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

While opportunities for outdoor recreation and simply being able to enjoy nature are important, with increasingly little habitat in the Bay Area, this open space is critical for wildlife, and provides an invaluable and much-needed 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 will continue the damage to trails, running over and running 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.

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Just wanted to ask if you would be interested in getting external help with graphic design? We do all design work like banners, advertisements, photo edits, logos, flyers, etc. for a fixed monthly fee.

6/7/2021 We don't charge for each task. What kind of work do you need on a regular basis? Let me know and I'll share my portfolio with you.

6/7/2021	<p><u>Hi PROS folks.</u></p> <p><u>I just ran across this article and wanted to share it with this team because I found it really helpful (and challenging!). It provides some important things to consider as we discuss Belmont's outdoor spaces and recreation programs:</u></p> <p><u><a href="https://www.melaninbasecamp.com/trip-reports/2021/5/20/a-refugees-guide-towards-a-more-inclusive-outdoors">https://www.melaninbasecamp.com/trip-reports/2021/5/20/a-refugees-guide-towards-a-more-inclusive-outdoors</a></u></p> <p><u>Enjoy! :)</u></p>
6/7/2021	<p>please keep this area open for bikes. It's accessible and large, there is enough room for all outdoor activities. Please continue to allow bikes!</p>

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 <https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/1/?ui=2&ik=a3167d9d0d&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg->

6/23/2021

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:

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.

Violates the Open Space Master Plan which specifically identified this marsh