

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Brook Burley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 5:47 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog Recreation Trails

Hello Belmont,

Waterdog was the origin of a great ride tradition where I formed some of the best friendships in my life.

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.

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.

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.

Thank you,

Brook

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Tushar Nair  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 19, 2022 9:44 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Water dog | Support multi-use recreation on all trails

Hello,

As Belmont resident and an avid user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write in support of multi-use recreation of the trails in Water dog. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog. I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree with the draft recommendations published recently with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. I've been hiking and biking in Water dog for over a decade and never felt a situation where trails had to be restricted for enjoying a nice outdoors.

In the decade we have been living in Belmont, we love the city for all it has to offer. I am committed to doing my part to make Water Open Space safe and inclusive to all.

**Please leave all trails in the park open to all users.** I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Best Regards

Tushar

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Joel Wilson · [mailto:joel@belmontprosplan.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 1:48 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space

Dear Belmont City Council and PROS Commission,

I am a frequent user of Waterdog open space, and I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I also support the use of e-bikes there and don't see them as making any impact on the trails or other users due to their quiet operation and very low power compared to a dirt bike.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Joel Wilson

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** susannah pratt <  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 10:22 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog Recreation Trails - support multi-use recreation

Hello,

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.

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.

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.

Thank you,

Susannah Calvin, Belmont residents



## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Jonathan Lamb  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 9:46 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog park

Hello Belmont/Waterdog decision-makers,

Please retain multi-use trails at Waterdog. I have ridden my mountain bike at Waterdog for years. It is truly a great park to ride and wouldn't want it to change in any way, if possible. I know that mountain biking has become more popular in recent years and amidst the pandemic, and this has brought new users to the park, and possibly some riff-raff.

Here is the copy/paste version:

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.

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.

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.

Regards,

Jonathan Lamb

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## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Shelby Gol  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 3:51 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Multi-use open trails

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.

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.

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.

-Shelby Golan

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 12:23 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** I support multi-use recreation on the Waterdog trails

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.

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.

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.

Thank you, Eduardo

Eduardo F. Llach

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Lindsay Helmuth  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 9:15 AM  
**To:** info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog

Hello,

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.

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.

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.

Thank you

Lindsay

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Peter Coward <  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 1:37 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Recreation at Watedog Open Space

Dear Parks & Recreation Commission,

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.

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.

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.

Thank you very much for your attention in this matter!

Peter

Peter Coward  
10 Mulberry Ct #19  
Belmont, CA 94002

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Chuck Becker -  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 10:38 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog

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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Becker

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Matt Herman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 8:40 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog

Dear Belmont City Council,

As a local who was raised in Belmont (Fox Elementary, Ralston Middle School, Carlmont High School), a current local resident in neighboring San Carlos and as a lifetime time user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I was first introduced to Waterdog open space by my parents in the mid-1970s as we would enjoy weekly family hikes. As I grew older, I started riding the Waterdog trails and have enjoyed them for over 30 years! I am now a father and enjoy the same hiking and riding with my own family that I grew to love over the years. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been for as long as I can remember!

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.

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.

Regards,

Matt Herman

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Justin Carr  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 6:43 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog Open Space Access

Hello,

I am writing in support of multi-use recreation on the trails at the Waterdog open space. The trail system was built, and continues to be maintained, by the entire community. All trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. The singular group that is trying to change and remove access to the park for a much broader segment of multiple user groups is a niche segment of the community that does not represent the actual diverse population of Belmont and the broader population that enjoys Waterdog. Please keep this in mind when making a decision that could potentially prevent children, adults and families from enjoying this park as they have been, for generations to come.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

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.

Thanks,

Justin Carr



## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Mike Barad  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 8:49 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Cc:** info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog

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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,  
Mike Barad

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Devin Sezgen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 12:11 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog Recreation Trails

To Belmont City Council,

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.

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.

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.

Best,  
Devin Sezgen

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Miro Miklos  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 9:18 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Recreation at Waterdog

Hello,

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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Miro Miklos

San Carlos Resident

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Chris Strahorn  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 3:35 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** I support multi-use recreation on the trails at Waterdog

To whom it may concern,

As a local resident and frequent user of the Waterdog open space, I strongly support multi-use recreation on the trails there.

The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all the trails should continue to be available for hikers, dog walkers, and cyclists to enjoy equally.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exception that I am opposed to any trail closures and to the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.

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.

Thanks,

Chris Strahorn

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** David Johnson <dm>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 12:52 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog Multi-Use Park Support

Dear Community Officials,

I bike in Waterdog park approximately three days a week year around. It is an amazing multi-use park that needs to remain accessible to all. I wear bells on my bikes and always yield to others on the trails and have had no issues with walkers, runners, etc. I've found people to be very hospitable, especially when bikers are careful and thoughtful like most are.

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.

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.

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.

Kind regards,  
David Johnson

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Ryan Fell <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 10:27 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** I support continued multiuse recreation on all trails in Waterdog

I regularly use Waterdog open space, so wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

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.

Specifics to your draft recommendations:

- I do not support the restriction to hiking only on Ensatina Trail, the low hanging tree cover is a uniquely beautiful charm that my soul loves. I choose to enjoy while riding my bike, and would deeply like to continue to use this trail.
- I do not support changing Labor of Love into a bike only trail, it too has a really fun, low tree cover, but mainly oak trees that I love. Please leave this open to all users. *I do support making this trail one-direction only.*

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.

Best regards,

Ryan

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Thad Trent  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 9:56 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog

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.

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.

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.

Thanks,

Thad

**Brigitte Shearer**

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**From:** Jamie Morgan  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 9:16 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** I support WDOSS recommendations for Waterdog and San Juan canyon

Council Members,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

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.

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.

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Jamie Morgan



## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Matt Leonard  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 7:19 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog PROS

I'm hoping to attend the open house this evening at Waterdog/Hidden Canyon. However, if I don't get a chance to speak, I want to get some of my thoughts out in advance.

I've been enjoying Waterdog for close to 20 years, and a resident of San Mateo for a little over 10 years. In those 20 years, I've worked with Charles Jalgunas and Patti Ciesla (formerly of Passion Trail Bikes) and now the Trail Stewards of Waterdog during many trailwork days. One of the projects I'm most proud of is helping Patti construct the new lake loop trail, bringing my son on several occasions when he was maybe 3-5 years old. He's 14 now, and just finished his freshman year at Serra HS.

During the pandemic, we got much more involved in mountain biking as a safe, social outdoor activity and found the Woodside Beasts. What we found with the Woodside Beasts was such a welcoming group who are passionate about the outdoors. Kids of all types and abilities are welcomed with open arms and provided the opportunity to enjoy many of the parks and open spaces in the Bay Area, incentivizing them to get outside and off of their devices. For me, this was so important during the pandemic, and will continue to be a great life lesson moving forward.

Sadly, it appears there are a small, very vocal minority that are trying to limit access to trails for cycling in Waterdog. I've seen first hand how these teens and pre-teens have fallen in love with being outside, meeting new friends, and learning new life skills (first aid, trail maintenance, philanthropy, civic duty, etc.). However, there are people in our community that brand these kids as criminals or outlaws, and portray them in a negative light. That message can't be further from the truth. What infuriates me is that during a trail maintenance day, working alongside the Belmont Parks and Rec, the neighbors called the police on us (and the kids). It was so frustrating trying to explain to my son why the police were questioning the work we were doing, and that it was approved by the city.

How can the city help change the neighborhood's perception of these young kids? They spend countless hours working to maintain trail systems and better communities from San Francisco down to Santa Cruz, only to be told they aren't welcome and are often scolded on the same trails they help maintain.

Please keep Waterdog open to all users. It's such a beautiful space that should remain accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Kind regards,  
Matt Leonard

32 San Miguel way  
San Mateo, CA 94403

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Karen Moody  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 7:03 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog open space

As a resident of Belmont living in the Belmont Heights neighborhood and frequent user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I regularly hike, bird watch and explore nature in the Waterdog OS and occasionally bike the trails. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available to enjoy, as they always have been.

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.

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.

Regards,

Karen Moody

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Chris Miller ·  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 4:52 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: Waterdog Open Space

I am reaching out to you as an avid user of the Waterdog open space area. I'd like to share my position to continue to support the multi-use recreation for all of the trails for all types of users to enjoy. I am also an advocate for the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and appreciate the policies that have been established for the well being of this area and the community.

I ask that you please reconsider the proposal of certain trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails included in the open space. I would very much like to see this trail system, that was built and is being maintained by the community, remain open on a fully inclusive basis for all hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy.

I look forward to enjoying this open space with all of my various community members for many years to come.

Respectfully,

Chris Miller

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Rob Anagnoson  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 9:02 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Multi-use Plan for the Belmont Open Space

Dear Belmont City Council,

As a weekly user of Belmont's open space at Waterdog Lake and San Juan Canyon, 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.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft Recreation Use Assessment released by the Belmont PROS Commission is what the community is asking for, with a few exceptions. In particular, the single-use designation of two trails in the open space seems opposed to the community-building that Waterdog has always provided. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. However, designation of some trails as directional may help reduce conflicts.

Additionally, I oppose the elimination of "redundant trail segments." Not only do minor alternatives provide for a more varied experience by frequent users such as myself, but the additional trail space reduces the possibility of conflict by spreading out users more.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Belmont; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails designated for single-use, and leave them open to all users. I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,  
Rob Anagnoson

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Mike Munrow  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 7:55 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com; City Council  
**Subject:** Comments on Draft Report

Dear Belmont City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and PROS committee

I am a resident of Belmont for over 30 years, and have enjoyed the Belmont Open Spaces over all of that time. Hiking, Running, and Biking in those spaces has been an incredible experience for me. Over those years, I believe the conditions of Waterdog Open Space have improved greatly. I have been attending Parks and Recreation Commission meetings for the past couple of years, and have heard all the arguments over and over again.

With the publication of the Draft Report, we have an unbiased appraisal of the condition of the Open Spaces and some recommendations for improvement going forward. This document, along with the results of the survey taken earlier in the planning process, and the results of the past city council election all point to the following conclusions:

- The open spaces are in very good condition, though there is room for improvement
- Wildlife are generally in good condition in the open spaces
- People really enjoy the opportunity to make use of the open space
- Restrictions on biking in the open spaces are opposed by a large majority of the public (data from the survey and results of the last city council election)
- Trails should be multi-use and we should encourage all to use the resources

Some improvements mentioned in the Draft Report, including closure of the highly eroded "fall line" section on Rambler, and improving the riparian crossings with bridges, make a lot of sense to me. I hope that they will be implemented.

I was heartened to hear several Park and Recreation Commissioners voice support for keeping the trails multi-use. This seems very much in line with the values of the Belmont community. The draft report does endorse making one trail one-way bike only and one trail hiking only. I think this is a recommendation that **should not** be implemented. Starting to designate trails as accessible to one group and not another is counter to the inclusiveness we strive to maintain in Belmont. Also, once this president is set, I can imagine a never-ending series of calls for evermore restrictive policies in the future. While this suggestion may appear to be a fair one-for-one trade, I do believe it would be a mistake to implement it.

There was also a vague recommendation to close "redundant" trails. I'm not sure this is a good idea either. In some instances having more than one way to walk or bike may enhance the experience for all. We will see different things on different trails, and spreading out the users over more trails can make the trip more enjoyable for all.

There has been a lot of work done to get to where we are today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parks and Recreation Commissioners for their service to the community. I am hopeful that we can come away with a Master Plan that will continue to keep the Open Spaces great places for everyone to enjoy over the coming years.

Respectfully,  
Michael Munrow

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Sally Schroeter  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 6:39 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Support for multi-use trails at Waterdog

Hello,

I lived in Belmont for many years and enjoyed hiking and biking in Waterdog park and continue to do so. It's great fun to go for a ride there and then have dinner at the Waterdog Tavern afterwards. I have also been involved with trail maintenance there starting in 2005.

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, including me, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for everyone to enjoy as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

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.

Thank you for your time and effort and support for trail use at Waterdog!

Best regards,  
Sally Schroeter

## Brigitte Shearer

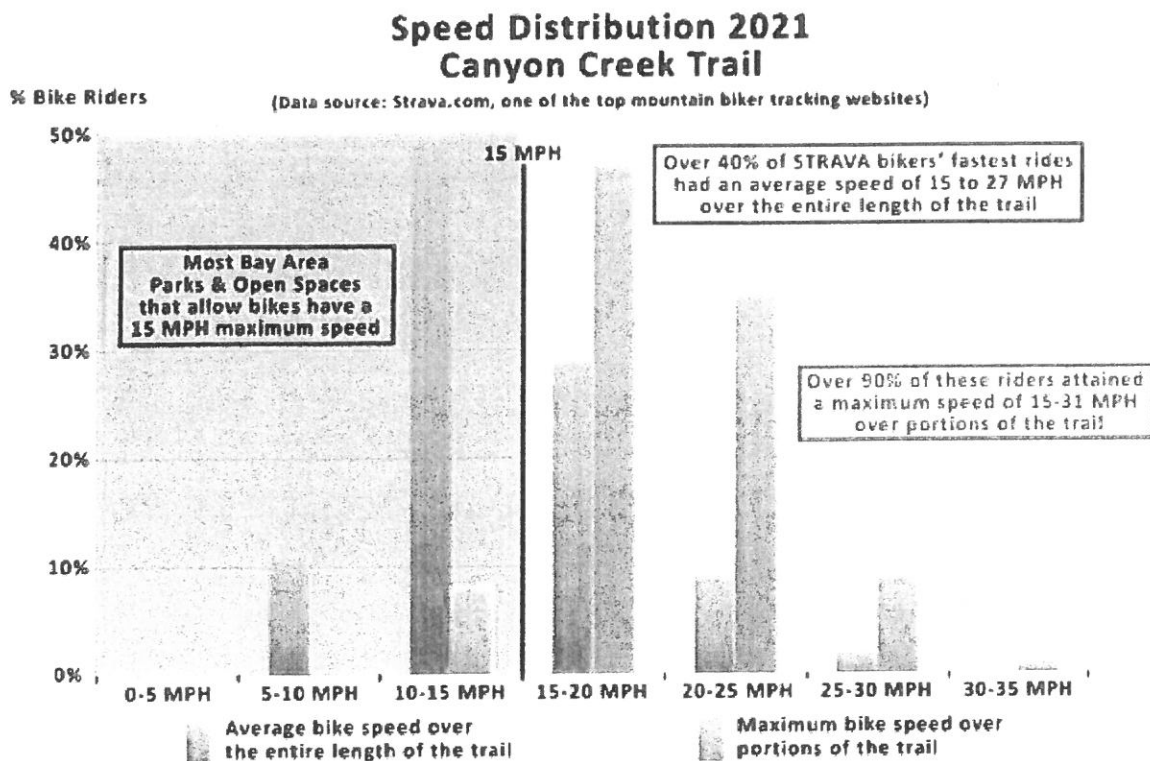
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**From:**  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Brigitte Shearer; John Baas; info@belmontprosplan.com; P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Feedback - WRA Recreational Assessment

Hi Robin and John (please forward this email to Robin),

1. I couldn't *agree* more with WRA assessments that visitors to San Mateo County parks as well as Belmont Open Spaces reported walking/hiking and running are the predominant reasons for their visits while a much smaller proportion reported biking as their reason. This clearly indicates that OSMP should be focusing more on Pedestrians than currently is the case and WRA's recommendation to "**designate trails as single use to improve feelings of safety by increasing predictability by allowing activity type**" should be implemented. All visitors can share all trails but bike speeding is not appropriate use on **narrow** trails which should be reserved for purposes of "exercising, communing with nature and experiencing peace and quiet" No amount of passive bells, loaner bells, proper etiquette and signage will improve the pedestrian safety when mountain bikes speed past at **30 mph** and take away from the natural experience of peace and quiet and improvement of mental well-being.

Just on Canyon Creek alone, over 40% of Strava bikers report an average speed of 15-27mph on the entire trail while over 90% report maximum speeds up to **30 mph** on portions of the trail putting pedestrian safety at risk with absolutely no peace or quiet.



2. I vehemently *disagree* with designating Soho (labour of love), a previously unmapped trail as a one way bike trail. This is legally in **flagrant violation of the John Brooks Preserve donation contract to preserve it in its natural state**. For WRA to recommend that this unauthorized, unmapped trail be legalized for bikers only (no hikers) is a contradiction to their recommendation that previously unmapped trails (which have the highest number of categories of erosion) should be decommissioned or closed. Bikers want this trail as a one way downhill trail for **speed racing**, an active and competitive sport; hardly passive recreation. It sets a very bad precedent for allowing bikers to continue to build illegal, unmapped trails in anticipation they will be approved in the future. **The Soho trail should be decommissioned and closed.**

3. I *agree* that Waterdog has the highest trail density per acre at .04 miles per acre for both mapped and unmapped trails. It has 2.5 times the trail density of other local comparable small preserves which contributes to erosion, fragmented habitat and disruption of wildlife. **Waterdog is already overbuilt with mapped and unmapped trails.**

4. I *agree* with the use of **remote motion activated cameras** for gathering more data and information regarding pedestrian and cyclist activities, monitoring wildlife and monitoring a **maximum 15 mph speed limit** for cyclists. This additional data will be helpful in providing missing information to P&R for a complete analysis of the Open Spaces.

5. I *disagree* with E-bike approval for Waterdog as WRA failed to acknowledge that different classes of E-bikes are visually impossible to distinguish: therefore allowing Class 1 E-bikes means allowing ALL classes of E-bikes. The higher classes have larger, heavier motors and wider tires that will damage trails as their report clearly states that "motorized trails experience most soil loss and erosion". **There is no need to authorize E-bikes when they currently already violate our open spaces!**

6. I *agree* with **passive recreation ideas** such as P&R sponsored nature photography contests (particularly for kids), nature-led walks identifying vegetation and wildlife and weekly hiking trips by trail; all are ideas that support the predominant reasons why visitors visit our Open Spaces.

Thank you for your attention.

Jennifer Lien  
Belmont



## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Peter Salkowski ·  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 3:18 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Recreation Use Assessment - Belmont Open Space

Belmont City Council,

As a regular user of the Waterdog open space for the past 3 years (and an occasional user of the park for the 15+ years before that), I am writing to express my support for the multi-use recreation on the trails within the park. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails within the park should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I am an avid mountain biker, runner and occasional hiker of the Waterdog trails. I've found the park to be a gem that is enjoyed by all uses. In addition, my interactions with other park users have always been friendly, courteous and enjoyable. If followed, the standard rules of conduct that already exist for bikers, runners, hikers and dog walkers are sufficient to allow all user groups to enjoy the park to its fullest extent.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All trails should be open to 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 on the two trails that are designated for single use. I believe that data will show that these trails should remain open to all users.

I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Regards,

Peter Salkowski  
1100 Live Oak Way, Unit 1101, Belmont, CA

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Nolan Nichols ·  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 11:31 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Support For Multi-use Recreation

Dear Belmont City Council,

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.

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.

On a personal note, my 65 year old father and I (39) have greatly enjoyed riding e-mountain bikes (eMTB) at Waterdog. Waterdog is one of the only parks on the mid-peninsula that allows eMTBs and it is a game changer for my dad who can ride single track again. Being able to relive the nostalgia of my childhood by riding bikes with my dad is truly special, and I have Waterdog's support for multi-use recreation to thank for that.

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.

Sincerely,

Nolan Nichols

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B. Nolan Nichols III, Ph.D  
Data Platform Lead  
Maze Therapeutics

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Ryan Kauffman < >  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 10:20 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Bikes in WaterDog

Hello,

Please maintain access to waterdog for cyclists. These trails are well built, have a ton of amazing history, and enable low-cost recreation for anyone with shoes or a bicycle. Belmont should expand and embrace this regional gem.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan Kauffman  
20+ year user of WaterDog (arriving by bike, not car)  
San Carlos Resident

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Bob Estes ·  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 8:51 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog recreation plan

I've been biking and hiking at Waterdog park for 15 years and have always been impressed by how well everyone gets along. I wish there were more such areas in the Bay Area.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space.

Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

- Bob Estes

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Chuck Spiteri >  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 5:56 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; Ice Kathy Spiteri; Ice Frank Spiteri  
**Subject:** Waterdog trail space

I'm a 63-year-old Mountain Biker/Hiker born and raised in the area. My wife and I, our children, and our grandchild have been using the Waterdog open space for over 40 years. I support the multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I'm seeing better communication than ever between Hikers and Mountain Bikers on the trails.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. All the trails should be available for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision-making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

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.

Regards,  
*Chuck Spiteri*

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Brian Bishop  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 11, 2022 4:14 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; Belmontprosplan Info  
**Subject:** Waterdog PROS Recommendation

Dear Belmont City Council,

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.

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.

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.

Brian Bishop

Belmont CA

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Fabio Mincone  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 11, 2022 1:45 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** About WATERDOG

Hello team!

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.

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.**

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.

Thanks and best regards :)

Fabio





## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** r b ·  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 11, 2022 7:41 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Water dog plan

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.

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.

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.

Russell

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Ryan Hollowell  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 9:05 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog multi use recreation support

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.

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.

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.

-Ryan Hollowell

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** MICHAEL WRIGHT  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 6:55 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog open space use

Hi all,

For the past 15 years my wife and I have enjoyed Waterdog for both hiking and mountain biking. We consistently go hiking there together every week or two, and I have biked there once or twice a week until I retired three years ago, and now I bike at Waterdog three times a week.

I strongly support multi-use access to all the trails, in particular Ensatina and Labor of Love.

These trails both provide unique challenges and joys for both hikers and bikers. I've never had a moment of "conflict" on the Labor of Love trail, either with another biker or with a hiker.

I have had moments on the Ensatina trail where I had to yield the right-of-way to an uphill biker, or, as a biker, to a hiker going either direction. In all my interactions on Ensatina, there has never been an uncomfortable moment—I cheerfully and insistently give the right-of-way to all hikers, always encourage them to have a "great hike", and frequently offer advise on route selection (as someone who has been in Waterdog probably almost 2000 times!).

I personally see no reason not to keep all trails open to all users. It is true that in our use over 15 years that I have had maybe 4 moments (either as a hiker or a biker) where I felt uncomfortable by the behavior of a mountain biker. Things being what they are, I've had at least as many moments where I felt that hikers were discourteous or acted in an unsafe manner. In maybe 2000 times using the resource, this is pretty negligible.

I feel that if anything should be done to make Waterdog more enjoyably and safely usable for all users, it should be an education campaign. The existing signage is useful, but could be made more explicit with regards to right-of-way and suggestions for courteous behavior. I truly think that this would almost completely solve any issues that come from multi-use, and would leave all the trails open to all users.

Thanks you,

Mike Wright

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Nicolas Olivares  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 5:05 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog park

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, and bikers, as they always have been. I think that further enforcement of on-leash laws is needed for dog walkers.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. I also agree with allowing e-bikes, as they are limited as to speed and generally do not go any faster than normal bikes.

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.

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Rob Labatt  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 4:45 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Supporting Waterdog multi-use trailers forever

Hello,

As a hiker, dog owner and mountain biker my family and I love and use the Waterdog open space area several times a week.

I am writing to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Rob

Robert Labatt

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Tom < >  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 4:37 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Cc:** info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog trail use

Hello. For the past 30 years or so, I've been a user of the Waterdog open space, and I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community (including by myself in years past), and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. I do oppose the use of e-bikes, as those are more like motorcycles, and do not fit into the people-powered ethos of waterdog, IMO

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—Tom S, San Carlos CA

Sent from my iPhone

**Brigitte Shearer**

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**From:** Brian Stevenson  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 3:29 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Please Keep Waterdog open for multi-use on all existing trails

As a user of the Waterdog open space for the past 20 years, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. I enjoy both biking and hiking with my family and our dog in this park and feel this is a place where we can all enjoy the various recreational opportunities the park has to offer.

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.

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.

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Brian Stevenson  
San Mateo County Resident  
10 Kings Canyon Way,  
Pacifica, CA 94044

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Jill <  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 3:26 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Feedback on Waterdog Open Space

Hi,

I live in Emerald Hills and have been involved with trail building (Lake Loop trail) as well as routine trail maintenance at Waterdog over many years (I started mountain biking at Waterdog in 2006). As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community - me personally included, and I strongly believe that all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I am both a mountain biker and a hiker and I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails, and leave them open to all users.

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.

Thank you for your time and effort and support of trail use at Waterdog!

Best regards,

Jill Henrich



## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Nigel Ray  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 3:09 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Community input on draft recommendations

Dear Belmont City Council,

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. My son and I have both worked on maintaining and improving trails in waterdog (at organized trail work days). The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

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.

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.

Best,

Nigel Ray

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Mark & Marie Lefebvre  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 3:05 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Water Dog

Hi

As a user of the Waterdog open space, (mostly enjoying the space as a responsible mountain biker) I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

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.

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.

Regards,  
Mark Lefebvre  
Redwood City, CA

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** michael schocket  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 2:52 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** open space support

As a user of the Waterdog open space for the past three (decades), I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been. While the population has grown over the last few decades the open space has also improved with workers with Passion Trail bikes (Charles ) to help fund, maintain, and build trails for all.

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.

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.

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Sam Chao  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 2:28 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Waterdog Use

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.

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.

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.

Regards,

Sam Chao

Coronet Blvd., Belmont Resident

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Scott Hill <  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 2:24 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Draft Recreation Use Assessment Feedback

I've read the recently released draft Recreation Use Assessment, and wanted to thank you all for the thoughtful approach to these recommendations. I'm a member of the Waterdog Open Space Stewards and agree with their positions on the recommendations in this draft posted at <https://waterdogstewards.com/articles/update-on-recreation-at-waterdog>.

I'm a frequent user of the park, and volunteered when many of the trails we enjoy there were being built. I'm thrilled at the recommendation to officially recognize the trails that are currently not on the maps, but are well-built and enhance the open space. I also support the erosion remediation recommendations.

I also support the WDOSS position that the trails at Waterdog should remain open (there are no redundant trails!) and multi-use. Waterdog has a wonderful community, and we should continue to embrace and foster it!

Thanks again for your patience and thoughtfulness in this process. I know that the vocal minority who want to shut users out of Waterdog have been loud, and I'm happy to see that they have largely been unsuccessful in their hateful campaign here and at the Cross Country Course.

--Scott

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Chad Lencioni  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 2:20 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog

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.

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.

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.

Lencioni Construction Inc. | 1600 El Camino Real, San Carlos, CA |  
[www.lencioniconstruction.com](http://www.lencioniconstruction.com)

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Norman Fong  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 2:18 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog

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.

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.

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.

Thanks,  
Norman

Save with the BuyVia App  
<https://bit.ly/buyvia-app>

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Rich Schwerin  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 2:09 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Thank you for supporting Waterdog multi-use recreation

As a user of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write **this email in support of 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. Years ago, I personally worked on building the (still feels "new" to me) Lake Loop Trail, as a volunteer, and it gives me pride to ride that trail.

Please note that **I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and I agree that the draft recommendations published recently.** These recommendations are mostly 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 strongly 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-informed decision making to these two trails, and **leave them open to all users.** I look forward to Belmont having a fully inclusive recreation plan for Waterdog that will keep it a great place for all users to enjoy for years to come.

Sincerely,  
Rich

Rich Schwerin  
Shelford Avenue  
San Carlos



## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Lorna Stucky  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 2:04 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Cc:** Lorna Stucky; Lora Stucky; Linda Stucky; paul Bradicich  
**Subject:** Keep Water Dog Park Open For All Users

Dear Belmont City Council,

We are the Stucky family and we live next to Water Dog Park. We enjoy walking with the kids and grandma, running, biking and strolling with our puppy Emil. As users of the Waterdog open space, I wanted to write to support multi-use recreation on the trails there. The trail system was built and is maintained by the community, and all trails there should continue to be available for hikers, bikers, and dog walkers to enjoy, as they always have been.

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.

**Please keep all the trails open for all of us.**

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.

Sincerely, The Stucky Family - Lora, Linda, Lorna, Lyla, Lexy & Paul  
2621 Wakefield Dr  
Belmont CA

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Frank Babbitt  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 1:58 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Another rider for the plan

I have been biking water dog for 26-years and just rode my favorite loop this morning. I strongly support the plan to keep all trails all access, including ebikes as I see the day not far off when I'll have to switch!

Water dog is my favorite place to ride in California. I support the following.

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.

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.

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

**Brigitte Shearer**

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**From:** Max Vaillant  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 1:56 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Keep Water Dog Multi-Use

Hi,

In addition to the template below, I also want to add that mountain biking is a fast growing sport that promotes responsible outdoor use and that the Bay Area as a whole should embrace the recreation desires of its users.

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.

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.

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.

Thanks for your consideration,

Max Vaillant

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Balakrishna Narasimhan ·  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog open space

Hi,

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.

I support the Waterdog Open Space Stewards, and agree that the draft recommendations published recently are what the community is asking for, with the exceptions of any trail closures and the single-use designation of two trails in the open space. I feel that all the trails should be open for all user groups to enjoy. Thank you for using a scientific approach to policy making in Waterdog; please apply the same kind of data-based decision making to these two trails (Ensatina and Labor of Love), and leave them open to all users.

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.

Best,  
Nara Balakrishna

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Bob Stahl ·  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 9:49 AM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Fwd: Water Dog Open Space-Park & Rec recommendations

As a long time Belmont resident, Advisory Committee member, and an individual who hikes the Water Dog trails 200+ days per year, I was very shocked and disappointed that the majority of Park & Rec Commissioners have already stated that they will recommend "multi use" trails in the Water Dog Open Space. This was stated at the Park & Rec meeting last week. I feel this decision does not take into consideration the numerous Belmont residents who feel that the most trails are unsafe due to the preponderance of bikers on narrow trails. It also is in conflict with the recommendation of the WRA report which lists on Table 9 to "Implement single-use and one-way trail segments in areas identified in the Recreation Use Assessment following sufficient public outreach".

The WRA study also states that the trails should be designed and improved to facilitate safe trail use by all visitors. The decision to make all trails multi use violates this WRA recommendation in section P20.

In section P21, WRA states "the City may prohibit certain trail uses or apply increased trail use restrictions within certain areas to enhance safety, minimize conflicts between trail users, and protect natural resources areas". Why can't a certain number of trails be designated for hikers/ walkers only and this be implemented so that hikers do not have to worry about their safety and being run over by bikers? These should be the following trails: Berry, Chaparral, Raccoon Run, Rambler, Ohlone, Canyon Creek and Raccoon Run.

As I stated, I and my wife hike the WD trails 200+ days per year and have done so for many years. We have been nearly hit by bikers 6 times in the last 12 months. The bikers have stated: "show us the statistics of injuries or accidents caused by bikers". Obviously the near misses to me and my wife do not show up in records but I can guarantee you that these near accidents have happened. Many of these near accidents occurred when bikers came around blind curves. They could not see us and we could not see them until the last seconds. We had to jump off the trail to avoid being hit. I must also say that numerous residents we meet walking on Belmont streets will no longer hike the WD trails due to the danger posed by the bikers. Many residents say it is not enjoyable or conducive to a peaceful walk anymore as they have to constantly watch out for bikers.

In the past two years we see less animals(deer, rabbits, quail, etc.) than in the past. Whereas we used to see deer on a weekly basis, we've seen only 3 deer since the beginning of this year.

In addition, many of the trails are damaged by bikers who have worn down the trails and made it so slick it is hard to climb some of the hilly areas. The bikes have also damaged many tree roots.

I must also request that you restrict the use of E bikes on the trails. E bikes go up to 28 MPH. Even Class 1 E bikes go 20 MPH and that can cause a severe injury if someone is hit by an E biker going 20 MPH. E bikes usually are 45-50 pounds and if someone is hit by an E bike at 15-20 MPH, they will be severely injured. Many are designed just like motor cycles and do not need pedal assist. These bikes are not safe for other users on the trails.

Please take these ideas into consideration before finalizing your recommendations to the City Council.

I believe it is your duty to represent all trail users. So far, you have shown favoritism to the bikers-many of them who do not even live in Belmont.

Thank you.

Bob Stahl

Wakefield Drive

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Brigitte Shearer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 1:37 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** FW: revised Recr Use Assess and attachments

Commissioners,

The draft Recreational Use Assessment document from WRA has been posted on the PROS Plan website. This complements the draft Environmental Use Assessment document and the Management Alternatives documents previously posted and shared with the advisory committee.

[Resources — Belmont Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan \(belmontprosplan.com\)](http://belmontprosplan.com)

Thank you  
Brigitte



**Brigitte Shearer**  
Parks & Recreation Director  
Belmont Parks & Recreation

30 Twin Pines Ln, Belmont, CA 94002  
P: (650) 595-7488 | E: [bshearer@belmont.gov](mailto:bshearer@belmont.gov)  
[www.belmont.gov/parksandrec](http://www.belmont.gov/parksandrec) | [Join our e-newsletter!](#)



*"Enhancing Quality of Life for the Community"*  
*"As Always, Stay Positive, the Choice is Yours!"*

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Connie S. Tettenborn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:30 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm  
**Subject:** Waterdog Lake improvement suggestions

Dear Commissioners,

I was deeply disturbed by the suggestion to add structures to the lakefront apart from the pier that exists already. A yoga platform? An art installation? ABSOLUTELY NOT!! Please remember that this is Waterdog Open Space which should really be called the John S. Brooks Open Space Preserve. It is NOT a park!! It should be maintained in a natural state to the degree possible. NO water sculpture! National wilderness areas request that people not build rock sculptures for good reason. Open space and wilderness areas are supposed to be undeveloped and give the visitor the feeling of the great outdoors away from urban amenities! If there is a concern for the safety of kids in the natural setting of the lake, bring along more adults for supervision. Do not try to conform the lake to your idea of what a beach should be. NO PICNIC TABLES! I equate the Open Space to a small version of a wilderness area. It is what it is-- leave it as is. Having a shuttle for handicap persons is possibly OK, so long as the shuttle does not remain in the area. Greater use is not always good. Be careful that you do not love the lake to death. And please leave nature to provide her own art!

Thank you,  
Connie Tettenborn

## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:** Connie S. Tettenborn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:07 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; info@belmontprosplan.com  
**Subject:** Waterdog Openspace

Dear Commissioners and Committee members,

I spoke briefly after the PROS plan advisory committee meeting last night and thought it might be helpful to provide the following link. As I mentioned, the WRA, Inc., consulting firm neglected to review the documentation regarding the land gift of Waterdog Open Space. A discussion of it at a council meeting can be found here:

<https://www.waterdogpreserve.org/brooks-contact-violated>

There were two requirements: That it be named something like "The John S. Brooks Memorial Preserve" and that it be retained in perpetuity as open space with perhaps trails that are low use as at that time.

Considering "Habitat protection emphasis" an alternative is simply wrong. It is not an alternative option--it is the PURPOSE of an open space. "Preserve" is in the actual name that was suggested! Any consideration of new trails must take this into account. For example, putting in a connecting path for bikes would possibly create an unacceptable increase in usage levels. No e-bikes should be permitted because they are motorized, including pedal-assist bikes. (Except for officers enforcing the leash law!) I did not have time to clarify my concluding remark about single-use trails. I would only be willing to allow bikes on the narrow trails if they slowed WAY down to pass and did not make me step close to poison oak to let them by.

Thank you,  
Connie Tettenborn  
Belmont, CA



## Brigitte Shearer

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 5:26 PM  
**To:** P&R Comm; PROS Committee  
**Subject:** Compromise Trail Plan for Waterdog Open Space  
**Attachments:** Compromise Trail Plan.pdf

Dear Park Commissioners,

At the PROS meeting David Braunstein rightly called out the elephant in the room. To paraphrase: *both sides repeat the same arguments without listening to the other – we've missed an opportunity to build community.*

I have listened and I propose an **equitable compromise solution**; a trail use plan that provides space for a safe experience for users of differing interests and abilities, while protecting sensitive habitat.

Seniors, families with little children, and those seeking tranquil nature are displaced by speeding bikes on narrow trails, and this imbalance is not equitable. On our streets, pedestrians are not asked to jump off the sidewalk for oncoming bikes.

**I have never suggested banning bikes** – only that they be limited out of respect for the *majority of residents who are NOT mountain bikers*. ALL visitors have a right to use trails, but bikes are machinery for a sport that requires *appropriate trails*.

I think this plan checks all the boxes! But I hope to inspire discussion with “the other side”, who also have a right to enjoy their hobby in a safe and sustainable manner. I hope this compromise plan can move us forward to a solution that is equitable for all abilities and interest groups.

Thank you  
Kristin Mercer

# Balancing Recreation with Conservation

THE COMPROMISE PLAN TO ENSURE EQUITABLE  
ACCESS AND A SUSTAINABLE HABITAT

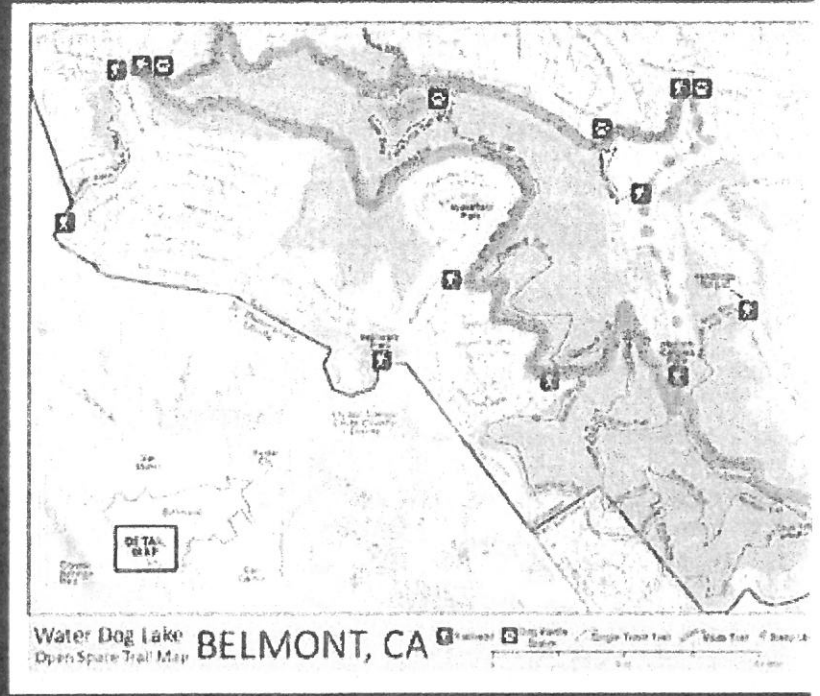
## Safe and Sustainable Trails:

- ▶ provide safe access for users of all abilities and interests
- ▶ are designed to safely support the intended use and level of trail wear
- ▶ avoid slopes over 15% to prevent erosion and reduce maintenance
- ▶ for bikes, have less than 10% slope, hardened surfaces for durability, and longer line of sight for safety
- ▶ avoid impacting sensitive natural habitat

# The Equitable Compromise Plan

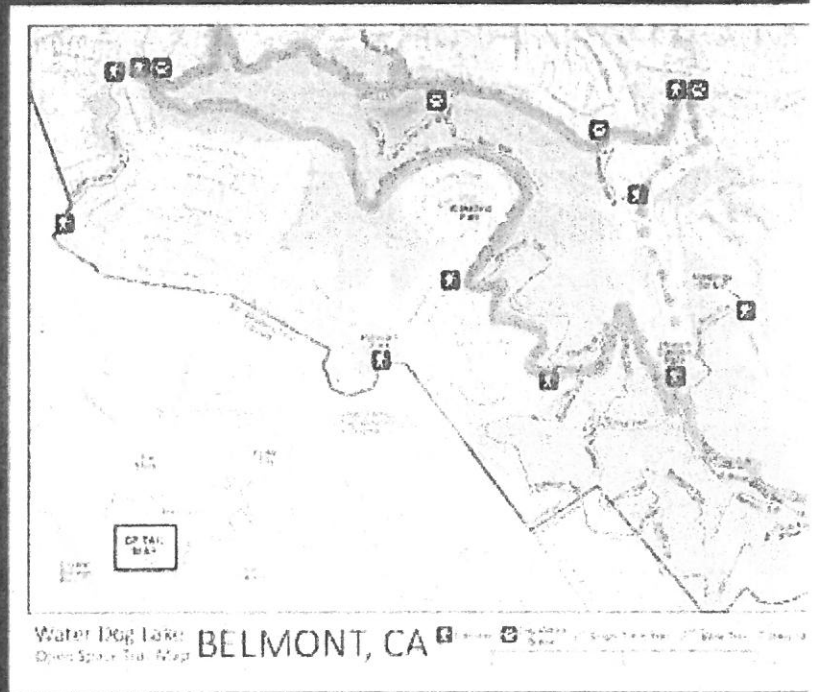
## Designate a Bike Circuit

- ▶ Provides connectivity East-West and North-South,
- ▶ Provides a 3-mile exercise loop with 6 access points,
- ▶ Wider trails for safe passing
- ▶ Longer sight lines and fewer steep segments
- ▶ Avoids impacting riparian and valley habitat



## 50-50 Balance = Equity for All Users

- ▶ Multi-Use shared by bikes and pedestrians
  - ▶ Wider for safer passing
  - ▶ Slopes under 10% reduce speeding
  - ▶ Longer line of sight for safety
  - ▶ Hardened surfaces for durability
- ▶ Single-Track for hiking only
  - ▶ Deeper In canyon for tranquil, up-close nature experience
  - ▶ Natural surface soft trails
  - ▶ Discovery around each bend



*"It actually doesn't take much to be considered a difficult woman. That's why there are so many of us." – Jane Goodall*



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