

1/3/2023	<p>Hi Brigitte,</p> <p>The heavy rains this week led to multiple mudslides and flooding, and it's quite obvious that the open space trails are dangerous in these wet conditions. Further, even bikers acknowledge that they should not be riding on muddy trails as it damages the surface and leads to channeling of water that further erodes trails. Yet by noon on Sunday - 12 hours after record rains and flooding - the bikers were back in number, entering the trail system at the Hallmark Parklet - an unauthorized entrance.</p> <p>2 weeks ago I sent video of numerous bikers entering via this unauthorized trail and even falling on the steep and muddy surface. On Sunday Jan 1 - hours after flooding and landslides, I took this video and photo of a parent who dropped off a teen to ride alone, knowing the trails were flooded and in places simply gone. Many others entered throughout the day. The fact that the City posted trail closure at other sanctioned entrances only drove bikers (no hikers) to this unsanctioned entrance in larger numbers. The lack of clear policy and enforcement is damaging our trails and endangering the public. We are in for two more rain events this week. I strongly urge the City to adopt a clear and enforceable policy immediately and to close trails at ALL entrances including the unsanctioned ones.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kristin Mercer</p>	Kristin Mercer
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Duplicate emails received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

Dear Belmont Belmont,

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

Belmont offers many recreational opportunities, but Waterdog is its primary natural open space, and only by prioritizing protection over recreation will we leave future generations of all species the same beautiful and essential wild land we witness today.

While opportunities for outdoor recreation and simply being able to enjoy nature are important, with increasingly little habitat in the Bay Area, this open space is critical for wildlife, and provides an invaluable and much-needed corridor that many species rely on and benefit from.

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

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

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

Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Date Received	Quantity	Commenter Name
1/26/2023	1	Colleen Olson
1/18/2023	1	Teresa Maylone
1/2/2023	1	Michelle Krueger
January 2023	3	Duplicate Emails Received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com