

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** pat Cuiello  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:10 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; Brigitte Shearer; Charles Stone - Mayor; Warren Lieberman; Julia Mates - Vice Mayor; Thomas McCune; Davina Hurt  
**Subject:** illegal bike jumps and trails removed in California state parks

<https://www.kcra.com/article/illegal-bike-jumps-trails-removed-california-state-parks/36317610?fbclid=IwAR11SGYkdmaTKcAtbsxdAo7zPsyADm7-F1ofApgNqXDAe8IlaEWoyR2cHk0>

This is a general problem with mountain bikers everywhere, including, as you know, Waterdog Open Space. The State is addressing it and the City of Belmont needs to as well.

Pat Cuiello



## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Diane Boross  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:51 AM  
**To:** City Council; P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Save Waterdog Preserve  
**Attachments:** IMAG1660.jpg; IMAG1661.jpg

**Importance:** High

**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!

○ **Hiking today on single track trails and witnessed/noted:**

- **Multiple bikers jumping over large rocks at high speeds**
- **Bikers passing hikers closely at high speeds without masks and without stopping**
- **One E-Biker cruising at a slower speed with questionable steering control**
- **Multiple shortcut trails added to switchback trails**



- **Numerous tire treads due to wet conditions bike riding**
  - **Numerous broken and battered tree roots on trails**
  - **Numerous sawed up tree branches lying beside trails**
  - **Numerous dangerously eroded single-track trails with unlevel footings for hikers, caused by biker tires, on steep hillsides**
  - **All drainage irrigation channels filled and blocked with debris, including trail cuttings, branches, dirt and rocks. (attached pictures)**
- **Please do something to resolve these problems so we can continue to enjoy this park in the future.**

**Thank you,**

**Diane Boross  
2555 Sherborne Drive  
Belmont, CA 94002**



## **Brigitte Shearer**

---

**From:** Bill Kurtz  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 3:23 PM  
**To:** Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm; Charles Stone - Mayor; City Council;  
info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** New Video - Waterdog Beauty Destroyed

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please review the following new video illustrating Belmonts Waterdog Preserve.  
[waterdogpreserve.org/beauty-destroyed](http://waterdogpreserve.org/beauty-destroyed)

Regards,

Bill Kurtz





## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Ji Montgomery <jiprk99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2021 7:19 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Stop clearing the land!!

I am so upset that you want to destroy the land as these innocent animals will die as you guys clear the lands for the park please we must save the land..

Concerned Citizen  
Ji Montgomery

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Kenneth. Lebovitz <kbxxxxxxx@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 30, 2021 8:31 PM  
**To:** City Council; P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Save Waterdog Preserve

Please stop further construction of the ILLEGAL BIKE TRAIL in Waterdog canyon, and PLEASE eliminate the current trail. It is destroying the natural ecosystem of the canyon, and in addition, it is also unfair that homeowners, such as myself that backs up to the canyon, is confronted with noise and rudeness that the bikers generate.

Ken Lebovitz

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Ray Chau <ray.chau77@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:11 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Cc:** Ray Chau  
**Subject:** Please Save Belmont's Water Dog Lake Park & Open Space

Hello Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission,

My wife and I have been Belmont residents for over 30 years. We want to ask you to please SAVE our beloved Water Dog Lake Park from the mountain bike riders:

- \* there are too many of them
- \* many ride in packs and talk loudly to each other
- \* some bikers ride off trails endangering themselves and others
- \* some cause damages to the ground and vegetations and wild lives

My wife and I and our kids enjoy hiking the trails, but are finding some bikers are ruining the environment, creating safety concerns, and disrupting the peace and quiet of the nature reserve.

Water Dog Lake Park and Open Space is reaching its maximum capacity. We do not need to add more trails, we need to enforce existing rules. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ray and Pauline Chau

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** tomerc@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** PROS Committee; Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Data on Open Space Stewardship

Dear Director Shearer, Gates Associates, and Park Commissioners,

Last fall I was given an opportunity to present my research on **Open Space Trail Density** to a few of the Parks Commissioners. Now I respectfully request the opportunity to give this presentation to members of the PROS Advisory Committee, in a study session format.

Responsible land stewardship policies cannot be based on opinion; management of *natural habitat* is entirely different than management of *recreationally developed parks*. It requires a foundation in the science of ecology and environmental sustainability. While Belmont is lacking in that foundation, fortunately we are surrounded by open space management districts that *do* have extensive knowledge and experience. We should be looking to their examples to inform our policies.

I surveyed over 50 preserves and parks from Pacifica to Santa Clara, and identified 44 open space districts comparable to Belmont's. I then compiled data on area, trail miles, and trail use to compare and contrast their policies. My presentation takes about 20 minutes using PowerPoint via Zoom. Multiple Commissioners and PROS members expressed a desire for more data, and I believe a broader awareness of *other* regional open spaces and their management policies will be a good starting point and foundation on which to build their study.

I'd be pleased to provide a preview. I look forward to helping our community create a progressive and enduring open space master plan.

Kristin Mercer  
650-592-4868

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



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Bob Stahl <rjstahl01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 9:10 AM  
**To:** Brigitte Shearer  
**Subject:** Re: Information on open spaces

Thanks Brigitte.

This is so important. Will the Advisory Committee get copies of the report? Will we be able to see the qualifications of the consultant?

Bob

On May 24, 2021, at 8:50 AM, Brigitte Shearer <[BShearer@belmont.gov](mailto:BShearer@belmont.gov)> wrote:

We plan to engage a consultant to advise on this.

Brigitte

**Brigitte Shearer**  
**Parks & Recreation Director**  
**City of Belmont**  
**650-595-7488**  
[bshearer@belmont.gov](mailto:bshearer@belmont.gov)

[www.belmont.gov/parksandrec](http://www.belmont.gov/parksandrec)

*Belmont Parks & Recreation Department*  
*"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"*

<image001.png> <image002.png> <image003.png> <image004.png>

***As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!***

**From:** Bob Stahl <[rjstahl01@gmail.com](mailto:rjstahl01@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 4:56 PM  
**To:** Kelley Lotosky <[info@belmontprosplan.com](mailto:info@belmontprosplan.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Information on open spaces

Hi Brigitte,

I'd like to see specific information on open space "best practices" and management. I believe it's very important for the Park Commissioners and Advisory Committee to have scientific studies and research available to review before making any decisions.

So far, the survey has provided only opinions by community members and non residents. Obviously there is a wide disparity of opinions on what is desired.

I strongly suggest that the Commissioners and Advisory Committee receive formal studies available.

Thank you.



## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 8:50 AM  
**To:** Bob Stahl  
**Cc:** Kelley Lotosky  
**Subject:** RE: Information on open spaces

We plan to engage a consultant to advise on this.

Brigitte

**Brigitte Shearer**  
**Parks & Recreation Director**  
**City of Belmont**  
**650-595-7488**  
**bshearer@belmont.gov**

[www.belmont.gov/parksandrec](http://www.belmont.gov/parksandrec)

*Belmont Parks & Recreation Department*  
*"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"*



***As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!***

**From:** Bob Stahl <rjstahl01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 4:56 PM  
**To:** Kelley Lotosky <info@belmontprosplan.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Information on open spaces

Hi Brigitte,

I'd like to see specific information on open space "best practices" and management. I believe it's very important for the Park Commissioners and Advisory Committee to have scientific studies and research available to review before making any decisions.

So far, the survey has provided only opinions by community members and non residents. Obviously there is a wide disparity of opinions on what is desired.

I strongly suggest that the Commissioners and Advisory Committee receive formal studies available.

Thank you.

Bob Stahl

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Bob Stahl <rjstahl01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 4:52 PM  
**To:** Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm  
**Cc:** Bob Stahl  
**Subject:** Information on open spaces

Hi Brigitte,

I'd like to see specific information on open space "best practices" and management. I believe it's very important for the Park Commissioners and Advisory Committee to have scientific studies and research available to review before making any decisions.

So far, the survey has provided only opinions by community members and non residents. Obviously there is a wide disparity of opinions on what is desired.

I strongly suggest that the Commissioners and Advisory Committee receive formal studies available.

Thank you.

Bob Stahl



## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Neil Tuch <ntuch@charlesarmstrong.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2021 6:34 PM  
**To:** Brigitte Shearer  
**Subject:** Re: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Hi Brigitte,

I would be happy to be helpful if I can. The only challenge may be timing - next week is brutal because my daughter is having ACL surgery. In addition, we are in our final two weeks of classes.

When are you trying to convey a focus group?

Thank you for including me/us.

Best,

Neil

Neil A. Tuch  
Incoming Head of School  
Assistant Head of School and Chief Financial Officer  
Charles Armstrong School  
*he, him, his ([Why are my pronouns here?](#))*  
(650) 592-7570 x1227

---

**From:** Brigitte Shearer <BShearer@belmont.gov>  
**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 4:59 PM  
**To:** Neil Tuch <ntuch@charlesarmstrong.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Neil,  
I'm reaching out about the next phase of the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. As you know, we've completed a survey of park users to learn what they like/ dislike about our parks, open spaces and outdoor programs. Now we're looking for input in a focus group setting. Specifically, we're seeking input on the topic of inclusion of differently abled persons. Would you be able to join us for a virtual meeting on that topic?

If so, please let me know if there's a preferred time of day or day of week that would work for you. If there are other individuals whose input would be helpful, please let me know and I will reach out to them as well

Thank you  
Brigitte

**Brigitte Shearer**

**Parks & Recreation Director**  
**City of Belmont**  
**650-595-7488**  
[bshearer@belmont.gov](mailto:bshearer@belmont.gov)

[www.belmont.gov/parksandrec](http://www.belmont.gov/parksandrec)

*Belmont Parks & Recreation Department*  
*"Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community"*



***As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!***

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Ji Montgomery <jiprk99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 3:35 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Stop the waterdog lake and open space all these wild animals will die if you clear the land !

As a local resident, someone who is concerned with wildlife and wilderness defense of Animals, I am writing to urge you to prioritize the protection and open space in the PROS master plan. This must be done by reducing mountain bikes on wide fire-road trail only.

Belmont offers many recreational opportunities, but waterdog is it's primary natural open space, and only by prioritizing protection over recreation will leave future generations of all species the same beautiful and essential wild land we witness today.

While opportunities for outdoor recreation and simply bring able to enjoy nature are important, with increasingly little habitat in the bay area, this open space is critical for wildlife, and provides an corridor that many species rely on and benefit from.

As a local resident, I value protecting and conserving waterdog open space and wildlife habitat. If the current recreational usage of waterdog continues, it will cease to function as a healthy native habitat for wildlife.

I am also extremely concerned that allowing bikes on narrow trails, running over out wild animals and habitat destruction.

I sincerely hope you will put conservation first when planning the future of this open space, and prioritize the need to keep bikes on fire roads only to protect habitat and wildlife.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Concerned Citizen,  
Ji Montgomery

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Joy Silen <joysilen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 3:46 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Cc:** City Council  
**Subject:** Waterdog Park

Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation,

As a Belmont Heights resident, I am concerned to hear that Parks and Recreation is considering expanding the number of trails in Waterdog park. It is my understanding that this is based on the results of your survey, which did not (and could not) control for the outsized input due to cycling advocacy groups.

While Waterdog is clearly an important peninsula resource (I often see families parking at the entrance) it is Belmont's responsibility to ensure that:

- a) the trails are safe for both hikers and bikers and
- b) the environmental degradation caused by overuse and abuse is halted and reversed.

What is clear is that the impact of irresponsible off-trail mountain biking activity is creating havoc with this precious resource. We are custodians not only for our neighbors and visitors, but also for the wildlife that we share the open space with. It is distressing to see the negative impact from just one segment of users.

Therefore, I urge you not to expand the use of Waterdog by opening yet more trails, but rather use resources to monitor use and discourage unlawful - and frankly dangerous - behavior, and repair the damage already done.

Thank you,

Joy Silen  
2708 Wemberly Drive  
Belmont

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Rose Laflin <roselaflin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 1:33 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Barrett Dog Hours

Dear Park and Recreation Director and Commissioners,

I write to you all in my head almost every morning. That is because we wake up to barking dogs at Barrett between 6 and 7 a.m. almost every day. The worst day is Sunday. This is despite our double-paned windows.

The dog hours have gotten very popular this year. We have noticed a big increase in the number of dogs and noise.

We know we live by a community center, one that has gotten busier every year we've lived here. But with the dog hours, you have taken away the only quiet hours we had - early morning, late evening and Sundays. Easter Sunday, having my elderly parents over for a socially distanced lunch - dogs barking. Mother's Day, enjoying our back yard with our kids - dogs barking. Today, we were awakened at 6:05 by a barking dog and while eating breakfast at 7:30, dogs barking frantically at other dogs outside the fence as their owners talked. We know people don't even notice our houses or realize how sound travels in this little valley. But this is the problem with having a dog park in a neighborhood.

The thought of a permanent dog park at Barrett breaks our hearts. It does not matter that it will be moved a few hundred feet one way or the other (actually closer to us in the latest plan). There are not many of us living next to Barrett so perhaps it is easy to discount us. But we do have to live here 24/7.

As you develop your all parks plan for the city, could you consider putting a permanent dog park on the Sports Complex site or some other site, away from any neighbors, no matter how few?

We have been told (repeatedly) to call Belmont Police when we see someone with dogs during off hours or if there is excessive barking. I could call every day. We did for a few days when dog hours opened this year, because people broke the rules every day. The new signs helped a little. Soccer practice helped a lot. But the reality is, I don't want to call the police department every time there are dogs barking, someone there with dogs at the wrong time, or someone not picking up after their dog. One, this is exhausting. Two, there don't seem to be any consequences for people breaking the rules. Three, all of us Barrett neighbors occasionally have to call the police for more serious disruptions at Barrett, often late at night. The police dispatcher knows us all. I don't want to become an annoying presence to the police.

We appreciate you trying to accommodate a wide variety of citizens in Belmont. But, as Barrett neighbors, we really would like some help with this situation. Please advise at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Rose Laflin and Justin Mauck  
915 Academy Avenue

George Metropulos  
911 Academy Avenue

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Austin Fisher <amfisher123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:08 PM  
**To:** info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Focus Group + A question about survey results

Hello,

I would like to volunteer for the open space focus group. I think I have a unique perspective to offer and I'm looking forward to having productive conversations about the future of the open space.

I also had a question about the survey results- a couple times during the meeting someone brought up a statistic, something like "77% of people felt unsafe on the trails" or similar. Someone had also said this was an incorrect/misleading interpretation of the results. Will you be posting the survey results online? I would like to look at them for myself. If you won't be posting them, could you at least clarify this statistic?

Thanks!

Austin Fisher  
650-339-1389  
[amfisher123@gmail.com](mailto:amfisher123@gmail.com)

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** margie <margiebk@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 9:39 AM  
**To:** City Council; P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Save Waterdog Preserve

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,

As a Belmont resident, 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.

My family, friends, and I frequently hike in the Waterdog Open Space and often have to jump out of the way of approaching cyclists, sometimes ending in a patch of poison oak. Bikes must not be allowed on the narrow trails due to safety issues and to protect wildlife and the natural ecosystem.

Regards,

Marjory Kaptanoglu  
[margiebk@comcast.net](mailto:margiebk@comcast.net)  
[www.marjorykaptanoglu.com](http://www.marjorykaptanoglu.com)

## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Deniz Bolbol <deniz\_b@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 1:50 PM  
**To:** Belmontprosplan Info  
**Subject:** interested in open space focus group

Please sign me up. Many thanks.

Deniz Bolbol  
15 Wakefield Court  
Belmont  
650.248.4489



## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** pat Cuiello <pcuvie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:10 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; Brigitte Shearer; Charles Stone - Mayor; Warren Lieberman; Julia Mates - Vice Mayor; Thomas McCune; Davina Hurt  
**Subject:** illegal bike jumps and trails removed in California state parks

<https://www.kcra.com/article/illegal-bike-jumps-trails-removed-california-state-parks/36317610?fbclid=IwAR11SGYkdmaTKcAtbsxdAo7zPsyADm7-F1ofApgNqXDAe8IlaEWoyR2cHk0>

This is a general problem with mountain bikers everywhere, including, as you know, Waterdog Open Space. The State is addressing it and the City of Belmont needs to as well.

Pat Cuiello



## Brigitte Shearer

---

**From:** Diane Boross  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:51 AM  
**To:** City Council; P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Save Waterdog Preserve  
**Attachments:** IMAG1660.jpg; IMAG1661.jpg

**Importance:** High

**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!

- **Hiking today on single track trails and witnessed/noted:**
  - **Multiple bikers jumping over large rocks at high speeds**
  - **Bikers passing hikers closely at high speeds without masks and without stopping**
  - **One E-Biker cruising at a slower speed with questionable steering control**
  - **Multiple shortcut trails added to switchback trails**

- **Numerous tire treads due to wet conditions bike riding**
  - **Numerous broken and battered tree roots on trails**
  - **Numerous sawed up tree branches lying beside trails**
  - **Numerous dangerously eroded single-track trails with unlevel footings for hikers, caused by biker tires, on steep hillsides**
  - **All drainage irrigation channels filled and blocked with debris, including trail cuttings, branches, dirt and rocks. (attached pictures)**
- **Please do something to resolve these problems so we can continue to enjoy this park in the future.**

**Thank you,**

**Diane Boross  
2555 Sherborne Drive  
Belmont, CA 94002**







