

	<p>I'm co-President of the Homeview Neighborhood Association. I believe there was mention made last year of some additional work planned/considered for O'Donnell, such as a water-play area of some sort, and/or other improvements/additions to the Park.</p> <p>Please point me to the specific area in the PROS Plan that I can find detailed information on that.</p>	
<p>1/7/2022</p>	<p>Thanks!!!!</p>	<p>Michael Fabel</p>
<p>1/9/2022</p>	<p>I just wish to express my desire that the open space at the top of Ralston Ranch which is under concideration for turning it into a Dog Park by the Belmont Parks and Rec. Dept. is very much unwanted! It would create more traffic noise and congestion in that area. It would also be detrimental to the indigenous wildlife which use it as a Crossing area within the San Juan Canyon. The area is also a hill which makes it most unsuitable for such a park. Thank you! Jeanette Sacco-Belli <a href="http://saccobellistudio.com">saccobellistudio.com</a></p>	<p>Jeanette Sacco-Belli</p>

<p>1/10/2022</p>	<p>Dear Parks Taskforce, I submitted the below letter on October 18th and there was no acknowledgement you received it. I also attended the last comment session and will attend this Wednesday. I ran a survey monkey pulse of our Ralston Ranch Neighbors and there was all but one respondent whose first choice was to keep the park as open space, focusing funds on maintaining and planting more trees over time. The other responded their first choice was a walking path. No one wanted a dog park.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to underscore the security and trash concerns outlined in my letter regarding the Len Turner Outlook - more often than not, trash is brimming over and posted signs for no drinking alcohol or parking after dusk are totally disregarded. Is this the responsibility of Belmont Police or Parks and Rec? Or perhaps both?</p> <p>I look forward to an acknowledgement and an answer on what can be done for the Outlook.</p> <p>Best regards - Wendy</p> <p>=====</p> <p>October 18th, 2021</p> <p>Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation,</p> <p>Thank you for soliciting feedback on the Open Space Master Plan. We attended an earlier feedback session that was focused on a pump park at Water Dog Lake - these thoughts are specific to Ralston Ranch Park. Or as we lovingly call it after 24-years of living next to it, the Ralston Ranch Woods.</p> <p>1. We would like to see all or a much larger % of the park left natural (A). Open space is what makes Belmont special and we are sad to see building being permitted in areas that had previously been restricted and the continued loss of wildlife habitat. Ralston Ranch Woods is home to owls, hawks, rabbits, deer and occasional fox, bobcats and mountain lions. We watch deer moving between the canyon on one side of RR to the other everyday (and our Ring cam is full of curious deer families grazing on our front lawn). So much of their open space is already encroached, it's really a shame to develop RR Woods - be it chopping down existing trees, or building sidewalks, fences and other structures. That said, we do understand that we're not the only stakeholders in this decision. So, we could support (B) and (C).</p> <p>2. A play structure for small children (C) would be nice if positioned away from houses - and we already have a few benches (B) so that's not much of a change and would be a welcome addition for families who live and walk in the neighborhood.</p> <p>3. Everything else - a dog park that clears trees and puts up fences, picnic tables and young adult gathering area directly on the other side of existing homes sounds awful. (D,E, F)</p> <p>First, dog parks are usually made of dirt (do you know how windy it gets up here?), surrounded by a chain link fence (how unsightly as you enter RRR) - and adding more parked cars at the only exit point for RRR (where we already have daycare drop-off and pick-up) will only add further the congestion.</p> <p>The clearing of trees also means more erosion. Most homes on the lower part of Ralston Ranch have sump pumps because of the water runoff in the winter that drains down the hill into their backyards - removing existing trees will only increase that problem.</p> <p>Second, Belmont has a problem managing gathering areas - look at the cars/people at the Len Turner Memorial Vista Point (even after dark) who smoke, leave alcohol bottles and trash spilling over trash bins for the crow to throw around. It's become a constant parking spot for Uber and Lift drivers, so the area needs more trash and recycling bins, more frequent servicing, and better monitoring by the police. Ditto for the car park areas at the trail head on Ralston Avenue and 92 intersections.</p> <p>Third, people already drive to RRR and park along the street to access the trail heads for mountain biking. I'd prefer to see the city put in a water fountain, trash and recycling cans at the RRR turn-around and service it regularly for all the folks using the 16-miles of trails cut into Belmont's open space - hikers, dog walkers and mountain bikers.</p> <p>Lastly, encouraging the gathering of more people from outside the immediate neighborhood is simply inviting more crime. Robberies have increased in our area and the Belmont Police have acknowledged we are a quick getaway for criminals due to the easy access to 92, 101 and 280. Unintended consequences must be carefully considered - this would affect not only Ralston Ranch, but the other neighborhoods around us as well.</p> <p>If Homer and I had our druthers, we'd like to see the city expand (A) and just maintain the woods by trimming and clearing brush 2X year for fire safety, leaving all of the 70-plus trees alone. It would keep the space open for wildlife habitat and continue to be a place of solitude and quiet reflection for us humans. I'd like to see Belmont take better care of what we have (maintaining the trees, managing trash left by those already using our open spaces) and addressing issues at the vista point and car park areas.</p> <p>To add to the conversation, how about planting a grove of redwoods around a natural labyrinth? Some benches for quiet reflection or meditation would be delightful.</p> <p>If we have to develop the park, we could support B &amp; C if tucked into a quiet space in the park - set away from homes.</p> <p>Thank you for asking for our input!</p> <p>Best Regards - Wendy Miller &amp; Homer Wong</p>	<p>Wendy Miller</p>
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<p>1/11/2022</p>	<p>Please find my past correspondence to P&amp;R regarding this issue from the previous meeting.</p> <p>To summarize, the discussion from the previous meeting was well represented by the local nearby community and the overwhelming consensus by the community represented was for keeping the park as natural, open and undeveloped as possible. We support sitting areas and walking paths and potentially a play structure. Here are my concerns in general:</p> <p>Play Structure - is OK but should be located away from the fence lines of adjacent property owners to assure privacy and security</p> <p>Dog Park - This is a horrible location for a dog park for many reasons. As a local dog owner, I would prefer to use the easily accessible trails to walk my dogs as do most of the neighborhood. If I need to socialize my dogs at a dog park, Cipriani is already fairly close. If you mean to add a dog park here, Fox MS is a much better location for access, use of space and parking.</p> <p>Gathering/Picnic Areas - this can be just another attractive nuisance if not policed and maintained properly. Given our experience with the lookout, there is not much confidence that this will be done properly. Regardless, it should not be located against the adjacent resident for the aforementioned reasons above.</p> <p>Maintenance and Additional Trees - The park limits should be extended to back of sidewalk on Ralston Ranch so the park can be maintained properly. This area tends to be the least maintained area. It would be nice to get some screening additional trees along the sidewalk and below where people can peer into the homes from the street above.</p> <p>As mentioned in my past email, I would strongly recommend that any additional, replacement or mitigation trees be planted along the perimeters of the park especially at Ralston Ave and adjacent to those homes closest to the park to continue to provide both natural visual, privacy and wind + noise barriers.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>Roy + Maria Schnabel</p>	<p>Roy and Maria Schnabel</p>
<p>1/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Commissioners and PROS advisory representatives,</p> <p>Confusion about the designation of Neighborhood Park vs. Community Park, Mini Park, and Open Space has created community conflict.</p> <p>The 2035 General Plan Parks Element, section 4.2 (attached) differentiates between the classes of parks by size and appropriate use, and clearly Hidden Valley is intended as a "Neighborhood Park".</p> <p>4.2 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS</p> <p>The City provides its residents with several types of parks and recreation facilities. Parks and recreational facilities are classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mini Park. A small park ranging from a quarter-acre to 2 acres that is located within a residential area and is intended to provide play areas for small children or passive sitting areas for residents within a quarter-mile-radius.</li> <li>· Neighborhood Park. A medium-sized park ranging from 2 to 10 acres that provides basic recreational activities for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius.</li> <li>· Community Park. A large park ranging from 20 to 50 acres that includes passive and active recreation facilities that serve the entire city or a substantial portion of the city.</li> </ul> <p>Gates Associates affirmed this principle in Community Meeting #3 (below); neighborhood parks are to serve an area of 1/8 to 1/4 mile ONLY - not the wider community or region.</p> <p>Hidden Valley is very clearly a "Neighborhood Park".</p> <p>It is only 5 acres - far too small to accommodate community-wide amenities without impacting park space.</p> <p>It's located at the end of a long dead-end residential street, with limited infrastructure and constrained emergency access in a high wildfire risk canyon.</p> <p>Traffic and Parking already overburden the entire length of Carlmont Drive (not just the single family homes), and providing parking for greater use would entail paving a large portion of the park.</p> <p>Social equity is NOT the issue in this case. These General Plan standards are based on resident security, visitor safety, traffic circulation, emergency services, and City infrastructure considerations. Some of the public confuse this park with the adjacent 200 acres of Hidden Canyon. Already this neighborhood is dangerously overtaxed, serving as the gateway access to that open space, which the City promotes regionally. Unwittingly the City has, without consideration for capacity or resident and visitor safety, drawn thousands of visitors from a far wider region than intended by the General Plan.</p> <p>The Park Master Plan MUST conform to General Plan standards, and your legal obligation is to ensure that conformance.</p> <p>Please make it clear to staff and consultants as well as the general public, that intensification of use in this tiny park is not their choice: both the General Plan and prudent consideration of public safety and City planning dictate Hidden Valley is NOT a community park, but a neighborhood park.</p>	<p>tomercer</p>

<p>1/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi Everyone,</p> <p>I wanted to reach out in support of your vision to maintain the trail system at Waterdog park and beyond as an inclusive trail system open to hikers, bikers, runners &amp; pets.</p> <p>I live by Sugarloaf mountain with my wife and 2 kids and we visit Waterdog park every week as a family for a hike through the park. My kids love the bridges on the backside of the lake.</p> <p>My wife and I also visit the park on our mountain bikes and enjoy riding the entire park. It's wonderful!</p> <p>Big props to the crew that maintains all the trails! Superb job fixing the ruts, clearing the dead trees.</p> <p>Keep up the awesome work!</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	<p>Ivan Smiljanic</p>
<p>1/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear PROS plan committee,</p> <p>As residents of Ralston Ranch Road, we are writing in support of leaving Ralston Ranch Road park as natural as possible and to limit development of the park to perhaps a walking path with some benches and possibly a small children's play element. Our street abuts the Canyon and the deer use the park to cross from one side of the Canyon to the other side.</p> <p>Having a dog park that would bring people from outside the neighborhood would increase concerns regarding traffic and safety. Our street is unique in that it is a U shaped street that has two ways to enter, but only one exit. The hairpin turn is narrower than the rest of the street and the family that lives at the bottom of the hairpin does not have a garage and must park their cars on the street. When there are cars going in both directions at the hairpin turn, one must be very careful to avoid the other car as one also navigates around the parked cars. In addition, the sun can be quite blinding at that spot during sunrise and sunset. Even though there is supposedly only one way to exit from our street, visitors and delivery trucks often exit out the wrong way which creates a safety hazard for those coming through the narrow entry of our street off of Christian Drive. Also concerning is the fact that the proposed entry to the dog park is right by the only authorized street exit and that area will become very congested when there are multiple cars parked along both sides of the street while cars both enter and exit.</p> <p>Another concern about having our park become a destination for people from outside the neighborhood is the increased risk of burglaries. Our street is very close to the freeway and our local neighborhood has had burglaries in the past, and we do not want to potentially further endanger those who live here.</p> <p>Ralston Ranch Road is incredibly windy and on trash day, the wind often blows the trash, as it is being dumped mid-air, down the street. If we have a picnic area where the trash cans are overflowing like they are at the Len Turner Memorial Vista Point, this will further add to the litter problem we are experiencing. Having a picnic spot also gives people a chance to loiter after dark which may increase the prospects of safety concerns.</p> <p>The trees in the park create a windbreak and sound break for the homes on our street since we are right off of busy Ralston Avenue. Limiting development and leaving most of them undisturbed would be our neighborhood's preference. Our U shaped street slopes down from Ralston Avenue and some of the homes on our street have a sump pump to help with drainage. Removing a number of the trees for development may further exacerbate this drainage issue. In 2018 the trees also helped to prevent a car that went off of Ralston Avenue and into Ralston Ranch Road park from rolling all the way down into the homes adjacent to the bottom of the park. Although it would be nice to have a children's play element, we worry about an accident like this happening again as people often speed down Ralston Avenue. It would be a tragedy to have people, children, and dogs injured if our park was developed as proposed and became a heavily used park and this kind of roll-over accident occurred once more.</p> <p>Thank you for considering how the development of Ralston Ranch Road park will impact the wildlife and residents of the neighborhood. We hope the park will be left as natural as possible.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>	<p>Yvonne Ong</p>

<p>1/13/2022</p>	<p>From: Carol Rossi &lt;crspeech76@gmail.com&gt;                  Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:46 PM                  To: P&amp;R Comm &lt;PRComm@belmont.gov&gt;                  Subject: Ralston Ranch Park development</p> <p>Dear Park and Rec,</p> <p>I would like to make sure that the neighborhood thoughts regarding the development of the Ralston Ranch Park are clearly expressed to PROS and the Park and Rec Commission. Based on comments made on the zoom meet, we want to make sure that the park stays as natural as possible to allow for the wildlife to roam through easily to access either side of the canyon around the neighborhood. We also expressed support of making sure this space allows for the local neighborhood, which is defined as a 1 mile radius, to have equitable access to the park. We are in support of having the city develop a sitting area and walking paths through the park, with the additional suggestion of a meditation walking circle. Overall, we aren't opposed to a simple, small play structure, however we highlighted 1. our neighborhood is windy (one of, if not the windiest neighborhoods in Belmont- not conducive to being outside for extended periods of time) and foggy, 2. the play structure should not be placed up against the fence line of the neighbors properties but on the side of Ralston, 3. neighbors being concerned about trash accumulating and being blown around (as it is not maintained at the vista point), 4. bringing extra traffic into the neighborhood with the bend in the street (blind spot when sun is low in the sky at sunrise/sunset) and the 1-way turn around at the Christian exit, that a lot of outsiders use as an exit. Please consider that this property will require a significant amount of grading and that with erosion/water damage over time it will erode the natural drainage for the trees that are currently in the park. If the city puts in a seating area or a playground away from the residents fence line and closer to ralston avenue, it may need to consider building a retaining wall. A small playground or sitting area may possibly attract teenagers who might drink and smoke and cause a fire. In addition, the city will need to assess the PG&amp;E line that runs along Ralston and goes to the station (at Christian) on Ralston Ranch Road. The line crosses somewhere from Ralston to Ralston Ranch Road. We do strongly oppose a dog park for many of the reasons stated above. Passive development (walking trails, meditation circle, sitting areas) for the Ralston Ranch Park is supported by this community. We appreciate the PROS committee reaching out to the local residents and hope that our opinions in developing the Ralston Ranch Park will be respected as it moves forward in developing our undeveloped parks in Belmont.</p> <p>Thank you, Carol Rossi                  76 Ralston Ranch Road</p>	<p>Carol Rossi</p>
<p>1/13/2022</p>	<p>I am Bob Stahl, an advisory member of the Belmont Prosplan.                  I want to let you know I've been receiving multiple emails from residents of the Ralston Ranch area who are against placing a dog park in the planned park area. They cite the limited street parking, narrow road, and increased traffic in the area from people coming from outside the area. They also believe installing a play structure is not in keeping with the naturalness of the area.                  Please take this into consideration in your planning.                  Thank you.</p>	<p>Bob Stahl</p>

<p>1/15/2022</p>	<p>Dear Parks &amp; Recreation Commission:</p> <p>I thought the format for discussing the various parks at the 1/12/22 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting worked out very well, and the meeting was very collaborative, creative, positive, supportive, and productive. I know that emailed comments about parks are being tallied in the PROS plan, so rather than sending a separate email about each park, I will submit all of my input in this one email by highlighting the park name in bold, and ask that Gates &amp; Associates tally these comments separately for each park.</p> <p>Patricia Wharton Park – I think the draft improvements are great, and I think That Comr. Foehr’s idea of putting in boulders for small kids to climb on is an excellent idea.</p> <p>Wakefield Park – same as above, a walking path would be great. Again, excellent idea by Comr. Foehr for an observation deck for visitors to take in the view. In looking at Wakefield Park on Google Maps, it has a large barren area. Maybe that would be a place to consider a neighborhood pump track.</p> <p>Belameda Park – all the draft improvements look great, and the proposal for a teen outdoor experience is a fantastic idea – our teen population is underserved and there’s not much for teens to do after school. Many end up aimlessly hanging out at Carlmont Shopping Center. A teen outdoor zone at Belameda is very close to Carlmont High and would be an absolutely perfect location for that amenity.</p> <p>Hidden Canyon Park - I agree wholeheartedly with Comr. Michael’s comments at the prior meeting, and they’re worth quoting here:</p> <p>“I also believe a big part of this connection with the community does happen through Hidden Canyon. I think we should have an open space outpost here, offering a natural transition from city to park to open space. We should run staff programs here. Let little kids sample nature here. Offer wildlife education. Invite everyone to learn, respect, and help out. There’s a ton we can do to enhance our open space while not turning the site into a manufactured, high-volume destination. In a smaller way, I think we should replicate this at all our major trailheads.”</p> <p>I want to make a couple of points in response to public comments made by Deniz Bolbol, Pat Cuvielo, and Kristen Mercer, who were aggressively railing against any improvement to Hidden Canyon Park. They stated that Hidden Canyon is classified as a Neighborhood Park in the Master Plan, which is defined as “A medium-sized park ranging from 2 to 10 acres that provides basic recreational activities for a specific neighborhood within a one-mile radius.” That is correct.</p> <p>But they went on to argue that because 10 or so Hidden Canyon tract homeowners essentially said “not in my backyard” to any improvement at the Hidden Canyon Focus Group meeting, no improvement should happen there. They also seemed to argue that the Master Plan legally requires Hidden Canyon to only serve the interests of those homeowners. Not so.</p> <p>First, as the Commission correctly pointed out, Neighborhood Parks are a classification in the Master Plan, not a restriction or mandate on how parks can and should be improved to serve the community.</p> <p>Second, consider what is actually within a one-mile radius of Hidden Canyon Park: Go to <a href="https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hidden+Canyon+Park/@37.5034277,-122.3005517,z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x808f962b039d777:0x84c7f24c0202cd4d!8m2!3d37.5034277!4d-122.2987105?hl=en">https://www.google.com/maps/place/Hidden+Canyon+Park/@37.5034277,-122.3005517,z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x808f962b039d777:0x84c7f24c0202cd4d!8m2!3d37.5034277!4d-122.2987105?hl=en</a> and right-click your mouse pointer on the red marker for Hidden Canyon Park. A dialog box will come up. Click on the last item “Measure distance.” Zoom out a bit, and then left-click your mouse on Casa Bona Avenue at Semeria Park. A line will appear, drawing a 1-mile radius to that point from the center of Hidden Canyon Park. If you left-click and hold the mouse pointer on the circle at the end of that line (the one at Semeria Park), you can rotate the line to see what’s within a one-mile radius of Hidden Canyon Park. That one-mile radius encompasses at least a third, if not more, of Belmont’s residential areas. It includes, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-all of the homes, condos, and apartments in the Carlmont neighborhood;</li> <li>-most of the homes in the area behind/between Barrett Community Center and Notre Dame University;</li> <li>-all of the homes and apartments off Ralston near Charles Armstrong School and off Alameda near Carlmont High School (even past the Belmont border, well into the Devonshire area of San Carlos);</li> <li>-a large portion of the Cipriani neighborhood surrounding Semeria Park and Cipriani Elementary;</li> <li>-nearly the entire Belmont Heights neighborhood, from Tahoe/Yosemite Drive, all the residential streets that branch off Hallmark, and well past the San Carlos/Belmont Border at Hallmark and Crestview;</li> </ul> <p>So even if one strictly views Hidden Canyon Park’s classification as a “Neighborhood Park” under the Master Plan, then the “neighborhood” it serves -within a one-mile radius - includes portions of nearly every residential neighborhood in the city - and 100% of the Carlmont neighborhood, including all the apartments. (i.e. the highest-density neighborhood in the city.) Thus, under the Master Plan, Hidden Canyon park is intended to provide basic recreational activities for the thousands of people who live within that radius – not just the handful of homeowners in the pink townhouses on Carlmont Drive.</p> <p>Commissioner Michaels’ vision for improvements to Hidden Canyon to serve as a natural transition to the open space is entirely consistent with the Master Plan, and the overwhelming majority of people in Belmont would like to see this vision come to fruition in the PROS Plan.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments, and thank you for all of the time, effort, and dedication you put into serving on the Commission.</p>	<p>Paul Sheng</p>
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1/29/2022	<p>I want reiterate my request that the Water Dog open space have separate trails for bikers apart from hikers. Just yesterday my wife and I were on the John Brooks trail and two bikers raced past us nearly knocking us off the trail. They came from behind us without warning us and were within inches of us. They said nothing as they passed us. This has happened many times in the past.</p> <p>The bikes have also ruined many of the trails almost creating highly slick and deep trails. In addition they run over roots they may kill the trees.</p> <p>My wife and I hike the Rambler, Chaparral and John Brooks trails regularly and see very little wildlife(deer, rabbits, coyotes, snakes) than we have in prior years. I believe bikers have scared off many of these animals.</p> <p>Please restrict bikers to separate trails in future Water Dog trail plans.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Bob Stahl</p>	Bob Stahl
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**Duplicate emails received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com**

Dear Belmont Belmont,

As a local resident, someone who is concerned with wildlife and wilderness protection, and a supporter of In Defense of Animals, I am writing to urge you to prioritize the protection of wildlife and habitat at Waterdog Lake & Open Space in the PROS Master Plan.

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.

Protecting spaces like this is also important to residents, who see and respect the value of conserving natural spaces and habitat; Belmont and San Francisco Bay Area residents care about the environment, and they care about protecting wildlife.

If the area is given over further to recreational purposes, it will cease to function as it should. I am also extremely concerned that trails will be further opened here to mountain bikers, who have been damaging trails and running over wild animals.

I sincerely hope you will put conservation first when planning the future of this open space, and prioritize the need to protect it over development.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Commenter Name</b>
1/1/2022	2	Dr. Martha Herrero, Dr. Ati Mojdehi
1/6/2022	1	Anne Leung
<b>January 2022</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Duplicate Emails Received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com</b>