

From: [Gregory Cala](#)
To: [P&R Comm](#)
Subject: Convert tennis courts to pickleball courts
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 10:49:53 PM
Attachments: [Video.MOV](#)

Dear Parks & Rec Commission,

I've spoken to you in the past about the growing popularity of Pickleball and how great it is for communities.

It's a sport that anyone can show up, alone or with a group and has a traditional rotation of games that end when one team reaches 11.

For every 2 tennis courts, you can convert to 6 pickleball courts simply and while not having to spend too much.

But again, the most important thing is how great it is for the community.

Please see the following video of Foster City's Pickleball courts and you will see how many people enjoy it.

There is no downside to converting a couple tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts.

What will it take to finally make this happen?

Please send me a reply so I know.

Sincerely,
Greg Cala

Sent from my stubbornly smart phone

From: [Jozi Plut](#) on behalf of [x-City Clerk's Office](#)
To: [Brigitte Shearer](#)
Subject: FW: City Council Special Meeting 11/23- Ralston Ranch Rd park Development
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 3:05:50 PM
Attachments: [Ralston Ranch Park Lettter.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

FYI



Jozi Plut, CMC
City Clerk :: Communications Coordinator

1 Twin Pines Ln, Belmont, CA 94002
P: (650) 595-7408 | E: jplut@belmont.gov
www.belmont.gov



From: Schnabel
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 7:37 PM
To: x-City Clerk's Office <cclerk@belmont.gov>
Subject: City Council Special Meeting 11/23- Ralston Ranch Rd park Development

Attached are our comments regarding the development of the Ralston Ranch Road park. We voiced these concerns as well during the 10/20 parks and rec's meeting.

Thank you.
Roy and Maria Schnabel

Parks and Recreation:

My general comments regarding the current Park proposal for Ralston Ranch Park.

Firstly, I am unsure as to why the park limits are not extended all the way to the edge of sidewalks on Ralston Ave. It would make sense that this portion be included so that P&R can be responsible for maintaining and up keeping the entire area. It does not make sense to exclude this area as it provides another natural location to plant mitigation, replacement and screening trees for the community.

Screening trees are important as they provide mitigation from wind, visual intrusion, natural screens for wildlife to pass through the community, and on occasion an obstruction for wayward vehicles that come off Ralston Ave. Yes, this has happened and more than once; and the last one made it pretty far down the hill.

As for the elements of your plan:

DOG PARK

I am not sure that this location is the best and most appropriate location for a dog park.

Typically dog parks service wider community areas. Cipriani is the much better dog park for the overall community and services much of the local community in our area. Regardless, the proximity of Cipriani would limit the usage of this specific dog park to a smaller, defined part of the community and more than likely nearby San Mateo residents.

Residents of both of the Belmont communities should be the focus of this park and they both have established trailheads into the great open park areas adjacent to these communities. We have numerous dog owners in the community, including myself, and I personally prefer to walk my dogs through the trail system so that both the dogs and myself get exercise. So as a dog owner adjacent to this park, I would probably rarely use it. I am sure that will be true for most of the RRR community.

This type of park also does not have great parking and access. The roadway set up with one exit probably is not great for any more added traffic. Every person parking to access the park would have to work as a single trip in each direction for each visit. There are already bikers and hikers that use the trailhead at the cul de sac that park along the street, and most of these users also go out illegally through the Christian exit. This is just another traffic safety risk, especially at that intersection.

As I see it, most of this community would not necessarily use the dog park. However, most of the park is being captured as a dog park. As stated I am not sure that is the best usage of the space in the park for the neighborhood and the community.

If having a dog park to service this part of the community is important to P&R, I would suggest studying other location and more specifically a dog park at Fox Elementary School as an extension of your JUA. This would be much more ideal as it supports a wider section of this community, including the Hallmark neighborhood. It allows for better usage of the park spaces and a more functional dog park, with much better access and parking.

GATHERING/PICNIC AREAS

Gathering areas are fine as long as they are well maintained and policed. We already have local experience with the attractive nuisance at the lookout with the drinking, smoking and sexual activity only 500' away. As a result, there is much apprehension from providing just another location for bad behavior to occur even closer to our homes.

Regardless of this, the plan placing these gathering spaces, picnic areas and such directly adjacent to the homes is not good planning. These should be located farther away to preserve and protect the privacy of this home owners. This is another consequence of having most of the functional space being used for a dog park. If you remove the dog park, the other tier 2 amenities can be better situated farther from the homes, including any play structures, gathering areas, picnic areas, garbage receptacles, etc. It would also create one specific space that is more open, and that is easier to access, use, maintain, and police.

This still does not mitigate the parking and traffic related issues. The goal should be to make this park be a destination primarily for the local communities surrounding it and not to draw in people from outside the community neighborhoods, especially those that have to specifically access it by car. Better for the community and better for the environment. We appreciate this upcoming forum to discuss the park as I think getting a better understanding of what the actual local affected communities want from this park is beneficial and good planning.

Ultimately, I think that maintaining or preserving as much of the park as open space is probably a more ideal use of this park space. Your current online survey also seems to bear this out as only a very small percentage view the current space as unsatisfactory. If you eliminate those with no opinion than 85-90% of the respondents feel that the park in its current condition is excellent or satisfactory with over 60% of that in the excellent column.

I would also recommend that any additional, replacement or mitigation trees be planted along the perimeters of the park especially at Ralston Ave and adjacent to those homes closest to the park to continue to provide both natural visual, privacy and wind barriers.

Regards,

Roy and Maria Schnabel

97 Ralston Ranch Road
Belmont CA 94002

From: [Jozi Plut](#) on behalf of [x-City Clerk's Office](#)
To: [Brigitte Shearer](#)
Subject: FW: Ralston Ranch Park
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 1:57:31 PM

FYI

Jozi Plut, CMC
City Clerk :: Communications Coordinator

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-----Original Message-----

From: Carol Rossi
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 12:05 PM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@belmont.gov>; x-City Clerk's Office <cclerk@belmont.gov>
Subject: Ralston Ranch Park

Hello City Council and City Clerk

Thank you for allowing us to make comment on the planning of the undeveloped Ralston Ranch park area. I was able to join and participate in the virtual focus group meeting held in Oct. My husband and I are hoping that this undeveloped park can be considered as a tier 1 park (available for local neighbors, by foot within 1//18 of a mile radius) to meet the needs of this neighborhood. We believe that deeming it as a tier 1 park will provide access and enjoyment to all in the neighborhood. Let me clarify why.

Ralston Ranch Road is unique. It is surrounded by open space, with one side butting up to our main through way in Belmont, Ralston Ave. This piece of open space called Ralston Ranch Park is a necessary piece of land for our wildlife in the canyon. This area allows our wildlife to move freely from one side of the open space to the other. Neighbors have seen and captured on camera multiple species of wildlife traveling through this small piece of land to access either side of our open space areas.

Ralston Ranch Road has wide streets with parking available. However, one side of the street is a one-way only, coming in from Christian Ave. Our concern, as we've seen from people parking cars on the street to use the trails, is that the cars will go out the wrong way, and use our driveways to turn around to leave the street onto Ralston. It is a horseshoe shaped street with a blindspot at the bend especially when the sun is set low, either in the morning or at sunset. With the street being wide and on a hill, people tend to also drive too fast, especially around the bend which can lead to increased chances of accidents.

Ralston Ranch Road is in a great location with easy access to the 92 interchange. However, this easy access to the 92 interchange, is a concern. If the Ralston Ranch Park is developed into a tier 2 park, it would invite people from outside of our immediate area, making it a place to congregate with possible unwanted visitors. Please don't make our neighborhood more susceptible to crime and destruction of our property. In addition, if it becomes a tier 2 park

area, then there will be more trash that will be blown around on our street, ultimately landing into the waterways and open space area.

Please consider that if a dog parklet, playground or other tier 2 type of development is created on Ralston Ranch Park, it will greatly impact our safety, the traffic on our one street, and the wildlife. Belmont has 2 dog parks. Wouldn't those asking for a dog park in Belmont prefer it to be placed somewhere else, closer to where they live to give them equal access? A small, simple playground might be feasible, but has the city assessed how windy, foggy, damp, and cold it is at the top of Ralston Ave.? There is a marked change in temperature from the intersection of Alameda de los Plugas and Ralston Ave. to the intersection of Ralston Ranch Road and Ralston Ave.

As a neighborhood, we would like to keep Ralston Ranch Park as open as possible, with as little impact as possible to nature and our safety. Please consider this space for walking paths, a meditation walking circle, and/or a simple bench to sit on to enjoy the view. This will allow the wildlife to move freely, and keep the neighborhoods around Ralston Ranch Park safe.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input in how to create our undeveloped parks in Belmont.

Respectfully yours,
Carol Rossi
76 Ralston Ranch Road

From: [Paul Sheng](#)
To: [P&R Comm](#); info@belmontprosplan.com; [City Council](#)
Subject: Follow up on Hidden Canyon Park issues discussed at 11/3/21 meeting
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 9:19:55 PM

Dear City Council, Parks & Rec Commission, and PROS Committee:

I watched the 11/3/21 meeting on Zoom and wanted to offer some input on Hidden Canyon Park. First, I thought Gates & Associates did a great job in presenting the draft parks improvement element of the PROS plan. I think the Parks staff and Gates have done a fantastic job of doing a needs assessment for our parks and recreational opportunities. The needs assessment shows a very clear need for additional parks in Belmont. Ralston Ranch and Hidden Canyon have been identified as two tremendous opportunities to fill our community's needs - particularly Hidden Canyon which offers the largest opportunity, both in terms of acreage and the proximity to the widest population.

I was unable to make the focus group meeting for Hidden Canyon, but a friend of mine did and I was very disturbed by what he told me. It's my understanding that nearly 100% of the participants were either homeowners from the Hidden Canyon development, or homeowners / political operatives from Belmont Heights such as Pat Cuvielo, Deniz Bolbol, and Kristen Mercer. There was not a single renter or landlord representative from any of the many nearby apartment buildings that house thousands of renters. If you take a look on Zillow, you can see that the Hidden Canyon housing development consists of 31 single family houses, with market values ranging from \$2.2M to \$2.7M. These are among the priciest homes in the city, if not the priciest.

As you know, the guiding principles of the PROS plan include the following points, among others:

- Provide equitable access to resources and activities across the entire city
- Promote inclusion to people of all backgrounds, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic position, or physical/cognitive ability
- Make all users feel welcome and safe
- Adapt to changing conditions and needs

I'm concerned that the first two principles, equitable access and inclusion, are being steamrolled by elite special interests in this process. During the Parks & Rec Commission meeting, David Braunstein (PROS Committee member and former Belmont Mayor / City Councilman of 8+ years) made strong public comment advocating against *any* improvement in the Hidden Canyon park. He made an analogy that "just because you can build improvements in something like Yellowstone Park, it doesn't mean you should do it." In my opinion this is a false analogy. That analogy would be valid if there was a proposal to build things within the boundaries of the Open Space, but no one is proposing to do that. As you know, Hidden Canyon Park is a parcel of land that is *already dedicated to city park use* that sits between the Hidden Canyon development and the Waterdog Open Space. In the 1990s, the

developer was *required* to grant that parcel to the city *to be used as a park* as a condition of the development permit. Specifically, the 1994 City Council resolution approving the Hidden Canyon tract states ". . . The 5.6 acre park area shall be dedicated to the City of Belmont for the provision of a park" and "The proposed park area will consist of a trail head, drinking fountains, and picnic tables to be developed by the City at a later date, subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission." See <https://ecmx.belmont.gov:81/Image/DownloadPdf/133919>

It seems to me that Mr. Braunstein, as well as the 30 other households in the wealthy Hidden Canyon neighborhood, have a vested interest in keeping that city park lot barren and unappealing. Apparently they feel improvements would increase traffic on "their" street. I put "their" in quotation marks because Carlmont Drive is of course a public street paid for by taxpayer dollars, which everyone has the right to use.

It would be a tremendous shame to see Hidden Canyon Park - the biggest opportunity we have to add desperately needed park infrastructure - lay fallow for the next 20 years, as it has for the past 27 years. In the sale and re-sale contract of every home in the in Hidden Canyon tract, there would have been a disclosure that the 5.6 acre lot at the end of Carlmont Drive was designated to be a city park. Over the past 27 years, it appears a sense of entitlement has developed in that neighborhood that they can keep that land fallow for their benefit, which is to the detriment to the entire city. Of course, as adjoining neighbors to the city park land, they are important stakeholders, and the process needs to consider the impact any development will have on them. However, I feel like in the process thus far, their voices are dominating the discussion to the exclusion of almost everyone else.

Consider this: the undeveloped Hidden Canyon park land is 5.6 acres. *That is roughly the same size as Barrett Community center.* We have a choice of either providing all 30,000 citizens of our city with 5.6 acres worth of parkland to fill an unmet need for our increasing population, or we can kowtow to interests of 31 of the city's wealthiest households so they can have marginally fewer cars drive down "their" street. I think everyone is in agreement that development of Hidden Canyon Park should be as congruent with the natural setting as possible. It is not an appropriate place for things such as plastic playground equipment or splash pads. (However, a permanent bathroom would be a welcome addition - it would especially be appreciated by seniors and families with small children.) I really liked Commissioner Michaels' idea of a staff outpost with outdoor classroom space. That would provide a great launching point for city staff-guided nature walks, fishing clinics, etc. Something like a scaled-down version of the interpretive center/restroom building at Arastadero Preserve in Palo Alto is something that would fit nicely in the space.

I have a question about the process as it pertains to Hidden Canyon Park. Mr. Braunstein is on the PROS Committee, he lives in the Hidden Canyon tract, and he has now gone on public record vigorously opposing any development of Hidden Canyon Park. (Mr. Braunstein has every right to express opinions at public meetings as a private citizen, and I have no issue with him expressing his opinions at the last Parks & Rec Commission meeting.) However, it seems like a conflict of interest for him to participate on the PROS Committee on items relating to Hidden Canyon Park.

During Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, Commissioner Mittelstadt recuses himself when items of Commission business come up on trails adjoining his house. However, as a member of the PROS Committee, don't the same legal or ethical rules require Mr. Braunstein to recuse himself from items of PROS Committee business adjoining his house?

I feel the Hidden Canyon Park issue is just one example of a larger issue with the PROS process that City Council and the Parks & Rec Commission needs to address. We need more balance, more equity, and more inclusion. Of course, every citizen on every side of the issue has the right to speak and be heard. However, the discussion is being dominated by "ghosts of Christmas past" - politicians who have been voted out of office years ago, and would-be politicians who don't have enough support to get into office. At each and every meeting, we are hearing from Deniz Bolbol (losing City Council candidate from 2018 election); Pat Cuvielo (losing City Council candidate from 2020 election), Kristen Mercer (former Planning Commissioner appointed by a prior political regime), and now former mayor/councilman Braunstein. It is a loud, constant drumbeat from the same tiny group of people every time. This is the least diverse demographic group I can possibly think of. They are all white, middle-aged to older retired or semi-retired political operatives who own \$2.2M+ houses adjoining open space. To be clear, I am not saying these people should be marginalized or excluded from the process; I absolutely respect their First Amendment right to speak. However, they do not have the right to dominate every discussion and dictate how our community uses our land. There should be more balance in the process and more input from a broader and more diverse group of community members. More outreach is needed so regular community member voices can get heard over the roar of former/would be politicians.

Finally, I want to make one thing very clear: I am by no means critical of Parks Director Shearer, Gates & Associates, or their respective staff. I think they are all doing a fantastic job with the PROS plan, and the issues with the process are not due to them, but rather the constant barrage from this group of political operatives who are aggressively trying to dominate the agenda. I have a concrete suggestion to bring some balance to this process, at least as it pertains to Hidden Canyon Park. There has already been a Hidden Canyon focus group meeting that was well-attended by the Hidden Canyon homeowners and Belmont Heights political operatives. How about conducting a second Hidden Canyon / Carlmont *renter* focus group? It will take some outreach to get those folks to the table, but it is well worth the effort. It just seems unfair and inequitable for policy decisions to be made on the basis of input from one tiny special interest group.

Thank you for taking the time to read my lengthy email, and I very much appreciate all the time and effort you are all putting into our PROS Plan process.





Regards,

Paul Sheng

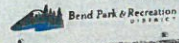


Intermediate Bike Skills Course

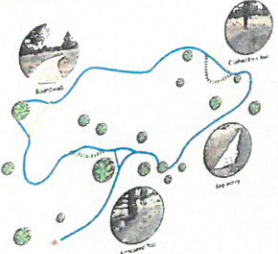


-  The skills course contains many built and natural features including jumps, ramps, and other terrain variations.
-  It is your responsibility to inspect the features before use.
-  It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the terrain before attempting any of the features.
-  Report damage - (541) 388-5435

Use of the area is a high risk activity that may result in serious injury. Bend Park & Recreation does not assume responsibility for injuries or loss of property.



Beginner Bike Skills Course



The skills course contains many built and natural features including jumps, ramps, and other terrain variations.

It is your responsibility to inspect the features before use.

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the terrain before attempting any of the features.

Report damage (541) 388-5435

Use of the area is a high risk activity that may result in serious injury. Bend Park & Recreation does not assume any responsibility for injuries or loss of property.

Bend Park & Recreation
OREGON

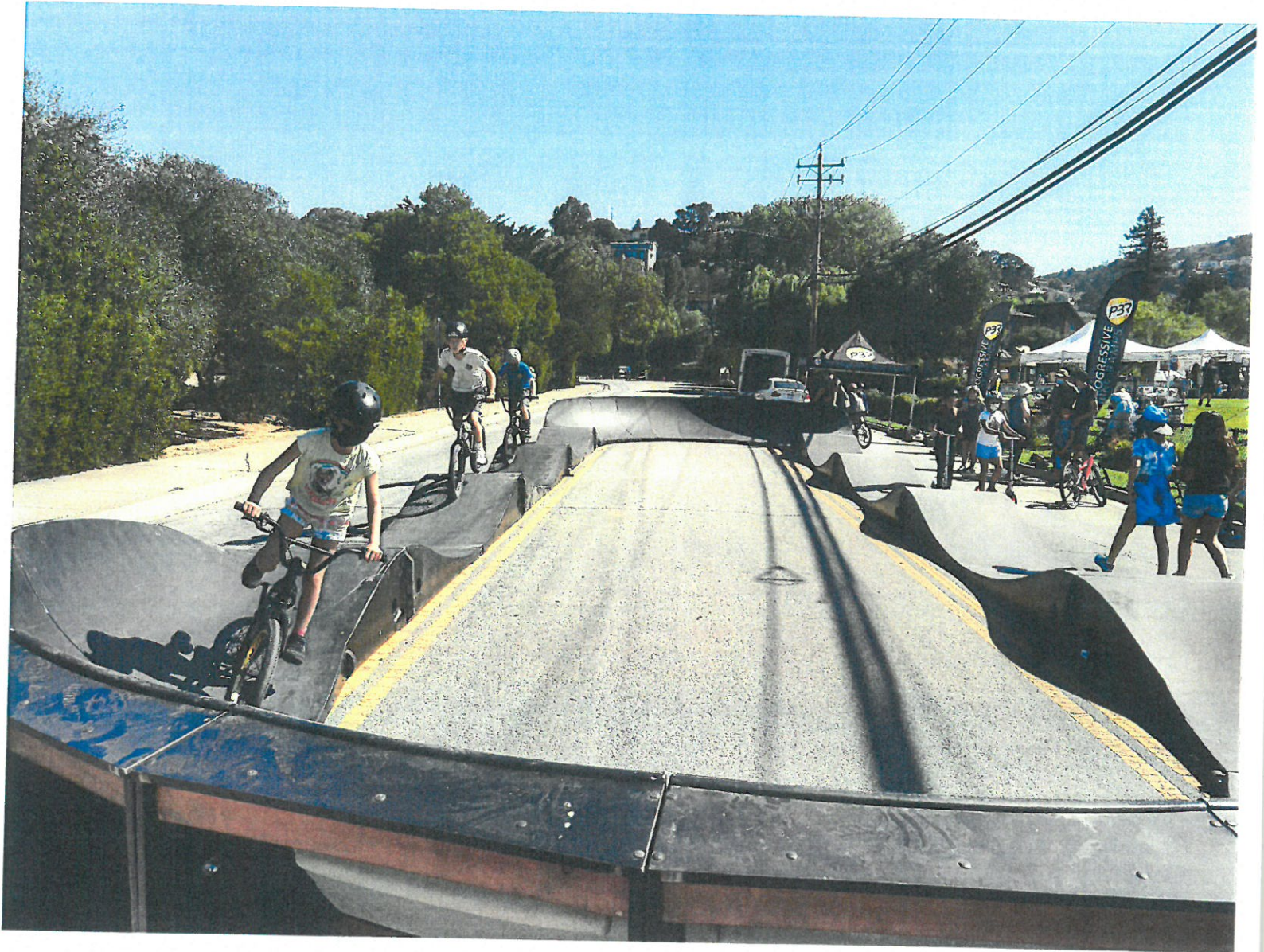
Map Legend
● Skill Feature
○ Natural Feature
○ Ramp
○ Jump
○ Drop
○ Bank
○ Turn
○ Trail















From: [x-Parks/Recreation Office](#)
To: [Parks WOR](#)
Subject: Fw: Hastings Tot Lot in disrepair!
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 8:26:19 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-Parks & .png](#)
[Outlook-Parks & .png](#)
[Outlook-Parks & .png](#)
[Outlook-Parks & .png](#)
[Outlook-City eNoti.png](#)

Hello,

Please see below for your consideration.

Thank you,
Karen

*Registrations, Rentals, &
Administrative Services*

Belmont Parks & Recreation Department
parksrec@belmont.gov | (650) 595-7441
Twin Pines Park, 30 Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA



Enhancing the Quality of Life for the Community

From: webmaster@belmont.gov <webmaster@belmont.gov> on behalf of City of Belmont <webmaster@belmont.gov>
Sent: Saturday, November 27, 2021 12:50 PM
To: x-Parks/Recreation Office <parksrec@belmont.gov>
Subject: Hastings Tot Lot in disrepair!

Message submitted from the <City of Belmont> website.

Site Visitor Name: Victor Rucker
Site Visitor Email:

The Hastings Tot Lot needs safety and quality upgrades desperately. As you guys look to updating any plans or utilizing any leftover budget, please consider removing the splintery crosote telephone poles currently acting as retaining walls and installing concrete. Additionally, you should consider please the safety of "tots" at this lot and the absence of a fence that just makes it too easy to wander into Hasting Dr.! That road moves fast!

See photos of the decaying infrastructure below.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10HFHeJLVU2mV1Ln6IJQG9SaUGYjdYOv0?
usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10HFHeJLVU2mV1Ln6IJQG9SaUGYjdYOv0?usp=sharing)

Thank you,

Victor Rucker
2407 Hastings Dr.

From: [Charles Stone - Mayor](#)
To: [Ed Seubert](#)
Subject: Re: New parks
Date: Saturday, November 27, 2021 2:48:29 PM

Ed,

Thanks so much for the email. The city talked to NDNU about potentially buying the property about 4-5 years ago when the lead term was ending. They weren't even close to a ball park we could afford, so we exercised our fifty year option for a really insanely cheap deal. It would be financially irresponsible for us to buy it for what NDNU wants while we can lease it as cheap as we are contractually able to.

I love the idea, but the improvements you suggest are also far, far outside our financial wherewithal (for now.) In terms of parks/rec big expenditures the community center is probably next on the list and we're still unsure how to pay for that. It would likely take a tax measure.

That said, I'll spend some more time thinking about it.

Be well,

Charles

Mayor Charles Stone
City of Belmont
One Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002

Unless otherwise noted, the opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives contained in this email are my own, and do not represent the official position of the City of Belmont or its City Council. Please do not share those opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives with other members of the Belmont City Council so as to avoid the potential development or appearance of a consensus outside a scheduled public meeting, which is prohibited under California's Brown Act. I also respectfully request that you refrain from sharing the opinions, viewpoints, and perspectives of other Belmont City Council members with me. If you are contacting me about a development application or appeal that is pending before the City Council, I am not able to read your email because it constitutes an ex parte communication. I will, however, forward your email to city staff and it will be made part of the record. Thank you.

From: webmaster@belmont.gov <webmaster@belmont.gov> on behalf of City of Belmont <webmaster@belmont.gov>
Sent: Saturday, November 27, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Charles Stone - Mayor <cstone@belmont.gov>
Subject: New parks

Message submitted from the <City of Belmont> website.

Site Visitor Name: Ed Seubert

Site Visitor Email

I realize I'm late to the party but here's an outside the envelope idea I've had for many years. NDNU appears desperate for money. Buy Water Dog Lake from them. Build trails to access the water, and improve the lake and dam's appearance. Allow swimming. Surface the outflow all the way to the bay. Start buying properties along the stream course as they become available. Develop a linear park along the shores of the creek with walking trails, benches, observation platforms, history and nature interpretive signs, etc. that nearly transects the city. The city has two absolute gems (the lake and the creek) within its boundaries but their potential for enhancing life in the city has been usurped and/or squandered to date. Once you get over pondering the opposition and impossibility of this idea, try imagining how life would be different if our city had, as its central statement, an accessible lake where we encouraged people to cool off and have fun and a miles-long streamside park.