

<p>7/1/2022</p>	<p>Dear Commissioners and Councilmembers,</p> <p>An article in the San Francisco Chronicle (Electric bicycle ban on trails staying put--Per report, e-bikes could impact safety and environment) was brought to my attention today. I have copied some pertinent information regarding this decision, which I think is relevant to the Waterdog Open Space here in Belmont. Yes--some regions have opened up trails to e-bikes, but I think there is a big difference between recreational areas or parks, which have the primary purpose of recreation, and nature preserves with a primary purpose of preserving the natural environment. Below are quotes taken from the article. I added italics to emphasize the last statement.</p> <p>"Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District voted to uphold its ban on e-bikes on the majority of its trails."</p> <p>"Observing that e-bike use has exploded in the region, the district undertook a thorough two-year policy review that looked at the potential impacts of allowing e-bikes on its nature preserves. In an exhaustive report, the authors assessed noise impacts to nearby bat populations, potentially excessive uphill speeds, fire risk, soil impacts, and the potential for conflicts among e-bikers and other visitors."</p> <p>"The four directors who voted to keep the ban largely in place noted that Midpen's mission is to balance healthy natural ecosystems with agricultural and recreational uses and view its preserves as distinct from parklands in that way."</p> <p>"What I want to emphasize is our job is to properly care for nature preserves, and it's a very different approach required by agencies that are managing parks," said Midpen Director Curt Riffle. "I've concluded that I just cannot support allowing motorized or motor-assisted bicycles into our preserves." Director Karen Holman echoed that rationale, describing possible unknown negative impacts to wildlife wrought by e-bike riders who might venture down Midpen trails farther and faster than mountain bikers."</p> <p>"Overall, directors expressed trepidation about a lack of scientific research on e-bike impacts in natural areas. 'One consideration ... is that based on our past history, once a use is allowed in an area, it becomes more difficult to restrict that use if we find that negative impacts are indeed occurring,' said Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz."</p> <p>This last point is critical to consider in the implementation of a pilot policy, as suggested on page xvi of the draft Open Space Master Plan. Also, it is apparent to me that opening up trails to e-bikes is not required to adhere to ADA regulations, given that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District voted to uphold its ban.</p> <p>Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue as you move forward.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Connie Tettenborn</p> <p>Belmont citizen</p>	<p>Connie Tettenborn</p>
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7/3/2022 Hi Brigitte,

Kristin Mercer

I want to call your attention to three significant errors on the PROS Drafts released June 28, 2022. These are not differences of opinion, but factual errors. I respectfully request these errors be corrected prior to submission of the drafts to City Council, and that these corrections be conveyed to the Commission in the July 6 discussion on the topic. I would greatly appreciate an e-mail acknowledgement of receipt of this notice, and confirmation that the errors will be corrected.

Thank you,

Kristin Mercer

Unauthorized Trails incorrectly identified as authorized (WRA Draft Final Open Space, pg. 6 and 20)

On the WRA trail maps, six illegal trails are mis-labeled as authorized (solid black line). As you can see on the most recent City trail map below, these trails are NOT authorized and were not approved by the City for good reasons:

Ralston School – poses a security risk to students, was steep and badly eroded. This trail was closed by City actions in 2021.

Berry shortcut to Brooks – dangerously steep, redundant because it connects two trails that intersect just a few yards to the east

Chaparral to Brooks at Highlands Court – redundant because it connects two trails that intersect at the Somerset entrance, dangerously steep and eroded, bisecting chaparral habitat.

Elevator down to Chaparral – dangerously steep and eroded 2 ft ditch, causing widening yearly, bisecting chaparral habitat.

From Ohlone to Ohlone – redundant, dangerous slope and cross slope with trail width less than 1 foot, undermined roots and killed two previously healthy oaks, bisecting sensitive oak and fern forest and introducing invasive species.

Hastings Drive to Upper Creek – redundant, dangerously steep, highly eroded and widened beyond 10 feet.

Many of these trails were identified by residents in 2020 when the City was asked, and promised, to close them. Ralston trail was closed at that time. Ohlone appeared in 2020-21. Hastings has been closed or not-used for many years.

Taken together these mistakenly mapped trails add to about a mile. On top of these we have the 1.5 miles of illegal trails in the Brooks Preserve (not shown here). All totaled, illegal trails account for an added ~20% more trail miles than the City acknowledges.

None of these trails have trail signage because the 2020 Trail Signage Committee acknowledged that these are NOT official trails. Illegal trails are a significant management issue that is totally omitted from the WRA assessment and recommendations, and should be documented as an area of focus.

There is no justification for sanctioning these dangerous, redundant, unsustainable, unplanned and illegally created trails. Please revise the WRA maps to remove these trails. And again, please take action to close these illegal trails.

E-bike policy -MidPen Open Space does not permit e-bikes (WRA Draft Final Open Space, pg.43)

The WRA Draft Open Space Management Plan implies, on pg 43, that MidPen is poised to permit e-bikes on trails. In fact, at their June 29 meeting the MidPen board voted to ban e-bikes from narrow natural surface trails. This decision was based on an exhaustive study of impacts and policies of other open space stewardship agencies. It is thus reflective of the emerging “best practices” in light of the rapidly evolving e-technologies and growing use impacts from bike activity. The WRA draft needs to convey this recent ruling and correctly assess this emerging policy trend in order to avoid misleading Belmont decisionmakers.

Pg 43. “More recently, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) -which does not allow e-bikes on trails - commissioned a set of studies to investigate visitor perceptions and ecological impacts of e-bikes. A report on these studies to the Board of Directors submitted in March, 2022 included a recommendation that e-bikes be allowed

7/3/2022	<p>Dear Brigitte, Park and Rec, City Council and PROS,</p> <p>As reported in WRA's final draft Open Space Management Plan (OSMP) the majority of visitors to open spaces seek nature:</p> <p>"exercising, communing with nature and experiencing peace and quiet" was cited in the 2021 Belmont survey as the leading purpose of visiting the Open Space.</p> <p>"walking, hiking and running while a much smaller proportion reported biking" was also the response to a survey of visitors to San Mateo County parks.</p> <p>Yet in Belmont's Waterdog, these purposes have been totally reversed with biking now the predominant activity, preventing residents and others from walking, hiking and running in peace and quiet, and communing with nature. The PROS guiding principles call for equity and inclusiveness, but currently the majority of residents are denied equitable access and inclusion; they don't feel welcome and safe and don't feel that their health and well being are advanced.</p> <p>Bikers have argued that pedestrians are equally welcome to use the narrow trails and insist they are inclusive, but this argument is disingenuous because bikes on trails meant for hiking are forcing foot traffic out of Waterdog. We have an exclusionary, regional bike-dominated destination. By creating dangers to pedestrians with competitive speeding up to 30 mph on the curves of narrow trails; seeking ever steeper slopes and jumps for excitement, and building berms around narrow curves for enhanced speed they have scared away neighbors with small children, driven away avid senior hikers and created an environment of fear of walking in Waterdog. And this exodus is being encouraged by a San Mateo bike leader's audacious public comments telling Belmont residents to go take a hike elsewhere other than Waterdog (click video link).</p> <p>https://mega.nz/file/asxDTBDK#bwOhYtyDj9uiPYbQBI3vpGMY27wOLjz03N4zNUXwLU</p> <p>Let's be honest; no amount of "trail calming features" (bells, greetings, flat landings, slower speeds, reminder signs) will be enforceable and none of them will improve biker/hiker compatibility. Hikers walking at 1-5 mph seeking peace and quiet cannot compete with speeding 2- wheel machinery traveling up to 30 mph, whizzing past within inches on a 3-foot wide trail. This is neither safe nor conducive to either user group attempting to enjoy Waterdog, and is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>The compromise solution is to make the 5 following narrow trails - Lake Loop, Berry, Chaparral, Canyon Creek and Ohlone - off limits to bikes while all other authorized trails can be used by bikers (8 trails). All 5 of these narrow trails designated by the 1999 City Council for hiking only, are very steep or winding, have blind curves and few safe passing zones. Many slippery areas need staircases to make them safe for pedestrians, and stairs are not compatible with bikes. ALL trails can be open to all visitors on foot - without allowing access by machinery. Designate these 5 trails off limits to bikes and build safety staircases where necessary to enable the majority of park visitors who are now displaced from our trails.</p> <p>As you finalize your recommendations to City Council for approval, please keep in mind your guiding principles for the majority of users. Waterdog needs separate trails for separate users because peace and quiet, communing with nature and most importantly, pedestrian safety are just not compatible with speeding bikes.</p> <p>Don't let Belmont's Waterdog continue to be known as one of the only 2 local open spaces that allow bikes on every single trail; forcing hikers to go elsewhere, because such a City policy is truly neither equitable nor inclusive at all.</p> <p>Jennifer Lien Belmont</p>	Jennifer Lien
7/5/2022	<p>Please find the article in San Francisco Chronicle on the Mid Peninsula Open Space Board's decision on E bikes. Thank you.</p>	Bob Stahl
7/5/2022	<p>Brigitte and P&R Commission,</p> <p>I just recently learned that the PROS Plan Final Draft has been issued. At the beginning of this process, you repeatedly stated that you would keep interested parties abreast of developments in this process. I signed up for the PROS email list and to date this PROS Plan Final Draft has not been disclosed to the public who specifically submitted comments and signed up for PROS updates.</p> <p>I request that all interested parties be notified of the City's release of the PROS Plan Final Draft and be given sufficient time to review the new document in order to provide meaningful comments. The issuance of such a final draft without adequate public comment time is not in conformance with best practices for public involvement.</p> <p>I only learned over the 4th of July weekend of this issuance of the PROS Plan Final Draft and understand was only made public on July 1, 2022.</p> <p>The 4th of July weekend is clearly not sufficient time for members of the public to provide meaningful comments. As a part of your and the Belmont P&R Commission's commitment to transparency and keeping the public informed of this PROS process, I request notification be sent to all interested parties and to be given sufficient time to review the document.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this issue, Deniz Bolbol</p>	Deniz Bolbol
7/5/2022	<p>cannot access plan. Requires app or creating an account on gates website. Why ?</p>	Dirk Flote

7/5/2022 The major harm that mountain biking does is that it greatly extends the human footprint (distance that one can travel) in wildlife habitat. E-bikes multiply that footprint even more. Neither should be allowed on any unpaved trail. Wildlife, if they are to survive, MUST receive top priority!

What were you thinking??? Mountain biking and trail-building destroy wildlife habitat! Mountain biking is environmentally, socially, and medically destructive! There is no good reason to allow bicycles on any unpaved trail!

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <https://mjvande.info/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking...

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <https://mjvande.info/scb7.htm>). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Mountain bikers also love to build new trails - legally or illegally. Of course, trail-building destroys wildlife habitat - not just in the trail bed, but in a wide swath to both sides of the trail! E.g. grizzlies can hear a human from one mile away, and smell us from 5 miles away. Thus, a 10-mile trail represents 100 square miles of destroyed or degraded habitat, that animals are inhibited from using. Mountain biking, trail building, and trail maintenance all increase the number of people in the park, thereby preventing the animals' full use of their habitat. See <https://mjvande.info/scb9.htm> for details.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: <http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: https://mjvande.info/mtb_dangerous.htm .

The latest craze among mountain bikers is the creation of "pump tracks" (bike parks). They are alleged to teach bicycling skills, but what they actually teach are "skills" (skidding, jumping ("getting air"), racing, etc.) that are appropriate nowhere! If you believe that these "skills" won't be practiced throughout the rest of the park and in all other parks, I have a bridge I'd like to sell you! ...

For more information: <https://mjvande.info/mtbfaq.htm> .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

Mike Vandeman

7/5/2022	<p>Hello Kelly and Brigitte,</p> <p>At the last minute, I'm offering a summary of my (scattered) thoughts regarding the Belmont PROS Plan. You both have invested a tremendous amount to time and energy shepherding this endeavor and I am so grateful to live in Belmont because of efforts such as yours.</p> <p>I believe my primary input to the panel was to be slanted towards our OSP which is fine since I hike in San Juan Canyon, Waterdog and or Hidden Canyon on a weekly basis; twenty plus years ago you would find me on my bike. To that end, my opinions are both as a biker and hiker, as well as a mother to an avid cyclist.</p> <p>Belmont enjoys the unique situation of having access to bike bridges spanning both 101 and 280 - I am not aware of another City on the Peninsula which has that feature. Add to that our wonderful open space for mountain biking, the presence of Belmont Bike shop, plus easy access to restaurants and shops along Ralston Avenue, and we have a city that should be a cyclist's destination. Perhaps the City could officially declare that we are bike-friendly in both access and safety.</p> <p>Bike-friendly does not mean that mountain bikers can rule the trails. I think the our OSP should be viewed for mellow, after-work or -school rides and a place to learn safe skills. This can be communicated via social media on various biking websites with the emphasis that our OSP is not where you bomb down the trail, but where you share it with flora, fauna and those not on bikes. I believe this message may be being shared already.</p> <p>I would ask that the City keep an open mind to reviewing the trail system to add an additional trail or two in an effort to better connect the OSP and, more importantly, to spread out the trail users. A thoughtfully placed and designed trail can ease over-use of an area, enhance enjoyment and potentially decrease any user conflict. For instance, there could be benefit to connecting Lake Road with Hidden Canyon via a trail towards Elevator.</p> <p>I was very pleasantly surprised that the WRA assessments found that our OSP is in good shape, especially considering the amount of use. I have personally seen the results of various volunteers clearing non-native brush and decommissioning unauthorized trails/shortcuts. The land looks better. Addressing the erosion on trails will further enhance the robustness of the system. The water crossing have always been a concern since I realize the importance of keep feet and wheels out of water as much as possible. Unfortunately, these water crossings that do not have a good overpass are mostly on unauthorized trails in both Waterdog and San Juan Canyon.</p> <p>To address the water crossing, the City of Belmont needs to decide whether to recognize the two Waterdog trails that are currently unauthorized, but appeared in a decades earlier City document, as well as the trails in San Juan. I realize this puts the City in a bit of a sticky wicket since I have no doubt some type of action will be instigated by a few anti-bike activists. However, the City needs to make the decision so we can move forward on management of our open space.</p> <p>That is what I have felt all along in this PROS process, the City needs to make the decision on what trails will be authorized. Only then can we move forward to safe guarding our open space. I am guarded on designating trails for a certain user group; instead I wold rather see all trails be able to handle all users.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to participate. I so wish we could have met in person as Zoom can be such a barrier to seeking common ground, but nevertheless I appreciate the opportunity to join the process.</p> <p>Best wishes for the Summer to you both.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lynn Bell</p>	Lynn Bell
7/6/2022	<p>I long ago signed up with PROS to be on the email list to receive updated information on PROS actions but don't seem to be receiving any updates but do get the City manager's updates. I definitely did not receive the final draft plan report that PROS Advisory and other residents received yesterday. Luckily, I am able to navigate the City website and found the draft plan myself beforehand but just wanted to let you know that there appears to be a glitch regarding communication of PROS actions to residents that signed up.</p> <p>Although we are almost at the end of the process, I want to make sure that I am on the email list to get all communications regarding the OSMP from here on please.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Jennifer Lien</p>	Jennifer Lien

7/6/2022	<p>Director Brigitte Shearer and Commissioners</p> <p>Belmont Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>30 Twin Pines Lane</p> <p>Belmont, CA 94002</p> <p>The recently released Belmont Draft Open Space Management Plan June 2022, submitted by WRA Inc. contains a statement about the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MidPen) e-bike policy that requires correction:</p> <p>Pg 43. "More recently, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) -which does not allow e-bikes on trails - commissioned a set of studies to investigate visitor perceptions and ecological impacts of e-bikes. A report on these studies to the Board of Directors submitted in March, 2022 included a recommendation that e-bikes be allowed wherever bikes were allowed (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 2022), however, the matter remains under consideration by the District at the time of this report writing."</p> <p>At their June 29, 2022 meeting, the MidPen Board of Directors voted to uphold its ban on e-bikes on the great majority of its trails. They did approve class 1 and 2 e-bike access on 6.5 miles of improved (paved or wide hardened) trails in Rancho San Antonio Preserve in Cupertino and Ravenswood Preserve (Bay Trail) in East Palo Alto. This policy conforms with that of other open space entities that allow bikes in general only on paved roads and former ranch and logging roads. Please find our full comment letter attached.</p> <p>We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this Draft Open Space Management Plan, and hope that Belmont will continue notifying the community to enhance stewardship with the goals of preserving habitat, species, and equitable access.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Gladwyn d'Souza</p> <p>Conservation Committee Chair</p> <p>Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club</p> <p>Cc:</p> <p>James Eggers</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club</p> <p>Mike Ferreira</p> <p>Executive Committee Member</p> <p>Political Chair, Coastal Issues Chair</p> <p>Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club</p>	Barbra Kelsey
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7/6/2022	FOR THE RECORD: Attached is a document that was included in the California Fish and Wildlife Journal-Recreation Special Issue 2020. This same issue included an article co-written by John Baas from WRA. The attached article, written by Elizabeth Lucas, concludes that the default scientific position is that recreational trails fragment habitat and have a negative impact on wildlife, and the more trail density the more negative impact. Just the opposite of what WRA concluded in its Final Draft of Belmont's OSMP, p. 46.	Pat Cuvillo
7/10/2022	<p>Hi city council</p> <p>I am a Belmont resident and I am just learning that city is about to vote on 1600 page document that was released just a few days ago, Just before July 4, for the park and recreation committee meeting on July 6. NO ONE had time to read it! The public doesn't know and the plan is not even on the city website. The plan does not address most of the issues we brought up over the PROS process - including single use trails for safety.</p> <p>This is unacceptable.</p> <p>We want you to postpone this vote and to allow time for the public to read it and provide feedback to council and the PROS committee.</p> <p>Thank you Keyuri</p>	Keyuri Shah
7/8/2022	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>The Open Space Element of the PROS plan has not received the transparent and public review that the Developed Parks section received. The PROS Park Specific process was discussed and revised over 2 years, whereas the Open Space draft was only released in June, and never fully reviewed. The Commission should have recommended only the Parks section and continued public discussion of Open Space policies at their July 6 meeting.</p> <p>The PROS Open Space process officially started on March 5, 2022 with WRA initial recommendations, lacking the promised trail assessment. The report was vague and incomplete, and thus the committee deferred discussion. On 5/27 that WRA assessment was published – 2 days before the 5/31 PROS meeting, allowing no time for the committee to read or absorb the content. The OSMP final draft (136 pages) was not published until the day before this July 4th holiday weekend, and readers are now discovering serious oversights and missing key elements necessary for a basic framework for a Master Plan.</p> <p>I could see that the P&R Commissioners were struggling to make an approval decision just a day after receiving the “final” drafts totaling approx 300 pages. They openly expressed concerns, but felt pressed to act in order to meet your July 12 City Council meeting deadline. Under pressure to make a decision the Commissioners reluctantly approved the entire plan and at the last minute resorted to narrating multiple amendments to the Open Space element on the fly before recommending this inaccurate and incomplete document to you. The Open Space process was crammed into a 6 week period while the Park Specific process had over 2 years; neither equitable nor transparent and the result is half baked. Serious issues in the Open Space that need to be addressed now are being swept under the rug in this OSMP.</p> <p>I reexamined the current 1992 MP Open Space policy (Section VIII) to make some comparisons to this Open Space policy in the new OSMP. Ironically, the 1992 Open Space plan has more concrete policies and direction than the new plan. Two core issues that need to be addressed now are being kicked down the road as “future amendment projects”.</p> <p>Trail Use and Design Guidelines: The 1992 Open Space plan (pg 45) established clear policy guidelines with definitions of multi-use and single-use trails. The City has failed to enforce these policies for two decades, and as a result this issue is at the core of all current conflicts. Instead of addressing this issue head on, as promised to residents at the outset of the plan process, this draft dodges the issue, and leaves the city without any clear trail use policy.</p> <p>The 1992 Master Plan designated 7 single-use trails for hikers only; why won't the P&R just designate 5 of these trails off limits to bikes so pedestrians can be safe? These 5 narrow trails (Lake Loop, Berry, Chaparral, Canyon Creek and Ohlone) are the most narrow, winding, lacking line of sight, steep, and deep in the valley which make them the most dangerous for hikers and bikers to share. Why are our P&R commissioners willing to believe bikers over hikers? Safety is a key objective of the plan, yet here it is totally ignored, as new Commissioner Simpson stated. Continuing to allow all trails to be multi-use is increasing serious safety issues and liabilities the City can least afford. With increasing bikers from all over the Bay area descending on Waterdog for competitive speeding/entertainment, biker/hiker accidents are going to increase, as indicated by last night's public comments and my previous video emailed to you. This very core issue is dividing our community; families, seniors and residents now avoid walking Waterdog, and instead drive elsewhere. In public statements, the bike-volunteer organizer even had the audacity to tell residents to go hike elsewhere! This policy needs to be addressed and established in this document now, not as a future amendment project.</p> <p>Illegal Trails: This issue was not a concern in 1992, before the advent of mountain biking, but is a serious issue now. For decades bikers, in the name of volunteer trail maintenance, have built unauthorized, illegal trails beyond the official 13 trails listed on the City map. Illegal trails and shortcuts have added an estimated 20% more miles to the official approved trail system. In particular, in 2017, bikers illegally built their “Labor of Love” trail in the valley below Soho Circle, plus a trail bisecting the Brooks Preserve protected marsh habitat. Bikers repeatedly claim they are justified in riding every Waterdog trail because they volunteer to do trail maintenance. Volunteers should not be getting special benefits and immunity from vandalism laws as payback because of their efforts. Do we sanction graffiti vandalism because of the effort put into it by the artist?</p> <p>This draft proposes to establish a policy of sanctioning illegally created trails without consideration of trail safety standards, environmental impact compliance, or public process, a completely irresponsible policy. Back in June of 2020, Brigitte stated that illegal trails like this one behind Soho Circle would be addressed in the new Master Plan. It has not, and it is a core issue that needs to be addressed now, not as a future project.</p> <p>Frankly, these two issues have been concerns for decades and never properly addressed. With the opportunity to approve a new 15 year Open Space Management Plan, now is the time is to address these serious issues instead of kicking the cans further down the road.</p> <p>Jennifer Lien Belmont</p>	Jennifer Lien

7/10/2022	I agree with the points raised in the email below. Please do not approve the master plan without addressing these deficiencies. Brad Lewis,	Brad Lewis
7/10/2022	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>As a Belmont native and frequent walker in Waterdog reserve, I was very disappointed to hear that you are considering to allow mountain bikes on all the trails. If you walk or run on the trails, you may be familiar with the fact that the bikes are constantly running walkers off the road, even causing collisions. However, far more distressing than this is learning that motorized dirt bikes are being considered. This decision will vastly change the landscape of this open space - forever. Motorized dirt bikes go incredibly fast - to the point that walkers and runners (which include families!) will no longer be safe (people will get run over and the city WILL get sued). They cause abundant noise pollution and air pollution. Worse over, I am concerned that Waterdog will become a mecca for motorized dirt bikes, because they are not allowed in most other reserves - for good reason.</p> <p>Please make the responsible decision and maintain the beautiful open space the way that it is- a shared space for walkers and cyclists. If you want to make a change to the area then I suggest dredging the lake to make it more safe and usable.</p> <p>Thank you, Becket Feierbach</p>	Becket Feierbach
7/10/2022	<p>We suggest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district - why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. <p>Marjorie & Dobson Lo</p>	Marjorie Lo
7/11/2022	<p>You answer to US, not bikers that don't live here. Do YOUR JOB!</p> <p>We insist our Council address these issues NOW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district - why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. <p>Michelle & Paul Speert</p>	Michelle Speert

<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council members</p> <p>I am writing to you to comment on the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. All of the background information looks good but I agree the policies are too soft. For example just the first two:</p> <p>P1 - Limit trail construction, and facility development in riparian and other wetland areas.</p> <p>What does limit mean? How many trails and facilities do you consider limited? From what the consultant said in their comments I thought you would want to prohibit new trails in these areas.</p> <p>P2 - Monitor open space conditions with an emphasis on documenting the location, distribution, and abundance of special-status plants and plant communities, native grasses, wildflowers, and other native flora.</p> <p>What would you do after you monitor it? This doesn't tell us what to do with it - or not do with it - when it's identified, or measured, or whatever this is instructing us to do.</p> <p>Most of the policies are very vague and easily interpreted any way you want. For all the words written in this policy document, it really gives no guidance. I can imagine how it could easily be interpreted to support pretty much anything you want to do or build in the open space. So pretty quickly, staff and residents will be arguing over the definition of these terms and whether a project should be approved or not, depending on how they choose to interpret the words.</p> <p>Also, I don't know how you would measure if the plan was completed or was successful or not. A plan should have a list of actionable tasks that can be completed, or rules to be implemented and followed. I'm not sure this document will be of any use, and I agree with the commission that these policies need clarification.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Frank Mercer</p>	<p>Frank Mercer</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council Members,</p> <p>I am a Belmont resident and I heard that the council is scheduled to vote on The Belmont Parks and Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan tomorrow.</p> <p>I am worried that the plan doesn't address the issues of contention around the use of the Belmont Open Spaces (bikes on narrow trails, e-bikes, illegal trails).</p> <p>I also find it concerning that a document of this size is released a few days before it is to be voted on. It almost seems like the process is rushed on purpose so folks cannot provide feedback on contentious issues. The representatives in the PROS committee need more time to communicate the plan to their respective neighborhoods and collect feedback from the residents.</p> <p>For these reasons, I am asking you to postpone the vote.</p> <p>Thank you, Tzvetelina Tzeneva</p>	<p>Tzvetelina Tzeneva</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>Please be advised that our hiking trails in Water Dog Park should not be used by very powerful electric bicycles. We are a family that not only has bicycles, electric bicycles, and hike the water dog trails. To open up the trails to incompatible uses would not only eliminate our ability as seniors to safely hike on these trails or use them as they were initially intended. Being a longtime resident of the wonderful community of Belmont, and are very familiar with the area and what it is suited for.</p> <p>We truly understand the incompatibility of what you are proposing in the plan.</p> <p>PLEASE RECONSIDER and study further your "OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN". It can have long lasting negative consequences as it is currently proposed.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Dale and Marilyn O'Harra</p>	<p>Dale O'Harra</p>

<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council members</p> <p>I am writing to you to comment on the Belmont Open Space Master Plan. All of the background information looks good but I agree the policies are too soft. For example just the first two:</p> <p>P1 - Limit trail construction, and facility development in riparian and other wetland areas.</p> <p>What does limit mean? How many trails and facilities do you consider limited? From what the consultant said in their comments I thought you would want to prohibit new trails in these areas.</p> <p>P2 - Monitor open space conditions with an emphasis on documenting the location, distribution, and abundance of special-status plants and plant communities, native grasses, wildflowers, and other native flora.</p> <p>What would you do after you monitor it? This doesn't tell us what to do with it - or not do with it - when it's identified, or measured, or whatever this is instructing us to do.</p> <p>Most of the policies are very vague and easily interpreted any way you want. For all the words written in this policy document, it really gives no guidance. I can imagine how it could easily be interpreted to support pretty much anything you want to do or build in the open space. So pretty quickly, staff and residents will be arguing over the definition of these terms and whether a project should be approved or not, depending on how they choose to interpret the words.</p> <p>Also, I don't know how you would measure if the plan was completed or was successful or not. A plan should have a list of actionable tasks that can be completed, or rules to be implemented and followed. I'm not sure this document will be of any use, and I agree with the commission that these policies need clarification.</p> <p>Respectfully, Frank Mercer</p>	<p>Frank Mercer</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Councilmembers:</p> <p>It has been brought to my attention that the Belmont parks and Recreation and Open Space plan is on the agenda for this Tuesday. I would like to ask City Council to postpone voting on a document that people are not aware of and have not had time to read or to provide input on.</p> <p>It would be quite beneficial to allow the people of Belmont to study the proposal and to make suggestions or voice ideas prior to the vote.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sandra Raskin Concerned Belmont Citizen</p>	<p>Sandra Raskin</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Belmont Mayor and City Council Members,</p> <p>I've become aware that the City Council will be looking at the Belmont Open Space Master Plan.</p> <p>For the many years that I have lived in Belmont, I devoted much of my time to saving our open space especially the San Juan Canyon.</p> <p>Historically speaking, there were many other council members before me, who have saved part of Hastings development for open space (part of the Western Hills open space), and others who have saved the Western Hills, by allowing some development at the end of Carlmont Dr and saving the rest in open space and too many others to thank.</p> <p>After reading the many pages of the Plan, I have four serious concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All unsanctioned trails need to be closed to protect the open space from vandalism. No city policy should sanction vandalism, 2. Bikes should keep off narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikers can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. 3. E-bikes should be banned from dirt trails except for Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. 4. Bikers should not be rewarded for creating new roads for themselves to use as they wish. This has been a practice for years. <p>Please have the Park and Rec commission look at these four concerns as quickly as possible. Our open space is too important to be ruined by a few and the damages may not be reversible.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Coralin Feierbach</p>	<p>Coralin Feirbach</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>I understand that there is a resolution to be voted on July 12 by Belmont City Council concerning Waterdog Open Space that will allow cyclists to use all trails with no or very minimal controls. I have had many very dangerous close encounters with cyclists on the very narrow steep trails in the Belmont Open Spaces. It is to the point where I have to walk on other trails where other cities have tight controls on cyclists. As an example last week, I was walking in Laurelwood in the Belmont section, one responsible cyclist pulled to one side and let me safely walk past him, the other I had to leap to one side to avoid being run over, this was on a steep section where the cyclist had little or no control. There is no problem in this regard in the San Mateo City controlled paths in Laurelwood.</p> <p>There is a potential too for major legal liability costs for the inevitable accidents that will occur through Belmont City Council's failure to address this issue. Belmont City Council must address this issue to allow safe walking in all parks for which Belmont City Council is responsible.</p>	<p>John Aynsley</p>

<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>On this week's Council agenda, the Parks and Rec Commission and Department will present you with a finalized Belmont Parks and Recreation Open Space Master Plan. This plan represents the culmination of 18 months of community outreach, an extensive public survey, focus groups, an advisory panel, two separate and independent consultants, and month-after-month of discussion and public commentary. The process has been exhaustive, transparent, and inclusive. Please vote in favor of the plan so we can move forward with a clear vision for our open space.</p> <p>I want to take the time to commend the Parks and Rec Commission and Director Shearer's Department for their leadership and effort in getting this plan together. They conducted one of the most successful public surveys ever performed in Belmont and truly took the time to understand how the public uses our open space and what was desired in the future. They also brought in recognized experts in ecology, open space management, and habitat preservation in order to analyze the state of our open space and tell us how we have been doing. The PROS Master Plan incorporates both the science and the public will into a plan that we can all be proud of!</p> <p>Now there are always haters, and as the saying goes, "the haters are gonna hate." You will hear from them this week: Deniz Bolbol (yes, the same Deniz who almost destroyed the beloved Belmont Cross Country Course access last year), her husband Pat CuvIELLO (failed City Council candidate), Kristen Mercer, (another failed City Council candidate) and Jennifer "Jen-Jen". We have heard from these four in every meeting for 2 years now. First we heard about how the open space was in shambles, the animals had been run off, the bikes had completely eroded the trails, and Waterdog was an ecological disaster. In truth, our expert consultants found that Waterdog is in pretty darn good shape - the flora and fauna are quite healthy, invasive species are lower than comparable open spaces, rogue trails and cut-throughs are less prevalent than comparative open spaces (for instance, in Marin), and the singletrack trails (made by cyclists) actually have less erosion than the old dirt roads (John Brooks, Rambler, etc) we inherited from the past. Next we heard that Belmont residents wanted a nature preserve. In truth, our Belmont PROS survey found that the majority of Belmont residents used the open space for recreation, and the majority actually desired more trails and more recreational opportunities. I would also remind the council that this survey reported results separately for both Belmont residents and non-residents. It turned out that both Belmont residents and non-residents agreed - the majority wanted to preserve and expand recreational open space access. Next the haters told us that Waterdog is unsafe for hikers - a claim used to justify restricting cyclist trail access despite the fact neither Parks and Rec, nor Belmont Police, have received significant reports of collision with injury. Out of desperation, at one point Deniz took to standing around a blind corner, while her husband Pat filmed, in hopes of entrapping a cyclist and documenting a collision. This bizarre behavior was reported to the Council earlier. No collision occurred. Although I can understand that hikers may want to have an experience without dogs or cyclists around, hikers have a plethora of nearby hiking-only trails to choose from: Crystal Springs Cross Country Course (17 feet from the Upper Lake Trail trailhead, 299 acres, 3 miles of trails), Big Canyon Park (16 acres, 1.7 miles of trails), Pulgas Ridge Preserve (366 acres, 6 miles of trails), Edgewood Preserve (467 acres, 10 miles of trails), Eaton Park (158 acres, 2 miles of trails), Mills Canyon Park (1,500 acres, 1.4 miles of trails), Phleger Estate (1,000 acres, 4.6 miles of trails), Huddart Park (973 acres, 28 miles of trails), and Foothills Park (1,400 acres, 15 miles of trails). In contrast, there are no cycling-only trails to serve the recreational needs of cyclists. For every mile of mixed use trails like Waterdog, there are over 5 miles of hiking-only trails within a 15 minute drive of Belmont, and no cycling-only trails. How could further restricting cycling access be fair? Finally, the haters, sensing their own defeat, will tell you this plan was sprung upon them, and the public has not had the proper time to read and digest it. In truth, the Commission and Department has done a fabulous job socializing this plan - we've had monthly Commission meetings, advisory board meetings, scope planning meetings, surveys, web campaigns, meet-and-greets in the park. The draft plan has been available for months and the finalized plan, incorporating even more input, contains no surprises. These haters have sought to sabotage the PROS process since day one. The haters, who seem to only know how to destroy a community, have had their say. Now, after two years, it is time to move forward.</p> <p>Belmont residents have a beautiful open space to hike, cycle, exercise the dog, enjoy the flowers and trees, get some fresh air, meet friends, and build community. It is a place of joy, peace, and fun. Thoreau wrote "Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." I think the reason people get so emotional about Waterdog is that they feel a little bit of Thoreau's Heaven under their feet when they visit. I know I do. Please help us preserve Waterdog and vote in favor of the PROS Open Space Master Plan.</p> <p>Jonathan Carter, MD Lead, Waterdog Trailkeeper Volunteers</p>	<p>Jonathan Carter</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>As a 40 year resident of Belmont, and someone who loves walking near Waterdog Lake, I was appalled to read the so-called "Master Plan" for this beautiful area. Clearly, the bike lobby is very influential in Belmont politics but I had no idea that cyclists come from outside the city to Waterdog Open Space to get their kicks and thrills in this area. We walk all over the Bay Area and have never come across such unregulated trail systems as we have in Belmont. When we walk in San Carlos, Portola Valley, Woodside, parts of the South Bay, East Bay and Marin, we never feel at risk of being bowled over by some thrill seeker on a bike. In other cities, it's always very clear which trails cyclists may and may not use and they do not share narrow trails with hikers. Unfortunately, because some cyclists have a sense of entitlement when it comes to using trails, the reality is that bikes and hikers simply cannot share steep, narrow trails.</p> <p>Apart from the inherent dangers, why do you ignore the obvious environmental damage in places like Waterdog Open Space? Many of the cyclists degrade the trails and the surrounding areas and we have a responsibility to protect these areas for future generations.</p> <p>As for opening the trails to unregulated use by motorized bikes, there are no words to express my absolute disgust. Have you all lost your collective minds? We have come close to being knocked off the trails in Waterdog Open Space - are you going to wait for someone to get badly injured before you impose some sensible controls? What is it going to take for Belmont City Council to finally understand it has a responsibility to protect ALL users of the area? We see many older people walking the trails, children on bikes or walking, mothers with babies in strollers and many runners. It would seem that you are simply not concerned about about the "silent majority" and are obsessed with the idea of making Waterdog Open Space an adventure playground for cyclists from all over the Bay Area.</p> <p>I am very disappointed and saddened by these proposals and I hope they end up on the trash heap of Belmont history. We can do better.</p> <p>Eryl Aynsley</p>	<p>Eryl Aynsley</p>

<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Hello-</p> <p>I just wanted to drop you a short note to tell you that I enjoy recreating, specifically riding my mountain bike on singletrack trails in Waterdog Park.</p> <p>I strongly support the draft Parks, Rec and Open Space Management plan that would allow the STATUS QUO of CONTINUED MULTI-USE (including mountain bike) access to all trails including singletrack.</p> <p>I enjoy the unique trails at Waterdog, and when I visit the park I also spend money in the local community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Frank Giraffe</p>	<p>Frank Giraffe</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear City of Belmont officials,</p> <p>Our wooded spaces make Belmont unique. As a commuter on Ralston who connects with CalTrain, and as walker who enjoys Pine Knoll, Holly, as well as our wooded spaces, *please reconsider allowing our trails to become a free-for-all speedway.*</p> <p>Once trails are opened for more extreme use, it will not be possible to easily reclaim them –</p> <p>they'll be widened, and wet conditions + eBikes will make for muddy trenches that'll get deeper with time.</p> <p>Belmont is a welcoming place. Making our beloved woodlands an extreme biking Disneyland, however, is BAD for our residents and there is no benefit to allowing this. Bikers aren't going to pay an entrance fee or anything.</p> <p>Why would the City allow the quiet enjoyment of OUR woodlands to be given away to non -Belmonters who'll ruin our environment?</p> <p>Thanks for hearing that many of us are ANGRY that current leadership even thinks that this a good idea.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Tracy Turner Belmonter for 32+ years</p>	<p>Tracy Turner</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>My husband I have lived in the Hallmark area since 1985 and we have always immensely enjoyed the open space. Our son and his friends would bike the trails in the summer months and they were often the only ones on the trails so they felt like explorers. Hiking on the trails was always so relaxing as you felt you were really in the wilderness, experiencing wildlife and wildflowers.</p> <p>Fast forward to 2020: The trails became like a freeway for speeding bikes and we often had to jump off to the side of the trails into poison oak to avoid getting hit by a biker coming around a curve or down a hill. It was no longer peaceful nor did you experience the wildlife as in the past. Unfortunately some of the trails on hills have become so slippery as they have been worn down by the amount of cycling on them that they are very slick and difficult to maneuver on. I understand why the cyclists love this area but it has increasingly become unsafe to share the trails with them. I know why they come here as they are not allowed on other trails in other Bay Area parkland.</p> <p>Since the pandemic my husband and I have started to enjoy Big Canyon in San Carlos because they do not allow bikes and where it is steep, they have stairs. Unfortunately it is quite a hike for us to even get there unlike the trails in the Water Dog open space. My husband often still wants to walk the trails and in the canyon but I often talk him out of it when it is a time we know there will be lots of bikes. I really hope Belmont makes some of the narrow trails hikers only and bring the safety and peace back to our lovely canyon. Let the bikers enjoy themselves on separate or multi use trail but please designate some trails for hikers only. I suggest the Berry trail, Lake Loop, Chapparal, Ohlone and Canyon Creek.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Pamela Stahl</p>	<p>Pamela Stahl</p>

<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Council Members!</p> <p>I lived in Belmont Heights for 31 years before moving to Oregon. During those years, we had no problems with this open space.</p> <p>Seems to me an easy compromise: one trail system for hikers and one for cyclists. Why is that so difficult?</p> <p>Dennis Taugher</p> <p>Please see the following:</p> <p>For two years Belmont council members promised the Open Space Master Plan would address these dangerous and divisive issues. It doesn't. It kicks the can down the road, stating that the city should study or consider trail policies. Two wasted years does not excuse a flawed and hollow plan to guide us the next 15 years. We insist our Council address these issues NOW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district - why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. 	<p>Dennis Taugher</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council Members,</p> <p>Please postpone voting on the PROS plan so the public can have more time to learn and provide input about the final document.</p> <p>As residents in the Bay Area, we appreciate the freedom to hike without being cautious to watch out for motorized bikes and regular bikes. In the past, we've witnessed bikes speed down paths which could be dangerous to hikers.</p> <p>Please postpone this issue to allow people to read and consider how the hiking trails in Belmont can be safer for hikers.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Tony Chan</p>	<p>Tony Chan</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council Members,</p> <p>Please postpone voting on the PROS plan so the public can have more time to learn and provide input about the final document.</p> <p>As residents in the Bay Area, we appreciate the freedom to hike without being cautious to watch out for motorized bikes and regular bikes. In the past, we've witnessed bikes speed down paths which could be dangerous to hikers.</p> <p>Please postpone this issue to allow people to read and consider how the hiking trails in Belmont can be safer for hikers.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kathy Chan</p>	<p>Kathy Chan</p>

<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Commission,</p> <p>As a Belmont resident of 30+ years, I am quite familiar with the trails at Waterdog Lake. For a while, I hiked them regularly but the continued and increased use of speeding mountain bikers on the narrow trails have left me fearing for my safety. Having to jump out of the way at a moment's notice takes the enjoyment out of a hike. In addition, I'm upset about the disastrous consequences to the trails, the surrounding sensitive habitat and the wildlife caused by erosion of the existing trails and the construction of illegal trails.</p> <p>Speeding mountain bikes, bike jumps, night biking and illegal trail construction are not in line with the goals stated in the Plan for Belmont's Open Spaces, such as making all users welcome and safe, Environmental Resource Protection, Balanced Recreation Uses and Trail Management and the Trail Standards and Guidelines.</p> <p>A quick search for prime mountain biking locations in San Mateo County reveals that Waterdog is near the top of the list. It is described as a singletrack mountain bike trail, and while the person in the introduction points out that it is a multi-use trail system and requests fellow riders to be courteous, the reviewers talk about the technical difficulty of the trails.</p> <p>These difficulties, such as exposed roots, were not part of the original trails which were meant for hikers, and now they pose a long-term danger to the trees themselves and also to the safety of hikers.</p> <p>Before you adopt the Open Space Master Plan, you must include the following: Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails to prevent further erosion and to make them safe for hikers. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. Do no sanction this form of vandalism. It will only encourage additional illegal trails. Instead, all unsanctioned trails should be restored to their original state, if that is even possible considering the damage that has been done from both the construction and the use. E-bikes should only be allowed on Lake Road. Part of what makes Belmont such a wonderful place to live is the proximity to a place like Waterdog Preserve. Yes, there are plenty of other preserves in the area, but why should Belmont residents be forced to drive out of town, so that mountain bikers can use the space and continually degrade it?</p> <p>Please make sure that Waterdog Preserve will have trails that are for hikers only so everyone can enjoy this precious resource.</p> <p>Sincerely, Birgit Merian</p>	<p>Alan Merian</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council Members:</p> <p>My name is Karen Geer and I have had the pleasure of living in Belmont since 2016. It has come to my attention that the Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) plan is slated to be voted on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. In learning more about this document and the issues surrounding it, I am perplexed that it is so quickly up for a vote! The report was delivered just before July 4 for the Parks and Recreation meeting on July 6 and it is going to be voted on by the city on July 12? While I approve of swift decisions, I think it is premature in this situation. I learned the report is 300+ pages with 1,600 pages of documents! Has the PROS Committee read or commented on this document? Have you had time to read this document? I have not had the opportunity to read it. Where is it on the city website? I could not find it.</p> <p>Since this is the first revision of the document in 30 years, I implore you to postpone the vote! It needs a proper review so the scope can be understood and errors corrected.</p> <p>Sincerely, Karen Geer</p>	<p>Karen Geer</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>To Our Belmont City Council Members. I feel it is time for the Council to listen to your constituents that you took allegiance to represent and NOT to bikers from all over our county and state. Our Waterdog Canyon should be enjoyed by your local residents and not be overtaken by a group of fun loving fanatics. Listen to your people and not to outsiders.</p> <p>The back of our property runs concurrent to an illegal bike trail. We hear voices, dogs barking, roars of bikes, etc. What happened to our quite neighbored from years ago. Why does Belmont have to become a sports arena? What happened to our beautiful and peaceful city, The Gem of the Peninsula.</p> <p>Again, please pay attention to your constituents and not a bunch of outsiders. Consider an Open Space Plan that befits The People of Belmont.</p> <p>Thank You Ken Lebovitz, a 50 year Belmont resident.</p>	<p>Ken Lebovitz</p>

<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council:</p> <p>I am si yum and have been residing at carlmont drive since 1997. I used to love this city because of the beautiful open space and peaceful walking trails. In the recent years, increasing numbers of mountain bikes basically took over all trails.</p> <p>Finally, I became the victim of this situation. Nov. 11, 2020, while my husband and I were walking on the water dog trail, I saw 3 bikes side by side running toward us. To avoid being run over, I quickly left the trail by crossing over the ditch (water drain) and up onto the slope. When I tried to return from the slope and over the ditch to the trail, I fell because of the slippery sands on the trail making me lose my balance.</p> <p>My right foot and ankle were injured, and I could not walk. I called the city and the park service and left a message and asked for someone to open the trail gate/bar so that my husband could pull his car in and take me home. No response at all.</p> <p>I called my daughter but she and her husband were in Oakland. I had to wait couple hours for them to drive over, find me on the trail and carry me back home. I spent almost 3 months on a wheel chair and slept on a sofa and took no bath. (Bed and bath are on second floor). X-ray, taken by dr. Rachel Wood in March 2021, showed my lower leg bone had a crack. Thought I feel my feet was somewhat recovered but swelling and pain are still existing. My right leg has no strength to support body balance. I am afraid of falling. I have physical therapy for a year. Lately, I received a steroids injection and will receive another dose soon. Dr. Wood says my foot most likely will stay in pain for the rest of my life.</p> <p>Lately, I get back to the hiking trails nervously. I kept thinking of how to protect myself, carrying a stick or/and a pepper spray... Or you tell me what kind of effective defensive tool I should carry with me to prevent another injury? Hikers on foot who want to enjoy our trails cannot defend themselves from a bike especially when they travel so fast.</p> <p>As we all know, on Ralston st, there are pedestrian way, bike lane and auto lanes. Pedestrians have the priority over all others. All others have to yield. Why not on the trails? Now, my husband loudly yells to warn me if he feels a bike approaching.</p> <p>Here, I demand the city to designate hiker trails and biker trails. If it is difficult to do, designate time, for instance, Monday and Wednesday for bikes and other days for hikers. A bike speed at 30 miles per hour can run a person to death. Until that happen one day, you will regret if you have human hearts.</p> <p>I have heard the plan that you have have been working on is supposed to be done but I am confused that there were no discussions on separate trails or safety measures. I waited and gave input a year ago and was told there would be separate discussion on the issues on our trails. How can this plan be done when I have not seen it or had time to tell our block person what I think ?</p> <p>What did the traffic study show? There are so many cars that bring bikers to our small park – I see this because my house is the one closest to the canyon ? What are the trails you are making so I can not get hurt again? I would like to see the plan and give you my feedback to make sure you are listening. Please do not vote and make final this plan until we can make sure it guarantees we can all be safe.</p> <p>Thank you for listening</p> <p>Sincere, Si yum</p>	<p>Si Yum</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Hil</p> <p>I wanted to email and signal my strong support for the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan for Waterdog Lake & Open Space. I am an avid hiker and mountain biker, and have loved having this amazing resource so close to enjoy with me and my family. As a physician I know how critical healthy recreation is for physical and mental health, and we are so lucky to have this amazing open space as a resource. I have personally never seen conflict between users, and think that we can all get along as we enjoy Waterdog. Please vote accordingly!</p> <p>Best, Justin</p>	<p>Justin Krogue</p>

<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>To the members of the Belmont City Council,</p> <p>We recently received an email notifying residents that once again, Belmont has a plan that caters to non-residents to the detriment of the homeowners and tax payers in our city. This time, it's the mountain bikers who have been making it very difficult and dangerous for residents to be on the trails in the Water Dog open space. On top of that, We've seen first-hand the trails, jumps and berms that have been illegally cut through the open space and experienced the dangerous way that mountain bikers have been making it virtually impossible to enjoy the trails in the open space that our taxes support. On top of that, the fact that the arrogant and dismissive attitude of mountain bikers and their organizations have for the residents of the area is not being addressed by our own city council is very disappointing.</p> <p>We have also seen first-hand mountain bikers carrying tools and building materials from their vehicles to build illegal trails. We have also seen mountain bikers on the cross country trail several times where it's clearly marked that bikes are not allowed. When confronted, their attitude is to be angry that the residents and tax payers are trying to stop them from destroying our open space.</p> <p>We urge you to reject the proposed Open Space Management Plan in its current form and instead develop a plan in collaboration with residents, homeowners and tax payers of our city instead of a special interest group who is actively destroying our open space at the expense of our environment and residents. The City Council and the City government also need to take definitive action aimed at removing the illegal trails that are damaging the environment and destroying the open space. Action on this issue is long overdue and it's bewildering how long this has gone unresolved.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lester Boeh</p>	<p>Lester Boeh</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Hi Belmont City Council, and Belmont Parks & Rec Department,</p> <p>I'm writing in support of the Belmont PROS Plan. Congratulations on getting this plan through the process, I am aware that it's been a long 18 months. I want to thank you all for your dedication to this process, in particular, your willingness to listen to all sides, obtain comprehensive survey data, get expert scientific input from an external organization, and create a plan that meets the needs of the overwhelming majority of people who utilize the open space. I support the conclusions for Waterdog open space, including maintaining all trails as multi-use, doing trail work to reduce erosion and protect the waterways within the park.</p> <p>One last note. Throughout the process I attended many of the meetings in which you had to endure aggressive verbal attacks from a very uncooperative small group of individuals and I was continually impressed by your ability to listen and respond with composure and professionalism.</p> <p>Thank you for your dedication to Belmont,</p> <p>Karen Moody</p>	<p>Karen Moody</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Hi Belmont City Council, and Belmont Parks & Rec Department,</p> <p>Just wanted to send a quick note to you all before heading out of town for a couple of days. I'm writing in support of the Belmont PROS Plan and the process that got us here. It's been a long and comprehensive 18 month process and I support the conclusions for Waterdog open space, including maintaining all trails as multi-use, doing trail work to reduce erosion and protect the waterways within the park.</p> <p>It was great to meet Brigitte, the consultant team, Councilmember Lieberman, and others in person for the first time through all of this at the 'meet and greet' community engagement event back in June. I had a lengthy discussion with Brigitte about the whole process, and with the consulting team about their environmental backgrounds, and their approach to the process. I was impressed with how thoughtful and intelligent every discussion I had there was.</p> <p>I attended (virtually) the presentation of the plan to the Park & Recs Committee on July 6th and was dismayed to hear the same group of folks that have been so vocal about all that they don't like during the entirety of the last year and a half, complaining that the process was being rushed and somehow clandestine. They impugned the scientific approach of the consultants, and made several demonstrably incorrect assertions about environmental concerns, the process itself, and the goals and purposes of the Plan. In my view the process has been transparent, there have been several public meetings along the way, in which they all participated, as I heard them time after time.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Joel Klein</p> <p>17 year Belmont Resident</p>	<p>Joel Klein</p>

7/11/2022	<p>Hi,</p> <p>We are Belmont homeowners and residents near the Waterdog Open Space, as well as frequent users of the Open Space. We support keeping Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for outdoor recreation, but in a manner that is inclusive, suitable, and safe for ALL users.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We believe the proposed Open Space Management Plan does not adequately evaluate, plan for, or address the major issues with multi-use in the Open Space and how Belmont will manage it. We found the plan to be lacking in this area and ask for revisions to properly address some of the points below. 2. We also believe there has not been sufficient time for Belmont residents to review the details of the extensive doc before it is finalized. We ask that the city's vote on this plan be postponed until there has been enough time for review and feedback -- very few have had the opportunity to digest the recently published doc with the actual plan details, after 18+ months of process and input from the community. <p>Our personal experiences:</p> <p>The trails in the Open Space are mostly narrow and steep, single-track trails which are already difficult to share by nature -- combining with the continual increase in bikers and general high trail usage density has made it more and more difficult to fully enjoy the trails, especially as a frequent hiker/dog walker. Personally, we avoid hiking in the Open Space at many times (such as weekends and weekday evenings) since it is often not an enjoyable experience as a hiker given the bike traffic -- anecdotally this is a common theme and we expect many other hikers to have similar experiences. Despite generally pleasant and courteous interactions with bikers, we still end up having to actively avoid bikes or step off of narrow trails frequently, especially for groups of bikers. Unfortunately when conditions aren't suitable for multi-use, it's usually hikers who end up primarily excluded from safely and fully enjoying this outdoor resource.</p> <p>Our concerns with the current Open Space plan include the following:</p> <p>It does not include adequate evaluation on the safety, suitability, and practicality of the current shared-use trail structure throughout Waterdog. This should have been conducted on a per trail basis and evaluated against well-established best practices and standards on shared use.</p> <p>It does not address how Belmont plans to manage safe, multi-use trails, especially at its very high usage volumes.</p> <p>There is minimal detail provided on how to manage multi-use beyond reducing speed and best effort user education; the few points that are included are fairly generic.</p> <p>There is also no real mention or consideration for usage volume -- the plan suggests to "Measure recreation use in open spaces" but this does not seem like it was actually done, though it should be a critical input into the final plan and policies.</p> <p>It does not actually provide useful policy decisions or guidance on important points like single-use trails or e-bikes.</p> <p>Even the 1992 Open Space Master Plan provided more specific details in terms of trail guidelines (and it specifically designated multi-use as gravel 10-12' wide trails).</p> <p>It has a section on "Trail Design Features Specific to Mountain Bike Trails", pointing to Chapter 6 in the CA State Parks and Rec Trail Handbook. This chapter is specifically about designing "designated mountain bike trails", "specifically for cyclists" (quoted directly from the handbook), which should not be a primary consideration in designing our Open Space and shared use trails.</p> <p>Belmont's Open Space should not be focused on designing mountain bike trails, but rather continue to emphasize preserving open space as originally intended, while allowing and supporting multi-use and mountain biking where appropriate. The Open Space plan puts more detail into mountain bike trail design than actual guidelines on how multi-use should be effectively managed throughout to provide a safe and inclusive shared used open space.</p> <p>Overall, we found the proposed Open Space Management Plan to be very hand-wavy with inadequate detail on trail management and specific policy recommendations. It does not sufficiently address the concerns around multi-use voiced by many Belmont residents, and over-indexes on mountain bike trail design while not preserving the spirit of the original Open Space Master Plan and the goals of Belmont's Open Space.</p> <p>If the PROS plan is intended to guide our parks and open space for the next 15 years, we expect that it thoroughly addresses the major concerns and contains actual policies and guidance. As is, it feels like the city is rushing to adopt a long-term plan that is incomplete and missing critical evaluation/studies and details.</p> <p>Thanks, Alan and Shirley</p>	Alan and Shirley Tsai
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7/11/2022	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>I live with my wife and three children (ages 10, 13, and 15) in the Cipriani neighborhood. When we moved to the city in 2005, we chose this city above others because of its natural beauty, abundant trees, great schools, and its multi-use open space trail system. Every day we are grateful to live in a city that had the vision to preserve the open space for our hikers, bikers, trail runners, and dog walkers to enjoy. Regularly we hike with our dog, and at other times we ride our mountain bikes throughout this trail system. We are a happier and healthier family, by virtue of this amazing resource.</p> <p>Over the past 18 months, I have been involved with the PROS plan effort as a community member, attending and speaking in favor of multi-use trails at several public meetings in this very transparent process. Many community members got involved when we learned that there was a small vocal minority looking to shut down trail use to mountain bikes, and potentially to other user groups as well. When the city conducted a high-quality survey, we learned that the vast majority of community members strongly wish to preserve our multi-use trail system access as is. We want to keep our trails open for everyone to enjoy, and this is reflected in the opening principles of the PROS plan – to promote inclusiveness and equity.</p> <p>I have been impressed with the Parks and Rec Commission, Parks and Rec Department, City Council, and our consultants Gates and Associates and WRA. Our city representatives have been very thorough and professional, even when verbally attacked by certain community members.</p> <p>The Parks and Rec Commission has now voted to support the current PROS plan. I have included a few of the points I found most interesting below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Both Waterdog and San Juan open space are in good environmental health (flora and fauna). 2.) Mountain bikes are not causing erosion or significant damage to the trails 3.) The open space trail system should be maintained as a multi-use trail system, based on community feedback and scientific evaluation by WRA. 4.) WRA did identify some issues with creek crossings, erosion, trail congestion, safety – and suggested that these can be mitigated by measures such as building appropriate bridges, fixing the trail lines of the old erosion-prone fire roads, providing calming features and pull outs for passing hikers and bikers. 5.) There may be opportunities to build additional trails to better serve our user groups and reduce potential congestion on the trails. <p>I fully support the PROS plan that comes to Belmont City Council for review tomorrow, but wanted to address a couple of specific items in this letter:</p> <p>First, there is a question of whether or not to consider one or more trails as ‘hiker only’ or ‘biker only.’ Focusing on our PROS principles of inclusivity and equity, in a park that has long cherished its multi-use traditions, keeping the trails open to everyone seems to be the natural path forward. Trying to segregate certain user groups from certain trails is likely to lead to more user conflict in my opinion, not less. The current, simple, multi-use system is inclusive, equitable, and it is clearly working for the community. Lets not change this!</p> <p>Second, there is discussion about a pilot study for evaluating e-bikes on the trails. I support this study, because we don’t know enough yet about how e-bikes impact the park. I think it is likely that the study will show that e-bikes do no additional harm to the trails. At that point it really just becomes more of an aesthetic choice... Do we want these in the park? We’ll find out after some more evaluation and thought....</p> <p>Lastly, certain members of the community complain that this process of developing the PROS plan was rushed, and non-transparent. They will complain bitterly that this was pushed through with insufficient time to review documents. But as you also know, the city elected to extend the process from a lengthy 12 months to an even lengthier 18 months specifically to accommodate more scientific study and to allow for a truly amazing amount of community outreach. It is clear to me, and many others, that the city has done a remarkable job on this extensive, transparent and scientific PROS plan. Delaying a vote in order to continue the debate will not provide additional gains in terms of further knowledge, but it will detract from much needed efforts elsewhere in the city.</p> <p>Thank you for your time in reading my lengthy letter! But more than that, thank you for your dedication to our city and our community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Thaddeus Block</p>	Thaddeus Block
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7/11/2022	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I wanted to offer some comments about item 9A on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting (Review and Adoption of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan). I'm sure you're receiving a lot of feedback so I wanted to briefly (for me) address some main points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The staff recommendation to keep all trails multi-use, preserving the status quo, is the most reasonable path forward. <p>The draft plan references looking into designating one unmapped trail cycling-only and one pedestrian-only, but otherwise does not recommend making any existing trails single-use. I'm well aware that a handful of people from Belmont Heights are demanding hiker-only trails. It might seem tempting to designate a few single-use trails as a compromise to a perceived conflict. However, designating single-use trails would represent a wholesale and radical change to the trail policies that have worked successfully for 30+ years. All of the trails in Waterdog have always been multi-use, and there's no compelling reason to segregate them now:</p> <p>The unbiased scientific study by the city's consultant (WRA) concluded that the existing recreational use (i.e. full multi-use) is not having a significant impact on the environment. So from an ecological perspective, there is no reason whatsoever to designate any trails single-use;</p> <p>Designating any single-use trails (whether pedestrian-only or cycling-only) fosters division and resentment in the trail user community;</p> <p>Belmont doesn't have a dedicated park ranger, so there's no practical way for the City enforce the rule;</p> <p>Unfortunately, we have a few angry individuals in our community who have been known to physically accost and confront cyclists on the trails. If a cyclist intentionally or unintentionally rides onto the wrong trail, a self-appointed vigilante enforcer may confront or assault him or her;</p> <p>Commissioner Michaels made an excellent point 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," which is consistent with the PROS principles of providing equitable access to resources and activities across the entire city and promoting inclusion to people of all backgrounds;</p> <p>The federal Bureau of Land Management has a publication, Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience, that makes insightful points about shared multi-use trails: (1) "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." (2) "Shared-use trails take better advantage of available space and trail mileage. Quite simply, they provide more trail for everyone to enjoy."</p> <p>There are no documented instances of a bicycle vs. pedestrian collision in over 30 years of multi-use. To the extent some individuals have safety concerns, those can be remedied by respite bulb-outs and trail calming features, which the consultant has already included in the plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The draft plan's e-bike policy - a pilot program - is sensible and should be implemented. <p>The draft plan recommends a pilot policy allowing Class I (pedal-assisted) e-bikes on Waterdog's trails for at least one year to allow for further assessment. This is a rational and sensible way to deal with the relatively new phenomenon of e-bikes. The City is a small land manager and doesn't need to reinvent the wheel, The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), which manages 65,000 acres of open space, is currently conducting e-bike studies and experimenting with e-bike policies. The City can keep an eye on what MROSD is doing while simultaneously gathering its own data about how e-bike use is (or is not) affecting the Waterdog open space trails. After gathering enough data, the City can then get public input and make informed decisions, rather than kowtowing to people who are clamoring for an immediate ban without any justification.</p> <p>I don't think e-bikes should either be allowed in perpetuity or banned in perpetuity at this point - we don't have enough data to make an informed decision, so why not let the pilot program play out? Again, it may be tempting to implement a pat, "compromise" solution by limiting e-bikes to certain trails, but that will only result in limited and inconclusive data upon which to base future decisions for more permanent policies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The PROS process was not rushed and there has been robust public input and consideration; there is no need to delay the decision. <p>I think the city has done an outstanding job of making this 18-month process transparent and inclusive. The City did online outreach, sent physical mailers, and created a dedicated PROS plan website with regular updates. There has been ample opportunity for public input through surveys, many public meetings, and the convening of a PROS committee. A group of activists paid for their own study with their own biologist, which was read and considered by the consultant. In addition to traditional public comment, members of the public were even given an opportunity for a back-and-forth dialogue with City staff and WRA at the open house event. The PROS committee included a vigorous anti-cycling activist, David Braunstein. Every person on every side of each issue had plenty of opportunity to have their voice heard.</p> <p>Some people may complain that the plan is comprehensive and the Parks & Rec Commission had less than a week to review it before their meeting. However, the P&R Commission was integrally involved in the plan from the beginning, and when the final draft was presented to them, it was not brand new information. Rather, it was the final refinement of a living document the Commission was intimately familiar with for many months. This process was robust and comprehensive. There is no need to drag it out for further study and debate; there are just a few individuals who don't like what the plan says, and they just want more time to tilt at windmills. The City has taken ample time to let this process play out, and there is no justification to kick the can down the road. The City has a lot of work to do - such as building a new community center - and it's high time to bring this comprehensive process to an end so the City can move on to other things that need attention.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my input.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Paul Sheng (10+ year Belmont resident)</p>	Paul Sheng
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<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I have been following the PROS process since it began in 2020, but I didn't even realize the Open Space section was published when I heard you are ready to vote to finalize it on Tuesday. I think the public needs more time to read and discuss these very important policies that will guide the future of our treasured Open Spaces. Please delay your vote and allow more discussion.</p> <p>I was promised by two Council Members and Director Shearer that this Plan would address the many illegal trails as well as the speeding bikes. I notified the city 2 years ago that someone - city officials will not admit who - carved over a mile of trail through the forest behind my home for a downhill bike racecourse. This area used to be pristine and sheltered forest - exactly as John Brooks was promised when he donated this land. We used to have deer, quail and bobcat that visited my yard; now they are all gone and I blame the bike traffic for making this habitat insecure for them. How can you excuse this vandalism and not even offer an explanation?</p> <p>I no longer walk in Waterdog - even though it's my own back yard - because of the bikes. They speed down hills and around curves and never yield. Hikers instinctively jump out of the way into the poison oak or mud because it's better than being struck by a bike traveling 20 miles an hour. Plus hundreds of wheels have eroded the trails so that the footing is dangerous - the ruts and slippery steep gravel slides make it too easy to twist an ankle or slip and fall.</p> <p>Many of my neighbors share similar feelings but since we don't hike there anymore our comments have been disregarded. We are still waiting for an answer from you about how you will manage this dangerous and damaging situation.</p> <p>Mimi Iversen</p> <p>Five Soho Circle Belmont, CA 9400</p>	<p>Mimi Iversen</p>
<p>7/11/2022</p>	<p>This is just a quick note to voice my support of the PROS plan ahead of the vote. While I know we'll hear from the loud, negative voices drummed up by Deniz Bolbol, Pat Cuvillo, and Kristin Mercer (who've been trying to stir the pot as much as they can around this), I'm thrilled that cooler heads have prevailed. As part of Waterdog Open Space Stewards, I can tell you that the positive voices that have reached out through our channels has been tremendous, and we now have a few thousand people registered to show their support for multi-use access to Waterdog's trails.</p> <p>To hear the negative people tell it, this has been sprung upon them, when we know the truth: this process was extended many months to ensure that everyone had a chance to have their voices heard. And the voices have been heard: despite the narrative of the few who complain at every meeting, the trails are for everyone, and will continue to be under this plan.</p> <p>I want to thank the Parks & Rec Commission, the PROS members, Gates & Associates, and everyone else who has lived through this lengthy process.</p> <p>To the City Council: Please vote in favor of the plan so we can move forward with a clear vision for our open space.</p> <p>--Scott</p>	<p>Scott Hill</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing to encourage you to FULLY ADOPT and APPROVE the Proposed Use and Management Plan for Waterdog Lake Park to include keeping the trails open to mountain bike access.</p> <p>I personally committed close to 500 hours of labor in the building and maintenance of those trails working alongside dozens of other cyclists.</p> <p>It would be a shame to allow a vocal small group who provided no labor and who do not use the park to shut out the group that helped develop the trail system.</p> <p>Please adopt the use and management plan and protect equal access to Waterdog Lake Park for cyclists, hikers, runner, and other trail users.</p> <p>Todd McGee</p>	<p>Todd McGee</p>

7/12/2022	<p>My understanding from many, many rides in Water Dog is that it was built, maintained, and improved by mountain bikers. It is a treasured trail offering technical riding so close to where we all live. I first learned to mountain bike at Water Dog when I lived nearby in Belmont. I was an avid member of the local mountain bike community, which shares a long history of community service and camaraderie. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>There has been an unfortunate history within the Bay Area of hikers/walkers taking aim at mountain biking as if we are the enemy. In my book, the more people we can get outdoors the better, and my love of mountain biking makes me a better trail steward and a better citizen. Please don't let the naysayers drown out the common sense approach that the city has created. We have successfully used the trail for multi-use for years, and we can continue to do so now.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Sandee Sheldon</p>	Sandee Sheldon
7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mike</p>	Michael Jaron
7/12/2022	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Waterdog is a special and precious place and I remember how delighted I was to discover it when I moved to the Peninsula in 2012.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Julian Bill</p>	Julian Bill

7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chris Hagedorn</p>	Chris Hagedorn
7/12/2022	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>It is important to keep the trails open to the current user groups. We moved to the Cipriani neighborhood for its access to the fantastic trails at Waterdog which we hike, ride and help maintain on a regular basis.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jason Bromfiel</p>	Jason Bromfiel
7/12/2022	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I'm requesting that you postpone the vote on the PROS document. As I understand it, the consultant released the document on July 4th, for the July 6th Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on July 6th. Therefore, there has been no or negligible time to comment on the 300-page report with 1600 pages of Appendices.</p> <p>Since we haven't had an update in 20 years, it seems very reasonable to allow 1-2 months for the report to be reviewed and consensus generated.</p> <p>We want to be able to provide feedback to you and the PROS committee.</p> <p>All the best,</p> <p>Paul Kotturi</p>	Paul Kotturi
7/12/2022	<p>Please keep Water Dog open to Mountain Bikes as well as all other users.</p> <p>The mountain bike community built the trail system and should not be shut out.</p> <p>Mike Prinvale</p>	Mike Prinvale

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi Council members,</p> <p>I am a Belmont resident.</p> <p>I've heard that you are going to scrap the ban on e-bikes on the Waterdog trails. I think this is a dumb move. Please watch this short video on the website Singletracks.</p> <p>To be fair, these guys are more skilled than our local bikers, but the damages are the same. You must understand the damage this sport can do to the environment and eventual erosion to the trails. Plus, the speed these riders go on a trail is a hazard to others on the same trail.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogt_iPMtPHM</p> <p>How To Ride Singletrack Faster E-Mountain Bike Skills</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Frank M</p>	<p>Frank M</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Josh Rowe</p>	<p>Josh Rowe</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Norm</p>	<p>Norm Fong</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>My family enjoys using Waterdog park as a multi-use space. We hike, walk or dog, ride bikes and enjoy Waterdog in so many ways today and do not want to have one of the few remaining true multi-use parks constricted in any way. For those that prefer hiking only there are many, many parks where they can practice that activity.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you,</p> <p>Rob</p> <p>Robert Labatt</p>	<p>Robert Labatt</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I am a Belmont resident.</p> <p>Having only just been notified that the Open Space Draft is published I am shocked that you intend to vote to finalize it just a few days later. I think the public needs more time to read and consider these policies and what they mean for our open spaces. I ask you to delay the vote and answer public questions before rushing ahead.</p> <p>Residents of Hallmark were promised by two Council Members and Director Shearer that this Plan would address the many illegal trails as well as the speeding bikes. But I don't see any policy for that; in fact what I read sounds like status-quo, meaning anarchy on the trails and continued rogue trail making. Residents are increasingly aware of the importance of the natural habitat surrounding us, and setting a policy to intentionally disregard damages and trail safety sends a very regressive message – come visit the unregulated wild west of Belmont. This is why Hallmark drive is crowded with cars with bike racks every day of the week.</p> <p>This issue has been overlooked for a decade and the trend to more and more bikers will just make it worse. I urge you to reconsider the removal of all regulations, and do the hard work of setting and enforcing rules.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>A Belmont resident</p>	
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi</p> <p>Please adopt the open space plan in it's current form.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>iPhone typing dispensation please!</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Chris Ketner</p>	<p>Chris Ketner</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations: The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you,</p> <p>Daniel Langmaid</p>	<p>Daniel Langmaid</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I am an avid hiker, biker, and outdoorsman. Waterdog is without a doubt a space that should be open to multiple forms of recreation. Hiking, biking, and dog walking should remain OPEN to the public.</p> <p>Waterdog is the only location on the peninsula that is close by and offers a multitude of activities. It is also one of the few places on the peninsula where bikes are allowed to ride on all trails. This space is crucial to the mental and physical wellbeing of the local community. Limiting access to this park would undoubtedly harm the community and limit those who use it daily.</p> <p>I strongly believe the new PROS management plan is exactly what the community needs, and the park should remain open to all forms of trail use.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jeret Shuck</p>	<p>Jeret Shuck</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing to affirm the Belmont PROS Management Plan in its current form.</p> <p>It's my humble opinion that the Belmont Parks and Recreation Department helmed by Brigitte Shearer has done a masterful job convening a democratic and efficient process to garner scientifically supported facts about the state of Belmont's Open Spaces. Moreover, Brigitte's team has provided ample opportunity for diverse voices to be heard and accounted for in the development, distribution, and certification of the Plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on safety, trail maintenance, and erosion control New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Eli Latimerlo - Belmont resident since 2003 (and prior to 1994).</p>	<p>Eli Latimerlo</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to reach out.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Douglas Campbell</p>	<p>Douglas Campbell</p>

7/12/2022	<p>As a long time user of Waterdog, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>David Skinner</p>	David Skinner
7/12/2022	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I have for a long time enjoyed the Waterdog Open Space for recreation as mountain biker and walker. I have only had positive experiences over the years with other users and enjoying the many trails. I understand there is a vocal group that has a negative opinion on mountain bike access, wanting to restrict it to their own narrow vision of the space and robbing others of the opportunity to enjoy this community space. I disagree with this narrow view and plead that access remain open to all, which I understand the proposed plan does.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts.</p> <p>Regards, Mark Lefebvre Redwood City, California</p>	Mark Lefebvre
7/12/2022	<p>Dear members,</p> <p>I feel strongly that e-bikes must be banned from dirt trails except for Lake Road.</p> <p>Bikes must be kept off the narrow, steep, and sloping dirt trails.</p> <p>I am not able to attend the meeting tonight, but please remember that hikers' safety and the health of our Open Space must be of prime importance.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Shiela Cockshott</p>	Sheila Cockshott

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello</p> <p>I'm a resident of San Carlos, and I've been riding my mountain bike in Hidden Canyon for as long as I've lived in San Carlos - 17 years.</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you.</p> <p>All the best</p> <p>Joe Paluska</p>	<p>Joe Paluska</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am a long time supporter and user of waterdog park for running, biking, and hiking. It is a wonderful place for people to be active and outdoors. Changing the usage of Waterdog would be very detrimental to a large group of people and take away the benefit of young and old alike to get outside!</p> <p>I very much support the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you,</p> <p>Dylan Howes</p>	<p>Dylan Howes</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>As a decades-long trail user in Waterdog, I'm writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you,</p> <p>Rich</p> <p>Rich Schwerin San Carlos</p>	<p>Rich Schwerin</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello-</p> <p>I just wanted to drop you a short note to tell you that I enjoy recreating, specifically riding my mountain bike on singletrack trails in Waterdog Park.</p> <p>I strongly support the draft Parks, Rec and Open Space Management plan that would allow the STATUS QUO of CONTINUED MULTI-USE (including mountain bike) access to all trails including singletrack. I also support the conversion of unofficial legacy trails to officially sanctioned and supported multi-use trails.</p> <p>I enjoy the unique trails at Waterdog, and when I visit the park I also spend money in the local community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Frank Giraffe</p>	<p>Frank Giraffe</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello Planners,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nathan Yeakel</p> <p>Belmont resident since 2013</p>	<p>Nathan Yeakel</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tracy Usher</p>	<p>Tracy Usher</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi!!!</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use • Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them • Stream and waterway crossings be improved • Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders • Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) • New trails be added to the Open Space • A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chris Wilder</p>	<p>Chris Wilder</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Gerard horan</p>	<p>Gerard horan</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Gerard horan</p>	<p>Gerard horan</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you, Vasisht Raghavendra</p>	<p>Vasisht Raghavendra</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council,</p> <p>I'd like to offer my strong support for keeping the Waterdog Open Space an accessible and sustainable place for recreation, nature and building community. In the new Master Plan, I particularly support the following:</p> <p>Retain the existing (and unofficial legacy) trails for multi-use - hiking, biking, dog walking, exercise and connecting with nature Train and educate the trail users to ensure safe and sustainable use Maintain and preserve the trails in continued collaboration with community groups and volunteers to ensure our trails get healthier every year Improve Stream and Waterway crossings Add calming features to single track trails in order to decrease speeds while increasing the challenge for riders Expand the Open Space with new trails that make sense</p> <p>Open space recreation is so beneficial to Belmont locals - an oasis within silicon valley for stress reduction, exercise, revitalization, appreciation of nature, community pride, and quality of life improvement.</p> <p>Waterdog has served this public need for many years and can continue for many more with the support from me and many others like me.</p> <p>Please keep Waterdog multi-use and sustainable.</p> <p>Thank you, Neil</p>	<p>Neil R</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Nelson Wong</p>	<p>Nelson Wong</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Luis</p> <p>—</p> <p>Luis Vera</p>	<p>Luis Vera</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>I've been riding the trails at WaterDog for over 15 years and hiking them with my kids. I hope to continue both of these activities in the years to come.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jay Maloney</p>	<p>Jay Maloney</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm a Belmont resident and I'm unable to attend the meeting discussing the PROS Master Plan. I wanted to say I support, and want to reiterate, the equal access to, and multi-use of, parks and open spaces for all. I know in the past (and currently) there are people who wish to restrict access, or use to particular groups or activities, and I don't think that's right.</p> <p>I look forward to the city of Belmont enacting the plan and following its guiding principles.</p> <p>Thank you, -Andy</p>	<p>Andy Wong</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jim Van Sickle</p>	<p>Jim Van Sickle</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan for Waterdog. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Allison Woo</p>	<p>Allison Woo</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello-</p> <p>As a long time respectful mountain biker and trail builder, please keep the park open for wise use.</p> <p>Pedal power yes.</p> <p>Battery assist no!</p> <p>E-bikes should not be allowed due to increased speed. Trail conflicts and erosion increase.</p> <p>Please do not have a pilot program to test e-bike use</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>Happy Trails</p> <p>Kevin Schmidt</p>	<p>Kevin Schmidt</p>

7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use</p> <p>Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them</p> <p>Stream and waterway crossings be improved</p> <p>Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders</p> <p>Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work)</p> <p>New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Allan</p>	Allan Lopez
7/12/2022	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use</p> <p>Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them</p> <p>Stream and waterway crossings be improved</p> <p>Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders</p> <p>Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work)</p> <p>New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jaret Butler, MD</p>	Jaret Butler
7/12/2022	<p>Good day,</p> <p>As a 23+ year resident of Belmont and 20+ of them a mountain bike rider and trail steward in the Waterdog trail system, I want to support the PROS plan to continue the open space to be a multi use trail system. I would caution that making new trail rules on what you are not allowed to do within the open space would not be my recommendation until the current rules of what you are not allowed to do are enforced. There are obviously not enough resources to enforce the current rules (litter, e-bikes, off leash dogs, etc) so making new rules would be moot and essentially a waste.</p> <p>Water Dog Open Space is a fabulous resource and I applaud your efforts to maintain and improve the beautiful space!</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Steve Welter</p>	Steve Welter

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>As a next door neighbor to Belmont in the Laurelwood area, I'm a frequent user of Water Dog Lake Park. I'm writing in support of the plan. In particular I support the multi-use nature of the trails in Water Dog, having used them as a hiker and biker for the last decade. I think the e-bike policy is a step too far, but it's better than the NIMBY stuff happening from those who oppose it. Overall very much in support of the plan, the improvements, and the spirit of multi-use-trails. Thanks for your consideration.</p> <p>Chris Fox San Mateo (Laurelwood)</p>	<p>Chris Fox</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you,</p>	<p>Vince L</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>As a weekly user of Belmont's open space at Waterdog Lake and San Juan Canyon, I wanted to write to support the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. The plan continues our community's support for multi-use trail recreation, as it should, and I'm happy to see the science-based approach employed by the city in the development of this plan.</p> <p>In addition to the designation of local trails as multi-use, I particularly appreciate the proposal of unofficial legacy trails to be officially recognized with new signage, and the potential for future new multi-use trails added to the open space. The proposed trail improvements and pilot program for Class 1 e-bikes is also appreciated.</p> <p>Thank you for continuing to keep open spaces open for many types of recreation!</p> <p>Sincerely, Rob Anagnoson</p>	<p>Rob Anagnoson</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you,</p> <p>James Deitrich</p>	<p>James Deitrich</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation. When I moved to the bay area 22 years ago the Waterdog trails were why I chose Belmont. They are a unique and cherished resource in the area and it would be a tragedy to see use of them change because of a vocal minority.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ralph McNall</p>	<p>Ralph McNall</p>

7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ken</p>	Ken Tang
7/12/2022	<p>My good stewards of Waterdog,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lars</p>	Lars Thomsen
7/12/2022	For The OSMP Record	pat Cuvillo
7/12/2022	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mike Peng</p>	Mike Peng

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>I support the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan as I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Trent</p>	<p>Trent Poltronetti</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am a regular visitor to Waterdog Park and I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Peter Tsang</p>	<p>Peter Tsang</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	<p>Rix Liu</p>

7/12/2022	For The OSMP Record	pat Cuvillo
7/12/2022	<p>Hello Belmont P&R Commission,</p> <p>I would like to voice my enthusiastic support for ratifying the proposed PROS Master Plan, particularly as it codifies multi-user access on the vast majority of trails. May hikers, bikers, dog walkers and all continue to learn to share the trails at Waterdog under the proposed plan!</p> <p>The level-headed and inclusive response of the council to various user groups has been consistently excellent. Belmont's leadership in providing equitable, thoughtful facilities to all user groups is a beacon on the Peninsula.</p> <p>I presently live in Portola Valley, where I now manage the town trail map and thus also receive vocal input from many shockingly hostile user groups. The fortitude the commission has regularly shown in seeking openness and community throughout this process has been profoundly refreshing. Similarly the openness and good vibes my children and I have consistently experienced on Waterdog trails, from a diverse body of users, are a local treasure to be maintained. I am pleased to see the official reports supporting those experiences with data!</p> <p>For our family, off-road cycling has been an ideal means to safely get my children off the couch and into the outdoors, while safely avoiding cars and traffic. Having access to mountain biking in a suburban setting on the Peninsula is a tremendous boon to the mid-Peninsula public, notably in San Mateo County as the county park system has largely marginalized the burgeoning cycling community.</p> <p>It is my sincere hope that trail access can be ratified and formalized for all, and that we can learn to embrace mutual community in the outdoors, rather than to seek the exclusion and division that some vocal minorities have been pushing for. May we all continue to safely have fun on trails together. I think the charter says it best: 4.4-4 Maintain and enhance trails in open spaces in Belmont. Continue to support opportunities for shared use of trails among multiple users, including pedestrians and mountain bicyclists. Promote knowledge, trail etiquette, and consideration of multiple users on trails through education programs and signage.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, your patience, and your fortitude. My best regards,</p> <p>:: Dave Evans</p>	Dave Evans
7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ray Alvarez</p>	Ray Alvarez
7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Joseph Corbin</p>	Joseph Corbin

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lindsey West</p>	<p>Lindsey West</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I am writing today because I believe in accessible recreation for all, and strongly support the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. It is disappointing to hear that a vocal minority of community members could derail plans that would benefit the vast majority of residents of and visitors to the area. I am happy with the science behind the plan, and look forward to the community connections that multi-use trails create.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katy</p>	<p>Katy Poniatowski</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chris Ligtenberg</p>	<p>Chris Ligtenberg</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>RJ Ligtenberg</p>	<p>RJ Ligtenberg</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Steve Braat</p>	<p>Steve Braat</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>RJ Ligtenberg</p>	<p>RJ Ligtenberg</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jason Woo</p>	<p>Jason Woo</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>As Belmont is embarking upon a new Open Space Management Plan for the next 15 years, E-bikes is a topic brought up by WRA consultants for a Waterdog trial. Belmont has already done a couple of decades of unmonitored trials, resulting in resident hikers being driven away from Waterdog into the parks and open spaces of neighboring cities. E-bike, mountain bikes, and the biker culture are not compatible with the relaxed natural atmosphere expected by hikers.</p> <p>The Mid-Pen just banned E-bikes on natural surface trails and many surrounding Open Spaces ban E-bikes and mountain bikes from their natural trails. Do they know something we don't?</p> <p>What are the E-bikes doing in Waterdog? What 's going on in Waterdog? Please click the 2 videos below to appreciate what hikers have to confront while hiking in Waterdog.</p> <p>https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/ebike-speeding https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/what-is-going-on</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Ken Lien Paddington Ct</p>	<p>Ken Lien</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Roger Howe</p>	<p>Roger Howe</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>My family has lived in Belmont for almost 50 years and we have enjoyed using the trails in Waterdog Park for most of that time. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I am an avid trail runner and I support multi-use trail recreation and appreciate the work that has gone into this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use (I have never encountered an issue after hundreds of hours on the trails.) Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control for direction when I volunteer New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>Thank you, Ron Cheechov</p>	<p>Ron Cheechov</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I support the Plan. I ride, run and hike Waterdog a couple of times a week, and i want to see the status quo for all those activities.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mark Harnett Belmont resident</p>	<p>Mark Harnett</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in concern for the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan.</p> <p>While I support multi-use trail recreation, I have personally witnessed the increasing amount of trail decay and destruction from misuse of our irreplaceable Belmont preserve. Mountain biking is extremely fun, but the fragile clay soils are not ideal for the long term high volume use that we see today (especially since the advent of e-bikes which are in heavy use on the trails even today despite restrictions).</p> <p>This is especially true on our wetter days (as infrequent as they are these days), where I have observed frequent new-impact from what I must presume are novice mountain bikers who may not know better.</p> <p>So many embankments, corners, and trail edges have seen needless destruction from banking, carving and short-cutting to make them more exciting.</p> <p>Further, many of the steeper ascents are so deeply rutted from overuse that it will take years for these trails to begin to rehabilitate.</p> <p>That said, I am in favor of further recognition of many of the unofficial legacy trails to be incorporated into the official park plan for pedestrian access.</p> <p>I think efforts to improve erosion control and recovery will be greatly improved if we were to do even put a temporary suspension to MTB activity for a duration (maybe 5 years?). Finding a way to quantify that effort would be paramount to reconsidering such a suspension in the future.</p> <p>In my mind the biggest risk to any of this mattering is a matter of enforcement, and regretfully I do not know much about how to go about that at an open space with so many points of ingress/egress.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>- Michael Lehew</p> <p>Sterling Downs</p> <p>Belmont Resident 13y</p>	<p>Michael Lehew</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed <p>I frequent these trails quite often along with many friends. All of use use trail bells to alert bikers, hikers, and dog walkers of our presence in the area whenever doing any downhill riding. If we do come up on any of these on the trail, our speed is greatly reduced and come to a complete stop. Hikers and dog walkers are given the right away unless they insist we pass them. We make sure to greet, thank them, and also let them know of any other riders in our group to try to keep everyone safe and enjoy our time outdoors in nature. Many people thank us for our courtesy and use of these bells to help keep everyone safe. I know many of the people who help maintain the trailers are bikers themselves and would hate to see what would happen to these trails without their efforts as well.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Davide Mazza</p>	<p>Davide Mazza</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jason Blodgett</p>	<p>Jason Blodgett</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Christophe Juncker</p> <p>P.s: a further suggestion would be to mandate bicycles to use a cow bell so hikers can easily hear them.</p>	<p>Christophe Juncker</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>I am a Belmont resident living in the Hallmark neighborhood. I no longer visit Waterdog trails because they are so damaged and so over-trafficked with bikes that it is not enjoyable.</p> <p>I think that in order to restore our park to the pleasant setting it once was you should:</p> <p>Stop the volunteers from digging up and widening the trails. I liked walking on the quiet little trails on the forest floor and enjoying the lush ferns and flowers. Volunteers hack back the plants to make it wider for their biking, and kill all the native flowers along the trail. And then they push the cuttings down the hill and they die there in piles on top of the other bushes. They dig ditches, leave useless planks, and cut back trees just so they won't bump their head. It's a depressing dead mess.</p> <p>Keep bikes off all the trails in the canyons and on the slopes - Chaparral, Ohlone, Rambler, Finch, and along the hidden canyon creek where they have widened it into a freeway. There is no passing room on a 3-foot wide trail and you can't widen the trail when it's on a steep cross-slope. The plants are trampled by people getting out of the way of bikes, bikes skidding off of the tight turns, taking shortcuts on curves or switchbacks, and even on occasion sliding off of the sloped trails. The ferns and wildflowers are covered with dust from their skidding, the tree roots are exposed tripping hazards. The stairs that used to be on steep sections to make it safer to get down without sliding on your rear, have all been completely eroded away and pushed down the hills by the bikers.</p> <p>Close the unmarked trails - the woods are torn up by random shortcuts, and bypasses. People make these trails for thrills so they are usually steep and straight downhill. One trail that began off of Elevator a few years ago turned into a 2-foot gully and now there is a second trail next to it, and both are so steep and graveled that they are dangerous to hike or bike. I have met hikers who are lost because they ran across some trail that is not planned and they got turned around.</p> <p>Get rid of the e-bikes. I talked with a group with e-bikes and they were bragging about how many more miles they cover in a day of riding. One guy said he rode twice as far with his ebike because he doesn't get tired. Covering distance is not the point of our trails - enjoying nature is the point and they certainly aren't doing that when they are flying as fast as they possibly can. I think that if they want an aerobic workout they should use their muscles, not a motor. Or go to a gym and leave the nature trails for those who appreciate nature.</p> <p>In short, someone needs to do something to manage the trails because it's a free-for-all now. When visitors see it so run down I think it sends a message that they don't have to respect nature here.</p> <p>Frank M</p> <p>Belmont Resident</p>	<p>Frank M</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am a Belmont resident living in the Hallmark neighborhood.</p> <p>I recently noticed this post from the organizer of the Waterdog "Trailkeepers" group, who by the way is not even a Belmont resident. I have to wonder how he gained access to the "barrage of hate-mails" that you have received in the past 3 days? Is someone from within the Belmont government sending out information on private letters received by city employees or members of the city council? Trailkeepers got the info from someone.</p> <p>It seems to me that the only hate is this from the Trailkeepers organizers, calling residents haters for submitting input to their own city council.</p> <p>You should be made aware that the contact list of this post on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/2079772678916626) goes out to mountain bikers from the entire bay area, maybe beyond. And that it was at the urging of Jonathan Carter that over half of the respondents to the Belmont Parks Survey were NON residents who specifically ranked biking top priority. The voices of these non-residents have biased the entire public discussion on management of Belmont Open Space.</p>	
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>I've been biking at Waterdog for more than 20 years. It's a gem on the peninsula that has been multi-use "forever." Nothing will satisfy everyone all of the time, but multi-use will, by far, make the largest number of people happy.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Greg Gavalakis Redwood City, CA</p>	<p>Greg Gavalakis</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello. I've biked Waterdog's trails for almost 15 years now and it is one of my favorite biking spots in the Bay Area.</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you, Brian Donnellan Menlo Park, CA</p>	<p>Brian Donnellan</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rich sequeira</p>	<p>Rich sequeira</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Commissioners and City Officials.</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Astrid Johanson Block</p>	<p>Astrid Johanson Block</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear City of Belmont:</p> <p>I'm a long time Mountain Biker and started Mountain Biking at Waterdog back in the early 90's where my appreciation for the Sport began.</p> <p>I am advocating to maintain Multi-use access at Waterdog. I believe Multi-Use is thriving but would excel further if additional safety measures for all are implemented:</p> <p>1. Signage: There is not enough of this. I feel this would improve any safety concerns users may have. I feel it is essential to place signage in strategic locations such as the "Three Witches" - a series of hills with exposure - to remind trail users to be attentive and also walk on the Right side (adhere to the rules of the road). Furthermore, other blind areas where exposure is present.</p> <p>2. Education: I think it would be valuable for the City to implement a class (in-person or virtually) to educate users on guidelines for trail use. This class would serve also as a reminder for trail etiquette and safety. For instance, refraining from using headphones while on the trail, staying alert and attentive, respecting the various flora and fauna, etc. The tricky part with this would be to incentivize people to take the course. Perhaps the City can work with the local shop: Belmont Bikes, to create a discount for taking the course, or discounts at other local shops like Village Host Pizza. I would be willing to volunteer some time to create a class like this.</p> <p>Lastly, I strongly feel maintaining Multi-Use access is imperative for our community here in Belmont. Like myself, there are various residents that enjoy Waterdog for biking and hiking. Many, including myself, find it therapeutic to go on a ride or hike after work to relax and unwind from the stresses of our days. Hence, full inclusion should be maintained.</p> <p>If you would like to contact me regarding ideas for Educating on Waterdog I would be happy to discuss and participate. Otherwise, I greatly appreciate your time and consideration with reading my input regarding Waterdog trail use.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>-Norbert Demanuele</p>	<p>Norbert Demanuele</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I have been a regular user of Waterdog Park for many years and support multi-use trail recreation. I am pleased the city has taken an in-depth look at the parks and come up with an exceptionally well reasoned plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control New trails to be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed I believe the plan is comprehensive and ready for implementation without further delay.</p> <p>Please vote FOR the plan tonight.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Olli Blackburn</p>	<p>Olli Blackburn</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you,</p> <p>Chris</p>	<p>Chris Ligtenberg</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear City of Belmont,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed Thank you,</p> <p>Gareth, Monica and Laurel Stamp</p>	<p>Gareth, Monica and Laurel Stamp</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello fine public servants - your efforts to continue to meet all the trail users needs are much appreciated!</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Frank Babbitt, a water dog frequenter since 1996...</p>	<p>Frank Babbitt</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase safety & fun for everyone Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space Thank you,</p> <p>Ishaan</p>	<p>Ishaan Nerurkar</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Soumya</p>	<p>Soumya G B</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan which is up for a vote of approval tonight. I live locally and can walk and also ride my bike to Waterdog and Hidden Canyon Parks. I thoroughly enjoy the proximity to such a high quality outdoor experience so close to hime. I urge you to vote to approve the plan which includes: multi-use trails, maintaining & improving existing trails, and incorporating the legacy unofficial trails. One of the things that I appreciate about the trail network is that there are so many options and different ways to connect loops within the relatively compact space.</p> <p>I have previously volunteered constructing and maintaining trails and look forward to future opportunities to contribute to this valuable recreational open space.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Tim Louis Redwood City, CA</p>	<p>Tim Louis</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation and am happy to see the approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space Continued unlimited access for Class 1 e-bike</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Nicolas Olivares</p>	<p>Nicolas Olivares</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>To all it may concern,</p> <p>I am a bay Area Native, born and raised in Burlingame and longtime resident of Belmont, on Carlmont Dr.. Waterdog has been and is an amazing resource for all to share. Losing the recreation aspect of WD would be a tragedy to Belmont, the county and the Bay. I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Devin Sezgen</p>	<p>Devin Sezgen</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>As I have written in the past, I want to again reiterate my strong support for the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Lawrence Shubert</p>	<p>Lawrence Shubert</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in full support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings to be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>We love Waterdog and always find bikers to be courteous and considerate around others.</p> <p>John Dougery</p>	<p>John Dougery</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I'm writing to provide support for the Belmont PROS management plan.</p> <p>More specifically, for continued multi-use trail access, and calming features for single-track trails and increased safety.</p> <p>I am a regular trail volunteer, and would love to assist with building new trails to the open space.</p> <p>I'm ambivalent about the Class 1 (20mph/no-throttle) e-bike policy, but feel a 1 year pilot would be a worthy test.</p> <p>Thank you kindly for your attention.</p> <p>Robert Escamilla San Mateo County Resident and frequent cyclist and runner at Water Dog</p>	<p>Robert Escamilla</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm writing to you today as a Waterdog trail user in support of the PROS management plan. Waterdog is an oasis of natural recreation and its accessibility from the urban areas of the peninsula is incredible, even in the context of the Bay Area's many parks and open spaces. Please proceed with the plan and keep the park open to all users: hikers, trail runners, and cyclists. The more people that enjoy the outdoors, the happier and healthier our community will be!</p> <p>-Pete</p>	<p>Peter Tennesen</p>

7/12/2022	<p>Hello. As a 25+ -year user of Waterdog, I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space To be clear, I do NOT support: A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you, Tom Sharp</p>	Tom Sharp
7/12/2022	<p>Dear Belmont City Council and Park Commission</p> <p>Parks are one thing, but Open Space requires a different skill set and ethos. It needs to be approached environmentally with respect for the wildlife it supports, not as a race track for bicycles to careen off the tree roots over the ground nesting birds and whatever else just to fly down the hillside as fast as possible.</p> <p>In response to my email, you said, "Let's build our back yard." I am a resident of Belmont and OUR back yard was a beautiful forest already "built" just in need of respect to the environment it provided for the wildlife.</p> <p>Go build YOUR backyard in YOUR back yard, NOT OURS!</p> <p>Mimi Iversen Five Soho Circle</p>	Mimi Iversen
7/12/2022	<p>JohnParadine <johnparadine@gmail.com> 4:16 PM (15 minutes ago) to citycouncil, me</p> <p>Hi -</p> <p>As an regular cyclist and runner who uses water dog on a regularly I wanted to voice my support for the Pros plan and the Water Dog Stewards position.</p> <p>Please keep this amazing resource open to all types of recreation.</p> <p>Thank You, John Paradine</p>	John Paradine
7/12/2022	<p>Hello Belmont Representatives,</p> <p>I know the PROS Management Plan is scheduled to be voted on tonight and I'm writing to let you know my family strongly endorses it. I ride my mountain bike weekly all through the park. I've recently gotten my son and daughter into mountain biking and they absolutely love it. We love doing it together.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts to make this happen.</p> <p>Arie Jongejan</p>	Arie Jongejan

7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>When I go to Waterdog I routinely spend money at local restaurants and merchants. Without the multi-use designation, I will not have a reason to visit and spend money at local businesses.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tammy Estes</p>	Tammy Estes
7/12/2022	<p>Dear officials,</p> <p>I wanted to write in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. We like to see continued use of the trails and feel the city has already taken a thoughtful approach in their proposal. We're not in favor of opposition and are ping time residents of Belmont who frequently use the space.</p> <p>In particular, We hope to keep Waterdog's trails as multi-use and To officially recognized unofficial trails with new signage Were also in support of the proposed improvements and looking forward to volunteer in the parks. Please feel free to contact me if you have any follow-up questions.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Tom Seoh</p> <p>--</p> <p>Thomas Seoh</p>	Thomas Seoh
7/12/2022	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I enjoy many hours every month hiking, jogging, and biking at Waterdog and Hidden Canyon and I have pleasant interactions with everyone I've come across on the trails, no matter their chosen activity. I hope to see that open access continue and I fully support the PROS plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jim Tay</p>	Jim Tay
7/12/2022	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. As an individual who has grown up in Belmont and been a long-time enjoyer of the community's outdoor spaces, I strongly support continued multi-use trail recreation. It would be a devastating loss to have Waterdog's trails become closed off to those many individuals who have enjoyed them for so long. I find these recommendations of the Plan to be particularly beneficial to Belmont as a whole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use. - The construction of new trails and improvement of existing ones. - Guidelines and volunteer opportunities regarding trail maintenance. <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sava Iliev</p>	Sava Iliev

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Regards, Line (Lynn) Moisan</p>	<p>Line (Lynn) Moisan</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amit Pandey</p>	<p>Amit Pandey</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I'm writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jamie Hoffacker</p> <p>(20yr user of trails with myself and daughters)</p>	<p>Jamie Hoffacker</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>For The Record</p>	<p>pat Cuvillo</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed PROS Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation.</p> <p>I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>I do not support the following however: A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ethan Benton</p>	<p>Ethan Benton</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Leaders</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>John Stuart</p>	<p>John Stuart</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jeff Jonah</p>	<p>Jeff Jonah</p>

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>Attached please find my more comprehensive list of comments on the omissions and shortcomings of the OSMP draft under consideration July 12. The attached document details the following list of concerns about this Plan:</p> <p>Claim of exemption from CEQA (Categorically Exempt) is wrong Inconsistent with the General Plan Contains factual errors. Fails to consider City management ability and resources Fails to benchmark trail use, habitat protection and stewardship policies of other agencies. Eliminates the ban on motorized vehicles Unsupported claims regarding wildlife and habitat Fails to address trail safety Lacks quantifiable visitor volume assessment Omits General Plan considerations for the Wildlife Corridor Fails to address cumulative impacts of trail density on habitat</p> <p>I urge you to send this Plan back to the Commission to address these issues.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kristin Mercer</p>	<p>Kristin Mercer</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Josh Rowe</p>	<p>Josh Rowe</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I bike the trails at Water Dog lake 2-3 times a week in winter or summer. It is one of my favorite things about living in San Carlos/Belmont. I am now teaching my kids to bike respectfully and with care on the trails.</p> <p>I support mixed use trails - I believe it is critical to address any conflicts in shared resources thoughtfully, and would be devastated to see changes that completely prevented biking in such a wonderful park.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Peter Liske</p>	<p>Peter Liske</p>

7/12/2022	<p>Dear Belmont Pros Plan,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Basil Moutsopoulos</p>	Basil Moutsopoulos
7/12/2022	<p>For The Record</p>	pat Cuvillo
7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Chris Kujat</p>	Chris Kujat
7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Robert Beckman</p>	Robert Beckman
7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Bruce Storms</p>	Bruce Storms
7/12/2022	<p>Keep Water Dog open Please!</p>	Russ St.John

7/12/2022	<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>In addition, mt bikers like myself have been volunteering and randomly cleaning up the trails. I have not witnessed any other groups of people doing their kindness.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ernie Cusi</p>	Ernie Cusi
7/12/2022	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing today this email to express my support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan for the, waterdog park.</p> <p>I am glad to see the systematic approach that is taken to improve the conditions of the park and the experience one will live when enjoying the park. In my view it is important to assess evolving situations and set up the necessary actions to keep improving to make our park enjoyable for most people and at the same time preserve our beautiful environment. Protecting the environment does not necessary require to close the park. It is important to educate a maximum of people and I believe that waterdog park is a very good case given its location, its geology and its variety of features that seduce bikers, hikers, dog walkers, runners ...</p> <p>I am in favor of the multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thanks for your attention,</p> <p>Pierre-xavier Thomas</p>	Pierre-xavier Thomas
7/12/2022	<p>Hello Parks and Rec. Team -</p> <p>Today I am writing in support of your proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space - the (PROS) Management Plan.</p> <p>I am a user of this park - love hiking and MTB riding and support multi-use of this area for trail access.</p> <p>I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <p>The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed</p> <p>Thank you, Mike Timpano</p>	Mike Timpano

7/12/2022	<p>hello and thanks for listening!</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation and specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders New trails be added to the Open Space <p>much thanks!</p> <p>Luke Wroblewski, Los Gatos CA</p>	Luke Wroblewski
7/12/2022	<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them Stream and waterway crossings be improved Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) New trails be added to the Open Space A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Christophe</p>	Christophe Muller
7/12/2022	<p>Dear Belmont City Council Members,</p> <p>My husband and I have been Belmont residents for almost 13 years near the Waterdog Park entrance at the end of Carlmont Drive. We enjoy hiking, trail running, and safe mountain biking.</p> <p>I am writing to you to request deferring the vote on our Belmont PROS plan scheduled for tonight, July 12th. This will allow the needed due diligence time to review the final, recently available, document to pose questions and concerns. Deferring the vote will also allow time to spread the word, so more folks are aware and have the same opportunity I am asking for myself.</p> <p>Many things changed over 30 years and we request the opportunity to thoroughly read and comment on something that will have an impact on our lives. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Let's keep our Belmont PROS plan the fabric of our community.</p> <p>Best, Audrey</p>	Audrey
7/12/2022	<p>Good day. I wanted to express my support today for the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Management Plan. I and my family are avid hikers and mountain bikers, and I believe multi-use trails are the best approach for this key part of our local trails infrastructure, recreation opportunity, and wilderness access.</p> <p>I'm sensitive to the needs of hikers – I am one – when riding at Waterdog. I try to exercise courtesy and haven't had any difficulties with hikers when I'm riding my bike. That said, I support explicit measures like the recommended calming measures to encourage cyclists' best behavior.</p> <p>I also support the plan's handling of erosion control and trail maintenance. My son and I have volunteered for trail maintenance work elsewhere in the region through the Trail Center and would happily help with trail maintenance closer to home, too.</p> <p>I'd also like unofficial legacy trails to be recognized and, where possible, new trails to be added for more exploration opportunities and lower density of trail users.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my views as you try to find the best use for this marvelous patch of wilderness in our midst.</p> <p>Stephen Shankland</p>	Stephen Shankland

<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Motorized bike use at Waterdog? Are you kidding me???</p> <p>Please, please rethink the environmental impact and act NOW to prevent irreversible damage. The safety and health of both Bay Area residents, and of the limited open space available for our use, should be of paramount importance and protected NOW.</p> <p>Serious action on the equitable and ethical use and preservation of Waterdog is required NOW.</p> <p>Think about the future impact and not about pleasing the desires of one sporting interest group.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mike and Linda Gold</p>	<p>Mike and Linda Gold</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>To City Council,</p> <p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use. - Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them. - Stream and waterway crossings be improved - Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders - Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) - New trails be added to the Open Space - A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jerry Fan</p>	<p>Jerry Fan</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Council member,</p> <p>As a long time Belmont resident and an avid hiker, I urge the City Council to close the biker built trails and to limit trail use for bikers.</p> <p>I have had several dangerous encounters with bikers on - what used to be - hiking trails. One encounter resulted in road rash on my face and knees and another in a bad case of poison oak. In both of these cases, I was forced to jump off the trail as the bikers were going much too fast to stop.</p> <p>For the bikers, it's all about the thrill of the ride. To most hikers, it's about a quiet, meditative experience in a natural setting.</p> <p>Please do the right thing and restrict bikers to designated trails and close the illegal biker built trails.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Michael O'Neill</p>	<p>Michael O'Neil</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>I agree with Deniz 100%! Belmont unfortunately hasn't protected its native wildlife. Mountain bikers can enjoy all trails just as everyone else does: on foot! There is no good reason to allow bikes on any unpaved trails.</p>	<p>Mike Vandeman</p>
<p>7/12/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City council members,</p> <p>I would like to ask city council to postpone voting on this document that the majority of people are not aware of/or not had time to read and understand yet.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mark greenbaum Belmont resident</p>	<p>Mike Greenbaum</p>

7/12/2022	<p>Dear City Council members,</p> <p>I am a 28-year resident of Belmont. I have just learned today that this vote is schedule to be taken in the meeting tonight after the plan being available for public review only 10 days. Please slow down this process. The plan has over 300 pages and 1600 pages of appendices -- and there is not sufficient time for anyone to read or provide feedback.</p> <p>It's too soon to vote on this plan. The PROS document needs review and time for amending.</p> <p>Please do not take action on this item tonight.</p> <p>Thank you, - Lillian Svec</p>	Lillian Svec
7/12/2022	<p>My vote is keep it open</p>	Russ St,John
7/12/2022	<p>Please find attached my comments for the Council meeting on July 12, 2022 agenda item 9a (PROS Master Plan). Attachments 1-4 are included in this email. Additional attachments will be sent separately. Please contact me if you did not receive any of the emails or attachments.</p> <p>Thank you Deniz Bolbol</p>	Deniz Bolbol
7/12/2022	<p>Forwarding this to confirm its inclusion on the administrative record for the PROS Master Plan process. Please notify me if any of the material herein or attached is not accessible.</p> <p>Kristin Mercer</p>	Kristin Mercer
7/12/2022	<p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>I just found out about Parks Master Plan on City Council's agenda, and am extremely concerned that council is voting on such a major policy constitution that is supposed to drive our philosophy on open space and parks for the next two decades -- when people have not had a chance to read it, digest it, and provide feedback to their PROS representative or council. I strongly encourage you to delay the voting so the residents can provide their feedbacks.</p> <p>Thanks Shuguang Ma Belmont resident for over 10 years</p>	Shuguang Ma
7/12/2022	<p>Dear Belmont City Councilmembers:</p> <p>I heard that The Belmont Parks and Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan is on the agenda for this Tuesday.</p> <p>As a Belmont resident, I would like to ask city council to postpone voting on a document that many other residents haven't had time to read and/or provide feedback.</p> <p>The plan does not address most of the issues we previously brought up over the PROS process - including single use trails for safety.</p> <p>We personally use the Hidden Canyon Park trails several times a week. There have been a number of occasions where we could not safely get out of the way of on-coming bikers.</p> <p>Allowing bikers to share the very narrow trails with walkers is dangerous!</p> <p>Additionally allowing E-bikes spoils the natural ambiance of this lovely open space.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.</p> <p>Marie & Stan Crouch</p>	Marie and Stan Crouch

7/12/2022	<p>To the Belmont City Council:</p> <p>Please, please stop this plan from proceeding. It does not resolve the most controversial issues that are driving hikers out of Waterdog; safety and illegal trails. Residents have not been heard. My family has lived in the neighborhood since the 80s and the open trails have become overrun with bikers, damaged from all the tracks, and are not a high risk for walkers (ESPECIALLY young children and older individuals).</p> <p>The plan allows biking on ALL trails regardless of safety or nature. Mountain bikers from the entire region flock to Waterdog because it is the only open space that does not regulate biking on narrow dirt trails, regardless of safety and trail damages. Bikers run timed speed competitions, build jumps and modify trails to increase speeds. Hikers on narrow and sloped trails jump out of the way into the shrubbery. Seniors, families with children, and anyone less agile are displaced by this imbalanced bike-centric climate.</p> <p>The plan proposes to sanction 3 miles of illegally forged, unsafe and damaging trails - none of which meet the safety or environmental standards recommended in that same document. These are steep, eroded, and dangerous for both hikers and bikers. Sanctioning this vandalism is irresponsible stewardship.</p> <p>The plan eliminates the ban on motorized bikes, leaving our trails wide open to all types of powerful e-bikes that are banned from dirt trails in other open spaces.</p> <p>For two years Belmont council members promised the Open Space Master Plan would address these dangerous and divisive issues. It doesn't. It kicks the can down the road, stating that the city should study or consider trail policies. Two wasted years does not excuse a flawed and hollow plan to guide us the next 15 years. We insist you please address these issues NOW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep bikes off the narrow, steep and sloping dirt trails. Bikes can use 5 miles of wide trails like Lake Road. Bikers themselves are welcome on all trails, but without their machinery. This policy works in every other open space district - why not here? 2. Close ALL unsanctioned trails. These are vandalism pure and simple, and no city policy should sanction vandalism. 3. Ban e-bikes from dirt trails except Lake Road, where they serve a valid need for transit and connectivity. <p>Visitor safety and the health of our Open Space are priorities. The sport of mountain biking should not be allowed to endanger either.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Marisa A. Passantino</p>	<p>Marisa P. Harrington</p>
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<p>7/13/2022</p>	<p>Tonight you heard lots of misinformation from the mountain bikers, for example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They claim that banning bikes keeps them off the trails. Of course that is a lie: they can all walk on the trails. Banning bikes is not discriminatory, because the same rule applies equally to everyone. 2. They claim that narrow trails slow down the mountain bikers. Watch any mountain biking video! Mountain bikers see all trails as a challenge to ride as fast as possible, including over the speed limit. 3. They claim that hikers cause as much erosion as mountain bikers. That is a lie. All of those claims ignore speed and distance travelled. Even if they caused the same amount of erosion per mile, mountain bikers travel much farther than hikers, and therefore cause more erosion. Knobby tires are perfectly designed to tear up the soil. Shoes are not. This was elucidated in my review of the scientific literature, https://mjvande.info/scb7.htm 4. They claim that mountain bikers help maintain the trails. But that is simply attempting (not successfully) to fix the damage that they themselves have caused! Isn't it better not to do the damage in the first place? And there is no way to restore soil that has been eroded away. 5. They claim that no one can detect a difference between erosion caused by mountain biking and e-biking. But that's obviously not true: an e-bike allows one to travel much farther, thus causing that much more erosion. Their greater speed also increases the amount of erosion per mile. <p>-- Machine-Free Trails Association</p> <p>I am working on creating wildlife habitat that is off-limits to humans ("pure habitat"). Want to help? (I spent the previous 8 years fighting auto dependence and road construction.)</p> <p>Wildlife must be given top priority, because they can't protect themselves from us.</p> <p>Please don't put a cell phone next to any part of your body that you are fond of!</p> <p>Stop obeying dictators and incompetent leaders from this time forward! Please share this message as widely as possible!</p>	<p>Mike Vandeman</p>
<p>7/13/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council Members,</p> <p>We were hoping to comment via Zoom at yesterday's city council meeting on topic 9A regarding Waterdog trail access, but it got too late for us.</p> <p>We just wanted to say that we support continued access to Waterdog for mountain bikers on all trails. We ride the single-track trails for exercise and recreation as a family regularly. Mountain biking is one of the few activities that we can all enjoy together. We have been (and are) Belmont residents for over 13 years now and ride to the trailhead. We have also hiked the trails, but for one of us (William) hiking is much harder on the knees and there is much less exercise involved.</p> <p>As hikers and bikers, we have had a few encounters with fellow mountain bikers (and e-bikers) on some of the tighter single track trails. We worry mostly for our 12 year old son (who has been riding the trails for at least 5 years now). We have also had some interactions with hikers while we biked. We now ride with bells which has helped minimize encounters tremendously with other trail users, especially hikers (we have been thanked for having the bells by hikers on countless occasions). We try to be as courteous as possible to hikers, always stopping to let them have their right of way.</p> <p>Based on our experiences as both bikers and hikers, we wouldn't be against implementing some rules for bikers AND hikers on the trails:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bikers need to always ride with bells. 2. Bikers need to ride without headsets on so they can hear other trail users (bells and voices). 3. Hikers and Bikers should always understand the trail rules with regards to right-of-way and NOT waive their rights. (Imagine the confusion at a 4-way stop if the driver on the right insists on relinquishing their right-of-way to the driver on the left!) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. We often see hikers, out of courtesy, move to the side of the trail and wave oncoming bikers by. This creates confusion and an expectation on the biker's part for similar behavior by all hikers. b. We love the challenge of being able to climb a difficult section of trail and are often frustrated when the downhill rider refuses to relinquish the right of way and tries to squeeze by, creating a dangerous situation. Many uphill riders in similar situations will automatically pull to the side out of 'courtesy' for the downhill rider. Again, this just creates confusion and an expectation on the downhill biker's part for similar 'courtesies' from all uphill bikers. 4. We wouldn't be against having a small set of trails designated 'hiking only', but no more than, say, 25-30%. 5. We are all for a ban on e-bikers, excluding those who ride e-bikes because of disabilities. <p>Apologies for the long email, but we are passionate about biking and Waterdog access is one of the main reasons we chose to live in Belmont.</p> <p>Best regards, William, Nina, and Voneth</p>	<p>William, Nina, and Voneth</p>

7/13/2022	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to tell you that hiker's safety at Waterdog Lake needs to take priority over the thrills of racing up and downhill on Mountain Bikes while supposedly "sharing the space", or creating illegal trails.</p> <p>I can't attend the City Council Meeting this Tuesday, but please put my position on the record, and please do the right thing to mitigate this issue. This is a Hot Mess right now.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Roberta Stauffacher</p>	Roberta Stauffacher
7/13/2022	<p>I am writing in favor of leaving Waterdog a multi use area.</p> <p>Hiking and biking.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Bill Balestreri</p>	Bill Balesteri
7/13/2022	<p>Forwarding this to confirm its inclusion on the administrative record for the PROS Master Plan process. Please notify me if any of the material herein or attached is not accessible.</p> <p>Kristin Mercer</p>	Kristin Mercer
7/13/2022	<p>Dear Belmont City Councilmembers,</p> <p>My comments pertain to Agenda item 9.A for your meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. I believe there are serious concerns regarding sharing of trails between hikers and bikes in the proposed Open Space Master Plan, and believe this issue deserves more discussion and should not be rushed. Please allow more time for consideration and do not make a decision tonight.</p> <p>City Clerk, please retain this email and entire email string with the official records for the meeting, and in accordance with your filing system for correspondence from residents.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tim E. Strinden Belmont resident</p>	Tim E. Strinden
7/13/2022	<p>Dear City Council and planning teams,</p> <p>I wanted to write a short note regarding the go forward vote and plans for Waterdog park. There have been many recent discussions and focus on proposals to shut down Waterdogs multi-use trails.</p> <p>Please take the consideration to keep the park open to multi-use trails as this is so fundamental to the community. I have grown up close to Waterdog and have lived here for 52 years. I understand and appreciate what the local community parks do for our community and for people of different ages and activities. There are so few parks locally that provide the benefits that Waterdog provides to groups such as mountain bikers. I've ridden at Waterdog for years and find it to be a wonderful place to enjoy for exercise and respectfully sharing with other bikers and hikers.</p> <p>So many other parks are available for only hikers and equestrians (i.e. Edgewood and Huddard parks) which are larger and available.</p> <p>I would ask that the team look at the bigger picture around availability and access for the community as there is NO reason that hikers/bikers can coexist. I've never seen the park over capacity and appreciate all the respective manner by which I see hikers/bikers interact. I have never seen speed as a large concern due to the switchback nature of the trails and (up/down) nature of trails which creates a natural reduction in speed for most. If E-Bikes are an issue that is one area that should be considered as restriction due to the motorized nature of the bike.</p> <p>As a long time community member I ask that you please consider the vote to continue to keep Waterdog trails as multi-use in the same fashion as they are used today. No need to fix something that isn't broken.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p> <p>Daryl Elvander</p>	Daryl Elvander

<p>7/16/2022</p>	<p>support all trails for everyone. Lived here 33 years overlooking the trail system (at Somerset Ct entrance). I watched the bikers and hikers carve out the trails and maintain them. Not sure why a certain group compares building the trails with graffiti and with selfish self-gain...that makes NO sense. The bikers and hikers put the trail system in for hikers and bikers who come from anywhere. There was never any question about this from day one. It was an effort for everyone, and I thanked them for their hard work and for helping us all. I didn't see the City pitching in money/help and now the City (or perhaps it is a group of "interested citizens") wants to dictate who uses the trails and exclude bikes from half the trails. Again, this was hard labor, maintenance labor, etc. by hikers and bikers. It helped far more than the individuals building those trails...if you are using the trails, thank those that built those trails! Bob Rush maintained the Crystal Springs Cross country trail for many many years. He was a coach and runner so do you call that being selfish? I don't. I used to run those trails and thanked him every time that I saw him.</p> <p>Not sure who the group is that is spreading a video of a rude cyclist. I thought that video misrepresented the way I experience bikers on the trail systems.</p> <p>Sure, a few inconsiderate bikers and HIKERS who don't share but most of the time I find that bikers wait for me as a 70-year-old hiker. And, as a slower hiker, I move out of the way for the faster hiker or biker when I have a clearing (not into poison oak). No one has ever forced me off the trail! Not once. I hear the bike brakes engaging and I look over my shoulder to check they are indeed stopping. They always do as they don't have the right of way and they know it.</p> <p>So, widen ALL the trails, increase the line of sight for all, and don't make "hiker only trails". And, enforce no hikers/bikers at night and no dogs off leash or on long leashes that trip hikers and impede cyclists as well.</p> <p>Sorry I cannot make the July 26th meeting. You may quote any of the above.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>A concerned Citizen</p> <p>Karen Brunke</p>	<p>Karen Brunke</p>
<p>7/16/2022</p>	<p>- I been riding the park or almost 25 years it is quite a jewel a of the Mid Peninsula. It is to only park I know of near metropolitan area that has quality single tracks .</p> <p>thanks</p>	<p>Tommy Kuo</p>
<p>7/17/2022</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>I have been biking and hiking these trails for 20 years now. I know many of the regulars by name. I have worked on several of these trails over the years. I love this area and want to continue to be able to bike and hike there.</p> <p>Sincerely, Darren Don</p>	<p>Darren Don</p>

<p>7/17/2022</p>	<p>Hi!</p> <p>I'm a Menlo Park resident, who loves exploring the various parks and recreation areas along the Peninsula. Over the years, I have enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog park and was pleased to see the city's draft PROS plan, which maintains those opportunities. I would strongly encourage City Council to adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. I was particularly impressed with consultant assessment of the park and the associated findings - indicating that the park is in good shape. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road.</p> <p>Best, Tara Moran Menlo Park Resident</p>	<p>Tara Moran</p>
<p>7/17/2022</p>	<p>I'm a Belmont resident (for the past 16 years), and I would like to see City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center, which would be of great benefit to my family and children.</p> <p>Thank you, Ava Hristova</p>	<p>Ava Hristova</p>
<p>7/17/2022</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>I have been biking and hiking these trails for 20 years now. I know many of the regulars by name. I have worked on several of these trails over the years. I love this area and want to continue to be able to bike and hike there.</p> <p>Sincerely, Darren Don</p>	<p>Darren Don</p>
<p>7/18/2022</p>	<p>Dear to whom it may concern:</p> <p>I live and own here in the Peninsula (San Mateo County) and an avid rider/fan of Waterdog for my mountain bike. I ride here on a weekly basis and really appreciate this beautiful resource. I vote respectfully to keep this trail system open for multi uses including mountain bikes.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Sung Chung</p>	<p>Sung Chung</p>
<p>7/18/2022</p>	<p>Please see my feedback below: Reserve narrow trails off limits to bikes, for hiker safety, peace and quiet. Close illegal trails; vandalism and thrill-riding should never be rewarded. Ban e-bikes from all trails except the wide Lake Road (for connectivity). Those unable to ride under their own power can hike like everyone else. Plus lithium batteries bring a fire hazard.</p>	<p>Saurin Shah</p>
<p>7/18/2022</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm a Belmont resident, and I would like to see the City Council adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting. The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right. I'm completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone has had an opportunity to give input. The 18 month timeline has been more than sufficient to develop this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move one, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center.</p> <p>It is a complete shame that a very small, selfish, group of homeowners with a NIMBY approach to the world are seeking to delay the process and potentially ruin the good use of our excellent Belmont outdoor space, despite data backing the proposed plan.</p> <p>I urge you to act on July 26th for the good of ALL Belmont residents, not a loud minority seeking to protect the interest of few.</p> <p>Thank you, Elisabeth Sargeant</p>	<p>Elisabeth Sargeant</p>

7/19/2022	<p>Dear Councilman Lieberman,</p> <p>When I saw this article in the Daily Journal</p> <p>https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/belmont-to-discuss-parks-master-plan/article_ef4a6b76-0199-11ed-b960-c338f624b0c3.html, my takeaway from it was that you're leaning towards delaying the plan to accommodate David Braunstein, Kristen Mercer, and a handful of other people in their small circle. I understand their position, I know they want to do anything they can to enshrine restrictions to open space access in the PROS plan. I am writing to respectfully ask you to consider (1) whether this is in the best interests of the community as a whole, and (2) whether aligning yourself with this group is a wise political move.</p> <p>But first, I want to address the implication in the article that the PROS process was somehow rushed at the end. It was not. Hundreds of pages of new documentation were not suddenly dropped on the public in the last three weeks. As Parks Director Shearer pointed out at the July 6 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, nearly all of the information contained in the final draft has been part of the publicly available documents for more than a month, and in some cases, several months. Also, the individuals calling for delay are almost exclusively focused on the open space element. (Except for Mr. Braunstein, who consistently lobbies against any development of the fallow Hidden Canyon city park lot down the street from his house.) That open space element of the plan is 139 pages, and if you exclude the tables, it's only 87 pages - and within that 87 pages there are plenty of pictures and charts.</p> <p>I truly believe that adopting the PROS plan now is what's best for the community. The City's consultant WRA concluded that existing recreational use can continue on the existing mapped and unmapped trails without causing environmental harm. (By the way, the community has been using the two unmapped trails in Waterdog for years, and while WRA recommended improving stream crossings on one of them, it found neither trail has significant erosion, and found no justification for closing either of them.) The plan shouldn't be delayed - and the city shouldn't spend tens of thousands more in staff and consultant time to conduct many months' worth of meetings and focus groups so a handful of dissatisfied homeowners can keep beating a dead horse. Those individuals will never be satisfied unless and until they make the open space so exclusionary and unwelcome that it keeps their streets clear of park visitors. That is just never going to happen. And what would the ultimate result if the plan is modified for their desires? There will be a lot of Belmont voters who won't get to enjoy the open space as they have for the past 30 years, and they will be extremely unhappy about it. In exchange, a few affluent homeowners may get the marginal benefit of a small reduction in visitors to the open space next to their houses. The needs of the many should outweigh the needs of the few- especially when the "few" voluntarily chose to purchase homes knowing full well they were next to a popular community asset.</p> <p>When I read the quotes attributed to you in the Daily Journal that the PROS plan "needs more work," the public "[doesn't] feel the government is working for them" and we need to "clarify the policies," it sounded to me like a continuation of Mr. Braunstein and Ms. Mercer's quotes in the article, in an echo chamber completely detached from the PROS process I participated in. I'm sure you didn't intend it that way, but it also read to me like a slap in the face to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks staff. I have been following this process closely and have either attended or watched nearly every meeting. The Commission and Department worked extremely hard, poured their hearts and souls in to the plan, and the process gave everyone more than enough opportunity to provide input. I think the plan is meticulous, amazingly well thought out, and provides a beautiful vision for our parks and open spaces over the next 15 years. I think it would be very disdainful to the hardworking commissioners and staff if the plan is sent back for a "do-over" just because it didn't give a few well-heeled and politically-connected constituents exactly what they wanted. I just don't understand what is vague about the plan. It's a framework, not a blueprint. The intent of the plan is not to resolve every disagreement between every member of the community about every use of every trail.</p> <p>Of course, City Council is the ultimate decisionmaker on the plan, and it has the prerogative to modify it. But allowing unelected political allies to dictate the process at the end is an affront to those of us who patiently participated in the process over the past 18 months. It feels like Lucy pulling away the football from Charlie Brown as he's about to kick it. It also sends the message that the council doesn't have confidence in the Parks Commissioners it appointed or Parks staff it hired. It's not a good look if council is willing to just toss aside the recommendations of the very staff and commissioners it entrusted with creating the plan if a few well-connected constituents don't like what it says. It makes Council look indecisive and ineffectual if it can't make a simple decision on a thoroughly-vetted plan that has already gone 6 months into overtime. When I read the article, it made me wonder, who's really in charge of our city, the current council, or members of prior councils?</p> <p>During this process, the commissioners and staff had to endure what seemed to be, in my opinion, baseless accusations of misconduct, threats, abuse, and disrespect from the same crowd who are now demanding delay in adopting the plan. Don't take my word for it. Please watch the footage of P&R Commission's 7/6 meeting and fast forward to 10:57 for an example. https://belmont-ca.granicus.com/player/clip/818?view_id=1&redirect=true While the opponents to this plan conducted themselves, in my opinion, in a very reprehensible way, the Commissioners and Parks staff were very professional, kept their composure and focus, didn't take it personally, and took their substantive input into consideration when crafting the plan. The Commission created the plan based on comprehensively collected data, public input, and input from qualified experts, rather than emotions and unsubstantiated anecdotes. The Commissioners and Parks staff deserve to be congratulated, not denigrated. The people of Belmont are tired of hearing the same demands from the same handful of political operatives when it comes to the PROS plan and trail policies.</p>	Paul Sheng
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<p>7/20/2022</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>This is to address some of the serious problems caused by the bikers at the Waterdog area. The bikers on Soho Trail behind the backyards of 5 Soho Circle and 10 Soho Circle, are creating disturbances to the homeowners of the above addresses! These homeowners constantly hear noises which have taken away the peace from them. They pay their property taxes, and they deserve the tranquility at where they live!</p> <p>In addition, some of the bikers use Ebikes which are operated with lithium battery. According to an Apple engineer it could cause fire, especially in this dry season! We don't want to have any fire to burn down houses!!!</p> <p>Furthermore, there are too many bikers on those narrow trails. Injuries can occur! A Belmont resident got injured with broken bones! She is still on pain medication. We don't want to see this happen again!</p> <p>Therefore, let's be considerate and wise not to let any disaster happen! Close those illegal trails to prevent noises at the backyards of some homeowners as well as to protect the City of Belmont from fire risk, and our residents from any injury!</p> <p>Your attention to these issues are greatly appreciated!</p> <p>Sincerely, Bessie Ip</p>	<p>Bessie Ip</p>
<p>7/20/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to adopt the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.</p> <p>This plan is the result of over a year's study and research by a qualified professionals. It reflects both the usage of the park and open spaces and high quality environmental analysis.</p> <p>As a visitor a few times a year to ride bicycles in the Waterdog area, I have been impressed by the city's welcome to the multiple types of users. It sets it above many other cities in the area.</p> <p>The process was thorough and well executed. I reviewed the plans and attended one of the open houses. As a long time trail maintainer and observer of on other systems, I see the general qualify and opportunities to improve the trails and habitat, which the report covers well.</p> <p>Please approve the plan which keeps this gem of a system open to the current users and will improve it. It is well loved and used largely by the close neighbors and an asset to the City of Belmont.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Matthew Blain</p>	<p>Matthew Blain</p>

<p>7/20/2022</p>	<p>Dear City Council and Parks & Rec,</p> <p>I'm writing to request that you provide adequate time to assess the PROS plan that is up for vote tonight. I understand that this is a significant proposal that will have impact for decades to come, and it feels like the decision is being rushed with not enough time to make an informed decision. Given the very recent availability of the very long proposal, the community members have not been given nearly enough time to read it and share their thoughts and concerns with the decisionmakers. I'm deeply concerned about the safety aspect. I am a homeowner on Carlmont Drive, and I live very close to the open space. I purchased my home 8 years ago and expected that my small children would have a safe place here to ride their bikes on the street and hike peacefully on the trails. Instead, I'm too afraid to allow them to do these things due to the traffic and the fast bike riders on many of the trails. I understand that the proposal may bring an increase to traffic and may encourage more dangerous use of trails -- and I would like to see those concerns addressed.</p> <p>Thank you, Sherry Johnson</p>	<p>Sherry Johnson</p>
<p>7/22/2022</p>	<p>Dear Belmont City Council members,</p> <p>As a resident of Belmont (1100 Live Oak Way) and a frequent visitor (2x to 3x per week) to the Waterdog open space, I would like to express my sincere and strong support for the Open Space Master Plan (PROS plan) that was presented by the Parks & Recreation department (and their outside consultants) to the City Council at your last meeting.</p> <p>Before I begin to discuss why I support the open space plan, I'll share some of my stats. I'm a 58 year old male who has used running as a form of recreation and exercise and who has been riding mountain bikes in the Bay Area for the past 20 years. I've run the NYC marathon 5 times and the LA marathon 1 time, so I suppose it's more than just a hobby. I'm a college educated professional with a Master's degree in Curriculum & Instructions (I taught high school mathematics in Wisconsin for 10 years) and have an MBA (currently work in finance at a cyber security company based in Sunnyvale).</p> <p>I've lived in Belmont for over 3 years and have been a frequent visitor to the Waterdog open space over the past 20 years. During this time, I've been a hiker, runner and mountain biker on the fire roads and single track trails. I've seen numerous junior high and high school kids riding the trails. It is great to see these kids choosing a recreational option that is something they will be able to do well into their 60s (I'm hoping even later for me :-)) while also having a group experience. It's been great to see. I've also had the opportunity to ride with a group of guys all in the 70s.</p> <p>I'd like to address some of the concerns that others have expressed in opposition to the Open Space Master Plan as it relates to the riding of mountain bikes in Waterdog. The bikes are scaring away the wildlife: In the past month, I've seen multiple deer grazing on the side of the trails, had a fawn run up a fireroad some 20 feet in front of me (we were both very surprised to see each other), had a baby quail literally run between the two wheels on my bike (again, we were both very surprised by this) and have seen numerous cottontail rabbits, quail and lizards (if that is what they are) dart across the trail. Earlier in the year, my friends and I came across a rattlesnake in the sun at the top of the 18 switchbacks, fortunately the snake moved on without any issues.</p> <p>Speed. Technology these days can tell us a lot of things. My normal ride is 8 miles. Over the course of these miles I climb 1,300 feet. I find the challenge to be a great workout. One of the concerns being expressed is excessive speed by mountain bikers. I'd like to point out a couple of things. First, according to my garmin watch, my average moving speed during my 8 mile ride is 6 mph. The single track trails are very windy, which reduces speed and the hills...well, they are steep in several places, again reducing speed. Second, I am able to ride faster on the fire roads, taking into account other traffic (hikers, bikers and other mountain bikers). The opposition is asking that the mountain bikes be only allowed to ride the fire roads, but that is where bikes would be going the fastest...not to mention, the variety is in the single tracks.</p> <p>Other users. I encounter other users of the park every time I'm in the park on my mountain bike. All users have been very courteous and careful to respect each other. I follow the rules of engagement, which is that bikers yield to hikers and runners and downhill riders yield to uphill riders. I've never had an incident or even a complaint leveled at me. The only issue I've ever had has been a hiker with a german sheppard. This dog is terrified of bikes and has tried to attack me a few times. I don't see this as the dog's fault, but the fault of the dog's owner who knows of their dog's fear of bikes. Fortunately, I was never injured and it's been a while since I've seen the woman and her dog on the trails. All bikes should be banned because I had an incident. Although the inconsiderate ones are very few, I'm sure something has happened along the way. That said, there are also very bad drivers on the freeways and streets of Belmont, and yet we do not ban all cars. I see no difference here. All parties can co-exist on the Waterdog trails if proper etiquette is followed, don't blame everyone for the bad behavior of a very small minority. Given the years and years of riding that has been happening on Waterdog's trails, I would like to see a police (or maybe it's fire) department report of the number of reported injuries/collisions within the park that has occurred due to an encounter with a mountain bike. I've not heard of any, but if the data exists, it would be good to know</p> <p>I attended several of the virtual meetings that were held by the Parks & Recreation department over the past 18 months. I believe the work that was done by P&R and their outside consultants was very complete and they heard from the public (including the opposition) several times during the process. The same people who have stated that they only just learned about the plans or haven't been able to express their concerns have been speaking at these public meetings.</p> <p>I've enjoyed the trail variety, the vertical nature of the park, and the uniqueness of this great recreational areas surrounded by the Belmont community. Waterdog has been successfully managed as a multi-use trail system for decades. This special park should continue to be available for all users who have been able to co-exist within the ecosystem of the park.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and I welcome any questions.</p> <p>Regards, Peter</p>	<p>Peter Salkowski</p>

<p>7/24/2022</p>	<p>Dear City Council and PROS Committee,</p> <p>I am a long-time Belmont resident, and I would like to see City Council adopt the PROS plan at an upcoming meeting. I understand the July 26 meeting agenda item has been deferred again which is unfortunate. A plan delayed is a plan denied.</p> <p>The draft PROS plan provides a great framework for our parks and open space policies. The Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants have taken the time to get it right with many meetings, community input opportunity, and professional advisement. I am completely satisfied with how the process has played out. The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. 18 months has been more than enough time to come up with this framework, and it leaves the door open for the community to tackle specific issues together later on down the road.</p> <p>I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move on, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center and other pressing priorities.</p> <p>Brian Bishop Belmont, CA</p>	<p>Brian Bishop</p>
<p>7/25/2022</p>	<p>Dear City Council and Parks and Rec Commissioners,</p> <p>I have attended every P&R and PROS meeting regarding the OSMP for the past 2 years and my observations should be of interest to all of you elected officials that represent us.</p> <p>The Developed Park Specific plans were discussed thoroughly and in depth with focus groups that involved each community for the past 18 months (kudos where kudos are due). For the past 18 months, I have participated in some of the Park Specific plans including my own Hallmark Park where the major resident theme was clearly: Let the NATURAL beauty flourish with the least amount of development and man-made amenities added to our local parks.</p> <p>However, the Open Space portion of the OSMP was crammed into a very short process (3 months) with an appearance of attempting to sweep the illegal issues that have dominated our Open Space for the past 30+ years under the rug yet again. I patiently waited 15 months for the outsourced OSMP consultants' reports that were finally hurriedly presented in March, 2022 with no specifics. At that time the WRA assessment was not even available, and the PROS advisory meeting had nothing to review. I subsequently sent several emails to all the P&R entities contradicting their vague and incomplete assessments. I commented on them at every public comment meeting after the March 5 initial assessment, obviously to no avail, because when the 136 page Final draft was released on July 6, I realized that no comments were incorporated – the draft was exactly as the original. I could see that P&R commissioners struggled at the July 6 meeting to approve this plan, most of them not having read it entirely. They finally approved sending this incomplete and inaccurate outsourced plan with vague "amendment recommendations" to CC on July 12.</p> <p>I am coming to you, City Council with the same issues I diligently presented to the entire PR team. You are the ultimate authority for the City of Belmont to argue against the powerful biker lobby (mostly non residents) that have illegally taken over Waterdog for the past 20+ years by their own admission; bikers being allowed on ALL trails instead of the multi-use designated trails as designated in the 1992 plan (https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/city-policies-ignored-1), bikers being allowed to build illegal trails anywhere in the Open Space with no City authorization or geological safety trail assessments (https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/brooks-contract-violated) and bikers illegally using E-bikes already on Waterdog trails for many years (https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/ebike-speeding).</p> <p>Nearly 2 years ago, I personally presented my carefully researched John Brooks Preserve PP to Brigitte to highlight the illegal Soho trail violations including violations of the 1977 donation contract to the City. At that time, Brigitte told me, she was the "new sheriff in town" which gave me hope because all this illegal activity was done before her watch. But to date, none of the three issues I mentioned above have been properly addressed and in particular, this illegal trail in the JB Preserve is audaciously being considered as a one way downhill slalom bike trail.</p> <p>I always use my precious 2-3 minute public comment time to address the relevant concerns and issues while bikers use their time to continually reiterate the same obsequious comments arguing that ALL trails should be multi-use; never even considering the safety, habitat and environmental damages that have occurred from their constant use. Two of the leading local biker advocates (Thaddeus Block & Kevin Sullivan) were actually Belmont Park and Rec commissioners during the time when all this illegal activity occurred. Ad nauseam, they repeat that because they help maintain the trails, they should have access to ALL trails. They fail to mention that they have been the ones building all the illegal trails for their own enjoyment and entertainment because no other local parks allow it. (This begs another question; why is Belmont one of only 2 Open Spaces in the entire Peninsula allowing it?) How is volunteering to clean up the trails they damaged and building illegal trails without authorization justify their reasoning? One of my neighbors even asked if "Belmont gets kickbacks from outsiders"!</p> <p>As elected representatives to our City of Belmont, we residents expect you to address taxpayers' concerns and issues before catering to the powerful non-resident biking lobby. Contrary to biker "fake news", residents do not want to ban bikes from Waterdog and residents do agree with equitable use for all and inclusiveness from all over the Bay Area. But the pendulum has swung too far in the wrong direction and now residents need safety on narrow trails for hikers only, residents need illegal trails such as Soho trail (Labor of Love) closed and E-bikes banned except on Lake road for transit connectivity.</p> <p>In a time where citizens have the lowest confidence in our government, now is the time for you as elected officials of Belmont to step up, spend the time on the proper process and address these important issues to regain credibility and transparency among your constituents. I trust you will.</p> <p>Jennifer Lien Belmont</p> <p>P. S. I have just received notification that the OSMP discussion will be delayed until September. This will allow you time to properly craft a Master Plan that takes community resident feedback into consideration. I urge you to keep this email in mind when you restart the process in early September. Thank you.</p>	<p>Jennifer Lien</p>

<p>7/25/2022</p>	<p>[IMAGE]</p> <p>Pedestrians taking evasive action to avoid collision with cyclists on Waterdog Berry Path.</p> <p>Waterdog Open Space Plan (OSMP)</p> <p>(These remarks pertain to the John Brooks Trail and not necessarily to the Waterdog Lake Road Trail. However, it is evident that any plans that include all trails must be complex and not rushed.)</p> <p>Having lived for 44 years in my house on Wakefield Drive bordered by the upper John Brooks Trail, I have observed our serene source of direct communication with the wonders of Nature devolve into a sometimes disturbing conflict between strollers or joggers with one or more bicyclists vying for a position on the trail, especially on narrow or 'blind' portions of the path.</p> <p>I have fond memories of strolling walkers, some with young children or animals in tow, without the interruption of competing bicyclists or occasional powered bicycles. Lately, I see or hear conflicts between hikers and bicyclists because two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Currently, the strollers, children and animals (sometimes perilously) are required to step off the trail to allow the bicyclists to pass.</p> <p>Having trained locally for 6 months to walk in the Anchorage Midnight Sun 26.2-mile marathon in the past, I am familiar with most local trails--some can easily and safely accommodate hikers, joggers and bicyclists, some cannot safely. For example, the nearby six-mile paved Sawyer Camp Trail was designed and built to safely allow foot and bike traffic, the John Brooks Trail, mostly dirt along perilous precipices, was designed for walking or jogging, not to commingle both foot and bicycle traffic.</p> <p>I urge you not to despoil our precious Water Dog John Brooks Trail and nature preserve (designed for us as our access to immerse ourselves in the wonders of Mother Nature) by designing it to also become a bicycle path in opposition to its original intention by our wise City officials 50 years ago. Perhaps the bicyclists can use the Waterdog Lake Road Trail or the Sawyer Camp Trail, nearby and designed for multi-use. Both of these alternatives are safer for our citizens and minimize costly civil damage claims.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Joseph A. Brennan Belmont, CA 94002-2935</p>	<p>Joseph A. Brennan</p>
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Duplicate emails received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com		
<p>I am writing today in support of the proposed Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Management Plan. I support multi-use trail recreation, and am happy to see the science-based approach the city has taken with this plan.</p> <p>In particular, I support the Plan's following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continued designation of Waterdog's trails as multi-use - Unofficial legacy trails be officially recognized, and signage added for them - Stream and waterway crossings be improved - Calming features be added to single track trails in order to decrease speeds and increase challenge (fun) for riders - Guidelines on trail maintenance and erosion control and (and look forward to volunteering in the parks for trail work) - New trails be added to the Open Space - A one-year pilot of a Class 1 e-bike policy be performed 		
Date Received	Quantity	Commenter Name
7/12/2022	97	Sandee Sheldon, Michael Jaron, Julian Bill, Chris Hagedorn, Jason Bromfield, Josh Rowe, Norm Fong, Robert Labatt, Daniel Langmaid, Eli Latimerlo, Douglas Campbell, David Skinner, Joe Paluska, Dylan Howes, Rich Schwerin, Nathan Yeakel, Tracy Usher, Chris Wilder, Gerard horan, Gerard horan, Vasisht Raghavendra, Nelson Wong, Luis Vera, Jay Maloney, Jim Van Sickle, Allison Woo, Kevin Schmidt, Allan Lopez, Jaret Butler, Vince L, James Deitrich, Ken Tang, Lars Thomsen, Mike Peng, Trent Poltronetti, Peter Tsang, No Name, Rix Liu, Ray Alvarez, Joseph Corbin, Lindsey West, Katy Poniatowski, Chris Ligtenberg, RJ Ligtenberg, Steve Braat, RJ Ligtenberg, Jason Woo, Roger Howe, Ron Cheechov, Davide Mazza, Jason Blodgett, Christophe Juncker, Greg Gavalakis, Brian Donnellan, Rich sequeira, Astrid Johanson Block, Olli Blackburn, Chris Ligtenberg, Gareth Stamp, Frank Babbitt, Ishaan Nerurkar, Soumya G B, Nicolas Olivares, Devin Sezgen, Lawrence Shubert, John Dougery, Tom Sharp, Tammy Estes, Jim Tay, Line (Lynn) Moisan, Amit Pandey, Jamie Hoffacker, Ethan Benton, John Stuart, Jeff Jonah, Josh Rowe, Basil Moutsopoulos, Chris Kujat, Robert Beckman, Bruce Storms, Ernie Cusi, Pierre-xavier Thomas, Mike Timpano, Christophe Muller, Jerry Fan, Jonathan Garzon, Brett Villagrand, Jim Van Sickle, Allan Lopez, Jaret Butler, Mike Peng, Peter Tsang, Lindsey West, Chris Ligtenberg, Christophe Junker, Katie Cromie, Atrid Block, Michael Riddel, Brent Blanchard
7/13/2022	12	Thomas Cottereau, Paul Teyssier, Julien Salanon, Brian Long, Michael Jaron, Jason Bromfield, Mitch Barrie, Travis Robertson, Chris Ligtenberg, Derek Loh, Kurin Tu, Rian Hart
July 2022	109	Duplicate Emails Received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

Duplicate emails received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com		
<p>Dear pros plan team,</p> <p>As a Belmont resident, I've been following the PROS plan evolve over the last 18 months. The current draft PROS plan provides in my opinion a great framework for our parks and open space policies. I would like to see City Counsel adopt the PROS plan at its upcoming July 26 meeting.</p> <p>I would like to share my thanks to the Parks staff, Parks and Rec Commission, and their consultants for taking time to get it right.</p> <p>The City has gone above and beyond to make sure everyone had an opportunity to give input. The framework offers a clear direction to take, while leaving enough options open to tackle specific details together down the road. I would really like to see this plan adopted so the Parks and Rec Department can move on, and get to work on the Barrett Community Center.</p>		
Date Received	Quantity	Commenter Name
7/16/2022	3	Jill Massa, Ralph McNall, Frank Casale
7/17/2022	3	Robert Brouwer, MJ Edwards, Diana Berger,
7/18/2022	1	Robert Brouwer,
July 2022	7	Duplicate Emails Received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com