

20-Feb	<p>As residents of Belmont, we support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, we request you to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Maintaining the trails, as they are, for multi-use for hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise, connecting with nature, etc., consistent with best practices of other open spaces · Continuing outreach and education to trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great. · Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. They are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers. Our trails get healthier every year. · Exploring options for new trails to spread people out and relieve congestion · Installing additional benches at key view spots <p>Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the folks that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, inculcation of conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space - Water dog has served this public need well for decades.</p>
23-Feb	<p>I often hike the trails at Waterdog Lake and would like to remind the Parks and Recreation Commissioners that this area is also known as the John Brooks Memorial Open Space. Isn't this because the land was donated by John Brooks? As I understand it, the land was donated with the expressed purpose of preserving a natural space. Please bear this in mind when considering any trail developments that might put recreational biking (trail biking and in particular extreme mountain biking, which is really a sport) above the preservation the natural landscape and habitat. Indeed, I am very opposed to the construction of any trails that would cater to or attract anyone engaging in extreme mountain biking (which I assume involves high speeds and jumping). This is would also open the city up to unnecessary liability. Furthermore, I sincerely hope that the you are not still considering locating a bike pump track within Waterdog Open Space. Such a track does NOT belong there!!</p> <p><i>Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,</i></p>
27-Feb	<p>My name is Jack Gaynor and I am writing to provide a public comment for the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. My fiance and I have lived in the area and have enjoyed using the Open Spaces over the past three years that they were one of the deciding factors in our decision to settle here and start our family.</p> <p>The various open spaces, particularly Waterdog, have been a constant source of joy over the past years, particularly during 2020. We are both hikers, mountain bikers and trail runners, and the multi-use nature of all the trails as they currently are has been one of the things we love about Waterdog as it means we can vary how we can enjoy the open space from day to day.</p> <p>I have also volunteered with the Waterdog Trailkeepers to maintain the trails, fixing issues with drainage and adjusting the existing trails to better suit the multi-use nature, and I really appreciate that the Belmont Parks and Recreation department is collaborative in the care and maintenance of the trails.</p> <p>As such I support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, connecting with nature and building community, for all trail users. In the new Master Plan, I request you to consider:</p> <p>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</p> <p>Continuing outreach and education to all trail users and groups to ensure safe and sustainable use of our trails. The “Love Waterdog” campaign is great, and the signage really helps to share the nature of Waterdog.</p> <p>Continuing to collaborate with community groups and volunteers to support the maintenance and preservation of the trails. Speaking personally I think we are doing a great job along with Belmont P&R workers, and our trails get healthier every year.</p> <p>Open space recreation carries enormous benefits for the families that live in Belmont - a local park for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, cultivating conservationist and environmentalist ideals, fostering community pride, and improvement of quality of life. Our community has a need for recreational open space for all trail users - Waterdog has served this public need well for decades and I hope that the Master Plan will continue this great history into the future.</p>