

	<p>Dear Park Commissioners,</p> <p>At the PROS meeting David Braunstein rightly called out the elephant in the room. To paraphrase: both sides repeat the same arguments without listening to the other - we've missed an opportunity to build community.</p> <p>I have listened and I propose an equitable compromise solution; a trail use plan that provides space for a safe experience for users of differing interests and abilities, while protecting sensitive habitat.</p> <p>Seniors, families with little children, and those seeking tranquil nature are displaced by speeding bikes on narrow trails, and this imbalance is not equitable. On our streets, pedestrians are not asked to jump off the sidewalk for oncoming bikes.</p> <p>I have never suggested banning bikes - only that they be limited out of respect for the majority of residents who are NOT mountain bikers. ALL visitors have a right to use trails, but bikes are machinery for a sport that requires appropriate trails.</p> <p>I think this plan checks all the boxes! But I hope to inspire discussion with "the other side", who also have a right to enjoy their hobby in a safe and sustainable manner. I hope this compromise plan can move us forward to a solution that is equitable for all abilities and interest groups.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	
<p>6/1/2022</p>	<p>Kristin Mercer</p> <p>Dear Commissioners and Committee members,</p> <p>I spoke briefly after the PROS plan advisory committee meeting last night and thought it might be helpful to provide the following link. As I mentioned, the WRA, Inc., consulting firm neglected to review the documentation regarding the land gift of Waterdog Open Space. A discussion of it at a council meeting can be found here: https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/brooks-contact-violated</p> <p>There were two requirements: That it be named something like "The John S. Brooks Memorial Preserve" and that it be retained in perpetuity as open space with perhaps trails that are low use as at that time.</p> <p>Considering "Habitat protection emphasis" an alternative is simply wrong. It is not an alternative option--it is the PURPOSE of an open space. "Preserve" is in the actual name that was suggested! Any consideration of new trails must take this into account. For example, putting in a connecting path for bikes would possibly create an unacceptable increase in usage levels. No e-bikes should be permitted because they are motorized, including pedal-assist bikes. (Except for officers enforcing the leash law!)</p> <p>I did not have time to clarify my concluding remark about single-use trails. I would only be willing to allow bikes on the narrow trails if they slowed WAY down to pass and did not make me step close to poison oak to let them by.</p> <p>Thank you, Connie Tettenborn</p>	<p>Kristin Mercer</p> <p>Connie Tettenborn</p>
<p>6/1</p>	<p>Belmont, CA</p>	

Hi John and Robin (please forward to Robin as I don't have her email)

Thank you for your OSMP plan presented to PROS Advisory meeting on 5/31. You have asked for feedback and I have some suggestions since I have been involved with this process for over 2 years as a resident hiker living in Belmont for over 40 years.

I have reviewed Category 2 of your plan (P19-34) "Balancing recreational uses and Trail Management"; both your Base Plan "must haves" and your supplemental Recreational Alternatives Implementation (Easy, Medium or Hard) of the OSMP. PROS Advisory Committee members and Commissioners indicated that the OSMP appeared very general and vague and I agree. Rather than using general words like "design, improve, prohibit, diversify, modify, adopt, diminish, add and develop", the Base plan needs more specific implementation actions related to Waterdog. Below are "must haves" implementation specifics that would provide transparency and clarity in your final plan.

1. Clarify Single and Multi-Use Trails

Are your definitions and criteria the same as defined in the 1992 Master Plan listed below?

Over the past decade, these official guidelines for single-use have been discarded by recreational bikers making All trails unofficially multi-use.

To this day, the City 2020 Trail map uses the term Single-Track trail and Wide Trail with no clarification, definitions, guidelines or criteria to distinguish each trail type.

single-use:multi-use.jpeg

Sierra Club Guidelines for off street Biking

Sierra Club 2.jpg

2. Designate Single-use for Hikers Only, Multi-use for both Bikers and Hikers (P20)

Add definitions, guidelines and criteria for single-use and multi-use trails.

Single-use trails for hikers are necessary because aggressive biking behavior on trails not designed for safe passing without long sight-lines and on steep slopes create a public safety hazard for ALL users. Safety concerns have marginalized non-bike users which are the majority of residents.

WRA - P20.jpeg

WRA single .jpeg

3. Clarify that this statement is for authorized trails only. (P21)

WRA-P21.jpeg

4. Add "Balancing Recreation with Preserving Functional Ecosystems" (P23)

Nowhere in your Base Plan is there a policy statement regarding the need to balance recreation with maintenance of natural systems, however, Belmont's General Plan clearly states "Human Safety and Recreation must be balanced with maintaining the proper function of Natural Systems" (Sec. 5.3).

WRA P23.jpeg

5. Add criteria and conditions for closing existing unauthorized, unsafe and damaged trails and modification of altered trails (P27)

Define and include criteria for legacy trails

P27 addresses future modification and approvals on open space lands but lacks policy on closing existing unauthorized, unsafe and damaged trails.

Specifically, close Soho trail, illegally built in 2017 and the Riparian trail that damages the riparian habitat as they both violate the John Brooks donation contract (John Brooks contract and the 1977 Belmont City Council minutes attached below).

Specifically, realign Canyon Creek trail that crosses the riparian habitat and Finch East to its original plan along the canyon rim to protect the wildlife and natural vegetation; away from all sensitive habitat and special status species located in the valley.

WRA -P27.jpeg

	<p>Hi John and Robin (Please forward as I don't have Robin's email),</p> <p>Thank you for your OSMP presented to Belmont's PROS Committee on May 31, 2022.</p> <p>Our region is rated as a "Biodiversity Hotspot", and Belmont's Open Spaces are an integral and connected pocket of natural habitat essential to continuing biodiversity. But our open space is also essential to resident health and education. So achieving a sustainable balance between protection and recreation is the most important objective of this Plan. I thus object to the sly, but significant, replacement of "maintenance" for the actual General Plan priority of "maintaining the proper function of natural systems." Throughout my comments, attached, you will find balance between environment, recreation and natural hazards woven into the objective, policy and action. Decision makers need WRA to help craft clear criteria to weigh this balance.</p> <p>As observed by the PROS committee and Commission, many items are vague or lack specifics. Differing interpretations of current City Plans has led to conflict and inaction, so it's essential that the plan help clarify, not muddy the waters. Thus, I submit for your consideration very specific edits intended to provide clarity and avoid misinterpretation, to reduce future disputes.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p>	
<p>6/5/2022</p>	<p>Kristin Mercer, Belmont</p>	<p>Kristin Mercer</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. My son and I have both worked on maintaining and improving trails in waterdog (at organized trail work days). The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Best, Nigel Ray 650-575-1702</p>	<p>Nigel Ray</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>As a long time Belmont resident, Advisory Committee member, and an individual who hikes the Water Dog trails 200+ days per year, I was very shocked and disappointed that the majority of Park & Rec Commissioners have already stated that they will recommend "multi use" trails in the Water Dog Open Space. This was stated at the Park & Rec meeting last week. I feel this decision does not take into consideration the numerous Belmont residents who feel that the most trails are unsafe due to the preponderance of bikers on narrow trails. It also is in conflict with the recommendation of the WRA report which lists on Table 9 to "Implement single-use and one-way trail segments in areas identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following sufficient public outreach".</p> <p>The WRA study also states that the trails should be designed and improved to facilitate safe trail use by all visitors. The decision to make all trails multi use violates this WRA recommendation in section P20.</p> <p>In section P21, WRA states "the City may prohibit certain trail uses or apply increased trail use restrictions within certain areas to enhance safety, minimize conflicts between trail users, and protect natural resources areas". Why can't a certain number of trails be designated for hikers/ walkers only and this be implemented so that hikers do not have to worry about their safety and being run over by bikers? These should be the following trails: Berry, Chaparral, Raccoon Run, Rambler, Ohlone, Canyon Creek and Raccoon Run. As I stated, I and my wife hike the WD trails 200+ days per year and have done so for many years. We have been nearly hit by bikers 6 times in the last 12 months. The bikers have stated: "show us the statistics of injuries or accidents caused by bikers". Obviously the near misses to me and my wife do not show up in records but I can guarantee you that these near accidents have happened. Many of these near accidents occurred when bikers came around blind curves. They could not see us and we could not see them until the last seconds. We had to jump off the trail to avoid being hit. I must also say that numerous residents we meet walking on Belmont streets will no longer hike the WD trails due to the danger posed by the bikers. Many residents say it is not enjoyable or conducive to a peaceful walk anymore as they have to constantly watch out for bikers.</p> <p>In the past two years we see less animals(deer, rabbits, quail, etc.) than in the past. Whereas we used to see deer on a weekly basis, we've seen only 3 deer since the beginning of this year.</p> <p>In addition, many of the trails are damaged by bikers who have worn down the trails and made it so slick it is hard to climb some of the hilly areas. The bikes have also damaged many tree roots.</p> <p>I must also request that you restrict the use of E bikes on the trails. E bikes go up to 28 MPH. Even Class 1 E bikes go 20 MPH and that can cause a severe injury if someone is hit by an E biker going 20 MPH. E bikes usually are 45-50 pounds and if someone is hit by an E bike at 15-20 MPH, they will be severely injured. Many are designed just like motor cycles and do not need pedal assist. These bikes are not safe for other users on the trails.</p> <p>Please take these ideas into consideration before finalizing your recommendations to the City Council. I believe it is your duty to represent all trail users. So far, you have shown favoritism to the bikers-many of them who do not even live in Belmont.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	<p>Bob Stahl</p>

<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails (Ensatina and Labor of Love), and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Best, Nara Balakrishna</p>	<p>Nara Balakrishna</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>In addition to the template below, I also want to add that mountain biking is a fast growing sport that promotes responsible outdoor use and that the Bay Area as a whole should embrace the recreation desires of its users.</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration,</p> <p>Max Vaillant</p>	<p>Max Vaillant</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>have been biking water dog for 26-years and just rode my favorite loop this morning. I strongly support the plan to keep all trails all access, including ebikes as I see the day not far off when I'll have to switch!</p> <p>Water dog is my favorite place to ride in California. I support the following.</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come</p>	<p>Frank Babbitt</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thanks, Norman</p>	<p>Norman Fong</p>

<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>Lencioni Construction Inc</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p>	<p>Chad Lencioni</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>--Scott</p> <p>I've read the recently released draft Recreation Use Assessment, and wanted to thank you all for the thoughtful approach to these recommendations. I'm a member of the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree with their positions on the recommendations in this draft posted at https://waterdogstewards.com/articles/update-on-recreation-at-waterdog.</p> <p>I'm a frequent user of the park, and volunteered when many of the trails we enjoy there were being built. I'm thrilled at the recommendation to officially recognize the trails that are currently not on the maps, but are well-built and enhance the open space. I also support the erosion remediation recommendations.</p> <p>I also support the WDOSS position that the trails at Waterdog should remain open (there are no redundant trails!) and multi-use. Waterdog has a wonderful community, and we should continue to embrace and foster it!</p> <p>Thanks again for your patience and thoughtfulness in this process. I know that the vocal minority who want to shut users out of Waterdog have been loud, and I'm happy to see that they have largely been unsuccessful in their hateful campaign here and at the Cross Country Course.</p>	<p>Scott Hill</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>Mark Lefebvre</p> <p>Hi</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, (mostly enjoying the space as a responsible mountain biker) I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Regards,</p>	<p>Mark Lefebvre</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>Jill Henrich</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>I live in Emerald Hills and have been involved with trail building (Lake Loop trail) as well as routine trail maintenance at Waterdog over many years (I started mountain biking at Waterdog in 2006). As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community - me personally included, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and effort and support of trail use at Waterdog!</p> <p>Best regards,</p>	<p>Jill Henrich</p>

6/10/2022	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space for the past 20 years, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I enjoy both biking and hiking with my family and our dog in this park and feel this is a place where we can all enjoy the various recreational opportunities the park has to offer.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Brian Stevenson San Mateo County Resident 10 Kings Canyon Way, Pacifica, CA 94044 brianstevenson@gmail.com</p>	Brian Stevenson
6/10/2022	<p>Hello. For the past 30 years or so, I've been a user of the Waterdog open space, and I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community (including by myself in years past), and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I do oppose the use of e-bikes, as those are more like motorcycles, and do not fit into the people-powered ethos of waterdog, IMO</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you—Tom S, San Carlos CA</p>	Tom S.
6/10/2022	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a hiker, dog owner and mountain biker my family and I love and use the Waterdog open space area several times a week.</p> <p>I am writing to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Rob</p> <p>Robert Labatt 650-485-9885 rlabatt@gmail.com</p>	Robert Labatt
6/10/2022	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, and bikers, as they always have been. I think that further enforcement of on-leash laws is needed for dog walkers.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. I also agree with allowing e-bikes, as they are limited as to speed and generally do not go any faster than normal bikes.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p>	Nicolas Olivares

Dear Parks and Rec Commission,

I reviewed the draft Recreation Use Assessment prepared by WRA Consultants for the PROS Plan, and I think overall the consultant's approach is very balanced and reasonable. For the most part I agree wholeheartedly with their assessments and recommendations, and I think they're both commonsense and based on solid science.

I disagree with a couple of their recommendations though. WRA recommends making Ensatina trail a hiker-only trail, and the trail known as "Labor of Love," "Flow," and "Soho Circle" trail cycling-only. I agree with the comments Commissioner Michaels made at the last P&R Committee meeting, to the effect of "we should allow as many people as possible to enjoy all of our trails."

For convenience, the recommendations from the report I'm referring to are pasted here:

"Trail recommendations for designating as single use.

Number 1 on the map below, trail connecting the John Brooks Trail with the Waterdog Lake Loop Trail.

This trail could be a good candidate for designating as pedestrian use only due to the low tree branches and unique shady experience that may encourage slow travel through this area. There are also two parallel trails so access to trailheads would not be restricted. This trail may need additional improvements like realigning trail away from the creek in areas.

Number 2 on the map below, loop trail to the south of the John Brooks Trail. This trail could be a good candidate for designating as cycling only due to its winding alignment and banked corners. Because this trail is a loop branching off of the John Brooks Trail, trailhead access would not be restricted. Users of this trail may already be encouraging a single direction of travel (see photo below) which they City may choose to codify and install official signage. However, this decision should rely on assessments of the need for a single direction of travel and visitor surveys."

Making single-use trails (hiker-only or cycling-only) fosters division and resentment in the trail user community. Belmont doesn't have a dedicated park ranger, so in designating trails single-use, there's really no way for the City enforce the rule. It doesn't make sense to impose a rule that can't be enforced. Unfortunately, we have a few unhinged individuals in our community who have been known to physically accost and confront cyclists on the trails. I fear that if trails are designated single-use and a cyclist wanders onto the wrong trail, some self-appointed vigilante enforcer will confront or assault him or her.

Single-use trails are essentially a solution in search of a problem. All of the trails in Waterdog have always been multi-use, and there's no compelling reason to segregate them. The two trails in question were built by volunteers from the cycling community, not exclusively for themselves, but for everyone to use and enjoy, including hikers, runners, and dog walkers.

The basis for WRA's recommendation to make Ensatina (Number 2) hiker-only was "the low tree branches and unique shady experience that may encourage slow travel through this area." This doesn't seem like a good reason to systematically exclude an entire user group, and break with decades of Belmont's tradition of allowing all user groups to use and enjoy all the trails.

The federal Bureau of Land Management has a publication, Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience, that makes some excellent points about shared multi-use trails:

- Sharing helps build a trail community. Visitors are encouraged to cooperate in order to preserve and protect a common resource, and encountering other types of users on a trail helps to establish mutual respect and inspire courtesy.
- Shared-use trails take better advantage of available space and trail mileage. Quite simply, they provide more trail for everyone to enjoy.

<https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Guidelines-for-a-Quality-Trail-Experience-2017.pdf>

Ironically, some public commenters at the last P&R meeting were critical of the consultant and Commission for "not bringing the sides together." However, these same people are demanding single-use trails which literally do the opposite of bringing people together. Sharing is what brings people together, and sharing is what creates a sense of community. That's always been our tradition and practice, and I hope you will preserve that in the final voting and implementation of our PROS plan.

As always, keep up the great work you're doing and thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Regards,

Paul Sheng

6/10/2022

Paul Sheng

6/10/2022	<p>Hi all,</p> <p>For the past 15 years my wife and I have enjoyed Waterdog for both hiking and mountain biking. We consistently go hiking there together every week or two, and I have biked there once or twice a week until I retired three years ago, and now I bike at Waterdog three times a week.</p> <p>I strongly support multi-use access to all the trails, in particular Ensatina and Labor of Love.</p> <p>These trails both provide unique challenges and joys for both hikers and bikers. I've never had a moment of "conflict" on the Labor of Love trail, either with another biker or with a hiker.</p> <p>I have had moments on the Ensatina trail where I had to yield the right-of-way to an uphill biker, or, as a biker, to a hiker going either direction. In all my interactions on Ensatina, there has never been an uncomfortable moment—I cheerfully and insistently give the right-of-way to all hikers, always encourage them to have a "great hike", and frequently offer advise on route selection (as someone who has been in Waterdog probably almost 2000 times!).</p> <p>I personally see no reason not to keep all trails open to all users. It is true that in our use over 15 years that I have had maybe 4 moments (either as a hiker or a biker) where I felt uncomfortable by the behavior of a mountain biker. Things being what they are, I've had at least as many moments where I felt that hikers were discourteous or acted in an unsafe manner. In maybe 2000 times using the resource, this is pretty negligible.</p> <p>I feel that if anything should be done to make Waterdog more enjoyably and safely usable for all users, it should be an education campaign. The existing signage is useful, but could be made more explicit with regards to right-of-way and suggestions for courteous behavior. I truly think that this would almost completely solve any issues that come from multi-use, and would leave all the trails open to all users.</p> <p>Thanks you,</p>	Michael Wright
6/10/2022	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I live in Redwood City and have been involved with trail building (trail at the end of the dam) as well as routine trail maintenance at Waterdog over many years (I started mountain biking at Waterdog in 2012). As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community - me personally included, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and effort and support of trail use at Waterdog!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>	Pamela James
6/10/2022	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p>	Ryan Hollowell
6/10/2022	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space for the past three (decades), I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. While to population has grown over the last e decades the open space has also improved i workers with Passion Trail bikes (Charles) to help fund , maintain, and build trails for all.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come</p>	Michael Schocket

<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Sam Chao</p>	<p>Sam Chao</p>
<p>6/10/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>We are the Stucky family and we live next to Water Dog Park. We enjoy walking with the kids and grandma, running, biking and strolling with our puppy Emil. As users of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>Please keep all the trails open for all of us.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Sincerely, The Stucky Family - Lora, Linda, Lorna, Lyla, Lexy & Paul</p>	<p>Lorna Stucky</p>
<p>6/11/2022</p>	<p>Good Morning!</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marc</p> <p>(408) 406-6503</p>	<p>Marc Siddens</p>
<p>6/11/2022</p>	<p>Hello team!</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thanks and best regards :)</p> <p>Fabio</p>	<p>Fabio Mincone</p>

<p>6/11/2022</p>	<p>Russell</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p>	<p>Russell</p>
<p>6/11/2022</p>	<p>Belmont CA</p> <p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Brian Bishop</p>	<p>Brian Bishop</p>
<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>650-222-6007</p> <p>I'm a 63-year-old Mountain Biker/Hiker born and raised in the area. My wife and I, our children, and our grandchild have been using the Waterdog open space for over 40 years. I support the multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I'm seeing better communication than ever between Hikers and Mountain Bikers on the trails.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All the trails should be available for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision-making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Regards, Chuck Spiteri</p>	<p>Chuck Spiteri</p>
<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>- Bob Estes</p> <p>I've been biking and hiking at Waterdog park for 15 years and have always been impressed by how well everyone gets along. I wish there were more such areas in the Bay Area.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space.</p> <p>Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p>	<p>Bob Estes</p>
<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>San Carlos Resident</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>Please maintain access to waterdog for cyclists. These trails are well built, have a ton of amazing history, and enable low-cost recreation for anyone with shoes or a bicycle. Belmont should expand and embrace this regional gem.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Ryan Kauffman 20+ year user of WaterDog (arriving by bike, not car)</p>	<p>Ryan Kauffman</p>

<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>On a personal note, my 65 year old father and I (39) have greatly enjoyed riding e-mountain bikes (eMTB) at Waterdog. Waterdog is one of the only parks on the mid-peninsula that allows eMTBs and it is a game changer for my dad who can ride single track again. Being able to relive the nostalgia of my childhood by riding bikes with my dad is truly special, and I have Waterdog's support for multi-use recreation to thank for that.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Nolan Nichols</p> <p>--</p> <p>B. Nolan Nichols III, Ph.D Data Platform Lead Maze Therapeutics</p>	<p>Nolan Nichols</p>
<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I lived in Belmont for many years and enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog park and continue to do so. It's great fun to go for a ride there and then have dinner at the Waterdog Tavern afterwards. I have also been involved with trail maintenance there starting in 2005.</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, including me, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for everyone to enjoy as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and effort and support for trail use at Waterdog!</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Sally Schroeter</p>	<p>Sally Schroeter</p>

6/12/2022	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>On a personal note, my 65 year old father and I (39) have greatly enjoyed riding e-mountain bikes (eMTB) at Waterdog. Waterdog is one of the only parks on the mid-peninsula that allows eMTBs and it is a game changer for my dad who can ride single track again. Being able to relive the nostalgia of my childhood by riding bikes with my dad is truly special, and I have Waterdog's support for multi-use recreation to thank for that.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Nolan Nichols</p> <p>--</p> <p>B. Nolan Nichols III, Ph.D Data Platform Lead Maze Therapeutics</p>	Peter Salkowski
6/12/2022	<p>Hi Robin and John (please forward this email to Robin),</p> <p>1. I couldn't agree more with WRA assessments that visitors to San Mateo County parks as well as Belmont Open Spaces reported walking/hiking and running are the predominant reasons for their visits while a much smaller proportion reported biking as their reason. This clearly indicates that OSMP should be focusing more on Pedestrians than currently is the case and WRA's recommendation to "designate trails as single use to improve feelings of safety by increasing predictability by allowing activity type" should be implemented. All visitors can share all trails but bike speeding is not appropriate use on narrow trails which should be reserved for purposes of "exercising, communing with nature and experiencing peace and quiet" No amount of passive bells, loaner bells, proper etiquette and signage will improve the pedestrian safety when mountain bikes speed past at 30 mph and take away from the natural experience of peace and quiet and improvement of mental well-being.</p> <p>Just on Canyon Creek alone, over 40% of Strava bikers report an average speed of 15-27mph on the entire trail while over 90% report maximum speeds up to 30 mph on portions of the trail putting pedestrian safety at risk with absolutely no peace or quiet.</p> <p>ED - Speed Distribution Strava.jpg</p> <p>2. I vehemently disagree with designating Soho (labour of love), a previously unmapped trail as a one way bike trail. This is legally in flagrant violation of the John Brooks Preserve donation contract to preserve it in its natural state. For WRA to recommend that this unauthorized, unmapped trail be legalized for bikers only (no hikers) is a contradiction to their recommendation that previously unmapped trails (which have the highest number of categories of erosion) should be decommissioned or closed. Bikers want this trail as a one way downhill trail for speed racing, an active and competitive sport; hardly passive recreation. It sets a very bad precedent for allowing bikers to continue to build illegal, unmapped trails in anticipation they will be approved in the future. The Soho trail should be decommissioned and closed.</p> <p>3. I agree that Waterdog has the highest trail density per acre at .04 miles per acre for both mapped and unmapped trails. It has 2.5 times the trail density of other local comparable small preserves which contributes to erosion, fragmented habitat and disruption of wildlife. Waterdog is already overbuilt with mapped and unmapped trails.</p> <p>4. I agree with the use of remote motion activated cameras for gathering more data and information regarding pedestrian and cyclist activities, monitoring wildlife and monitoring a maximum 15 mph speed limit for cyclists. This additional data will be helpful in providing missing information to P&R for a complete analysis of the Open Spaces.</p> <p>5. I disagree with E-bike approval for Waterdog as WRA failed to acknowledge that different classes of E-bikes are visually impossible to distinguish: therefore allowing Class 1 E-bikes means allowing ALL classes of E-bikes. The higher classes have larger, heavier motors and wider tires that will damage trails as their report clearly states that "motorized trails experience most soil loss and erosion". There is no need to authorize E-bikes when they currently already violate our open spaces!</p> <p>6. I agree with passive recreation ideas such as P&R sponsored nature photography contests (particularly for kids), nature-led walks identifying vegetation and wildlife and weekly hiking trips by trail; all are ideas that support the predominant reasons why visitors visit our Open Spaces.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p> <p>Jennifer Lien Belmont</p>	Jennifer Lien

<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I live in San Mateo near Hillsdale High school and have been involved with trail building (Berry trail) as well as routine trail maintenance at Waterdog over many years. As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails. Waterdog has given us hours of mother-son times, enjoying the outdoors on our bikes, building skills, starting from our front door. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, me personally included, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for. The exceptions would be any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am a mountain biker, hiker and dog walker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy and that we need to respect the different user groups and use it with tolerance and harmony.</p> <p>Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and effort and support of trail use at Waterdog!</p> <p>Sincerely Lotti Dunbar lottid@mac.com</p>	<p>Lotti Dunbar</p>
<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I lived in Belmont for many years and enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog park and continue to do so. It's great fun to go for a ride there and then have dinner at the Waterdog Tavern afterwards. I have also been involved with trail maintenance there starting in 2005.</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, including me, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for everyone to enjoy as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and effort and support for trail use at Waterdog!</p> <p>Best regards, Sally Schroeter</p>	<p>Sally Schroeter</p>

<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and PROS committee</p> <p>I am a resident of Belmont for over 30 years, and have enjoyed the Belmont Open Spaces over all of that time. Hiking, Running, and Biking in those spaces has been an incredible experience for me. Over those years, I believe the conditions of Waterdog Open Space have improved greatly. I have been attending Parks and Recreation Commission meetings for the past couple of years, and have heard all the arguments over and over again.</p> <p>With the publication of the Draft Report, we have an unbiased appraisal of the condition of the Open Spaces and some recommendations for improvement going forward. This document, along with the results of the survey taken earlier in the planning process, and the results of the past city council election all point to the following conclusions:</p> <p>The open spaces are in very good condition, though there is room for improvement Wildlife are generally in good condition in the open spaces People really enjoy the opportunity to make use of the open space Restrictions on biking in the open spaces are opposed by a large majority of the public (data from the survey and results of the last city council election) Trails should be multi-use and we should encourage all to use the resources Some improvements mentioned in the Draft Report, including closure of the highly eroded "fall line" section on Rambler, and improving the riparian crossings with bridges, make a lot of sense to me. I hope that they will be implemented.</p> <p>I was heartened to hear several Park and Recreation Commissioners voice support for keeping the trails multi-use. This seems very much in line with the values of the Belmont community. The draft report does endorse making one trail one-way bike only and one trail hiking only. I think this is a recommendation that should not be implemented. Starting to designate trails as accessible to one group and not another is counter to the inclusiveness we strive to maintain in Belmont. Also, once this president is set, I can imagine a never-ending series of calls for evermore restrictive policies in the future. While this suggestion may appear to be a fair one-for-one trade, I do believe it would be a mistake to implement it.</p> <p>There was also a vague recommendation to close "redundant" trails. I'm not sure this is a good idea either. In some instances having more than one way to walk or bike may enhance the experience for all. We will see different things on different trails, and spreading out the users over more trails can make the trip more enjoyable for all.</p> <p>There has been a lot of work done to get to where we are today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parks and Recreation Commissioners for their service to the community. I am hopeful that we can come away with a Master Plan that will continue to keep the Open Spaces great places for everyone to enjoy over the coming years.</p> <p>Respectfully, Michael Munrow</p>	<p>Michael Munrow</p>
<p>6/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and PROS committee</p> <p>I am a resident of Belmont for over 30 years, and have enjoyed the Belmont Open Spaces over all of that time. Hiking, Running, and Biking in those spaces has been an incredible experience for me. Over those years, I believe the conditions of Waterdog Open Space have improved greatly. I have been attending Parks and Recreation Commission meetings for the past couple of years, and have heard all the arguments over and over again.</p> <p>With the publication of the Draft Report, we have an unbiased appraisal of the condition of the Open Spaces and some recommendations for improvement going forward. This document, along with the results of the survey taken earlier in the planning process, and the results of the past city council election all point to the following conclusions:</p> <p>The open spaces are in very good condition, though there is room for improvement Wildlife are generally in good condition in the open spaces People really enjoy the opportunity to make use of the open space Restrictions on biking in the open spaces are opposed by a large majority of the public (data from the survey and results of the last city council election) Trails should be multi-use and we should encourage all to use the resources Some improvements mentioned in the Draft Report, including closure of the highly eroded "fall line" section on Rambler, and improving the riparian crossings with bridges, make a lot of sense to me. I hope that they will be implemented.</p> <p>I was heartened to hear several Park and Recreation Commissioners voice support for keeping the trails multi-use. This seems very much in line with the values of the Belmont community. The draft report does endorse making one trail one-way bike only and one trail hiking only. I think this is a recommendation that should not be implemented. Starting to designate trails as accessible to one group and not another is counter to the inclusiveness we strive to maintain in Belmont. Also, once this president is set, I can imagine a never-ending series of calls for evermore restrictive policies in the future. While this suggestion may appear to be a fair one-for-one trade, I do believe it would be a mistake to implement it.</p> <p>There was also a vague recommendation to close "redundant" trails. I'm not sure this is a good idea either. In some instances having more than one way to walk or bike may enhance the experience for all. We will see different things on different trails, and spreading out the users over more trails can make the trip more enjoyable for all.</p> <p>There has been a lot of work done to get to where we are today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parks and Recreation Commissioners for their service to the community. I am hopeful that we can come away with a Master Plan that will continue to keep the Open Spaces great places for everyone to enjoy over the coming years.</p> <p>Respectfully, Michael Munrow</p>	<p>Rob Anagnoson</p>

<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>I am reaching out to you as an avid user of the Waterdog open space area. I'd like to share my position to continue to support the multi-use recreation for all of the trails for all types of users to enjoy. I am also an advocate for the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and appreciate the policies that have been established for the well being of this area and the community.</p> <p>I ask that you please reconsider the proposal of certain trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails included in the open space. I would very much like to see this trail system, that was built and is being maintained by the community, remain open on a fully inclusive basis for all hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy.</p> <p>I look forward to enjoying this open space with all of my various community members for many years to come.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>	<p>Chris Miller</p>
<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>As a resident of Belmont living in the Belmont Heights neighborhood and frequent user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I regularly hike, bird watch and explore nature in the Waterdog OS and occasionally bike the trails. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Regards,</p>	<p>Karen Moody</p>
<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>I'm hoping to attend the open house this evening at Waterdog/Hidden Canyon. However, if I don't get a chance to speak, I want to get some of my thoughts out in advance.</p> <p>I've been enjoying Waterdog for close to 20 years, and a resident of San Mateo for a little over 10 years. In those 20 years, I've worked with Charles Jalgunas and Patti Ciesla (formerly of Passion Trail Bikes) and now the Trail Stewards of Waterdog during many trailwork days. One of the projects I'm most proud of is helping Patti construct the new lake loop trail, bringing my son on several occasions when he was maybe 3-5 years old. He's 14 now, and just finished his freshman year at Serra HS.</p> <p>During the pandemic, we got much more involved in mountain biking as a safe, social outdoor activity and found the Woodside Beasts. What we found with the Woodside Beasts was such a welcoming group who are passionate about the outdoors. Kids of all types and abilities are welcomed with open arms and provided the opportunity to enjoy many of the parks and open spaces in the Bay Area, incentivizing them to get outside and off of their devices. For me, this was so important during the pandemic, and will continue to be a great life lesson moving forward.</p> <p>Sadly, it appears there are a small, very vocal minority that are trying to limit access to trails for cycling in Waterdog. I've seen first hand how these teens and pre-teens have fallen in love with being outside, meeting new friends, and learning new life skills (first aid, trail maintenance, philanthropy, civic duty, etc.). However, there are people in our community that brand these kids as criminals or outlaws, and portray them in a negative light. That message can't be further from the truth. What infuriates me is that during a trail maintenance day, working alongside the Belmont Parks and Rec, the neighbors called the police on us (and the kids). It was so frustrating trying to explain to my son why the police were questioning the work we were doing, and that it was approved by the city.</p> <p>How can the city help change the neighborhood's perception of these young kids? They spend countless hours working to maintain trail systems and better communities from San Francisco down to Santa Cruz, only to be told they aren't welcome and are often scolded on the same trails they help maintain.</p> <p>Please keep Waterdog open to all users. It's such a beautiful space that should remain accessible for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>Kind regards, Matt Leonard</p>	<p>Matt Leonard</p>

<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>Council Members,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Jamie Morgan</p>	<p>Jamie Morgan</p>
<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thanks, Thad</p>	<p>Thad Trent</p>
<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>I regularly use Waterdog open space, so wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>Specifics to your draft recommendations:</p> <p>I do not support the restriction to hiking only on Ensatina Trail, the low hanging tree cover is a uniquely beautiful charm that my soul loves. I choose to enjoy while riding my bike, and would deeply like to continue to use this trail.</p> <p>I do not support changing Labor of Love into a bike only trail, it too has a really fun, low tree cover, but mainly oak trees that I love. Please leave this open to all users. I do support making this trail one-direction only.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Best regards, Ryan</p>	<p>Ryan Fell</p>
<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>Dear Community Officials,</p> <p>I bike in Waterdog park approximately three days a week year around. It is an amazing multi-use park that needs to remain accessible to all. I wear bells on my bikes and always yield to others on the trails and have had no issues with walkers, runners, etc. I've found people to be very hospitable, especially when bikers are careful and thoughtful like most are.</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Kind regards, David Johnson</p>	<p>David Johnson</p>

<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As a local resident and frequent user of the Waterdog open space, I strongly support multi-use recreation on the trails there.</p> <p>The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all the trails should continue to be available for hikers, dog walkers, and cyclists to enjoy equally.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exception that I am opposed to any trail closures and to the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>Thanks, Chris Strahorn</p>	<p>Chris Strahorn</p>
<p>6/13/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision-making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Sincerely, Miro Miklos</p> <p>San Carlos Resident</p>	<p>Miro Miklos</p>
<p>6/14/2022</p>	<p>To Belmont City Council,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Best, Devin Sezgen</p>	<p>Devin Sezgen</p>

<p>6/14/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont Parks and Recreation, and City Council,</p> <p>I know you're in the planning stages of the open space master plan for Belmont Parks and recreation for the next 15 years, and as an avid mountain biker in the community I appreciate the opportunity to share my feedback.</p> <p>My name is Reid Brozek. I'm a 17 year-old mountain biker, and live 3 miles from Waterdog Lake Park. I have been riding at Waterdog for over 5 years, on average about 2 times per week.</p> <p>My first experiences at Waterdog was when I was completely new to the sport at around age 13. One day when my friends and I were at Waterdog trying to learn skills on the trails. One day around this time, three mountain bikers came down the trail. They were members of the Woodside Beasts, a local mountain biking team. The coach, Jarrod Ristow, made a friendly introduction and let us know about the team. I later joined, and so much of my positive mountain biking experiences and beyond have come from my development with the Beast organization, including the team practices at Waterdog Lake Park.</p> <p>Throughout my years with the Woodside Beasts, I have learned many aspects of trail riding etiquette that I follow and role model at Waterdog. These include being respectful to people passing by, letting our group know when we pass a group of hikers or fellow bikers by saying "hiker" or "rider" up, giving the right of way to people going up the trail, and pulling off to the side when there are larger groups of people.</p> <p>In addition, as part of the Woodside Beasts, the team organizes trail maintenance days at Waterdog, where we go out and clear the trail of debris including litter and we repair hazardous sections of the trail. These volunteer efforts improve the riding experience at Waterdog Lake Park for all riders, and also provide fun bonding time for the team, and instill a sense of pride in our sport.</p> <p>Some of the best aspects of riding at Waterdog are the short climbs, the technical sections on trails like Rambler, and how Waterdog is a multi-use space. But the very best thing about Waterdog is its location, because it is the only place with this size and type of terrain on the mid peninsula.</p> <p>I urge the City of Belmont, when considering their Open Space Master Plan, to preserve all existing trails at Waterdog and restore trails that have been recently blocked.</p> <p>The second issue I want to raise is the development of a pump track. In the Draft Recommendations for the Open Space Master Plan, the addition of a pump track was among the top amenities requested by the community. Currently, the closest pump track is in San Jose.</p> <p>A pump track in Belmont would have supported the development of my biking skills as a new rider, and I would still enjoy it today as an experienced rider. I want to advocate for younger riders in my community to give them opportunities when I was starting out. A pump track in Belmont would provide opportunities for people to get outside and be more active.</p> <p>Sincerely, Reid Brozek</p>	<p>Reid Brozek</p>
<p>6/14/2022</p>	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mike Barad</p>	<p>Mike Barad</p>

6/15/2022	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing in support of multi-use recreation on the trails at the Waterdog open space. The trail system was built, and continues to be maintained, by the entire community. All trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. The singular group that is trying to change and remove access to the park for a much broader segment of multiple user groups is a niche segment of the community that does not represent the actual diverse population of Belmont and the broader population that enjoys Waterdog. Please keep this in mind when making a decision that could potentially prevent children, adults and families from enjoying this park as they have been, for generations to come.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>	Justin Carr
6/15/2022	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>As a local who was raised in Belmont (Fox Elementary, Ralston Middle School, Carlmont High School), a current local resident in neighboring San Carlos and as a lifetime time user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I was first introduced to Waterdog open space by my parents in the mid-1970s as we would enjoy weekly family hikes. As I grew older, I started riding the Waterdog trails and have enjoyed them for over 30 years! I am now a father and enjoy the same hiking and riding with my own family that I grew to love over the years. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been for as long as I can remember!</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Regards,</p>	Matt Herman
6/15/2022	<p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>	Chuck Becker
6/15/2022	<p>Dear Parks & Recreation Commission,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your attention in this matter!</p>	Peter Coward

	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you</p>	Lindsay Helmuth
6/16/2022	<p>Lindsay</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you, Eduardo</p>	Eduardo Llach
6/16/2022	<p>-Shelby Golan</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p>	Shelby Golan
6/17/2022	<p>Hello Belmont/Waterdog decision-makers,</p> <p>Please retain multi-use trails at Waterdog. I have ridden my mountain bike at Waterdog for years. It is truly a great park to ride and wouldn't want it to change in any way, if possible. I know that mountain biking has become more popular in recent years and amidst the pandemic, and this has brought new users to the park, and possibly some riff-raff.</p> <p>Here is the copy/paste version:</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Regards,</p>	Johnathan Lamb

<p>6/17/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	<p>Susannah Calvin</p>
<p>6/17/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council and PROS Commission,</p> <p>I am a frequent user of Waterdog open space, and I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I also support the use of e-bikes there and don't see them as making any impact on the trails or other users due to their quiet operation and very low power compared to a dirt bike.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Joel Wilson</p>	<p>Joel Wilson</p>
<p>6/19/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As Belmont resident and an avid user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write in support of multi-use recreation of the trails in Water dog. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree with the draft recommendations published recently with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. I've been hiking and biking in Water dog for over a decade and never felt a situation where trails had to be restricted for enjoying a nice outdoors.</p> <p>In the decade we have been living in Belmont, we love the city for all it has to offer. I am committed to doing my part to make Water Open Space safe and inclusive to all.</p> <p>Please leave all trails in the park open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Best Regards</p> <p>Tushar</p>	<p>Tushar Nair</p>
<p>6/21/2022</p>	<p>Hello Belmont,</p> <p>Waterdog was the origin of a great ride tradition where I formed some of the best friendships in my life.</p> <p>As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.</p> <p>I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.</p> <p>I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	<p>Brook Burley</p>

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,

Date Received	Quantity	Commenter Name
June 2022	0	Duplicate Emails Received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com