

Brigitte Shearer

From: Brigitte Shearer
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: FW: Bikes in Water Dog area

From: webmaster@belmont.gov <webmaster@belmont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 1:52 PM
To: x-community development <cdev@belmont.gov>
Subject: Bikes in Water Dog area

Message submitted from the <City of Belmont> website.

Site Visitor Name: Rosemary Lake
Site Visitor Email: [L](#) _____

Please, Please, do not approve this project which will simply not add to the use of our Water Dog area, especially because it seems the project will be for the out of area riders and not just Belmont residents.
Thank you.

Brigitte Shearer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 5:25 PM
To: PROS Committee; P&R Comm
Cc: Brigitte Shearer
Subject: San Mateo Region Open Space Trail Presentation
Attachments: Open Space Preserves in the San Mateo Region.pdf

Hello Park Commission and PROS Committee Members,

When the Master Plan process was getting underway, I compiled a **review of all open space preserves in the San Mateo Region** to better inform the Commission on the topic of Open Space Stewardship.

Management of natural spaces requires very different objectives and knowledge than management of *developed* parks. I believe an awareness of stewardship policies and best practices adopted by other open space entities will better inform our own stewardship decisions, helping to ensure Belmont's natural spaces remain healthy for future generations. A good starting point is this review of all open space areas in the San Mateo region.

I presented this data to members of the Park Commission in October 2020 and June 2021. This PDF is compiled from my original slide presentation. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the future of Belmont Parks and Open Space.

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



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Brigitte Shearer

From: --
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 6:46 PM
To: City Council
Cc: P&R Comm; PROS Committee
Subject: Belmont Creek Stream Restoration Project

Dear Council Members,

RE: Belmont Creek Stream Restoration Project.

The June 22, 2021 staff report for this project states *"The City will cultivate local stewardship of Belmont Creek."*

How does this staff report statement comport with City failure to protect upper Belmont Creek which drains into Waterdog Lake?

A year ago, I reported to your Parks Commission a half-mile long unauthorized trail forged through the sensitive Belmont Creek riparian area. This trail is illegal on many levels, and directly damages the creek and water quality as well as the surrounding habitat. I shared photo evidence of dumping and erosion into the creek, damage to the habitat of endangered species, vandalism of a 100-year-old 50-foot-tall heritage bay tree, removal of endangered plants, and proof that the trail was never approved by the city.

To date the City has taken no steps to stop the eco-vandalism and illegal use of the trail. It is ironic that the City promises to protect and restore Belmont Creek, as the City Council intentionally looks the other way while portions of the Creek are being destroyed.

The Belmont Creek riparian trail is:

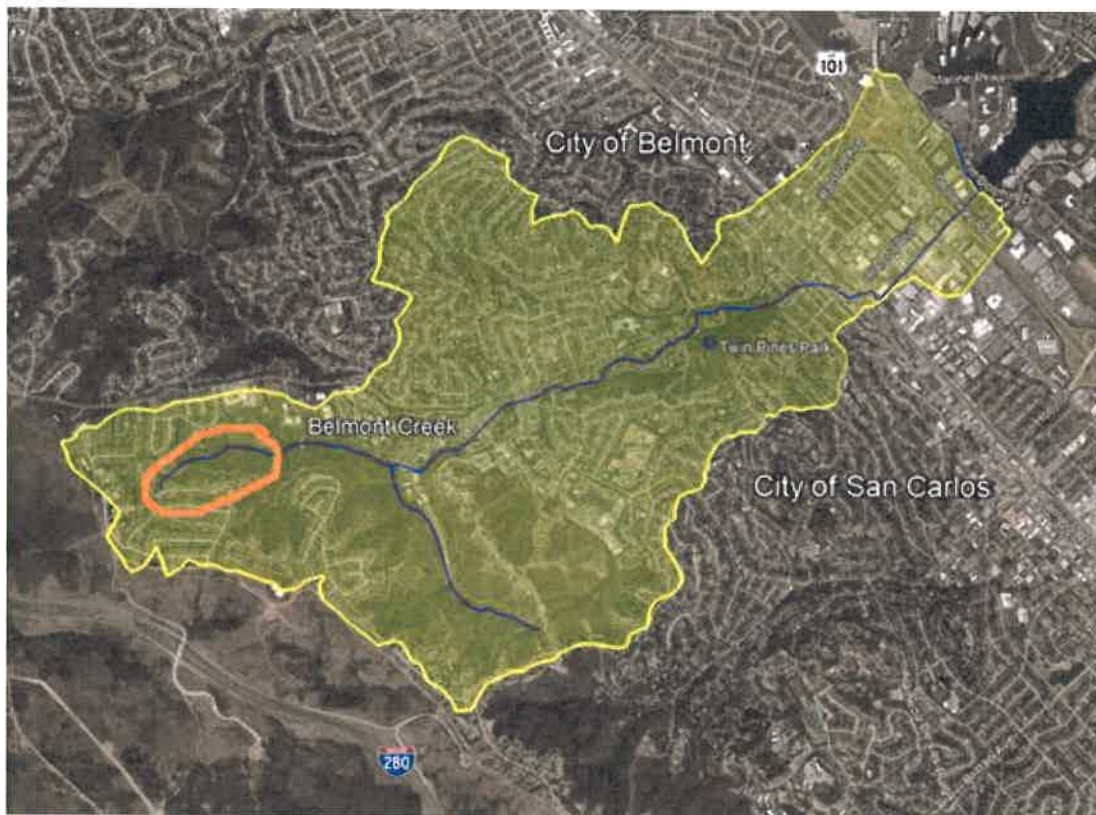
1. **Unauthorized and was never approved by any City entity.** The Park Director's 2012 report stated there were "no new trails planned" after the construction of Lake Loop, and none have been approved since then.
2. **Violates the Open Space Master Plan** which specifically identified this marsh area for environmental protection,
3. Violates guidelines of the **California Department of Water Resources**, in neglect of the City's contractual commitments of the **Notre Dame Waterdog Lake lease and the John Brooks Preserve bequest**,
4. **Violates Belmont's own riparian guidelines** as published in the Belmont leaflet "Erosion and Sediment Controls for Riparian Areas:
 - Do not rake up leaf litter and fallen branches of native plants. This material provides food and shelter for beneficial insects, a crucial part of the food chain.
 - Do not dump yard wastes or grass clippings into the creek or riparian corridor. They smother existing plants, causing erosion and spreading invasive, nonnative plants. Their decomposition also robs the water of valuable oxygen, affecting fish and other aquatic organisms.
 - Minimize soil compaction. Control the use of trails and other recreational activities.
 - Control erosion by protecting areas where flowing water meets bare soil, such as on dirt roads, trails, driveways, earthen drainage ditches, or patches of bare or

- Protect existing native vegetation. Construction, compaction, tilling, changes to soil grade or drainage patterns, should not occur under the tree drip-line (from the trunk to the edge of vegetation canopy).
5. Noted in the biologist report commissioned by Friends of Waterdog, which was sent to all City Council and Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

*“Contrary to these policies, the City allowed wet crossings and an unmapped trail to be constructed through the riparian community west of Water Dog Lake. Significant habitat loss occurred during trail construction. Ongoing use of the trail is causing additional habitat loss and degradation through trail widening, vegetation trampling and removal, and trail spidering, especially in the vicinity of Belmont Creek. **The magnitude of impacts to riparian vegetation suggests a lack of environmental review and disregard for state regulations that protect riparian resources.**”*

The riparian communities of *the entirety of Belmont Creek* are protected under **section 1602 of California Fish and Game Code** (Lake and Streambed Alteration Program), and the water bodies themselves are protected under the **federal Clean Water Act**, the **State’s Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act**, as well as section 1602 of California Fish and Game Code.

Again, I ask the Council to instruct staff to immediately close this illegal trail and begin restoration of the habitat that has been vandalized by its unauthorized construction and use. Especially during this drought, protecting all riparian areas is vital to our preservation of this rare and protected habitat.



Belmont Creek Watershed - illegal trail

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



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Brigitte Shearer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 9:58 AM
To: City Council; Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Cc: linda gates
Subject: Safety in Belmont Open Space email 2 of 2
Attachments: Narrow Trails in WD.docx; Narrow Trail WD.MOV

I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Barbara Posch

Open Space Preserves

In the San Mateo Region

A study for policy makers for Belmont's Water Dog Open Space

"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."

2035 Belmont General Plan Conservation Element p.5.3

Objective

The objective of this study is to provide Belmont policy makers with the data and perspective needed to make the best stewardship decisions for the future of Belmont's Water Dog – Hidden Canyon open space. Management policies for open space must take into consideration geology, hydrology, stormwater, biological resources, ecosystems and wildlife habitats, as well as maintenance costs, infrastructure, wildfire hazards, safety, and more. All of these factors are impacted directly by trail density and trail uses, which in turn affect visitor volume and visitor impacts on the open space.

*“While the extensive natural open space system provides numerous benefits for the Belmont community, it also brings challenges. Human safety and recreation opportunities must be **balanced** with maintaining the proper functioning of natural systems. For instance, the City has to manage invasive species, reduce fire hazards, and maintain trails as part of the effort to preserve and maintain the open spaces.”*

2035 General Plan Conservation Element, p.5.3

The Study

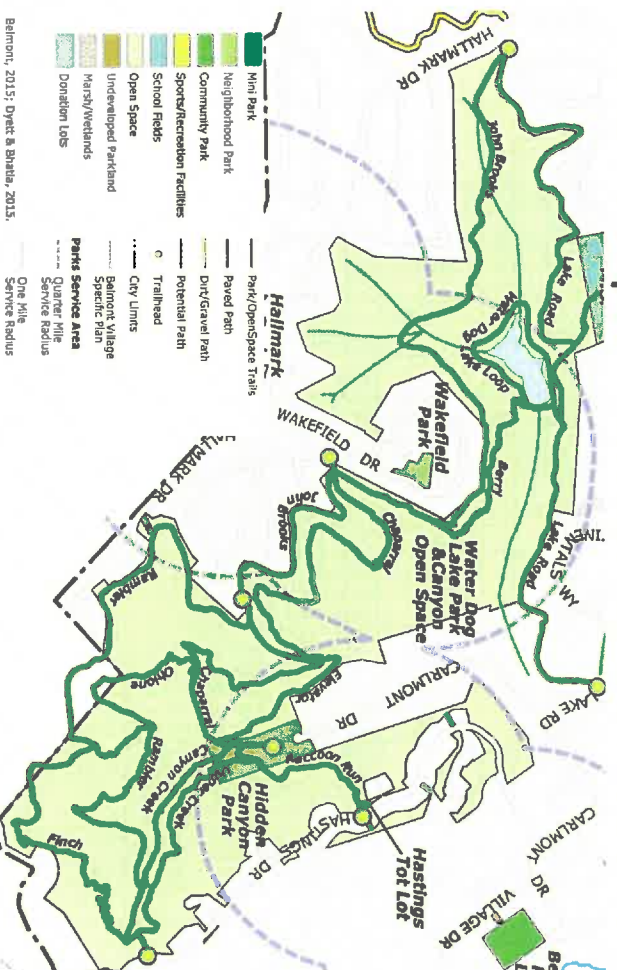
- Study methodology
- Acreage (size) of 44 Regional Open Space Preserves
- Trail miles and trail density (miles/100 acres)
- Single-use vs. shared-use trails
- Track width of shared-use trails
- **Summary**
- Action plan to protect Water Dog – Hidden Canyon

Study Methodology

The San Mateo region has a variety of nearly 50 Open Space Preserves, owned and managed by cities, counties, the state of CA, the federal government and multiple conservation agencies. Open Space preserves extending from Pacifica to Cupertino were surveyed and considered for inclusion in the study. The goal was to compare and contrast the trail policies and stewardship of *comparable* tracts of public open spaces and preserves. Therefore, developed city parks (with amenities like playgrounds, picnic areas, etc.), bay/wetland/marsh preserves, beach parks, and preserves under 50 acres were omitted from the comparison. Thus, a resulting 44 preserves were included in the analysis.

Data for this study was collected from online material provided by the managing entities. Most entities list the acreage and trail miles on their websites (see p.16). Where not available, acreage was obtained from county parcel maps. Where trail miles were not stated, miles displayed on the official trail map was summed. All trail miles represent mapped trails (*excluding* unsanctioned trails). For Belmont, acreage was taken from the sum of assessor parcels (see p. 15), and trail miles from the sum of Google-measured trails on the official city trail map.

2015 Map – Belmont General Plan



Open Space in the San Mateo Region

Preserves from Pacifica to Cupertino

PRESERVE	City/Entity	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Acres	Trail Miles	Miles / 100 Acre	Bike Miles	Single Track Bike Miles	Notes
Foothills Park	Palo Alto	L			1400	17.1	1.22	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, Palo Alto residents only
Arastradero	Palo Alto	X	X	X	622	10.3	1.65	10.3	2.5	50% gravel, @10% closed in wet
Coal Mine Ridge	Portola Valley	X		X	400	7.1	1.78	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, Private prop-Public right-of-way
Water Dog-Hidden Canyon	Belmont	X	X		287	11.0	3.83	11.0	8.5	Excludes Unsanctioned Trails
Laurelwood-Sugarloaf	San Mateo	X	L		225	3.5	1.56	1.2	0.0	2017 restoration plan, bikes on roads only
Big Canyon-Eaton Park	San Carlos	X			109	3.9	3.58	0.0	0.0	73ac park + 36ac Open Space. NO bikes
TOTAL CITY OWNED					3043	52.82	1.74	22.45	11.0	
Edgewood Preserve, RWC	SM County	X		L	467	7.9	1.69	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, Horses permitted on 6 miles
Huddart Park, Woodside	SM County	X		X	974	17.8	1.83	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, \$6 per car, camping
Junipero Serra, San Bruno	SM County	X			103	3.0	2.86	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, picnic/play areas
Memorial Park	SM County	X			673	6.9	1.03	0.0	0.0	No bikes, \$6 car, camping
Pedro Pt, Pacifica	SMC, Trust	X	L		255	2.0	0.78	1.0	0.0	1 mi bikes, packed dirt, restoration
Pescadero Creek	SM County	X		X	6497	26.0	0.40	0.0	0.0	bikes on fire roads only, camping
Pillar Point Bluff, HMB	SM County	X	X		220	3.4	1.55	3.4	0.0	ADA, wide packed dirt
Quarry Park, Granada	SM County	X	X	X	517	5.9	1.14	4.7	0.0	mostly maint surface, 1.2 mi hikers only
San McDonald Park	SM County	X		L	850	10.0	1.18	0.0	0.0	NO bikes except on 4 mi Fire road
San Bruno Mtn, San Bruno	SM Cnty/CA	X	L		2416	11.7	0.48	4.1	0.0	NO bikes, \$6 per vehicle
San Pedro Valley, Pacifica	SM County	X		L	1052	9.3	0.88	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, \$6 per vehicle
San Pedro Mtn, Montara	SM County*	X	X	X	450	6.6	1.47	6.6	0.0	*NOT a Preserve: unincorp fire roads
Upper Stevens Creek	SClara County	X	L	X	1280	10.7	0.84	8.9	7.9	Bikes on 8.9 mi one-way uphill only
Wunderlich, Woodside	SM County	X		X	942	14.7	1.56	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, heavily equestrian
TOTAL COUNTY PRESERVES					16246	129.3	0.80	28.7	7.9	totals exclude San Pedro

L = Use limited to designated trails

NOTE: San Pedro Mtn is not designated open space or preserve and is not managed under any trail management policy. It is listed for discussion only but excluded from the analysis.

PRESERVE	City/Entity	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Acres	Trail Miles	Miles / 100 Acres	Bike Miles	Single Track Bike Miles	Notes
Coal Creek	MidPen	X	X	X	500	5.4	1.08	5.4	2.9	2.5 miles are "wide" ¹²
Corte de Madera Creek	MidPen	X	X	X	2906	35.0	1.20	35.0	18.0	Skeggs, 17 miles are "wide" ¹²
Foothills Hidden Villa	MidPen			L	212	6.0	2.83	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, horses 2 mi only, CLOSED June-Aug
Fremont Older Preserve	MidPen	X	X	X	739	14.7	1.99	14.7	5.7	9 miles are "wide" ²
La Honda Creek (upr + lower)	MidPen	X		L	6100	9.5	0.16	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, permit; lower ² is working ranch
Long Ridge	MidPen	X	X	X	2226	13.2	0.59	10.2	3.7	3 mi hike only, 6.5 miles are "wide" ²
Los Trancos	MidPen	X		L	274	5.2	1.90	0.0	0.0	NO bikes horses on 2.8 mi.
Monte Bello	MidPen	X	X	X	3436	15.5	0.45	15.5	1.5	14 miles are "wide" ² , hike-in camping
Picetti Ranch Preserve	MidPen	X		X	308	3.7	1.20	0.0	0.0	NO bikes
Pulgas Ridge Preserve, RWC	MidPen	X			366	6.0	1.64	0.0	0.0	NO bikes
Purisima Creek Redwoods	MidPen	X	L	L	4711	24.0	0.51	18.0	6.0	Bikes on 18 mi, 12 mi are "wide" ¹²
Rancho San Antonio	MidPen	X		X	3988	24.2	0.61	0.0	0.0	NO bikes except paved, 18 mi are "wide" ¹²
Russian Ridge	MidPen	X	L	X	3137	10.4	0.33	9.3	3.6	Bikes on 8.3 mi, 6. mi are "wide" ²
Saratoga Gap	MidPen	X	X	X	1540	1.7	0.11	1.7	1.7	Bay Area Ridge Trail Skyline Blvd
Skyline Ridge	MidPen	X	L	L	2143	10.9	0.51	7.8	2.2	Bikes on 7.8 mi, 5.6 are "wide"
Teague hill	MidPen	X			626	1.0	0.16	0.0	0.0	Bay Area Ridge Trail access only
Thornwood	MidPen	X		X	167	0.8	0.45	0.0	0.0	NO bikes
Windy Hill	MidPen	X	L	X	1335	12.2	0.91	3.7	0.9	Bikes on 3.7 mi of "wide" ² only
TOTAL MIDPEN OWNED					34714	199.4	0.57	121.3	46.2	² MidPen designated "wide" are wider than 6ft, including fire roads.
Cowell Purissima + Coastal	POST / HMB	L	L			14	no	3.6	0.8	NOT a preserve, connections vary
Milagra Ridge, Pacifica	GGNRA	X			275	7.0	2.55	0.0	0.0	NO bikes, partially paved rd
Phleger Estate, Woodside	GGNRA	X		X	1084	5.7	0.53	0.0	0.0	NO bikes
Rancho Corral de Tierra,	GGNRA/POST	X	X	X	4262	10.0	0.23	9.0	0.0	working ranches, dirt roads, restoration
Sweeney Ridge, Pacifica	GGNRA	X	X	X	1200	7.7	0.64	5.5	0.0	2 mi hike only, 5 mi dirt road
Bureleigh Murray Ranch	CA State	X	X		1325	2.1	0.16	2.1	0.0	farm road 1.4 mi
McNee Ranch, Montara	CA State	X	X	X	690	8.0	1.16	8.0	0.0	all fire road and packed dirt
Portola Redwoods	CA State	X			2800	18.0	0.64	0.0	0.0	NO bikes except 4.2 mi Fire Road, camping
Crystal Springs Sawyer Camp	SFPUC-County	X	X			17.5	no	17.5	0.0	all paved double track
Fijfield-Cahill Ridge	SFPUC closed	L	L	L	23000	10.0	0.04	10.0	0.0	guided appt. only, all gravel road
TOTAL STATE-FED-OTHER					11636	58.5	0.50	55.7	0.8	totals exclude SFPUC and Cowell+Coastal

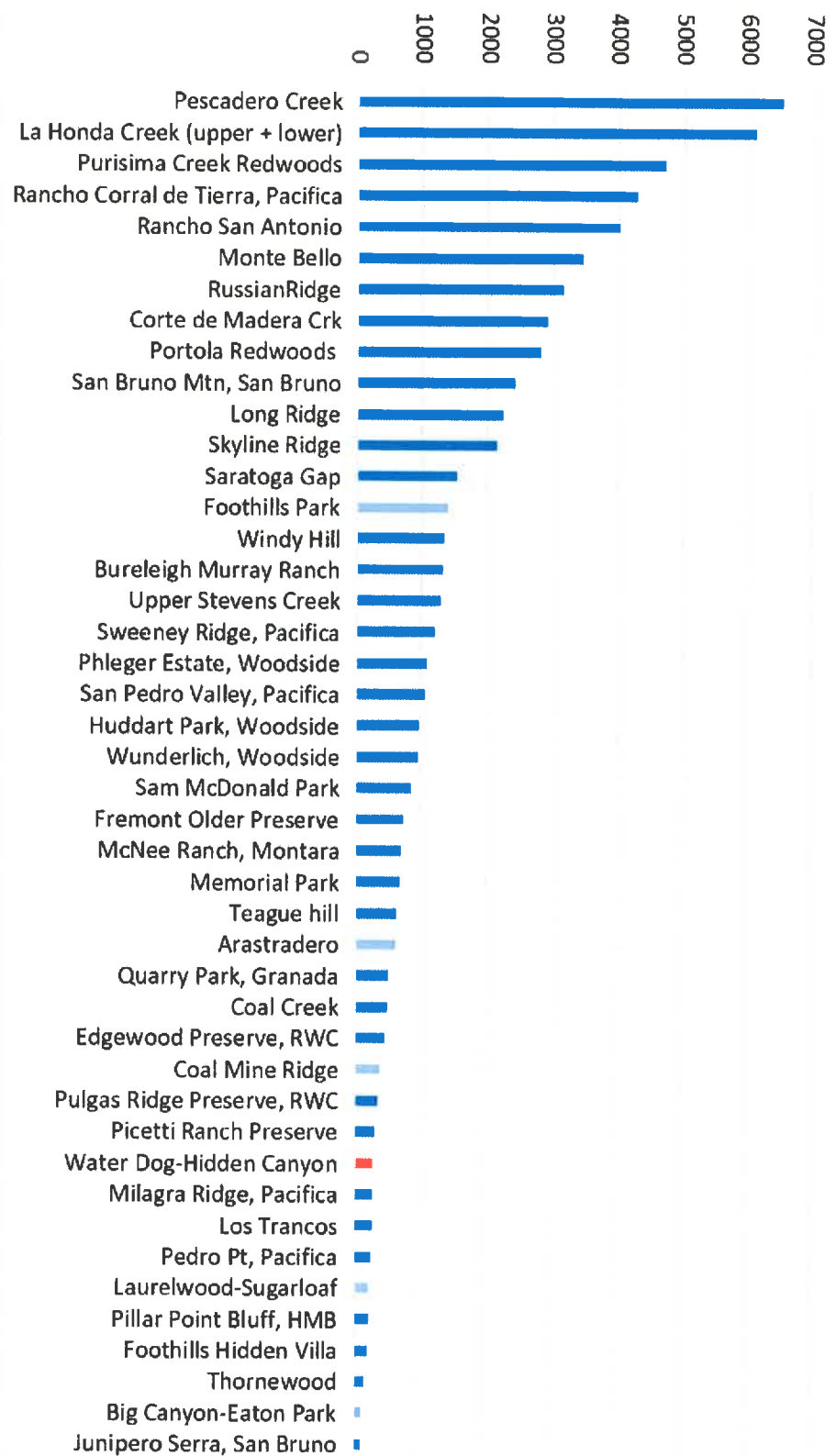
L = Use limited to designated trails

Note: Cowell and coastal trails that does not include acreage, and SFPUC Watershed lands that are not accessible to the public, are listed for discussion only, but are excluded from the analysis.

287-Acre Water Dog-Hidden Canyon Ranks 35th Among 44 Regional Preserves

At 287 acres, Water Dog is the 10th smallest of the 44 preserves included in the analysis. The chart below ranks preserves by acreage. Water Dog is shown in red, and the other 5 city-owned preserves in light blue.

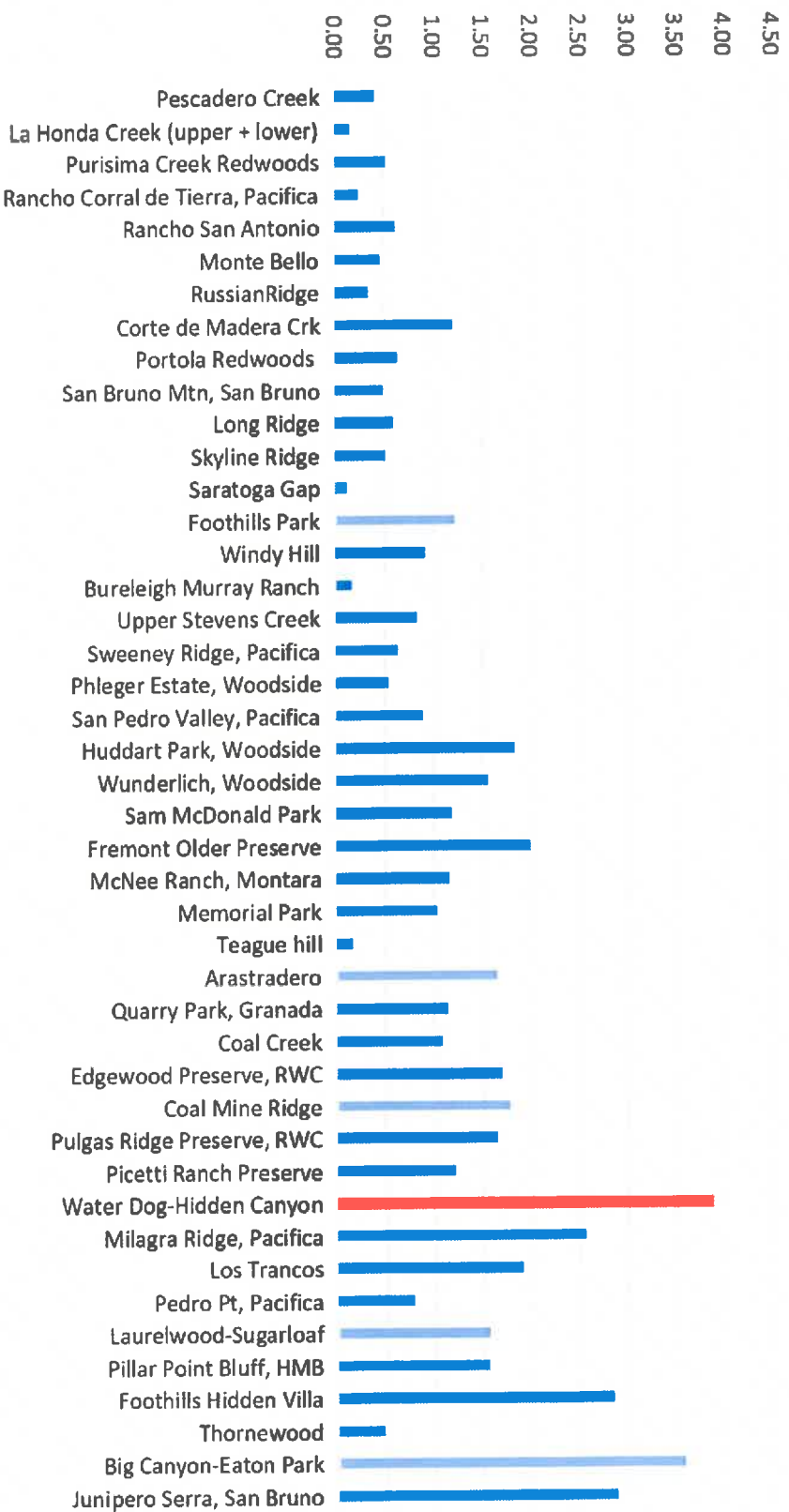
44 San Mateo Region Preserves Ranked by Acres



Water Dog has the Highest Trail Density of ALL Preserves

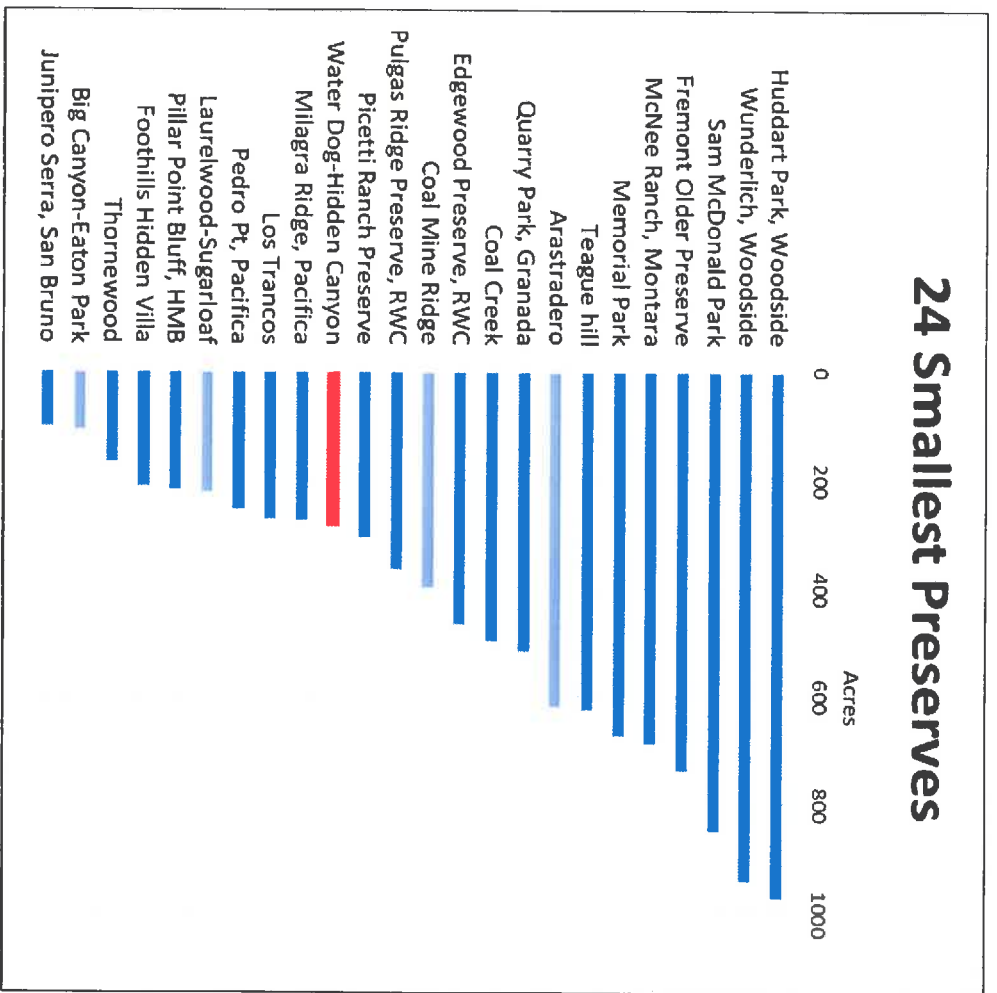
Using this same ranking by acreage, largest preserve on the left and smallest on the right, the table, below shows the number of trail miles per 100 acres for these same preserves. Naturally we would expect the smaller preserves (on the right of the chart) to have a higher ratio of trails *per acre*. But even amongst the smaller preserves, Water Dog is a clear outlier, **with more trail miles per acre than any of the 44 preserves.**

44 Preserves - Trail Miles per 100 Acres



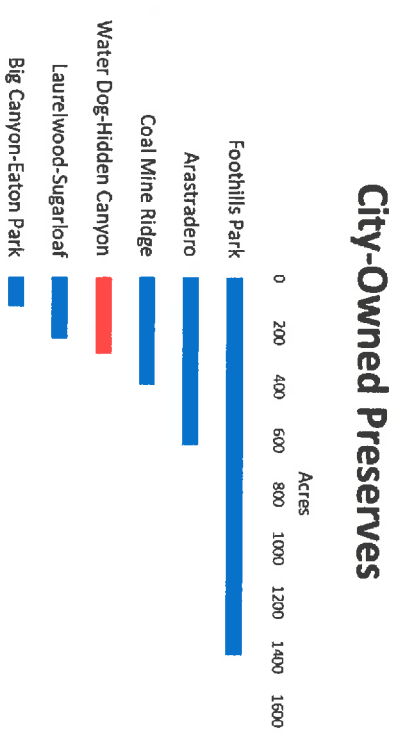
Narrowing the Comparison to 24 Smaller Preserves – Those Under 1000 Acres

It's fair to argue that comparing Water Dog to much larger preserves is not equitable. So next we look at just the smaller of these preserves – those under 1000 acres. The graphs shown here include just the 24 preserves under 1000 acres. Again, the preserves are ranked from largest acreage on the top to smallest acreage on the bottom.



**287 Acre Water Dog is
10th smallest of regional preserves**

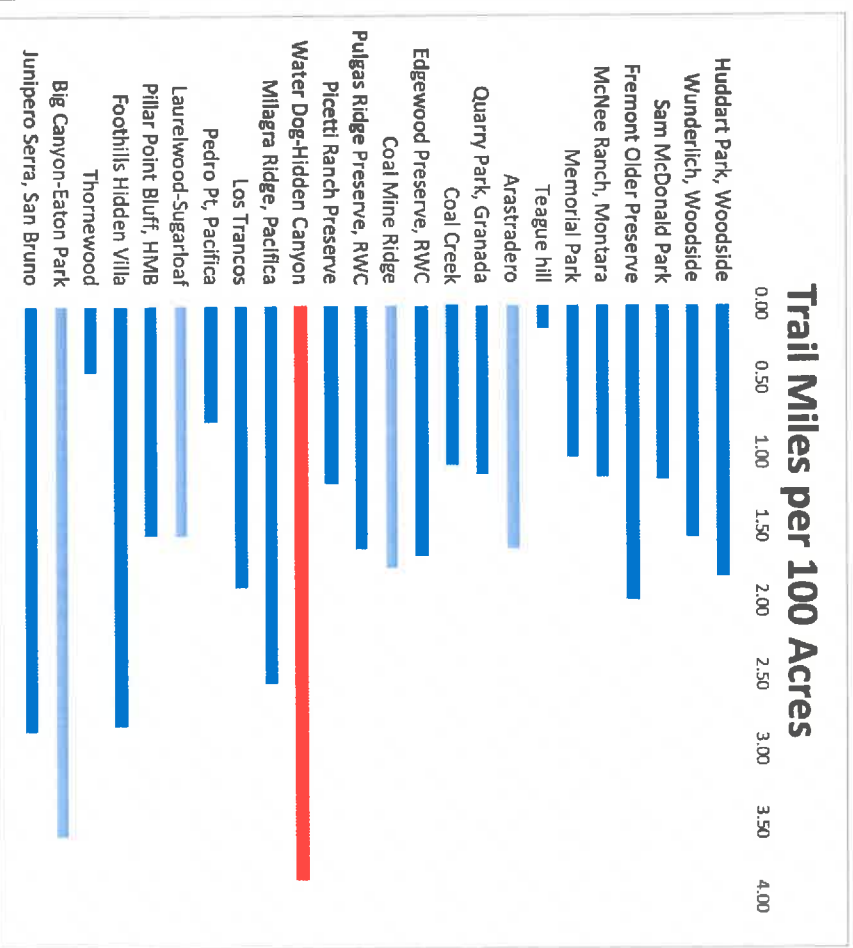
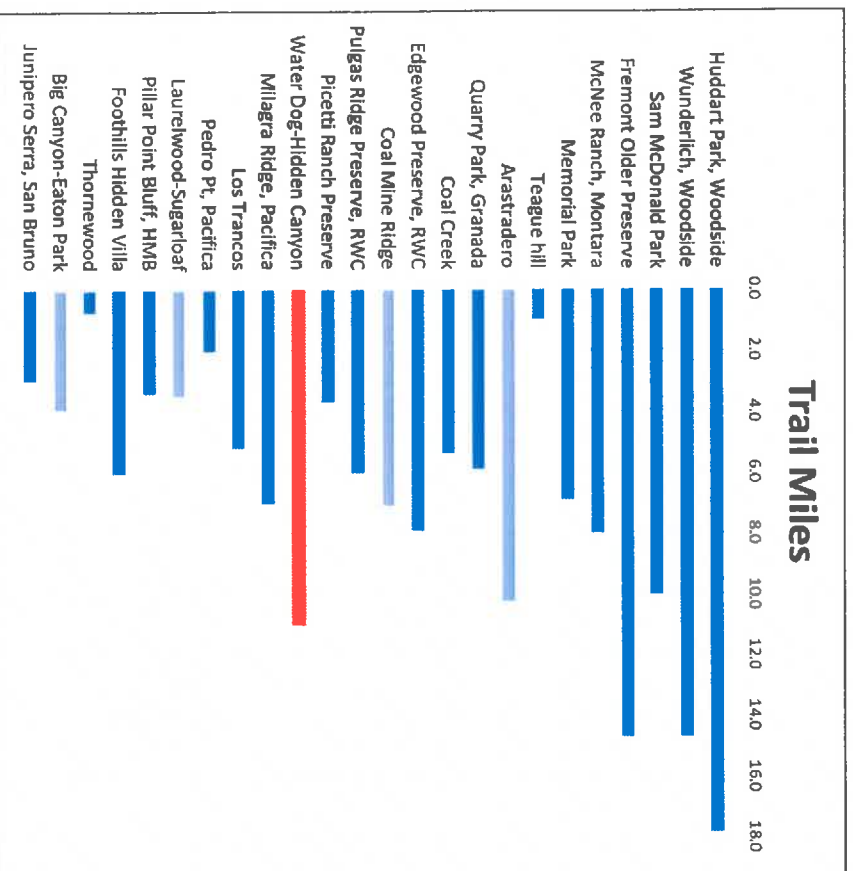
**The 6 City-Owned preserves range from
109 acres to 1,400 acres**



Trail Miles and Trail Density of the 24 Smaller Preserves

For the 24 smallest preserves (under 1000 acres) these graphs are again ranked in the same order by acreage. On the left we see raw trail miles. Water Dog is an outlier, with **more trail miles than all but three (larger) preserves in this group.**

To equalize between the larger and smaller preserves, the second graph shows trail density; the ratio of trail miles *per 100 acres*. **Water Dog is again an outlier with more than double the average trail density of comparable preserves.**



Sorted by acres, largest to smallest. Light blue bars indicate city-owned preserves.

Trail Mile Density among 44 San Mateo Region Open Space Preserves

Recall the data shown in the survey table on pages 2-3, where preserves were grouped by owner entities: Cities, Counties, MidPen and Others. Below are the *average trail densities* (trail miles per 100 acres) of the preserves maintained by *each managing entity group*. The average trail density of the 23 other smaller preserves is 1.47, and other city-owned preserves are 1.53. In contrast, Water Dog is a clear outlier with **2-5 times the trail density maintained by other entities**.

Average Trail Miles per 100 Acres

County Owned Preserves (13)	.80
MidPen Owned Preserves (18)	.57
State-Fed-Agency Owned (7)	.50
Other City Owned Preserves (5)	1.53
Preserves Under 1,000 Acres (23)	1.47
Water Dog – Hidden Canyon	3.83

Water Dog Trails are over-built by a factor of 2-5 times

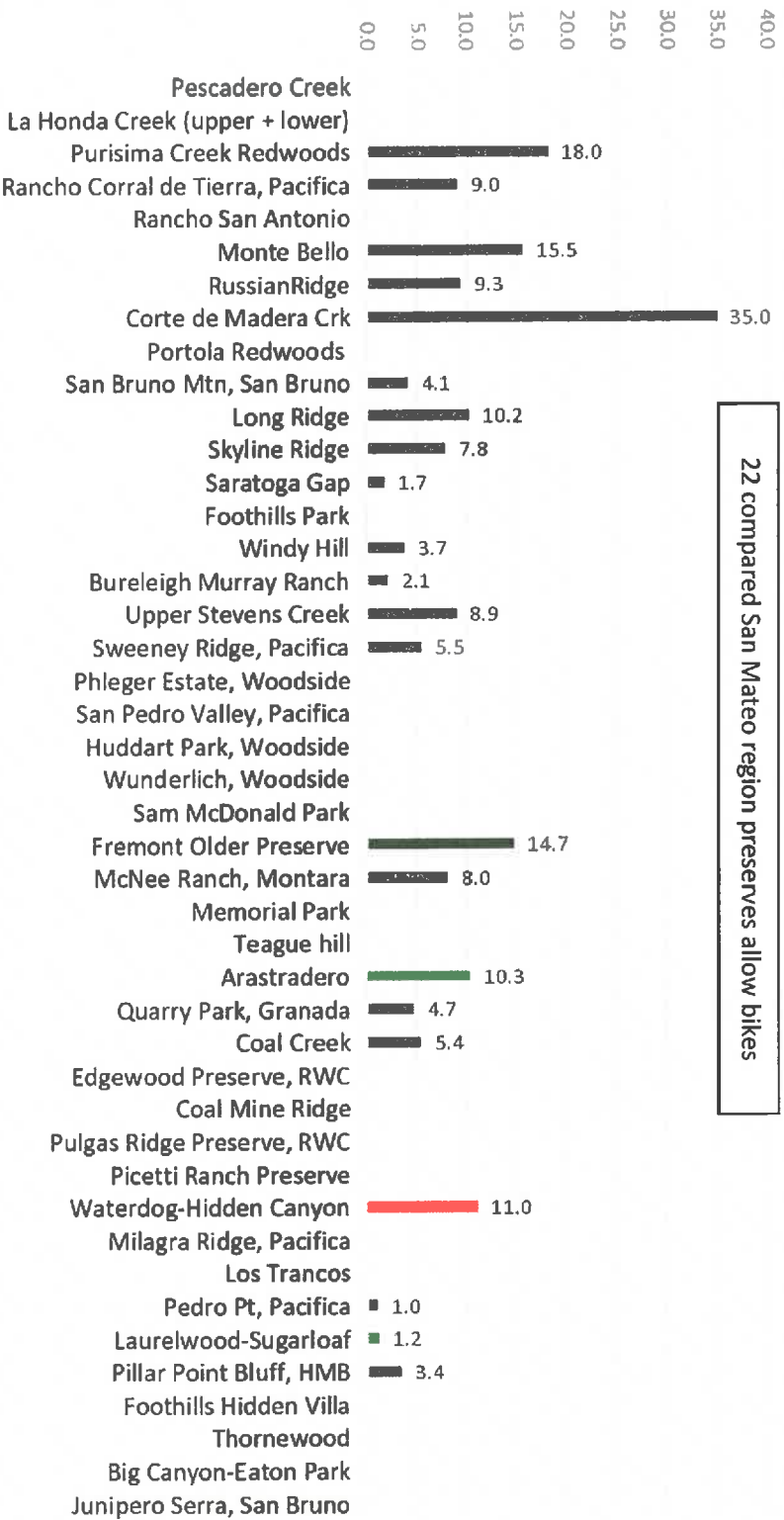
Trail density has a direct impact on both the *environment* and the *user experience*. Impacts on the environment include segmentation of wildlife habitats, disruption of wildlife corridors, soil disruption, erosion, drainage, impacts on waterways, invasive plant species, endangered species, and tree canopy health. Additionally, higher trail density increases visitor volume, which in turn impacts adjacent neighborhoods, emergency services, wildfire hazards, and even traffic and air quality. Visitors come to open spaces to experience tranquility, solitude and connection with nature, and the quality of this experience is determined by *both* trail traffic and the natural setting. **Responsible land management limits trail density in order to minimize negative impacts on the environment and the user experience.**

Half of Compared San Mateo Region Preserves Allow Bikes

Of the 44 preserves compared in the analysis, 22 do not allow bikes at all (except on paved roads used by vehicles). The graph below shows the bike trail miles of the 22 preserves that allow bikes. Note, this is bike trail miles and excludes single-use hiking trail miles.

Water Dog has More Bike Miles than all but 4 Preserves

44 Preserves - Bike Trail Miles



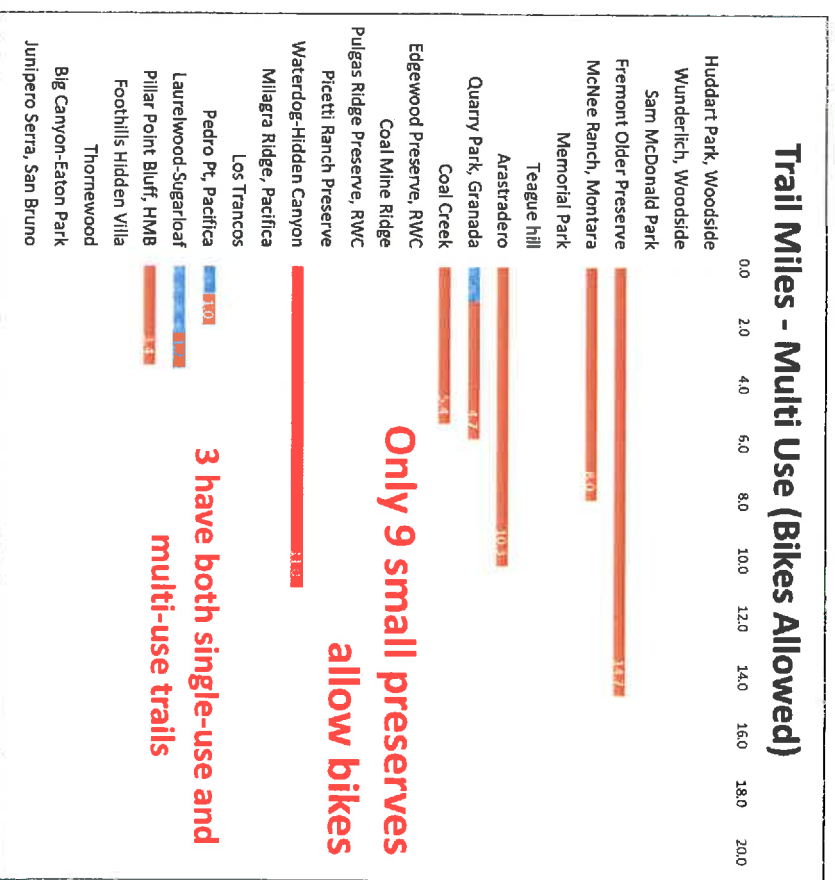
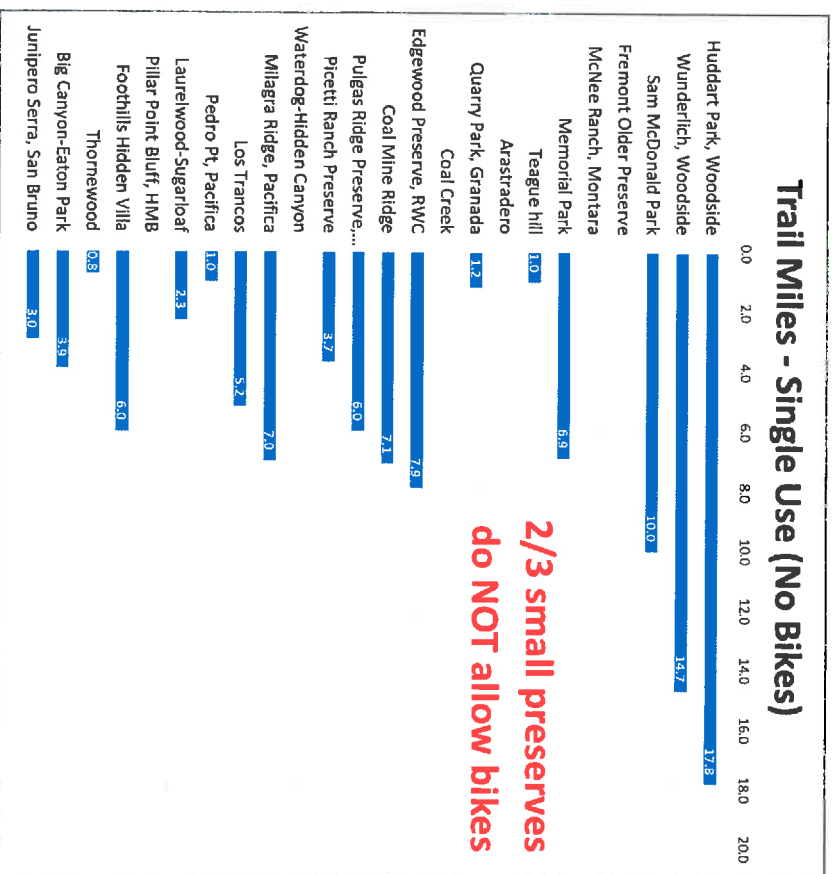
NOTE: None of the preserves surveyed in the region have bike-only trails.

Only one preserve (Upper Stevens Creek in Santa Clara County) has a one-way trail: 1.4 miles of fire road allowing bikes one-way uphill only.

Only 9 of the 24 Smaller Preserves Allow Bikes

The graph on the left displays trail miles reserved for hikers only. **Fifteen out of 24 smaller preserves DO NOT allow bikes on trails.** Three others have a *mix* of single-use and multi-use trails; Quarry Park, Pedro Point, and Laurelwood-Sugarloaf (note the *multi-use* trail miles for these three parks on the graph on the right.) **Water Dog allows bikes on every trail, regardless of width.** The miles and density of trails for sport biking has made Water Dog a regional destination bike-park.

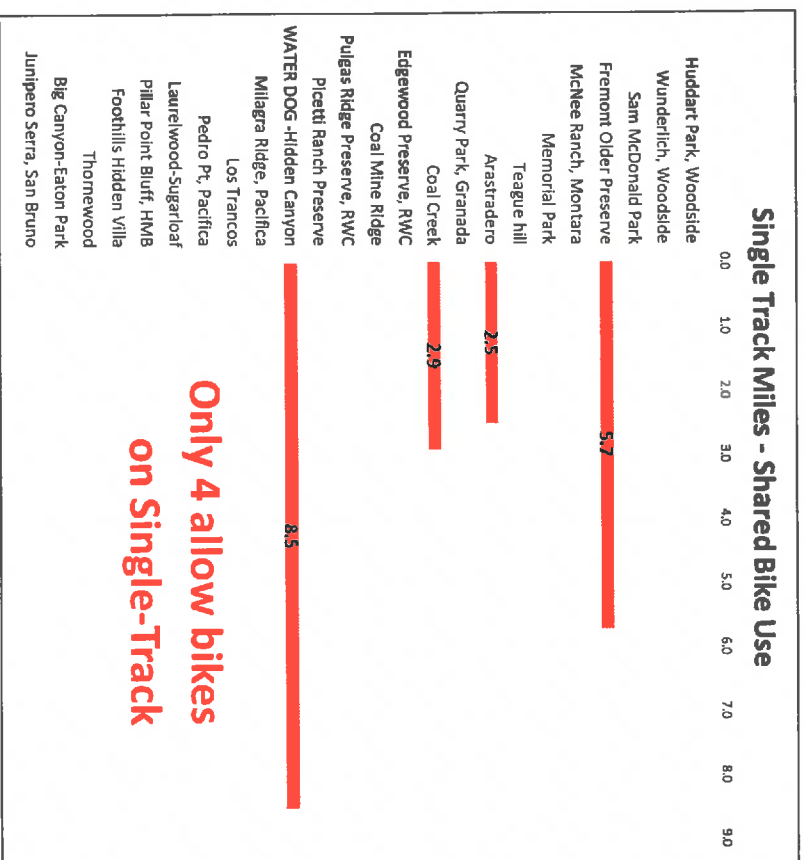
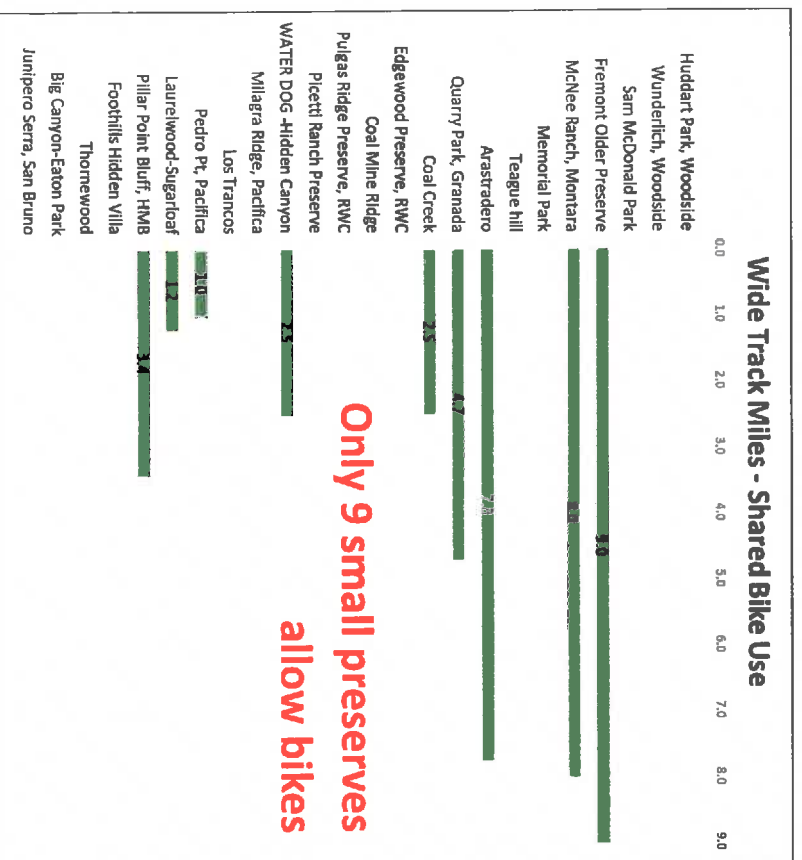
Water Dog has more bike-miles than all but the much larger Fremont Older



Only 4 of the 24 Smaller Preserves Allow Bikes on Single Track Trails

The width of shared-use trails is an important factor for safety and compatibility. Hiker experience is greatly diminished by encounters requiring them to jump off-trail. This is why best-practices followed by other preserves restrict bike access on single-track trails. These graphs show the trail width in the **nine preserves that allow bikes on trails**. On the left are miles of trail that are unpaired roads; former ranch roads, logging roads, or service roads at least 6 feet wide. **The majority of shared-use miles are wide tracks**. On the right are trails requiring hikers to share *single-track* trails with bikes. **All Water Dog single track trails are shared-use.**

Water Dog has the most Shared Single-Track miles of the 24 smaller preserves.



SUMMARY

Trail development and management of Water Dog open space is inconsistent with approved City plans and policies. Further, this study has shown that Water Dog trail policies are not consistent with the best-practices followed by comparable land stewards in the region.

- ❖ Water Dog has twice the trail miles proportional to its size.

Excessive trail density disrupts wildlife in their natural habitat, segments wildlife corridors, alters drainage patterns, introduces erosion, impacts waterways, and damages plants and tree root systems. With the highest trail density of all 44 preserves, Water Dog attracts more visitors, which in turn impacts adjacent neighborhoods, emergency services, wildfire hazards, and traffic.

- ❖ Water Dog has more *bike* trail miles than all but four of the largest preserves.

The miles and density of trails for *sport biking* has made Water Dog a regional destination bike-park, attracting bikers from all over the bay area. Half of the open space preserves in the region *ban bikes on all trails*. Amongst comparable smaller preserves, two out of three ban bikes from all trails.

- ❖ Water Dog allows bikes on ALL single-track trails; zero trails are protected for the single use of hikers.

Only 4 of the 24 comparable smaller preserves allow bikes on single-track trails. While Water Dog has become a regional destination for sport mountain biking, *Belmont residents are denied access* to the tranquility, solitude, and connection with nature that comes only from a quiet walk in the woods.

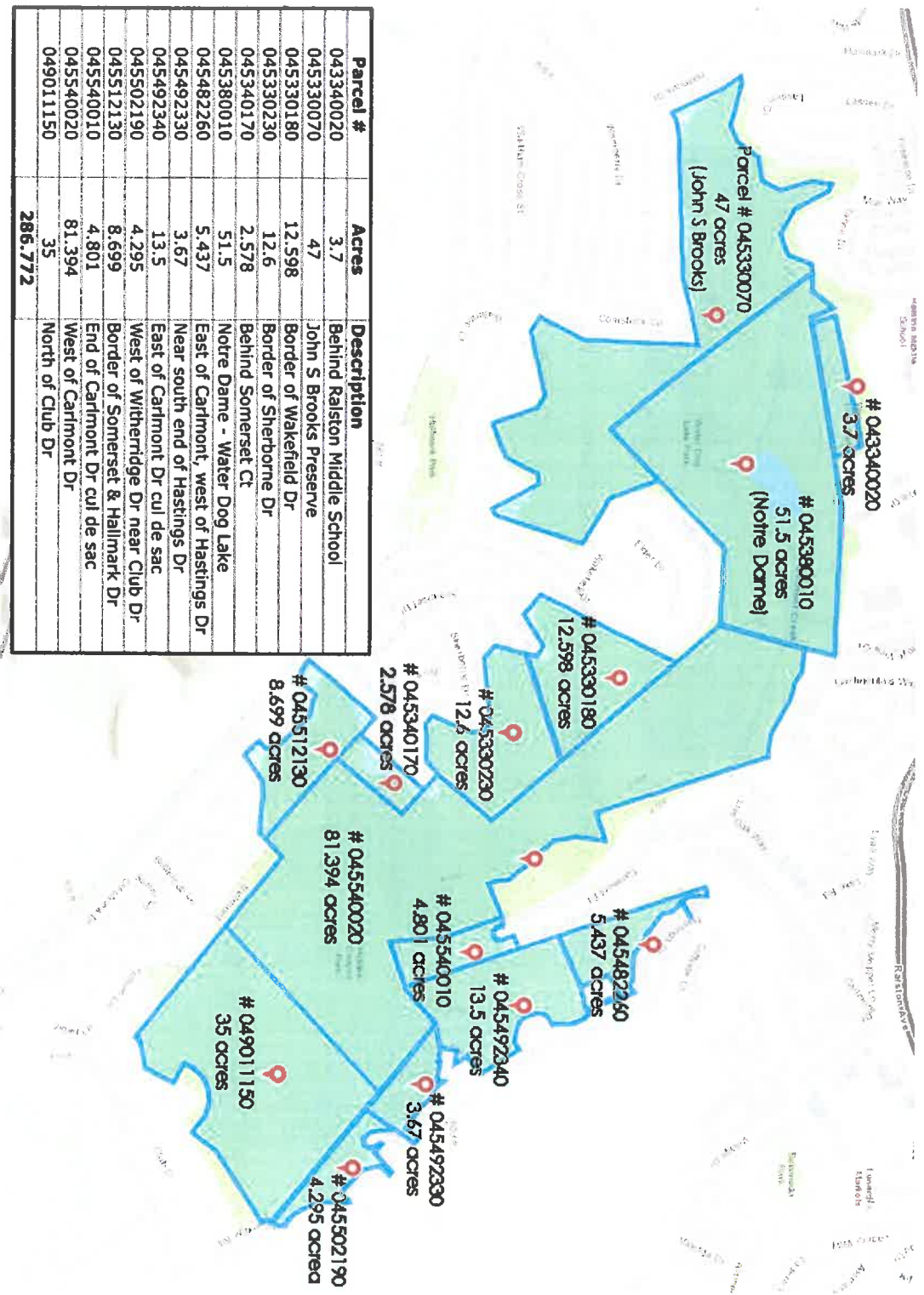
ACTION NEEDED TO PROTECT WATER DOG-HIDDEN CANYON

- ❖ **Close all trails not approved on the 1998 Trail Map.**
In 1998, Belmont's City Council approved nine miles of trail. The current City Trail Map shows 11 miles of trail, not counting an estimated 1-2 miles of existing unmapped trails.
- ❖ **Confine bike use to perimeter trails and roads.**
The Council Approved 1998 Trail Map clearly designated only perimeter trails for multi-use, consistent with the policies adopted in the 1992 Open Space Master Plan.
- ❖ **Reserve single-track trails for hiking only.**
The hiker experience and perception of safety is greatly diminished by encounters requiring them to jump off-trail at the command of a bell. Provide a safe hiking environment for hikers, including children and dogs, where narrow trails make passing dangerous.
- ❖ **Set a long-term goal to reduce trail density.**
Aim for development in line with the 1.47 miles/100 acres average maintained by other preserves of Water Dog's size.

"These areas contribute greatly to the character of Belmont and possess many inherent values: scenic beauty, visual relief from the urbanized area, preservation of natural ecosystems, watershed management, and providing space for passive recreation and outdoor education."

1992 Parks and Open Space Master Plan, p.40

PARCELS OF WATER DOG – HIDDEN CANYON – JOHN BROOKS PRESERVE



REFERENCE LINKS TO SOURCE DATA

PRESERVE	City/Entity	Notes	Links
CITY OWNED			
Foothills Park	Palo Alto	NO bikes, Palo Alto residents only	http://cityofpaloalto.org/cw/cwax/filebank/documents/72532
Arastradero	Palo Alto	50% gravel, @10% closed in wet	https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/parks/preserves/arastradero
Coal Mine Ridge	Portola Valley	NO bikes, Private prop-Public right-of-way	https://www.portolavalley.net/home/showdocument?id=120
Water Dog-Hidden Canyon	Belmont	Excludes Unsanctioned Trails	https://www.belmont.gov/home/showdocument?id=16479
Laurelwood-Sugarloaf	San Mateo	2017 restoration plan, bikes on roads only	https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/45418/LPSM-Management-Plan-Amendment_March-2015?bid=1
Big Canyon-Eaton Park	San Carlos	73ac park + 36ac Open Space. NO bikes	https://www.cityofsancharlos.org/home/showdocument?id=1361
COUNTY OWNED			
Edgewood Preserve, RWC	SM County	NO bikes, Horses permitted on 6 miles	https://parks.smcgov.org/edgewood-park-natural-preserve
Huddart Park, Woodside	SM County	NO bikes, \$6 per car, camping	https://parks.smcgov.org/huddart-park
Junipero Serra, San Bruno	SM County	NO bikes, picnic/play areas	https://parks.smcgov.org/junipero-serra-park
Memorial Park	SM County	No bikes, \$6 car, camping	https://parks.smcgov.org/memorial-park
Pedro Pt, Pacifica	SMC, LandTrust	1 mi bikes, packed dirt, restoration	https://parks.smcgov.org/pedro-point-headlands-improvement-restoration-project
Pescadero Creek	SM County	bikes on fire roads only, camping	https://parks.smcgov.org/pescadero-creek-park-trails
Pillar Point Bluff, HMB	SM County	ADA, wide packed dirt	https://parks.smcgov.org/pillar-point-bluff
Quarry Park, Granada	SM County	mostly maint surface, 1.2 mi hikers only	https://parks.smcgov.org/quarry-park
Sam McDonald Park	SM County	NO bikes except on 4 mi Fire road	https://parks.smcgov.org/sam-mcdonald-park
San Bruno Mtn, San Bruno	SM County/CA	NO bikes except on 4.1 mi road, \$6 per car	https://parks.smcgov.org/san-bruno-mountain-state-county-park
San Pedro Valley, Pacifica	SM County	NO bikes, \$6 Per vehicle	https://parks.smcgov.org/san-pedro-valley-park
<i>San Pedro Mtn, Montara</i>	<i>SM County*</i>	<i>*NOT a Preserve: unincorp fire roads</i>	https://www.hikingproject.com/trail/7007453/old-san-pedro-mountain-road
Upper Stevens Creek	SCLara County	Bikes on 8.9 mi one-way uphill only	https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Documents/StCkMainFinal2011.pdf
Wunderlich, Woodside	SM County	NO bikes, heavily equestrian	https://parks.smcgov.org/wunderlich-park-trails
MIDPEN OWNED			
Coal Creek	MidPen	2.5 miles are "wide"2	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/coal-creek
Corte de Madera Crk	MidPen	Skeggs, 17 miles are "wide"2	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/el-corte-de-madera-creek
Foothills Hidden Villa	MidPen	NO bikes, horses 2 mi only, CLOSED June-Aug	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/foothills
Fremont Older Preserve	MidPen	9 miles are "wide"2	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/fremont-older
La Honda Creek (upr + lower)	MidPen	NO bikes, permit; lower? is working ranch	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/la-honda-creek
Long Ridge	MidPen	3 mi hike only, 6.5 miles are "wide"2	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/long-ridge
Los Trancos	MidPen	NO bikes horses on 2.8 mi.	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/los-trancos
Monte Bello	MidPen	14 miles are "wide"2, hike-in camping	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/monte-bello
Picetti Ranch Preserve	MidPen	NO bikes	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/picchetti-ranch
Pulgas Ridge Preserve, RWC	MidPen	NO bikes	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/pulgas-ridge
Purisima Creek Redwoods	MidPen	Bikes on 18 mi., 12 mi are "wide"2	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/purisima-creek-redwoods

Open Space Preserves of the San Mateo Region, 06-15-2021, K.D.Mercer

Rancho San Antonio	MidPen	NO bikes except paved, 18 mi are "wide" ²	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/rancho-san-antonio
RussianRidge	MidPen	Bikes on 8.3 mi, 6. mi are "wide" ²	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/russian-ridge
Saratoga Gap	MidPen	Bay Area Ridge Trail Skyline Blvd	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/saratoga-gap
Skyline Ridge	MidPen	Bikes on 7.8 mi, 5.6 are "wide"	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/skyline-ridge
Teague hill	MidPen	Bay Area Ridge Trail access only	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/teague-hill
Thornewood	MidPen	NO bikes	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/thornewood
Windy Hill	MidPen	Bikes on 3.7 mi of "wide" ² only	https://www.openspace.org/preserves/windy-hill

OTHER ENTITY OWNED

<i>Cowell Purissima + Coastal</i>	POST/HMB	<i>NOT a preserve, connections vary</i>	https://openspacetrust.org/hike/cowell-purissima-trail/
Milagra Ridge, Pacifica	GGNRA	NO bikes, partially paved rd	https://www.parksconservancy.org/parks/milagra-ridge
Phleger Estate, Woodside	GGNRA	NO bikes	https://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/upload/Phleger-Estate-trail-map-web_2016_small.pdf
Rancho Corral de Tierra	GGNRA/POST	working ranches, dirt roads, restoration	https://openspacetrust.org/hike/rancho-corr-al-de-tierra/
Sweeney Ridge, Pacifica	GGNRA	2 mi hike only, 5 mi dirt road	https://www.parksconservancy.org/parks/sweeney-ridge
Bureleigh Murray Ranch	CA State	farm road 1.4 mi	https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=535
McInee Ranch, Montara	CA State	all fire road and packed dirt	https://www.coastsidestateparks.org/mcnee-ranch
Portola Redwoods	CA State	NO bikes except 4.2 mi Fire Road, camping	https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=539
<i>Crystal Springs Sawyer Camp</i>	SFPUC-SM	<i>all paved double track</i>	https://parks.smgov.org/crystal-springs-regional-trail
<i>Fifield-Cahill Ridge</i>	SFPUC closed	<i>guided appt. only, all gravel road</i>	https://stwater.org/index.aspx?page=147

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 9:24 AM
To: City Council; Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Cc: linda gates
Subject: Safety in Belmont Open Space email 1 of 2
Attachments: Upper Lake Road Trail Letter.docx; ULR hiker.MOV

I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Barbara Posch

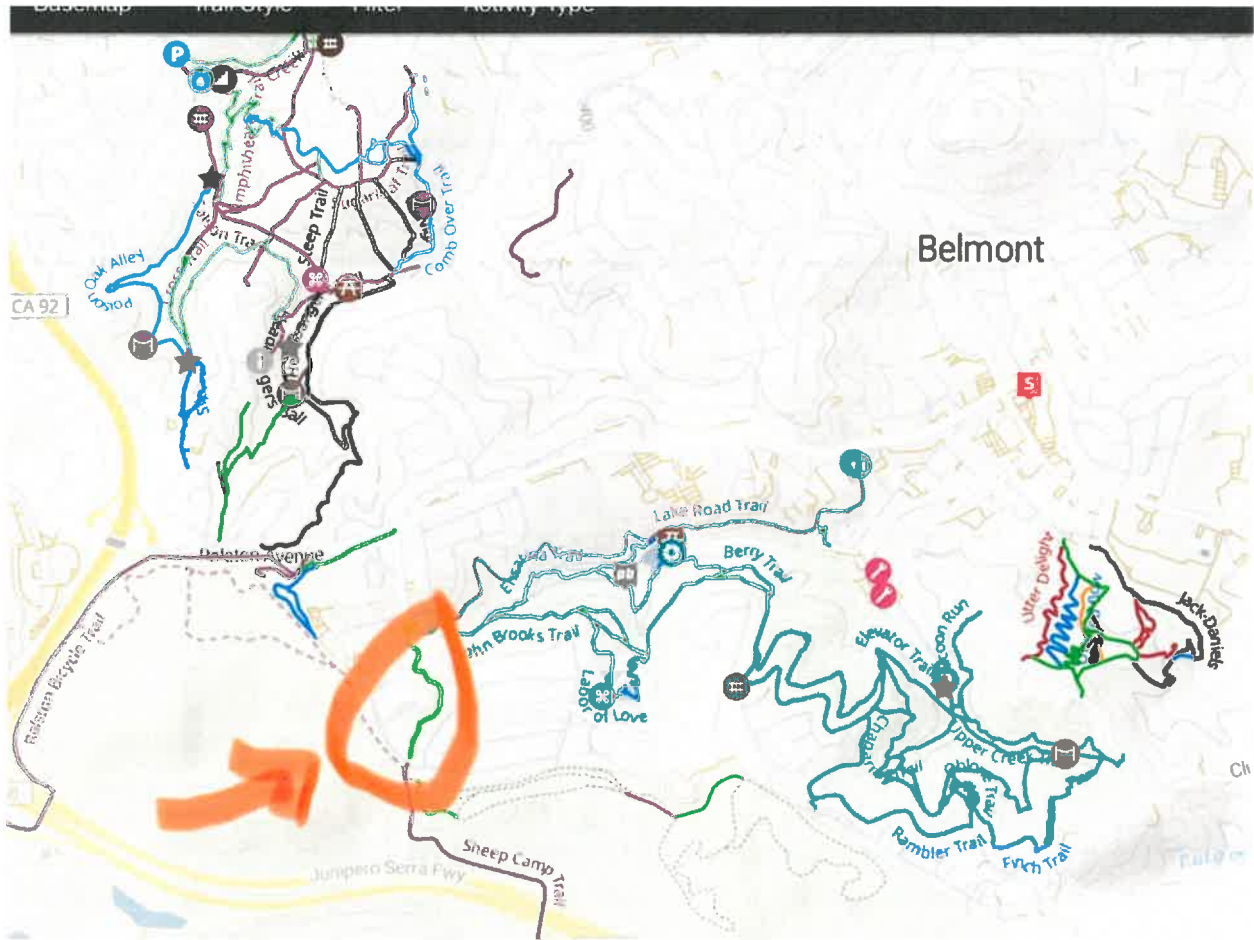
Brigitte Shearer

From: Jonathan Carter
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 6:51 AM
To: Brigitte Shearer; Daniel Ourtiague; P&R Comm
Subject: sierra club article

interesting article from Sierra Club on benefits of cycling on municipalities...

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/shredding-path-community-development>

As the Trailforks Mountain Bike map below shows bikers have many trails within Belmont where they can pursue their hobby. It's shocking to see how many mountain bike trails there are in Belmont – I had no idea it was this bad! They don't need to be on Upper Lake Road Trail (circled in Orange). There are road surfaces that can be used to bike to Water Dog – Benson and Wemberly run almost parallel to the trail.

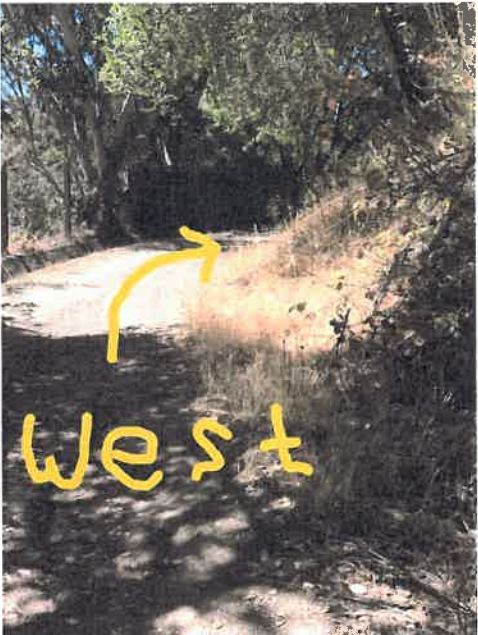
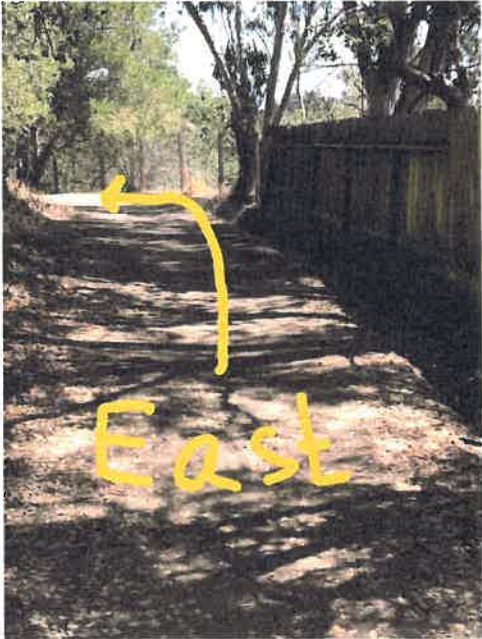


Please make Upper Lake Road Trail for foot traffic only. Give the tax paying residents of Belmont a safe place for seniors like me, physically challenged individuals like the gentleman in the video, parents with baby strollers, newly walking toddlers, and anyone else who wants a safe place to walk on a beautiful, canopied trail. This trail is ideal for these categories of users because the trail surfaces are relatively smooth, not too much slope, mostly shaded, with easy access from both Hallmark and Saint James.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The City Council Vision Statement included with Belmont’s Fiscal 2022 Budget states on page 22 “We value and celebrate a strong commitment to diversity, *inclusion, safety, equality and dignity* for all individuals in Belmont.”

Look at the attached video clip that was taken by me on May 31, 2021. Zoom in and you will see a man, who walks with great difficulty, going west on Upper Lake Road Trail. As I have seen this man before on this trail, I asked him about his recent experiences. He said it was awful for him to walk on this trail. Too many bikes for him to avoid. I asked him if it would be safer for him in the Preserve on Lake Road Trail and he said no way, too dangerous for him. The photos below show the blind curve, from both the west(uphill) and east(downhill) directions, that this man just completed as he walked in a westerly direction. Even though this is one of the widest trails on Upper Lake Road, he could have easily gotten hit by a bike as he cannot move out of the way and neither he, nor a biker, could see each other on this blind curve. How does his difficulty walking the trails of Belmont match with your Vision Statement?



Upper Lake Road Trail used to be a serene, safe place to walk without having to fear being hit by a bike on a blind curve. Not anymore. It has become the connector route from Sheep Camp Trail and Fox School Trail to Water Dog Lake Trails. Lots of bikes, lots of speed on a narrow trail with many blind curves.

Brigitte Shearer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 9:58 AM
To: City Council; Brigitte Shearer; P&R Comm
Cc: linda gates
Subject: Safety in Belmont Open Space email 2 of 2
Attachments: Narrow Trails in WD.docx; Narrow Trail WD.MOV

I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Barbara Posch

The City Council Vision Statement included with Belmont's Fiscal 2022 Budget states on page 22 "We value and celebrate a strong commitment to diversity, inclusion, *safety*, equality and dignity for all individuals in Belmont." How is it safe to have bikers and hikers on the same narrow trails? This video clearly shows that it is not safe and there was no "Wheels Yield to Heels" in this situation. *It's time for the City of Belmont to take a leadership position to ensure trail safety in Waterdog Preserve. Narrow trails on steep cross slopes encourage unsafe biking and endanger both hikers and the surrounding vegetation.*

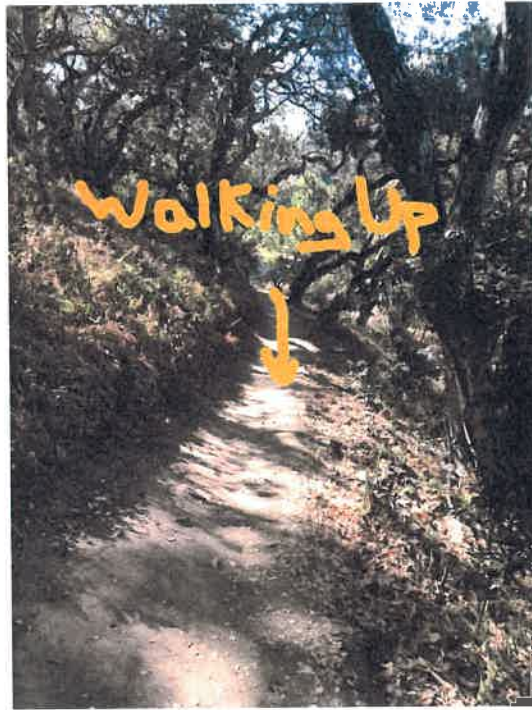
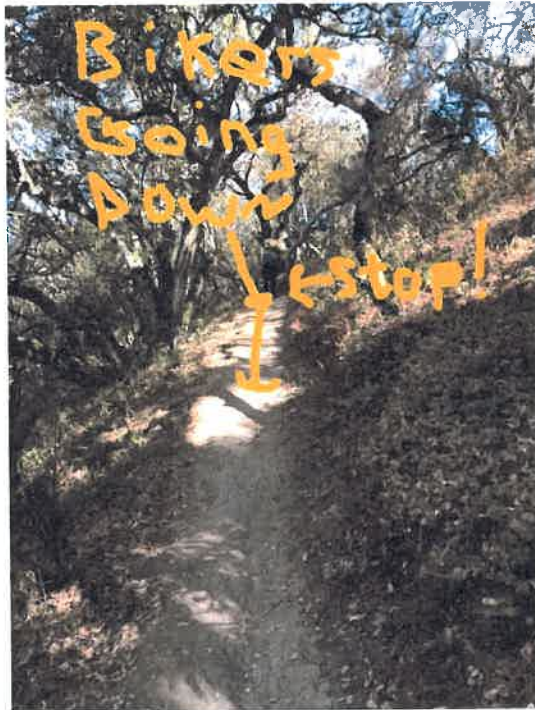


Thank you for your time and consideration.

The city's "Love Waterdog" sign at major trail heads starts with "W" defined as "Wheels Yield to Heels." Nice slogan, but ...

Look at the attached video clip that was taken by me on Berry Trail on May 30, 2021. You can see how narrow the trail is and how difficult it is for bikers and hikers to be on the trail at the same time. Although the two young men on bikes were polite and slowed down as they went downhill towards me, Berry Trail is very narrow at that point with a cliff on one side and a shrub covered hill on the other side. As you can hear on the video, I had to ask them to stop so that I could safely get around them by walking up onto the hill and into the shrubs which could easily have poison oak, ticks, or other pests. What should have happened in a situation like this is that the bikers should have stopped at the top of the hill and waited for me to reach a point where I could easily and safely step out of the way or pass by them. The only reason this was filmed is that another biker had just sped by me without slowing down so I thought I better start filming anyone who bikes near me in the event I get injured.

Photo of location on Berry Trail taken from both directions. Bikers should have stopped at the top and let me finish my uphill hike. Note narrow trail, shrubs on one side, drop off on the other side.



Brigitte Shearer

From: Paul Sheng
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 10:01 PM
To: P&R Comm
Cc: City Council; Brigitte Shearer
Subject: Follow up comment on 6/2/21 P&R Commission meeting

Dear P&R Commission:

I thought the discussion at the 6/2/21 meeting was very productive, and I wanted to offer a few follow-up comments:

Open space consultant

We heard from three public commenters whose knee-jerk reaction was to criticize the city's plan to retain a single consultant to evaluate trails, fire mitigation, conservation, and recreational use of open space. However, having a single consultant take a big-picture, holistic approach to evaluating open space issues is a perfectly rational and reasonable approach. Retaining four separate consultants will result in differing opinions on priorities, and then at the end someone will have to balance those priorities, so the city might end up having to hire a "referee" consultant to sort out all the opinions and data.

Open space management has to balance a number of sometimes competing interests, and that is presumably what the city is looking for: a consultant to take all of these interests into consideration and give unbiased and balanced opinions and suggestions. To the extent the consultant needs specialized analysis in any area, they can retain a sub-consultant to assist. I fully support the single consultant approach, and I'm sure the majority of the community does as well. We need consensus and balance on open space issues, not more balkanization and conflict.

Connectivity

I really liked Commissioner Austin's idea of a "hub and spoke" system with interconnected urban multi-use paths leading to different amenities and Commissioner Fox's idea to make use of underutilized alleys. Signs and/or QR codes with information about the area's history along these paths would be a great addition as well. When I was a kid growing up in San Jose, we would ride our skateboards all around town to different informal "skate spots" (because there were no local skate parks back then). Obviously, in Belmont, sidewalks and flat land are in short supply, but if we had interconnected multi-use paths leading to amenities around Belmont, it would give kids on skateboards, scooters, and bikes opportunities to get outdoors, go places safely, and have multi-hour adventures.

Pickleball

Comissioner Fohr was spot on when she commented on the importance of keeping abreast of trends and the future of recreation. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America and is accessible by every age group. See for example <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2021/01/28/pickleball-is-the-fastest-growing-sport-in-america>

Pickleball would be a fantastic amenity for our community. It could be incorporated into senior programs as well as after-school and summer recreation programs. Pickleball is offered at Ralston middle school PE on makeshift courts and is very popular option for students. Many cities have tennis courts, but few have pickleball courts. This would be the perfect addition for Belmont, we're not a cookie-cutter community and this would be a unique amenity - and because pickleball is so accessible to a wide range of people, this is consistent with our community values of inclusivity. At Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek, there are pickleball courts right next to a skate park, this has the effect of bringing community members of all ages into the outdoors together.

Skate parks, pump tracks, and other teen-focused amenities

In the PROS survey, there was overwhelming community interest in a pump track, and that amenity garnered the most interest out of all of the options. The time is ripe for that discussion to be restarted and pump tracks are worthy of inclusion in the master plan because they were the #1 desired amenity. During the meeting, there was mention of utilization of the abandoned space where the Ralston ropes course is, which was one of the sites under consideration when pump tracks were last before the commission. Commissioner Michaels mentioned he would like to keep that area adventurous, so I submit that a pump track would fill that need. The commission previously received extremely strong grassroots community interest in pump tracks, and that has now been validated by the survey.

Clearly there is also strong interest in skate parks, and they would help fill the void for our under-served preteen and teen population. Skate parks don't have to be a big undertaking, while there are very large ones such as Lake Elizabeth in Fremont and Cunningham Park in San Jose, small simple ones such as the Foster City Teen Zone and the Beresford Park skate pavilion in San Mateo are very good examples of modest parks. It would be completely feasible to have multiple small skate parks to serve different areas of the city, and that would dovetail nicely with Commissioner Austin's hub-and-spoke idea.

I appreciated Youth Commissioner Gibbs' perspective about places teens would like to hang out, I thought the idea of someplace with high elevation / views was great. He made a very insightful comment that teens (as well as people of all ages) need a reason to go to places. Just a simple, low-cost amenity could do that. For example, in a space like the Ralston Ave. scenic overlook, something like a concrete ping-pong table or a small workout station with pull-up and push-up bars could be added so people have a reason to go there and something to do besides sitting on a bench or in their car.

This didn't come up during the meeting, but Spikeball is a hugely popular activity with teens and young adults <https://spikeball.com/> and does not require a big area. A small circular grass or sand area to play Spikeball in could be something that would attract teens to a park area. A small area like that could also be used for hacky sack, yoga, crossfit, or any number of activities.

I very much appreciated Commissioner Fohr's out-of-the box thinking, I had never heard of graffiti walls, and that would be an innovative addition and would help with the city's goal of more public art. I also liked her idea of a lighted area that would be open after dark. Again, some activity at a spot like that would be great, such as a spikeball area, ping-pong, half-court basketball, etc. Perhaps installing those amenities in close proximity to the police station would mitigate any safety concerns.

Bouldering and climbing wall

I thought Commissioner Austin's idea of a bouldering area was excellent - if you go by Castle Rock State Park on Skyline Boulevard, you can see that bouldering is an immensely popular outdoor activity. PROS Committee member Sisemore had an idea at the last committee meeting that large boulders for people to climb on could be placed at the empty park land at Hidden Canyon, which would be congruous with the natural landscape there. That could be supplemented with a climbing wall, and that empty space could finally be put to good use without altering the natural character of the area. Climbing walls don't have to

be boxy structures, they can be made with shapes and textures to mimic natural stone. Bouldering/climbing facilities (as well as skate parks and pump tracks for that matter) would also provide more options for city-run summer camps and outdoor recreation programs.

Just wanted to offer these follow up thoughts and comments on the many great ideas that were discussed at the meeting, and thank you for all the time and effort you put into serving on the commission.

Paul Sheng
9+ year Belmont resident

