

Thank you for reviewing the incoming comments! Please allow the City Staff to respond to comments. If you have recommendations for response please feel free to share with Brigitte		
Date Received	Comment	Commenter
3/1/2022	<p>Greetings!</p> <p>For almost 35 years, we have resided in our home at the corner of Hallmark and Wakefield Drive – just across the street from the entrance to Hallmark Park. We have enjoyed our neighborhood park and appreciate and support a refresh and repair work for safety concerns and restoration of our wonderful views.</p> <p>The asphalt pathways are unsafe and in great need of repair due to years of neglect and incursion from tree roots. Over time, our original expansive views from the benches above the tennis court have been obscured by fast growing non native pine trees.</p> <p>We support restoring the natural landscape by removing all non native trees and increasing maintenance in order to reduce the possible fire danger in our area and restore our views.</p> <p>We support keeping our natural landscape and wildlife habitat which provides us with access to wildlife viewing and environmental education. Interpretive signage should be added to enhance the learning experience. Walking paths in the meadow area would be helpful.</p> <p>The current tot lot is suitable only for toddlers and preschoolers. We support enhancing it to meet current standards and provide amenities for our neighborhood elementary school children, while maintaining a look and feel that blends into the park’s natural landscape. We suggest that the playground have a local wildlife and environmental theme to enhance the environmental component of the park.</p> <p>We do not think we need additional amenities to Hallmark Park when the focus should be on the natural environment, a children’s playground and a tennis court.</p> <p>We are concerned that adding additional amenities, such as a dog run area, will increase the traffic in our neighborhood, negatively impact the natural setting, and increase city costs for increased upkeep and maintenance.</p> <p>Sincerely, Michele Cohen and Lewis Scarpace</p>	Michele Cohen and Lewis Scarpace
3/1/2022	<p>To the Commission,</p> <p>I currently live across the street from Hallmark Park and have lived here for more than 30 years. I do not support making any changes to Hallmark Park.</p> <p>I feel if the City wants to build a bocce court, a dog run course and picnic tables, more man-made structures that they should look into the other parks in our area that have more space to build upon and add these new improvements.</p> <p>The Belmont Sports Complex has a gravel parking lot where a large play structure could be added. This would give another area for families to use while they are attending baseball games at the complex. Younger siblings could play on the new structures while waiting for their brother’s or sister’s games to end. Added picnic tables and native trees could be planted in the area by the bandstands.</p> <p>Barrett Community Center should have a fenced in dog run. Since this park is located in the middle of Belmont and is more centralized.</p> <p>Twin Pines Park could gain more popularity from the addition of Bocce Ball courts and a newly built play structure. People could enjoy playing bocce ball after having spent the day in the park barbecuing. The courts could be built in the shaded areas so it would protect them from the summer heat. They would also be able to hear the music playing from the free music concerts on Sundays while playing bocce ball. Children could play on newly designed structures in this park.</p> <p>I feel that Hallmark Park should stay the way it currently is. The cross country course, tennis court and play structures that are currently there do not need to be redeveloped with additional play structures, dog parks, or bocce ball courts. We need to keep this park protected from the wildlife and birds of prey that live there. This is our responsibility as fellow Belmont citizens to keep the ecological habitat of that area SAFE!!!! This park is for our children and future grandchildren to enjoy. If we add more structures and destroy the ground and fields where the open animals roam, we will be destroying our natural habitat.</p> <p>Please take my suggestions into consideration. We need to protect and preserve what space we have left in our small town.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Theresa Gotshalk</p>	Theresa Gotshalk

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3/1/2022	<p>Hello Belmont Parks Commissioners,</p> <p>I do NOT NOT support any new development at Hallmark Park.</p> <p>It is already heavily used by Belmont residents and cross country races.</p> <p>The tennis courts and existing path and playground should be maintained. The existing vegetation of monterey pines can /should be replaced gradually by native trees.</p> <p>Whenever I walk there I see TRASH on the ground and in the street gutters by cars parked by people who visit the area already, we do not need more! I pick up trash a lot!</p> <p>Bocce courts and dog park would only invite loud rowdy groups to congregate (also at night when our Police could not easily see from the street) and leave trash. Our residential neighborhood does not need any more that!</p> <p>Put a dog park and other development at Barrett school where it is more centrally located with parking and not in a residential area.</p> <p>PLEASE LEAVE HALLMARK PARK AS IT IS! Make it easy for our Police to patrol.</p>	Lynn Ashby
3/2/2022	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a resident of Belmont Heights on Wakefield Drive since 2013. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed plan for Hallmark Park. Neighborhoods are defined by certain characteristics, and this plan threatens to undermine and even destroy what makes Belmont Heights special.</p> <p>This is a quiet neighborhood that already attracts many people who live beyond its borders to enjoy the hiking and biking trails. Moreover, we and all our neighbors already experience the traffic congestion and related issues brought on by the frequent cross country meets. We were aware of the meets when we bought our home. This proposed plan, however, would irrevocably change the character of the neighborhood. When we purchased our home, our son was 4 years old. We knew that going to a playground would necessitate going to Fox School after school hours or driving to local park. However, we were drawn to the area for its quiet and for its easy access to nature as well as the excellent school district. We moved from Sunnyvale, which has numerous wonderful large parks, including one to which we walked frequently as a family. But those parks have much dedicated parking and some separation from surrounding homes. Those parks have also been part of the landscape for a very long time. Even at a young age, we took our son down the path to Waterdog lake and he now at 12, enjoys bicycling the paths on his own or with friends.</p> <p>I am in favor of updating the tennis courts as well as the tot lot without making it much larger. The path leading to the tennis courts is also in need of serious repair. I think Hallmark Park has no place for a bocce court or wider paved paths. Without additional parking, congestion would increase even further. Note the issues with parking and illegal U-turns and runners darting out into the streets that we already experience during country meets. During the height of the pandemic when we were sheltering at home, I appreciated more than ever that our sidewalks offered us the opportunity to take walks at various times of the day. I don't see the need to create additional paths. These additional features also have the potential to attract late night gatherings. I hear from friends in San Mateo this is in issue at their parks.</p> <p>Please do not destroy what makes this neighborhood special. A neighborhood can't be all things. We knew when we moved here that we would be unable to walk to errands or to a large park, but the quiet, the extraordinary views, access to nature as well as the surrounding community and schools drew us to Belmont and this neighborhood in particular.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ines Salazar</p>	Ines Salazar
3/2/2022	<p>Hello Belmont Parks Commission,</p> <p>I DO NOT support the proposed plan to "renovate" the Hallmark Park area.</p> <p>Currently the tennis courts, children's play structure, and walking paths are actively used, and enjoyed by Belmont citizens. The existing trees, other vegetation, and the open space should not be replaced with a dog park, additional play structures and bocce ball courts. Available funds should be put toward maintaining the tennis courts, existing vegetation, and walking paths. Older trees should be pruned, and parts of the walking paths have become dangerous trip hazards, and need to be repaired.</p> <p>Hallmark Park should remain as it is currently designed. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Richard Ashby

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3/2/2022	<p>We are 36-year residents of the Belmont Heights residential area. Our draw to this area was the "natural beauty" and serenity of the landscape, watershed and preservation of vegetation and wildlife. The walking trails afford residents the rare opportunity to enjoy all of the above.</p> <p>The proposed plans to broaden, excavate, develop and populate one of the last remaining residential parks into a public community. This proposal will bring more automobiles into the area, and disturb the wildlife and peaceful community our families have enjoyed for years. Preservation of the unique and cherished gifts of nature we may ALL still enjoy without modernizing and injecting new development will destroy what has been preserved for years. We are one with nature here. Noise, cars, trash and disrespecting nature's gift is unacceptable.</p> <p>The cross-country runs already bring hundreds of strangers and vehicles to our quiet community every Fall. Hallmark Park should not become a public recreation area.</p> <p>We are strongly opposed to the proposed changes to Hallmark Park.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	Nace and Bonnie Passantino
3/2/2022	<p>Hi there</p> <p>I am the resident of 4 elder dr in hallmark. Upgrading the play structure is very helpful for our family and the rest of families that have younger children. We are in favor of resurfacing the tennis court. I also think it is not a bad idea to have some seating area. This can be few benches. Having a looped walking path is a plus. I am not sure i support other ideas. Adding/replacing fountain to drink water is good idea too. The existing fountain was out of service some times back.</p> <p>Best</p>	Alireza razavi
3/3/2022	<p>I just want to thank you all for your efforts and hard work on the Belmont Parks long term plans.</p> <p>Also, I very much appreciate that you are listening to residents of each community regarding what they consider important to their neighborhood park. As you heard last night and received through email, residents near Hallmark Park want to see the park remain in as natural state as possible, resurface the tennis courts and pathway there and possibly add something for 6-12 year old children. Also, they feel it's important to leave the upper meadow in its natural state.</p> <p>Thank you again!</p>	Bob Stahl
3/12/2022	<p>Hi Brigitte,</p> <p>As you and the Parks Commissioners are aware, I have done extensive research and collected lots of authoritative literature about the native habitat and wildlife of Waterdog and Hidden Canyon Open Spaces.</p> <p>I respectfully request this material be provided to the Open Space consultants for their consideration, and to inform their recommendations.</p> <p>This is email 1 of 4, coming separately because of the email attachment limitations.</p> <p>Attached please find the following PDF:</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Impacts Waterdog Open Space.pdf</p> <p>California Tiger Salamander.pdf</p> <p>Rights of Nature for wcfg-1.pdf</p> <p>Please confirm receipt and forwarding to the Open Space Consultant.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	Kristin Mercer

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3/12/2022	<p>Hi Brigitte,</p> <p>I respectfully request this material be provided to the Open Space consultants for their consideration, and to inform their recommendations.</p> <p>This is email 2 of 4, coming separately because of the email attachment limitations.</p> <p>Attached please find the following PDF:</p> <p>Environmental Damage Waterdog.pdf</p> <p>Waterdog Trails Overdeveloped.pdf</p> <p>Please confirm receipt and forwarding to the Open Space Consultant.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	Kristin Mercer
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3/13/2022	<p>Hi Brigitte,</p> <p>You will remember early in the PROS process I presented the John Brooks history powerpoint to you on Zoom. With the hiring of the City's Open Space consultants, WRA Environmental Consultants, I believe it is an opportunity to educate and inform them of important impacts and topics regarding Waterdog.</p> <p>I have attached the John Brooks presentation in PDF printable format for their consideration and trust you will forward it to them.</p> <p>In addition, under separate emails, I have sent 2 additional PDF printable format presentations on "City Policies Ignored" (Past) and "Sport of Mountain Biking" plus related "Media Reports" which should also be of interest to the Consultants and PROS Committee.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention. Let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Let's treasure our Waterdog Open Space!</p>	Jennifer Clien
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3/13/2022	<p>Hi Brigitte,</p> <p>Attached please find my final printable PDF sent to you for the WRA Environmental Consultants to inform and educate them of the cumulative detrimental impacts to Waterdog trails, wildlife and habitat as well as endangerment of safety of hikers on narrow single-use trails.</p> <p>Also attached are several media reports that may be of interest to all on this topic.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention. Let me know if you have further questions.</p> <p>Let's preserve our Waterdog for generations to come!</p>	Jennifer Clien
3/13/2022	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>A warm thank you to the Parks and Rec Commissioners and Director for responding to our neighborhood's request not to have a dog park at Ralston Ranch Park. A neighbor shared the diagram of the proposed revised plans with me for the park which does not include the dog park.</p> <p>The plans do show picnic tables and a multi-purpose flexible space that says add seating space. Can you please elaborate as to the plans for the multi-purpose space and let us know how many picnic tables are planned? Our neighborhood does not want amenities that encourage loitering after dark which may increase the prospect of safety concerns.</p> <p>Also, Ralston Ranch Road can be 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.</p> <p>Thank you, Yvonne Ong</p>	Yvonne Ong

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3/17/2022	<p>Hi Brigitte,</p> <p>I was pleased to hear a consultant firm has been hired to provide an environmental evaluation of Waterdog. If I may, I'd like to submit this reduced summary of my Strava data review of biking activity done last year that I hope can be of value to the consultants. Instead the long Powerpoint, I condensed it down to some ride data on major trails, and a couple speed charts.</p> <p>Thanks, good luck with the process, and let me know if I can be of further help.</p> <p>Regards, Ed Mitchell</p>	Ed Mitchell
3/19/2022	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>Thank you for the information that was provided last week on the status of parks in Belmont. I was interested in hearing about all the parks but my major concern is Hallmark Park since I live in close proximity to it. I was pleased to hear that most commissioners were not in favor of expanding the park. I walk through it frequently on my way to walking the cross country course. The tot lot is used infrequently and really does not need to be upgraded for older children. It is now a facility that is not used often and I do not think that the addition of modern equipment will increase its use. The tennis courts are though and need to be renovated as well as the sidewalks. I was also concerned about adding a bocce ball court or creating a facility on the hill. If a bocce ball court is added, you need to address ADA requirements and this area is not easily accessible. The area on the hill looks down into people's homes and impacts personal space. In addition, we may be the only park in Belmont that does not have at least one designated parking space. The only parking is on the street. Street parking can be busy with individuals parking to access the cross country course. I hope that you will continue to support no additional structures and facilities to Hallmark park. It is a beautiful wild life preserve and should be maintained as such.</p> <p>I have also walked in the Hidden Valley area. I agree that safe paths need to be maintained for bikers and walkers. Bikers often come down quickly off the canyon path and can potentially be dangerous to people sitting or walking in the area. I agree that signage about the wildlife would be educational but it needs to be maintained. Weathering takes a quick toll on signage so that it becomes eyesore if not maintained.</p> <p>Finally, I was very concerned that comments were made by commissioners that they had not visited some of the parks. How can one vote on changes to a park if they have not seen it? As an educational administrator, I attended board meetings twice a month for over 20 years. I recognize and appreciate the time that a commissioner volunteers to support a program. But I also know that accepting to be a commissioner comes with a responsibility to understand what one is reviewing and voting on. I suggest a field trip to the parks. I frequently watched such activities by board members to visit construction projects in my school district. It provided them with a better lens to make decisions. I encourage all commissioners to visit the Belmont parks so that they can be informed about their needs.</p> <p>Thanks you for hearing my concerns. Dr. Patricia Kurtz</p>	Patricia Kurtz
3/21/2022	<p>Hi,</p> <p>While I appreciate the efforts to resurface the tennis courts and add pickleball (both of which are definitely needed), I have a number of concerns (and suggestions) below:</p> <p>Concerns:</p> <p>I was disappointed to see that there was no new tennis courts added in the plan, despite the benchmarks showing that we are definitely below the surrounding areas and the "ideal" number suggests adding at least 2 courts. Currently the courts at Alexander park are always full and despite living near the park, I often have to go to other courts in neighboring cities to find an open court to play.</p> <p>While pickleball would be a welcome add to the city, I think adding them to the existing tennis courts would exacerbate the supply/demand issue, as it would create further competition for an already scarce resource (pickleball and tennis players competing for the same courts, which are already in high demand). Furthermore, playing tennis next to pickleball is less than ideal, especially since there's no dividing fencing between the courts.</p> <p>While resurfacing the courts, are in definite need, I worry the money spent to do so will not be optimized due to people using the courts for non-tennis activities (in Alexander Park at least). I think due to the proximity to the playground, often times kids will use the courts to ride bikes/scooters etc. Also, Alexander Park has become a de facto dog park, and dogs will often go into the courts, especially if the field is wet (I've found dog poop left on the courts).</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <p>Please consider adding more dedicated tennis courts to the city. Perhaps at the open space next to the Belmont Sports Center? I think adding something like 4 or 5 courts in a single location would help address the supply issue.</p> <p>I would strongly suggest having dedicated pickleball courts rather than combining tennis and pickleball onto a single court. Again, seems like there's some open space next to the Belmont Sports Center to have both as separate amenities, but anywhere really would be great.</p> <p>To help preserve the newly resurfacing of courts at Alexander Park would suggest:</p> <p>Adding a seperate skate park somewhere nearby so that kids can have a place to ride their skateboards/scooters rather than on the tennis courts</p> <p>Adding a dog park in Sterling Downs to give dogs a safe and dedicated area to exercise so that Alexander Park (and the church parking lot) is no longer used as a dog park</p> <p>Could replace the gates to the tennis courts with the subway style gate to make it more difficult to bring non-tennis equipment into the courts</p> <p>Lastly, to enhance the tennis courts would suggest:</p> <p>Adding wind nets... this is definitely needed as it gets pretty windy there</p> <p>adding fencing to divide the courts (to keep balls from rolling onto the neighboring court)</p> <p>Adding lights to extend the hours for which people could use the courts</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback</p>	William Wong

**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,

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March 2022	0	Duplicate Emails Received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com