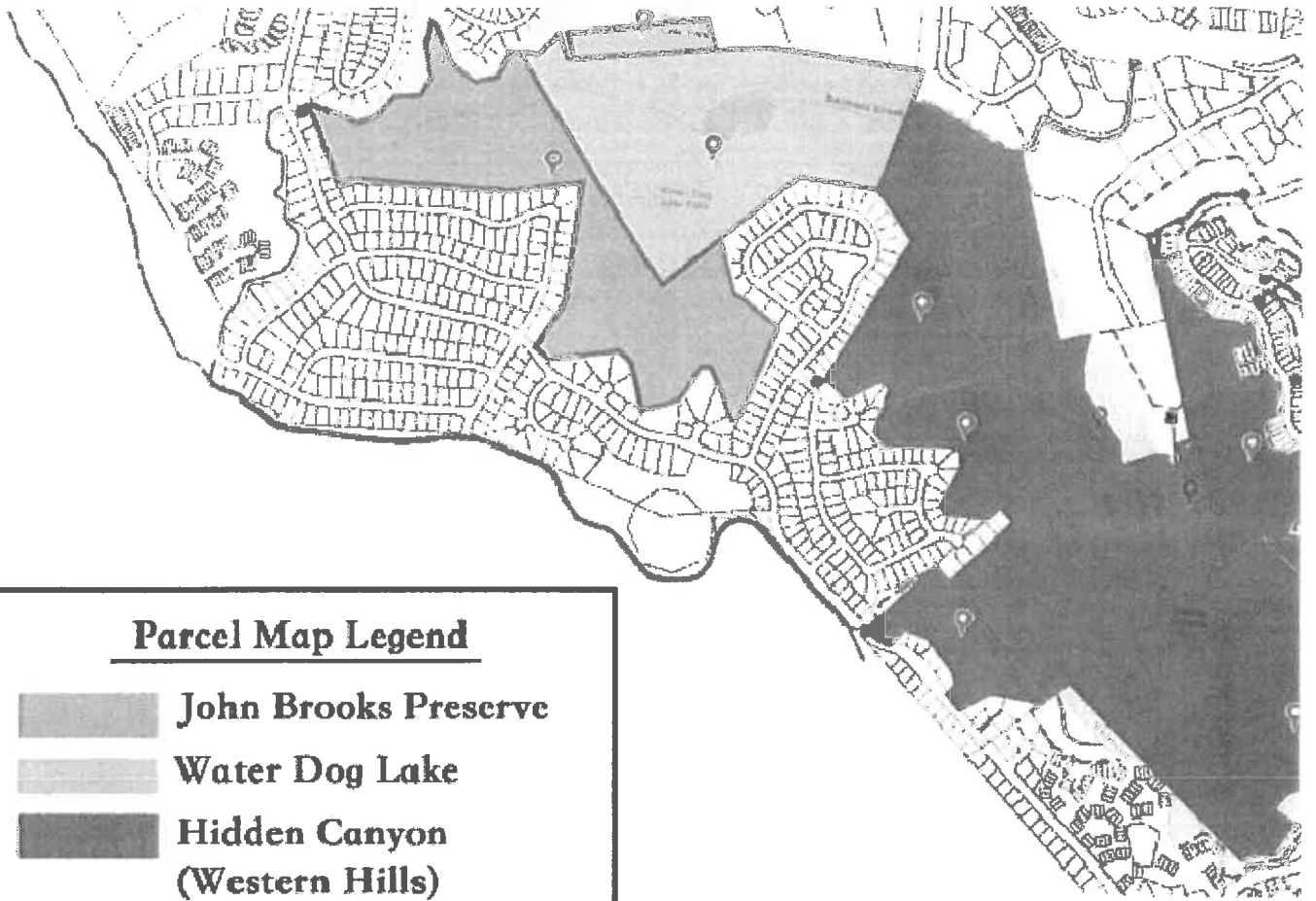
All of this is even more saddening when you become familiar with the Western Hills Area Plan, adopted in 1990. The Plan recognizes the unique chaparral, riparian and oak woodland habitats of the canyon – areas that are now designated as “sensitive communities” for the diversity of plants and the animals that call them home. I urge you all to visit Hidden Canyon and to learn why it's protection is so important to our regional Biodiversity Hotspot.

Thank you,
Kristin Mercer

“It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us.” – Jane Goodall

Belmont

Water Dog - Hidden Canyon Open Spa



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Brigitte Shearer

From: Fabian Frank
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:40 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Lake the way it is

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Keep maintaining Waterdog Lake just as it is today. There are a ton of parks and outdoor spaces designated as "hiking only" available to hikers already, whereas mountain bikers already have very limited options. Please consider educating hikers that are uncomfortable sharing the trail about the hundreds of trails that are available for hiking exclusively in other areas. Closing Waterdog Lake Park to mountain bikers will result in people having less chances to engage in healthy exercise. I have biked dozens of times at Waterdog and never had any issues with hikers, it's easy to be careful and polite and make space for each other, even on single track.

Some additional points:

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

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kenneth. Lebovitz ·
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:37 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please SAVE Waterdog preserve. Let common sense be your guide when you build trails and when you renew or restore existing trails. And most important, think about you neighbors in Belmont first and not try to please everyone else first.

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robert Furber <rob@rob-furber.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:19 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Mountain Bike Access

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am writing to share my support for continued mountain bike access to Waterdog Park. I have seen too many cities and government agencies ban biking on trails, with the effect being that bikers create alternative, illegal trail networks.

Please: making biking illegal doesn't stop biking; it only stops safe biking.

Thank you,
Robert Furber

Brigitte Shearer

From: Priscilla Stutzman <priscilla.stutzman@cityofbelmont.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:24 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space Master Plan.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

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

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

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

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

Cody Stutzman

Brigitte Shearer

From: Ben Wallace
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:16 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Mountain Bike Access in Belmont's Open Spaces

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it may concern,

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

- Maintaining access for mountain bikers and all other currently approved activities in the parks and open spaces. There are plenty of spaces that have limited access for other activities, it's important that we maintain the few areas that are multi use.
- Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces
- Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.
- Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year.

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

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

Sincerely,
Ben Wallace

Brigitte Shearer

From: Josh
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:08 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please KEEP Multi-use access to Waterdog!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I live just off Edgewood Rd and I want to voice my support for keeping Waterdog Open Space a multi-use trail for hiking and biking in the new Master Plan. My son is just getting into biking and we much prefer to be in nature than in the woods. It's safer for him than being on the road, and it inspires him to love, and respect his neighborhood and nature! It helps provide a healthy outlet for exercise and energy for youth who can easily fall into indoors and video games.

There are not a lot of options for use close to home in the Belmont/Redwood City area and taking this away would remove options for use to take quick, responsible rides and increase emissions in travel, and less chances for more rides outside.

Ideally we continue maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking and biking.

Increase outreach and education on safe and sustainable use of our trails. The "Love Waterdog" campaign is great.

Continuing to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails.

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

Brigitte Shearer

From: x-Parks/Recreation Office
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:39 AM
To: P&R Comm
Subject: Fw: WATERDOG ACCESS TO MOUNTAIN BIKERS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioners,

Please read the email below regarding Waterdog Lake.

Thank you,
Valery Gonzalez



Parks and Recreation Department

(650) 595-7441 | parksrec@belmont.gov
30 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, CA 94002
www.belmont.gov/register

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From: robert pinotti
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 6:03 AM
To: x-Parks/Recreation Office <parksrec@belmont.gov>
Cc: DARYL ONG <> ; BILL BALESTRERI
<> ; BILL ALVAREZ <> ; JOHN ISLAS <> ; JAMES
HUNG <>
Subject: WATERDOG ACCESS TO MOUNTAIN BIKERS

I understand that there is a plan to close access to waterdog park to mountain bikers. Me and several friends have been riding there for several years, Many of those trails if not all were built and maintained by mountain bikers. Im 62 a retired utility worker ,and my friends of the same age are law enforcement and firefighters. We are all responsible adults. We enjoy waterdog because of its access and wonderful trails. I understand that there are a handful of users that want to close the park to mountain bikers for environmental reasons. Do they plan on closing it also to dog walkers. My

wife has bad hips and has problems hiking but she can ride a bike with no problems because its not weight bearing . Is it fair to a person like that to restrict access because of the selfish reasons of a few disgruntled people. I understand the pandemic has not helped the situation because of the increased use . Many of these people most likely never used the area prior to the pandemic. Please continue to allow access to all users as you have in past . Users of waterdog also frequent the nearby businesses which is a boost to Belmonts economy. Thankyou for your consideration in this matter.

Brigitte Shearer

From: David Sanderson <dsanderson@cityofpoudre.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 8:57 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I think there needs to be some compromise on both sides with respect to bicycle use in water dog and hidden canyon. A blanket ban on bikes is not in the best interest of the public. However, as a mountain bike myself, I think there are many MTB users who do not and will not where to any kind of etiquette.

In order to provide a peaceful experience for all users, it might be best to ban mtb use on some trails so that hikers might enjoy a more peaceful experience.

David Sanderson

Brigitte Shearer

From: Stephen Langone ·
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:21 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Langone

Brigitte Shearer

From: Robin Bennett
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:47 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open to Bikes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a resident of Belmont and frequent hiker and dog walker (but not biker) of Waterdog, I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:

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

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

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

Robin

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kevin Doiron
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:47 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Waterdog Open Space accessible to all trail users

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

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

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

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

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

Brigitte Shearer

From: Austin Fisher
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:15 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I have lived in Belmont since I was 5 years old (25 now). I became interested in mountain biking at a young age, and having the privilege of living in Belmont with access to the wonderful Waterdog Lake trail system helped spark that interest into a life-long passion for outdoor recreation (mountain biking, hiking, backpacking), as well as an immense appreciation for nature. I think it is critically important to preserve access to this unique and special open space area for all uses (hiking, biking, running, recreation, family, community, etc) for generations to come.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Austin Fisher

Brigitte Shearer

From: x-Parks/Recreation Office
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:46 AM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: info@belmontprosplan.com
Subject: Fw: PROS Master Plan Survey

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioners,

Please read the email below regarding the PROS Survey.

Thank you,
Valery Gonzalez



Parks and Recreation Department

(650) 595-7441 | parksrec@belmont.gov
30 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, CA 94002
www.belmont.gov/register

“Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community”

As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!

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From: Connie S. Tettenborn
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 7:23 PM
To: x-Parks/Recreation Office <parksrec@belmont.gov>
Subject: PROS Master Plan Survey

Dear Commissioners,

I just noticed an online plea for mountain bikers to fill out the survey. Given that anyone can fill out the survey and may not necessarily give an honest answer regarding residency, is there some analysis that can be done to determine whether the survey results are valid and give Belmont citizens' views priority. We live here and pay city taxes and are responsible for the infrastructure here. Is there an estimated response rate, which could be compared with the number of people living in each neighborhood?

Thank you,
Connie Tettenborn, PhD

Brigitte Shearer

From: WILLIAM KURTZ
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:00 PM
To: Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; info@belmontproplan.com; City Council; srennie@belmont.gov; afshinoskou@belmont.gov; Planning Comm
Cc: Bill Kurtz
Subject: Safety in Waterdog Open Space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The increasing volume of mountain bikers from all over the Bay Area now deters visitors that just want to enjoy a peaceful and safe nature walk. If you go to Google maps our Waterdog Preserve is now shown as the "Belmont Bike Park". I urge you to watch this short 2 minute video that shows our safety problem and outlines an equitable trail-use plan solution. Safety for ALL to enjoy Nature in Waterdog (www.waterdogpreserve.org/safety-for-all). These videos are taken in the Belmont Waterdog Preserve, if anyone doubts their authenticity, I welcome you to join me on a trail hike and experience it first hand, I walk the trails 3-5 times a week.

Regards,

Bill Kurtz

Brigitte Shearer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 4:17 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Officials,

When I first came to Belmont, in 1966, our family with two young daughters, quickly found Water Dog open space. We all spent many, many hours there and loved it. It was the thing we loved most about living here. Water Dog open space must be saved as a nature preserve. Not many cities are lucky enough to have such a jewel in their city.

This is the most important issue for me in Belmont. Now my grandchildren love it as much as their mothers do. It is a place to hike and look for animals and listen and look for birds. As Belmont gets more and more built up, our chances to be in such a wonderful nature place diminish. And what of the animals that live there? Will they all be displaced and to where?

Sport Mountain bikes, e-bikes, and any motorized vehicles are not compatible with a nature preserve.

I also feel that animals need to be protected and that means no people after sunset.

I hope you will agree with me and see that money is properly allotted to keep Water Dog as an open space preserve for all of us to enjoy.

I and all of my family look forward to many more years of enjoying Water Dog open space as a nature preserve.

Sincerely,

Shiela Cockshott

2753 yosemite Dr.

Belmont, Ca 94002

Brigitte Shearer

From: Chip Morash <
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 1:29 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Water dog Open Space Master Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

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

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

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

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

Regards,

Christopher Morash

Sent from my iPhone

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:55 PM
To: P&R Comm; PROS Committee
Subject: Sustainable balance for open space management?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi PROS committee and Park and Rec Commissioners,

This Earth Day we are reflecting on sustainability for our planet. But since conservation begins at home, I'd like to address our sustainable stewardship of Belmont's Open Spaces.

The first and foremost aspect of sustainability is *balance*. We want people to enjoy nature, but not to the detriment of the very thing they come to enjoy. That *balance* is achieved by managed **trail density** – enough trail access to enjoy nature, but not so much that it fragments habitats and destroys the ecosystem.

Last year I undertook a study of all open spaces within 20 miles of Belmont. I compiled data for 44 of the comparable preserves, and shared this data with Parks Commissioners. Now I urge you to watch the video of this presentation: [Open Space Preserves in the San Mateo Region](#). (choose the 12 minutes in full, or a 3-minute summary at this link)

Fact: Waterdog has the **highest trail density of any open space area on the peninsula**, and probably the bay area. It has **twice the trail density of other comparable small open space areas**. This fragmentation and intensity of use is not sustainable.

As stewards of our city and our planet we are tasked with adopting sustainable policies. For Waterdog that means fewer trails and a more thoughtful approach to trail planning. For the sake of future residents, please consider this legacy as you guide our new Master Plan.

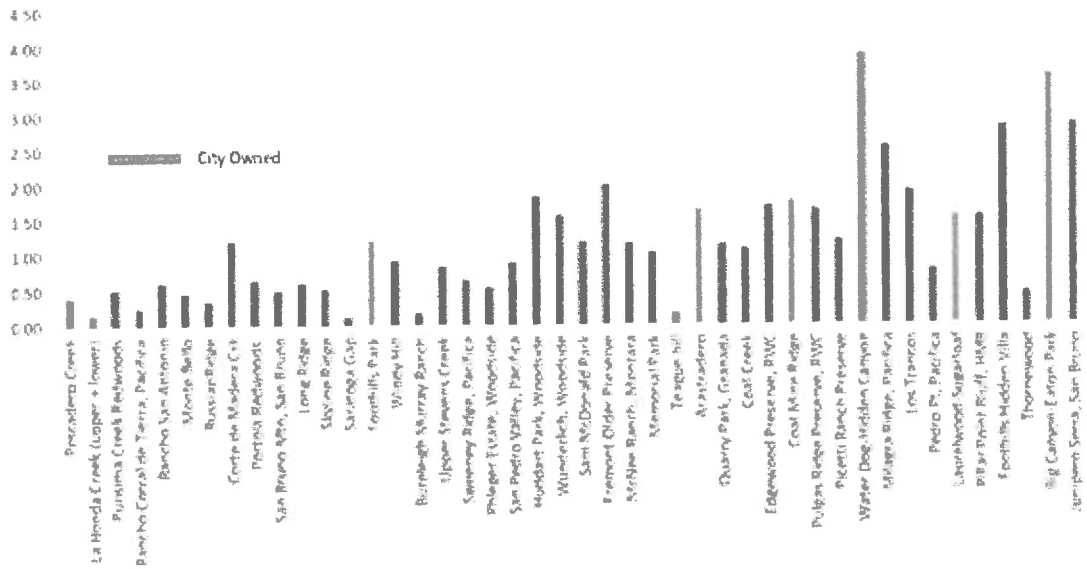
Feel free to contact me with questions.
Thank you for your service to our City,
Kristin Mercer

2035 Belmont General Plan Conservation Element p.5.3

"Belmont's extensive open spaces are part of the regional open space network on the San Francisco Peninsula. Notable landmarks in the city include San Juan Hills, Western Hills, Water Dog Lake, and Belmont Creek.... These connected open spaces are valuable because they provide travel corridors for wildlife and increase wildlife population diversity. They also play important roles in stormwater management, ecological functions, and other environmental conservation efforts."

Water Dog has the highest trail density of ALL preserves

44 Preserves - Trail Miles per 100 Acres



Excludes SFPUC Watershed, Cowell Beach Trail & non-preserves

Sorted by total acres – largest (left) to smallest (right)



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Brigitte Shearer

From: Doug Roseborough
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 10:29 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Waterdog open space should remain available for all hikers, bikers and other users

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I moved to this area two decades ago for the schools, environment and fantastic mountain biking, easily accessible in Waterdog Open Space. I, and my family, have enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog ever since the kids were very little. As a resident of San Carlos, with kids in Carlmont High School, I am proud of the Belmont/San Carlos community, and their joint progressiveness. I am shocked that a few narrow-minded, self-centered individuals, feel it is their right to limit the access and use of Waterdog for their own specific needs. I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, including mountain biking, connecting with nature and building community.

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

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

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

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

Doug Roseborough

Brigitte Shearer

From: Saris Mercanti ·
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:49 AM
To: P&R Comm; citycountil@belmont.gov
Subject: Waterdog open space

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I support Waterdog Open Space remaining a family friendly destination for hikers AND cyclists. I hope that you are able to incorporate some of the direction mixed use practices being adopted by land managers.

One incredible example of a collaboration is the new Cotoni Coast Dairies project, which was build in collaboration with the BLM and the Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship. ANother great project is the San Vincente Land Trust, whose opening has been delayed to the fires.

Thank You,
Saris



Saris Mercanti, she/her
Marketing Manager, Ibis Cycles
2240 Delaware Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
tel: .ype: saris.mercanti



Brigitte Shearer

From: Vladimir674
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:50 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Please keep Water Dog open to all

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning,

I am emailing because there are rumors that people are trying to keep mountain bike and dogs out of Water Dog. I personally love bringing my family and dog to the park for hikes. I also come there to mountain bike, so it would be twice the hit for me. Needless to say I would be very much against the banning of animals and bikes at Water Dog.

Thanks for the time
Vladimir Veis

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

Brigitte Shearer

From: James D
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:52 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

I AM NOT in support of designating Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve as put forward in the proposal – comments below. I am a long term Belmont resident, pay \$20K per year in property tax, and use Waterdog 5 times per week for mountain biking.

- Designate narrow natural surface trails for hiking only, consistent with Best Practices of other open spaces – **NO, all trails should be open to mountain bikers – there is significant mountain bike traffic and making trails hiker-only will make the problem worse. Hikers also have many other trails nearby; mountain bikers have to go to Arastadero or up to Skyline blvd.**
- Close illegal Open Space trails, and restore damaged ecosystems and fragmented wildlife habitat - **NO, the charm of Waterdog is the challenging nature of trails. Put disclaimer signs up if you need to. And please don't waste funds on nice-to-do things, the trails are fine as they are.**
- Enforce the closure of all open spaces from sunset to sunrise to protect wildlife and ensure safety; cite violators – **AGREE**
- Prohibit e-bikes and motorized vehicles on all trails; cite violators – **AGREE**
- Allocate park spending to equitably fund desperately needed Open Space maintenance – **AGREE, BUT the most important things are: 1. Cutting bushes / trees and poison ivy back from the trails and 2. Repairing washout from the rain.**
- Implement ecosystem management Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance – **Per comments above, don't use money unnecessarily - basic maintenance only please**

I hope you take these comments into consideration and rework the proposal accordingly
James Dimmick

Brigitte Shearer

From: Kenneth. Lebovitz ·
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:49 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a very long time resident of Belmont and as a neighbor bordering the Illegal Bike Trail, I feel it is the responsibility of the City Of Belmont to correct this situation. A Waterdog trail should be available for all our residence to enjoy, and should also be well kept and maintained to be in line with the natural surroundings.

Make it your top priority to establish a trail in the canyon that the city can be proud of.

Also, the City needs to take a look at our main street in Belmont, Ralston, between hiway 92 and The Alameda. It needs WORK.

Ken Lebovitz

Brigitte Shearer

From: Pamela ·
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 12:47 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont City Council Members,

When my husband recently made Brigitte Shearer aware that another illegal trail on the John Brooks trail in Water Dog Open Space had been made by bikers to go around the logs that the park and recreation had placed to close an illegal trail she promptly placed a sign DO NOT ENTER (not a designated trail, restoration underway) which was great but by the next morning when my husband and I walked by the bikers had just made two new trails around the sign!

I am just devastated to see the destruction of our beautiful wildlife preserve over this past year. I know not every biker disobeys the rules but even those who obey the rules create wear and tear on the trails that is very evident. I truly believe that the waterdog trails should be for people on foot only for many reasons including their own safety.

Let's keep this treasure preserved as it was intended for future generations to enjoy. Unfortunately, too many bikers are only concerned about their own enjoyment and disrespectful to hikers and walkers on the trails. I hope that the City Council will start to do the right thing before the trails are ruined beyond repair.

Thank you,
Pamela Stahl
Wakefield Drive
25+ year resident of Belmont

Sent from my iPad

Brigitte Shearer

From: Michael O'Neill
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 10:41 AM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a long time resident of Belmont, an avid hiker (daily) and nature enthusiast, I have given up on going to Waterdog Open Space. In the past, I've hiked at Waterdog hundreds of times but now the bikes have taken over, destroyed much of the natural beauty, and have made it dangerous for pedestrians. Sadly, I now have to drive to Edgewood Park in Redwood City to have the kind of nature experience that to me, is essential!

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Michael O'Neill

Brigitte Shearer

From: Reza Naima
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 1:53 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Keep Bike Access to Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I wanted to let you know that there are many ways to protect the trails other than by banning bike usage. As an avid cyclist with knee problems, I can't hike, but I love exploring nature on my bike. Better trail management can allow for the preservation of the trails while keeping access open to all users of the open space. I implore you to find solutions that will enable bikers and hikers access to as much of the park as possible.

That being said, I don't think motorized or e-bikes should be allowed in these spaces. With proper gearing, anyone can ride a manual bike through these spaces and there is no need to allow access to e-bikes.

Best regards,
Reza Naima

Brigitte Shearer

From: Dirk Flote
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:55 PM
To: P&R Comm; City Council
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TLDR: I oppose closing Waterdog Park to E Bikes and other bikes.

Hello Belmont Parks and Recreation,

I want to voice my concerns about movements to close water dog for mountain bikes and E bikes.

While illegal trails should be closed and monitored to preserve wild life. E bikes are neither automatically faster nor heavier than normal bikes. In fact my e bike is slower as it is limited to 20 miles per hour. Downhill I often get passed by standard bikes and uphill we all go slow.

Thank your reading

Regards
Dirk Flote
4 Lyndhurst Court
Belmont

Mobile message from Dirk Flote, dirkflote@gmail.com 650 539 5434

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 4:14 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council
Subject: Belmont Open Space usage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

In 1992 Belmont adopted a Park and Open Space Master Plan to guide the management of Waterdog, and in 1998 the City Council approved a trail map for Waterdog. But the reality of what was built violates both the Master Plan and the approved trail map.

The Open Space Master Plan clearly spells out trail standards, designating the narrow natural surface trails lower in the canyon for hiking ONLY. The 1998 trail map affirms that plan. Other City documents reveal the intent to prioritize *conservation* over recreation, and to ensure the long-term protection of our Open Space ecosystem. Now these policies are being ignored by today's City officials who are not enforcing City policies.

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Warren Leslie
40 year Belmont resident and homeowner

Brigitte Shearer

From: shelly frost ·
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 3:30 PM
To: City Council; P&R Comm
Subject: Save Waterdog Preserve

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Belmont Parks & Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a 30+ year Belmont residents we urge you to designate Waterdog Open Space as a Nature Preserve. We are keenly hopeful that our city prioritizes preservation and conservation in the new Master Plan.

As we have personally almost been run down by speeding mountain bikers while walking in Waterdog, we urge you to designate narrow trails for hiking only.

Mountain bikers have illegally created ugly and destructive trails. We urge you to CLOSE these trails and restore the habitat to its natural state.

Please enforce the city rules of the area being closed from sundown to sunrise. Bikers have videotaped themselves inside Waterdog riding their bikes at night!

Please enforce city rules banning e-bikes and motorized vehicles on the trails. These are your rules, please make sure they are abided by.

Allocate spending to fairly support Belmont Open Spaces in order to keep them maintained.

Implement ecosystem management and Best Practices for habitat, vegetation and trail maintenance.

Waterdog Preserve should be a shining example of how Open Space can exist within a city. Belmont should be proud of our stewardship of Waterdog Preserve. But with mountain bikers daily trashing the trails, threatening wildlife and endangering hikers and walkers, we as Belmont residents are unable to reference Waterdog as a jewel of our city.

Please make the necessary changes so that Waterdog Preserve is safe, healthy and will last for future generations of Belmontians.

Warmly,

Shelley and Kevin Frost
2404 Dekoven Avenue, Belmont