

Written Public
Comments for **Item No. 3**

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Carolyn Ordonez <cardord@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 8:04 AM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Flood park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing regarding the redesigned Flood Park, or more aptly named North Fair Oaks Park.

I understand there is a push for two playing fields in the park. I can live with a no water turf field but not a grass field. I scrimp with water as I have always been conscious about how much water I use and when asked to save a further 20% it is impossible to do but a sports field can use potable water?

The residents in the Flood triangle have repeatedly asked for a dog park and that has never been included in the redesign. The field area could be a dog park instead of a playing field since there is way too much "play " proposed in the park. The area can not handle the number of cars that will drive to the park because the people using the park amenities do not live near by.

Thank you,

Carolyn Ordonez

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Judy Horst <pandagolf@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 2:21 PM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback; Don Horsley; Warren Slocum
Subject: Flood Park

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What Should Flood Park Be When It Grows Up?

I think the Board of Supervisors intends to review the Parks Department's latest proposal to remake Flood Park at its upcoming meeting Tuesday, July 26. I'd like to weigh in on this in hopes that the Board makes no decision now, but thinks carefully about the path it might take should it turn a unique park into athletic fields. It makes no sense in light of inherent problems created by the plan. It makes no sense in light of so many climate threats--where we need all of the green space we can find, just to remain healthy.

Flood Park is a crown jewel in the County's park system, but it's been neglected for years. Trees not trimmed, athletic fields not maintained, picnic areas in need of repair, hiking trails not available, let alone marked for educational purposes.

I think this is the third proposal from the Parks Department to remake Flood Park, and during the time since the review process began, very little maintenance or upgrades to the Park have been made. This park has been neglected for years.

It seems as though the latest plan is yet another attempt to avoid taking care of the park by renewing it, turning it into something that can be all things to all people, and thus it serves no one very well.

Flood Park is a PARK; there are numerous athletic fields at schools and in neighborhoods where people live and play. New ones are going in, too. Cities and schools are developing them, and aren't those the agencies that should develop sports parks--close to where people live, work, and play?

Flood Park is an island of green with no public transportation services; so people will have to drive there. It serves many families today as a place to get away from it all, to picnic, toss a Frisbee and take a hike--even in its current state of disrepair. It's off the beaten path, and it should remain that way. Why can't it still be a serene, natural park that it was meant to be?

Why cut down of old growth trees, other trees and natural habitat for wildlife to make room for athletic fields far away from those who might use them? What about the noise pollution inflicted on nearby neighbors? What about inadequate parking at the Park should there be sports leagues? What about even more traffic problems on Ringwood and Bay Road?

Residents in Menlo Oaks and Menlo Park have been concerned with traffic problems on Bay Road for years. Pre-Covid, it sometimes took 30 minutes during afternoon commute hours to go to Willow Road or to Marsh Road on Bay Road from Berkely, Menlo Oaks Drive or Ringwood. Normally, it takes under three or four minutes.

Now, with the advent of sports league play in late afternoons during commute hours, there will be increased numbers of people using all of those roads. In addition, making left and right turns into the park will slow down traffic even more and may add to increased numbers of accidents there. And, do we pave over more of the Park for parking?

The County should acquire the old Flood School property if it wants to build athletic fields. It's a very practical solution. It should not desecrate Flood Park. The school property is the perfect place to put athletic fields and encourage outdoor play--if that is truly a goal of the Parks Department and the County. Is it the County's goal to provide more athletic fields, or should that be the goal of cities and schools? Or, is this new iteration of a plan the pipe dream of a Parks Department that has not managed Flood Park very well to date. Survey results have changed since the first ones were done years ago that sent the Parks Department down this wayward path.

If the County and the Parks Department truly believe in real parks that provide outdoor enjoyment for families, nearby residents and neighbors, Flood Park needs to remain a park. Let cities and schools build athletic fields.

Let's just polish this jewel in the County parks system by taking care of it. It could cost the County much less to do so.

Judy Horst
Menlo Oaks

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Michelle Bui <mrhui01@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 2:35 PM
To: David Canepa
Cc: CMO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Flood Park Proposed Plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Attn Board of Supervisors and Menlo Park City Council

The news that Flood Park will soon be renovated is so exciting. Such a large project must be approached with great concern for the surrounding neighborhoods, and with the many years devoted to the park plan, it is evident there is some attention to the desires of the local community.

The current plan does seem to be a bit over built. While the athletic amenities are welcome, there must be consideration for the noise and traffic these activities will bring. The pickle ball and basketball should be moved closer to the parking lot and away from the homes on Del Norte. Both are loud sports, especially pickle ball, and neighbors should not have to listen to the banging of the racquets or bouncing of balls all day long. Not to mention the whistles from volleyball and soccer as well as the cheering fans.

There is also a concern that traffic will increase down Del Norte and Iris because there is a pedestrian entrance gate for the park. The current plan shows a pump track and field close to that gate. Easy access to those amenities will draw traffic. This poses a possible threat to the safety of the streets, which have many children playing and people walking. This may be avoided if the pump track and field are moved closer to the parking lot and entrance off Bay Road. Otherwise there must be traffic and parking enforcement to prevent the extra cars passing through and parking in the neighborhood.

There has also been mention that dogs will be allowed on leashes with the new design. Flood Park has been a dog free park for many years, and people are used to the rule. Please reconsider this change. There is a potential for people to bring dogs and not have them on a leash which may lead to dog attacks, dog fights or simply making some people uneasy. Some rules are meant to remain.

All in all the improvements to Flood Park are welcome and long over due. Please consider the concerns of the neighboring communities, especially those homes that share a fence with the park. Look forward to seeing the finished product.

Have a lovely weekend,
Michelle

Make each day your masterpiece 🧩

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Joan Hilse <jkhilse@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 4:25 PM
To: Carole Groom; Warren Slocum; David Canepa; Don Horsley; Dave Pine
Cc: dcombs@menlopark.org
Subject: Flood Park

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I am a homeowner at 1073 Del Norte and therefore very interested in the plans to Reimagine Flood Park. My sincere thanks for your thorough consideration of the stakeholders' interests and of the many iterations of the design.

I recently attended a Saturday event for neighbors and was impressed by the positive and professional attitude of the Parks Department staff who led the event. I am pleased that climate change is a top priority by them and the arborist going forward.

I continue to think that space for too many activities is being prioritized. Everyone has favorites, but with the current design I see parking, site circulation, noise, and traffic problems made worse by cramming all the favorites into the park. I ask you to insist the offerings be trimmed.

Joan Hilse

Sent from my iPhone

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Alice Newton <alicenewton62@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 4:49 PM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback; David Canepa; Dave Pine; Don Horsley; Carole Groom; Warren Slocum
Cc: PARKS_ParksAndRecreation; Nicholas Calderon; dcombs@menlopark.org; Nash, Betsy
Subject: Agenda 7/26/22 - Flood Park Plan 2022 design

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To the San Mateo County Supervisors:

Thank you for all you do to support the health and well-being of residents and to protect our beautiful county natural resources. Flood Park is one of those important resources. I am grateful that the new Plan 2022 reflects public recognition of the importance of the many trees which create the peaceful, natural environment we can visit as well as helping to offset global warming. I hope that funding for care of this urban forest will be ensured.

I am grateful too, for the 100' buffer zone along the Del Norte Ave. border to give neighbors on that side some space from activities like neighbors have on the other sides and that the two large group picnic sites were recently moved out of that buffer zone. However, the items below remain potentially quite noisy and problematic for neighbors on the Del Norte side where homes are just beyond the park fence:

1. It is well-known now that pickleball produces a loud and constant popping sound. It is a very popular sport that will likely be played every day in the park from opening to closing times. Please keep the tennis/pickleball courts 500-600' from the park borders, include state-of-the-art noise muffling court designs, and require "green paddles" that help muffle sound and any other ideas available to counteract the popping sounds. (Or remove pickleball from the Plan.)
2. The location of the smaller sports field will bring noise of whistles and shouting past the 100' Del Norte Ave buffer zone and encourage traffic and parking for drop-offs at the Iris Lane gate. Thank you for moving it out of the oak woodland, but please look for a better site.
3. I saw the pump track in Quarry Park and it's terrific. I think the one planned for Flood Park will be very popular. Teens need a place to hang out, but I am concerned that the current location in the very back corner of the park is not a safe place for teens to gather.
4. The EIR states a shortage of 11 parking spaces. The Parks Dept. says they will manage reservations of ballfields and group picnic sites to have enough parking and avoid spillover into surrounding neighborhoods, but those are the very activities people want. The all-abilities playground is going to be fabulous and attract many users. On current weekends when all the group picnic sites are in use, we already see the front parking lot completely full plus the middle lot half to 2/3 full. Restricted parking already exists on both sides of

the park due to lack of parking spaces in the park when there is a big event or many activities. This has been happening for decades and is not relieved by parking being free. Please find a way to increase the number of spaces and to improve the back section of the parking lot that has a dangerous single middle lane. "Where there's a will, there's a way."

I am grateful for the process in progress that includes several more public input meetings. As the Plan 2022 continues to evolve, please create a design that will better serve all of our neighborhoods, those adjacent to the park as well as those farther away.

Thank you again,
Alice Newton

Member of the SMC Parks Dept's Working Group

Homeowner on Del Norte Ave. adjacent to Flood Park for 35 years

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Alice Newton <alicenewton62@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 5:18 PM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback; David Canepa; Dave Pine; Don Horsley; Carole Groom; Warren Slocum
Cc: PARKS_ParksAndRecreation; Nicholas Calderon; dcombs@menlopark.org; Nash, Betsy
Subject: Also re: Agenda 7/26/22 - Flood Park Plan 2022 design

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Please see additional item re: volleyball at the end of my email below.

Thank you,
Alice Newton

From: Alice Newton <alicenewton62@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 4:49 PM
To: boardfeedback@smcgov.org <boardfeedback@smcgov.org>; David Canepa <dCanepa@smcgov.org>; Dave Pine <dPine@smcgov.org>; Don Horsley <dHorsley@smcgov.org>; Carole Groom <cGroom@smcgov.org>; warren slocum <wslocum@smcgov.org>
Cc: ParksandRecreation@smcgov.org <ParksandRecreation@smcgov.org>; ncalderon@smcgov.org <ncalderon@smcgov.org>; dcombs@menlopark.org <dcombs@menlopark.org>; Nash, Betsy <bnash@menlopark.org>
Subject: Agenda 7/26/22 - Flood Park Plan 2022 design

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Adding re: volleyball - The two sand volleyball courts with nets that say "Redrock Volleyball Club" were installed a few years ago. However, there's been a group of Latino men (and families) who have been coming M-F after work as well as often on weekends for decades (yes, decades!) to play on the dirt court in the oak woodland. The EIR lists just two volleyball courts and specifies just the two sand courts that are seen on the Plan 2022 map. The Latino men don't use those courts and it seems totally unfair to cut them out of use of a court. Maybe you can find a way to "grandfather" this court in. It is not a matter of not having enough parking spaces. It is a matter of fairness and inclusivity. Also, the dirt court that's near the Oak group picnic site is often used by groups at that site. It is not in the way of any other amenity. Why not leave it? "Where there's a will, there's a way."

I am grateful for the process in progress that includes several more public input meetings. As the Plan 2022 continues to evolve, please create a design that will better serve all of our neighborhoods, those adjacent to the park as well as those farther away.

Thank you again,
Alice Newton

Member of the SMC Parks Dept's Working Group

Homeowner on Del Norte Ave. adjacent to Flood Park for 35 years

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Daniel Meehan <meehandaniel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 6:19 PM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Fw: Agenda 7/26/22 - Flood Park Plan 2022 Design

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Daniel Meehan. My wife, Alice Newton and I have lived on Del Norte Ave. for 35 years. Our property backs on to Flood Park. We live with the park as our neighbor. We have been very involved in the various phases of the Flood Park development projects. I have comments to make about the Flood Park Updated Landscape Plan being presented on July 26 by the San Mateo County Parks Department.

The pickle ball courts. These are very close to the neighbors on Del Norte. I understand that the Pickleball sport is very popular and has positive benefits to the community, but there have been many reported problems with the sound aspect of the sport. I ask that these courts be moved to another area of the park, away from the back yards of the families on Del Norte Ave. I believe there are several areas, one is in front of the large Adobe building, that could accommodate the Pickleball court. Also, I want to state that I think that Pickleball was not included in the EIR, its sound impact is not included and its impact is not understood.

Parking. I visit the park almost every day, so I have made good observations regarding parking. When there are several large events or gatherings on the weekends, the capacity for parking is almost full. Several more added events will only make parking a problem, and it will overflow onto the city streets. I think that the third parking lot that it used when needed is not well designed (it is narrow and movement in the lot is difficult) and will cause accidents and other problems.

Traffic. I am very concerned that with the additional activities being added, the traffic will increase on Del Norte Avenue, and it will make for a dangerous situation for children on skates and bikes. I believe the increase in traffic will be related to the number of activities in the park, and that when all the activities are in use, and all picnic sites are used, we will see heavy traffic and noise in our neighborhoods.

Oversight of project. Given that many changes are coming to the Flood Park Triangle, Suburban Park, and Lorelei Manor areas, and the increase in dwellings, traffic and park use, by the Ravenswood School district, San Mateo county, City of Menlo Park, City of Atherton, the Veterans Administration, will impact our area and quality of life. It would make sense there should be an entity that would view and coordinate all these projects, and perhaps lessen the impact of the changes on the communities, and make the implementations more efficient.

I hope that you consider these issues when you pass this plan, and ensure that appropriate changes are included in the plan.

Thank you
Daniel Meehan
1023 Del Norte Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Sukhmani Purewal

From: sconrad@pacbell.net
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 8:33 PM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback
Subject: FW: Request for Flood Park Design Changes

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Hello,

I was informed that I should send my message to this email as well. Thank you, Shari

From: sconrad@pacbell.net <sconrad@pacbell.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2022 7:55 PM
To: 'Carol Groom -' <cgroom@smcgov.org>; 'Warren Slocum -' <wslocum@smcgov.org>; 'Dave Canepa -' <dcanepa@smcgov.org>; 'Don Horsley -' <dhorsley@smcgov.org>; 'Dave Pine -' <dpine@smcgov.org>
Cc: 'Drew Combs -' <dcombs@menlopark.org>; 'Betsy Nash -' <bnash@menlopark.org>
Subject: Request for Flood Park Design Changes

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

This is not meant to be just another “Not in My Back Yard” message. This is a message about being a good neighbor and building a new park that meets many of the needs of the park users and is also a good neighbor to Flood Triangle and Suburban Park. Please encourage a park design that our neighborhood will be able to live next to for years to come.

- 1) Please let’s remove the pickleball court or move it to the center of the park equidistant from housing.
- 2) Please let’s move or remove the smaller sports field.
- 3) Please design a park that fits into the space, not crammed into the space and please make sure there is parking for the capacity of activities that are included in the park design.

1) Pickleball is Noisy:

There are 8 Pickleball Courts (room for 32 players) quite close to Del Norte Ave. There are numerous articles about how annoying pickle ball can be and the various lawsuits around the country from neighbors. For example:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-03-03/pickleball-noise-fueling-neighborhood-drama#:~:text=There's%20no%20question%20that%20pickleball,a%20felt%20covered%20tennis%20ball.>

If the pickleball courts are built, perhaps surrounding them with noise reducing fencing like <https://acoustiblok.com/acoustiblok-soundproofing-product-lines/acoustifence-noise-reducing-fences/> could help. However this does not make up for the appropriate amount of space between residents and the pickle ball courts. This would be an add-on to help dampen the noise for neighbors and park attendees.

“Consulting firm Spendiarian & Willis, one of whose specialties is environmental acoustics, recommends pickleball courts be located within 500 to 600 feet of residential properties.” The pickleball court in Flood Park is currently about 200 feet from neighbors.

2) Placement of second soccer field next to Del Norte – this will be noisy and will bring dangerous drop off traffic to our neighborhood:

A field on the Del Norte side of the park will bring drop-off traffic through our neighborhood. Since soccer practice is hourly, this will encourage many trips, hour on the hour all afternoon and on weekends through our neighborhood. If the field is on the parking lot side of the park, cars will be more likely to use the parking lot. In addition, this will include whistles and spectator noise starting early in the morning on weekends, and every afternoon and evening. Please encourage the park to build the second field next to the parking lot, or not to have a second field, if they can't find another place to put it. There is already another full-sized field planned next to the parking lot.

3) The park is being overbuilt (there is not nearly enough parking for the activities offered):

It's hard to say no to any group of interest, but the park is being built with too many activities and not enough parking. Worse, they have tried to add parking spaces, but they are inaccessible. The two-sided parking at the back edge of the park (near Iris) only has one lane in between the parking with room for one car going one way at a time. This will never work in practice. The picnic spots by themselves (765 people reserved capacity PLUS 20 additional drop-in sites (no reservation required) are enough to use more than all the parking, with no room left for basketball, volleyball, tennis/pickleball, a pump track, a new all access playground, a full-size soccer field or a full-size baseball field, room for spectators, the oak woodlands nature area, demonstration gardens, and an amphitheater, etc. When there isn't room to park in the parking lot, they will park in our neighborhood. The impact on Bay Road is also most likely going to be a problem. In addition, new affordable housing from Atherton and Suburban Park is going to be accessed from Bay Road. It's unclear if this street can handle the additional traffic being routed its way.

We appreciate the park designers moving many of the large picnic sites away from the Del Norte fence line. This was a very positive design change. We are hoping that a few more design changes can be made to make the park a good neighbor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shari & Scott Conrad

1031 Del Norte Ave

Sukhmani Purewal

From: sconrad@pacbell.net
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 9:31 PM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Carole Groom; Warren Slocum; David Canepa; Don Horsley; Dave Pine; 'Drew Combs -'; 'Betsy Nash -'
Subject: RE: Request for Flood Park Design Changes

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hello County Board of Supervisors,

22-564 is the file number. I am just getting information on how to send this email, and I am sorry for the multiple messages. This continues to be an experience in perseverance. It feels like the county of San Mateo Parks Department does NOT WANT any further feedback from the actual neighbors of Flood Park. They want to get their plan approved, even though they are creating problems for our neighborhood. Information is difficult to find, and it seems to be difficult to try to get our voices heard. The report from Rincon is absolutely ridiculous. You cannot build two sports fields and then tell people when they can play on them. How are you going to keep people off the fields when they are not scheduled? If you build it, people will come play on them whenever the park is open, and if the park is not open, they'll be there too. Fireworks from the park is a nightly occurrence in the summer. On Del Norte Ave the majority of people have small yards. Our homes are feet away from the park fence. My picnic table is about 8 feet from the fence. The park designer has a picnic area for 150 people (I believe this is the number based on the last map I saw) on the other side of the fence from my home. They moved some of the picnic areas away from Del Norte Ave, but this one remains. So every weekend, we will share our backyard with picnic goers, their amplified music (all you need is a permit and amplified music is fine) and live bands. This sound will most likely travel into the interior of our home. Does this sound reasonable to you? There is an entire park to place the picnic areas. Why does one of the large reservable picnic sites still need to be so close to Del Norte? Further, we will have the sound from basketball and pickleball (which is crazy noisy and was not include in the Rincon report).

There is a line in the report that claims no noise complaints were received from athletic fields and parks in Menlo Park. Maybe the county of San Mateo did not receive these complaints, but is a completely untrue statement that complaints were not made. There were many complaints from neighbors about soccer games at Willow Oaks Park. I am aware of this from working with AYSO at the time. The neighbors of Hillview Middle School were very vocal about not wanting activities on weekends when the field used to be near the neighbors (before the redesign). The neighbors at Menlo Atherton High School were extremely vocal and fought very hard to limit game time (and these were Atherton residents with large backyards and large setbacks). And these are just the complaints that I am personally aware of. I am one person. I would imagine there are others.

Please do not approve this design as it. Please let's take another round to make sure Flood Park is a good neighbor to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shari and Scott Conrad

1031 Del Norte Ave

p.s. Please include my original email below as part of this message.

From: sconrad@pacbell.net <sconrad@pacbell.net>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 8:33 PM
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Cc: 'Drew Combs -' <dcombs@menlopark.org>; 'Betsy Nash -' <bnash@menlopark.org>
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A field on the Del Norte side of the park will bring drop-off traffic through our neighborhood. Since soccer practice is hourly, this will encourage many trips, hour on the hour all afternoon and on weekends through our neighborhood. If the field is on the parking lot side of the park, cars will be more likely to use the parking lot. In addition, this will include whistles and spectator noise starting early in the morning on weekends, and every afternoon and evening. Please encourage the park to build the second field next to the parking lot, or not to have a second field, if they can't find another place to put it. There is already another full-sized field planned next to the parking lot.

3) The park is being overbuilt (there is not nearly enough parking for the activities offered):

It's hard to say no to any group of interest, but the park is being built with too many activities and not enough parking. Worse, they have tried to add parking spaces, but they are inaccessible. The two-sided parking at the back edge of the park (near Iris) only has one lane in between the parking with room for one car going one way at a time. This will never work in practice. The picnic spots by themselves (765 people reserved capacity PLUS 20 additional drop-in sites (no reservation required) are enough to use more than all the parking, with no room left for basketball, volleyball, tennis/pickleball, a pump track, a new all access playground, a full-size soccer field or a full-size baseball field, room for spectators, the oak woodlands nature area, demonstration gardens, and an amphitheater, etc. When there isn't room to park in the parking lot, they will park in our neighborhood. The impact on Bay Road is also most likely going to be a problem. In addition, new affordable housing from Atherton and Suburban Park is going to be accessed from Bay Road. It's unclear if this street can handle the additional traffic being routed its way.

We appreciate the park designers moving many of the large picnic sites away from the Del Norte fence line. This was a very positive design change. We are hoping that a few more design changes can be made to make the park a good neighbor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shari & Scott Conrad

1031 Del Norte Ave

From: mikemurphy@attentivelens.com
To: [Don Horsley](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [Carole Groom](#); [David Canepa](#); [Dave Pine](#); [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Cc: [Nicholas Calderon](#); ["Mike Murphy"](#)
Subject: Please accept the revised Flood Park plan -- thoughts from a community member
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 4:12:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

To the Supervisors –

I'm Mike Murphy, I've lived down Bay Road from Flood Park for more than 25 years, and I walk there several times a week to enjoy the woodlands.

I strongly encourage you to support the 2022 revisions to the plan for Flood Park. I think that, on balance, it's a big improvement over the 2020 plan.

I like the way the revised plan brings the sports fields together on the sports-oriented side of the park, which allows the heart of the woodland side of the park to remain intact. I consider the woodland to be the most important thing in the park. The cutting of the woodland in the 2020 plan was a huge flaw. The revision does a good job of correcting that flaw, while still welcoming soccer into the park, along with the return of baseball and tennis. These are all good things.

Now, does that mean I think that the plan is perfect and ready to build?

No! Definitely not! There are still simple adjustments that can be made that would save significant trees and contribute to the environment and the natural feel of the park without disrupting sports. And many things still need to be developed, including the plans for understory and woodland stewardship.

So, here's what I urge you to do, at this interim point. Accept this revised plan as an improvement over the 2020 Plan, and at the same time, encourage the Parks Department to, always, keep as much of the natural environment as they possibly can, and start a program of restoration and stewardship that can be sustained in the future.

----- Mike Murphy
903 Christopher Way
Menlo Park, 94025

Sukhmani Purewal

From: FloodPark Ron <RonSnow@FloodPark.org>
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 3:51 PM
To: Don Horsley; CMO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Ron Snow
Subject: Flood Park - Agenda item 3

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Supervisor Horsley and Honorable County Supervisors,
I first want to thank County for addressing a devastating planning error that would have destroyed the historic Flood Park woodland. Parks new revised Flood Park plan acknowledges the community's overwhelming out cry against putting a sports field in the woodland. Parks now has moved the offending sports field to the sports field side of the park. Much appreciated!

However, you will note that one of the 5 prime objectives of the Flood Park plan, as your [Board Resolution](#) states for this agenda item, is to **preserve trees**. This new revision fails to honor that key objective; however, with just slight adjustments that the [community has identified](#), this revised plan could save considerably more trees with virtually no impact to the this new revision.

Why is this preservation of trees so important for Flood Park?

The most recent [tree inventory for Flood Park](#) shows that most of the trees at Flood Park, almost 70%, have a health rating below 'Good'. In fact, more than 20% of the Flood Park trees are rated Poor, Critical, or Dead. That is a terrible testament of our parks stewardship. Add to this the disastrous future effects of climate change and drought and we have a very dire outlook. To therefore, willingly destroy Flood Park trees that are providing habitat for wildlife, shade for the park, and ambience for all visitors should be stopped. We really should be preserving as many trees as possible and the community has identified several minor revisions that will do just that: Preserve trees.

Summary: i hope that you will add a caveat to your approval of Parks revised Flood Park plan so that Parks will be directed to preserve trees and be open to incorporating the community suggestions and feedback so that more trees can be preserved. The [community has shown](#) that many more trees can be preserved by simply shifting tennis and basketball courts a few feet and by a slight reduction to the small 3rd sport field.

As you have heard from others, the community also would like the safety of the children's Pump Track to be a prime focus. A safer location should be considered. Safer from an oversight and improved supervision perspectives. Moving the Pump track away from trees will reduce the potential harm to the existing redwood grove where the revised plan location now exists. Shifting it slightly to the cleared area occupied by the existing pétanque court would be good, or even over to the open area near the Park manger housing at the entrance.

To show the importance to the community of this request for the caveat to be placed on your approval of the Revised Flood Park plan, I have attached hundreds of comments from the community regarding protecting the nature of Flood Park (from county's recent survey). Also, attached is a simple graph outlining community suggestions to preserve several important trees.

Sincerely,
Ron Snow



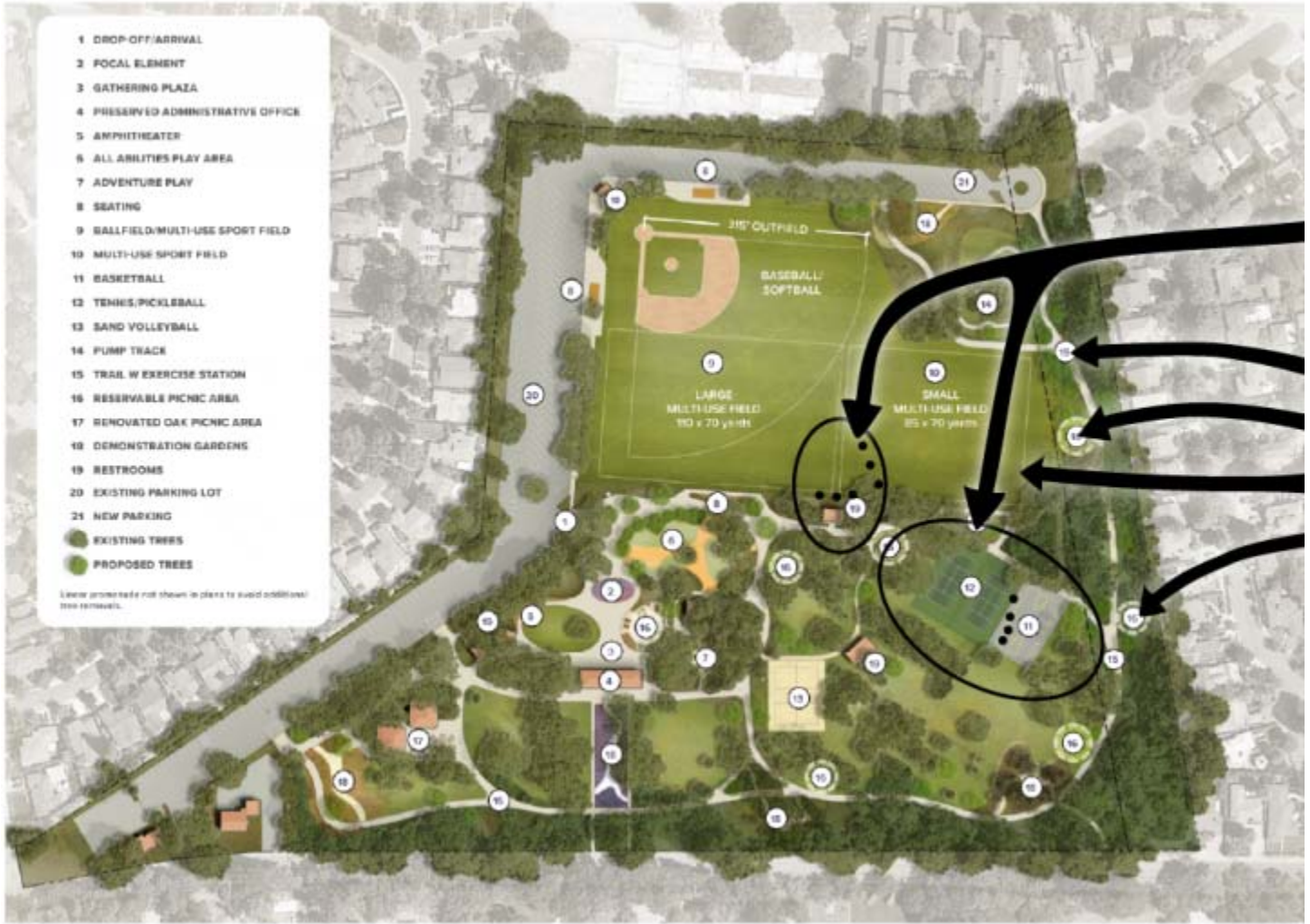
Ron Snow

Flood Park Advocate — Friends of Flood Park

Menlo Park, CA

Ph: 650.949.6658

Community Suggestions to preserve many more Flood Park Trees:



Community Comments from County Survey:

Responses
Recommend that you move the 2nd soccer field to the open sports side of the park, in order to preserve the nature and trees on the woodland side of the park.
It is critical to preserve the existing oak/bay woodlands. Please preserve the heart of the oak woodland.
Please DO NOT cut down the trees in the heart of the oak woodland.
We think that the second desired ball field should be next to the new multipurpose field and parking lot where fewer trees would be lost to build it. Please keep the heart of the woodland intact.
Picnic area with shade trees is super important! Flowers would be nice to have, or flowering shrubs.

Flood Park is special having its woodland picnic area.
Please don't cut down the trees in the middle of the woodland! Please find a different location for the extra soccer field. Please make the new amenities less formal-feeling, and don't cover so much of the ground with pavement. Please keep the natural character of the park!
I've seen that this park is advertised based on the presence of large oak trees. Please don't do anything to reduce that allure. I'd urge you to maintain the wooded areas of the park and to look to acquire adjacent land for additional sports fields.
Keep the oak woodland where the circle of group picnic sites is. I live adjacent to the park and know that people come because of these trees. The petition to "build new amenities under or around the trees" has over 3500 signatures now. Corporations like Abbott & Intel hold company events in this woodland/picnic area. PUT THE BALLFIELD # 2 NEXT TO THE NEW MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD AND PARKING LOT. The picnic sites and playground serve every age and people come from near and far to them. prioritize and fund care of the woodland as an valued ecosystem very needed on our dense urban area and to help offset global warming. Rebuild all picnic sites and new playgrounds in Phase I and keep them available to the public. Have a place to honor and learn about the Ramaytush Ohlone Native Americans.
Aren't we overdoing youth team sports? I didn't like them when I was young, and neither did my children or my grandchildren. Yet somehow we all grew up to be good citizens and successful people. Ball fields are welcoming to a few people, but not to the rest of us, and not to wildlife; even urban wildlands are welcoming to everyone.
Over the past several years our neighborhood has lost a disheartening amount of tree canopy to big developers building unaffordable homes. No new tree planting can restore this for decades to come and Flood Park has remained an oasis of nature. Please don't destroy it. Surely new facilities can be built in smart ways that respect nature and can exist in harmony with the trees and not to replace them.
It would benefit many who use the park to have a dog park area. Recognizing that dogs are not allowed in the park generally, there could be a fenced-off section with a gate that opens to the street (Bay Rd). This would be a great benefit to the many dog-owners in surrounding neighborhoods!
Please make it possible for Flood Park to own the land which was formerly James Flood Elementary School and not allow the land to be used for housing.
I don't like to lose any more trees. No amount of planting new trees can make up for the loss of the existing trees.
I go to Flood Park with friends when we want a "picnic in the woods" experience without travelling to Huddart Park. Thus, preservation of the trees is a priority for me.
Please consider moving the 2nd soccer field to the open sports side of the park and preserve the nature and trees of the woodland side of the park.
Please refrain from cutting down heritage trees.
The possibility of saving heritage trees while also building a new soccer field without cutting them down sounds attractive.
There's nothing like time in nature to rejuvenate.... anything that can be done to preserve the trees, which take decades to mature, while encouraging community use of the park would be great.
Please do not cut down any existing trees! Our family would like the woodland to remain in tact.
The heart of the woodland must remain intact and must not be used for a sports field. The plan allocates far too much land for sports fields and destroys the essence of the park. Though our family plays soccer, we abhor destruction of Flood Park trees for multiple soccer fields. The population really needs the group picnic areas with the volleyball areas among the gorgeous trees. This critical park with natural beauty is in a neighborhood. If multiple fields with contemporaneous use are planned, you would need a parking garage and an access road and much larger restroom facilities. The plan is cramming way too much infrastructure in a relatively small park in a location without adequate parking. It appears the county planners are considering only the soccer lobbyists. The soccer players in our family do not want to destroy a beautiful county park.
Please save these beautiful trees that purify our air by manufacturing O2 and removing CO2.
Expanding pickle ball courts in Menlo Park should be a priority. This is an expanding sport and there are inadequate options.
We have fought in Menlo to save the heritage trees and have been successful. Smart minds can find a way to preserve the trees and build the needed play space.

1)My priority is to preserve all park trees as they are now.

DO NOT REMOVE ANY TREES!

2)What persons or organizations will benefit financially with the addition of the ballfields? This information is being kept secret and we should be informed beforehand of the participants in the proposal to change our beloved park.

3) Traffic overflow to residential streets is a very big concern.

If the current sport facilities have fallen into disrepair, why create new sport facilities in other parts of the park that may eventually follow the same fate? This may be an indication that people don't really use (and will not use future) sport facilities in this Park, regardless of expressing that's what they want.

We are now facing a climate crisis. Protecting the environment should be our priority for our community. Flood Park is the only and rare place where trees and nature are protected along the 101 freeway. We should keep Flood Park as a place to nurture and sustain our trees and wild life for the benefits of all of us.

You note that the 'community' has expressed interest in the 'redevelopment' of the park. I believe the plans have more to do with generating future long term revenue.

We have existing parks which fill the needs of children. We do not 'need' more playgrounds; every school has playgrounds for children as well.

Adults AND WILDLIFE have needs too. This is the only park of it's kind locally. I would think a naturalistic setting would be much preferred to the PLASTIC environment that is so prevalent everywhere.

Furthermore, the act of gassing innocent wildlife is horrific. I cannot even pass by the park for thought of the wildlife which you have elected to terminate because 'they are in the way of progress'.

All the park ever needed was maintenance; it's a lovely, peaceful park with beautiful structures from long ago and trees which have survived for decades and decades.

I fear that nature will and has already lost this battle; shame on the County of San Mateo. I strongly object to your future plans involving Flood Park in any form other than maintenance of the existing grounds. RESPECT nature and leave the trees and animals alone. WE HAVE ENOUGH ALREADY.

Keep the sports field out. of the "wood lands". Preserve most of the trees!

I have been in the area for 20 years and the promise of this park being renovated has been on the table. My kids are almost out of the house and now they will to be able to enjoy any of the plans. This has taken too long.

Many people in the community have chimed in. Those are the same people who benefit from ridiculous home appreciation, all while the people driving that appreciation have less services per capita in the community than they had 10-20 years ago. We all love trees, but field space to have our kids be able to exercise is grossly underweighted in our community, not even factoring in the numerous upcoming high-density housing projects in the area.

The land between the existing baseball diamond and freeway is ideal for soccer/sports fields. Is this part of the park? If not, has purchasing this land been considered? This seems like a great alternative to cutting into the woodland/natural areas.

beautiful park, please don't change it

It's a beautiful park with large native trees including oaks, California laurels, and California buckeyes. There is no other county park in the immediate urban area with trees like those in Flood Park. Please don't cut them down.

<p>These beautiful trees are ages old and should be respected and preserved. It seems that the alternative solution, which does not involve cutting the trees, meets everyone's needs and desires so I fully support the alternative plan which will both preserve the trees and provide the sports and play areas. Rotating baseball and soccer days seems a very small sacrifice to save the trees.</p>
<p>I like the new idea of putting all the sports fields together next to the parking lot. Encouraging people to use the parking lot and not dropping off on Bay Road or in the surrounding neighborhoods will make it safer for all. If you put a field next to Bay road you WILL have parents slow down or pull over on Bay road to drop kids off. Make it so the safest option is the option that makes sense. Drop off should be from the parking lot.</p>
<p>Make it dog friendly</p>
<p>Keep the sports field out of the heart of the woodland.</p>
<p>Already San Mateo County has a bad reputation for failing to protect trees. In my neighborhood, lots have been subdivided with no consideration to saving by working with the existing beautiful old trees that are so critical to our good health, the natural habitat, conservation and global warming issues, preserving history, i.e. some of the gorgeous oaks, redwoods and other trees that have taken so very long to grow, and which are absolutely a part of our heritage to be jealously protected. So easy to cut down, so difficult to remediate the bounty these trees provide us. I endorse any one of the proposed alternatives which results in no or least amount of destroying the Park trees. PLEASE PROTECT THE TREES!</p>
<p>Stop removing so many trees. Can't you figure this out. An artificial turf field where trees once were is a lame trade off. They won't grow back in our lifetime.</p>
<p>I really love the big oak trees and picnic areas. I also like informal sports that families can participate in. Volleyball, pickleball, basketball tennis. I do not want to see big organized sports games.</p>
<p>Preserving the woodland, trees in general, and nature are critical.</p>
<p>I know that youth sports are important to the community but I feel that we can use other areas to build sports fields that do not require the removal of trees and natural areas that can affect our wildlife. We should not be removing value trees that help clean our air, provide shade, and home to so many animals. There are already too few spaces where nature is being preserved in our smaller cities.</p>
<p>Can a pitch and putt or a short 9 hole disc golf course be included in the redesign?</p>
<p>My main hope is to keep the woodland. Put the sports field in the back but keep the woodland. Keep the park as natural as possible, Don't chop the park into many little areas. Also, 20 drop in picnic tables is not enough.</p>
<p>PLEASE DO NOT destroy the precious once in a lifetime oak trees in this park.. you can have fields anywhere but these trees will not be back.. DONT DESTROY AND REMOVE THE OAK TREES</p>
<p>The oak trees are a treasure that should be preserved. Should also allow leashed dogs (at least during the off peak hours). Questions should have a "don't know" option in addition to yes & no.</p>
<p>Flood Park contains one of the last remnants of the original oak woodland still accessible to the public. Preserving this scarce natural habitat is extremely important.</p>
<p>In the first online meeting the idea of placing the sports field together to preserve trees and keep the high activity soccer / baseball together. This seemed like a good idea as it would create a high energy space in the park for awesome sports fun and a quieter more natural area amongst the trees. I like the idea of more dirt and natural trails than more concrete. More skinned knees on concrete.</p>
<p>I like the idea of idea of situating the play fields next to each other versus spreading them out through the park. It concentrates the noise and activity in one area. This approach allows the saving of the heartland trees while not impacting the goals of providing more sports areas for kids. Win-win! I would also prefer a natural walking path vs. a concrete path. Thanks for asking!</p>
<p>I feel that for a multi - field to work for most members of the community, the field would need to be natural grass with some kind of transition from field to the edge of the surrounding woodland area. A natural grass field could seem like more of a big meadow than a piece of carpet in a forest.</p>
<p>The town of Davis has several parks that have open grass areas for sports and play while the surround areas of the parks are well planted groves of trees or natural woodland perimeters.</p>
<p>No oak trees should be harmed</p>
<p>I only support the back field being dedicated to sports. I do NOT want two sports fields.</p>
<p>Preserve what's there with the trees and natural areas. Use flood school to add multipurpose field.</p>
<p>This project is too overbuilt with sports facilities.</p>
<p>Green space is a treasure to the community and it would be great to see the park come back to life and offer more options to all ages to enjoy.</p>

Please don't cut down the trees. Our kids have grown up in flood park over the years.
PLEASE make the park as accessible and as inclusive as possible. Not only will ALL of us become disabled at some point, but 10% of us have disabilities far before adulthood. Please ensure that the park is truly accessible and available to residents of all ages and all abilities.
We have live next to and have visited Flood Park for over 50 years. We are distressed that there are plans to destroy some of the native trees in the park to make room for sporting fields .
I am in favor of consolidating all sports fields at or close to the location of the current fields and saving as many trees as possible from being removed.
I sometimes walk in Flood park, and I love the trees. I think it is very important to preserve the heart of the beautiful oak forest there.
please preserve the heritage trees. trees are critical to our well-being. trees are being stressed with the drought and some will die. please save every living heritage tree as they take decades to replace.
Removing 72 trees is too many. In this climate change era, we need every tree to grab the carbon monoxide. Trees give shade and cool the earth. This is just unconscionable. As I watch large homes being built I see most of the property trees and plants being removed. There is a need for children's sport fields. Why can't the county buy or rent the old flood school area? Why isn't the old softball field not being resurfaced to be baseball and softball with a soccer field. There are no trees there and should be repurposed to save some trees. Having raised 3 children in Menlo Park, I understand the shortage of fields. It's a hard balance, but I hope you reconsider saving many of the old oak trees.
I love the green space in our community
My mother's family moved from San Francisco to Menlo Park in 1924. I don't know when Flood Park first opened, but I remember stories about family picnics and baseball games. I have lived most of my life in MP and picnics and games at Flood Park were a big part of my living here as well as my children's growing up here.
The trees are the most important feature of the park. We enjoy being able to picnic in the shade on warm days. Dogs should be allowed here.
Please preserve the woodland of Flood Park. These oaks are gorgeous and unique and contribute to the character of the area.
It is vital that the trees in this park are preserved and not destroyed. More trees, especially in urban areas, directly benefit the health of community members and directly benefit the wildlife in the area. Keeping old growth trees alive has a much larger positive impact for climate change compared to planting new ones. Design for this park should find ways to coexist and even benefit from the already existing nature.
Would be wonderful to allow dogs in the park with clean up stations and plenty of waste containers
Please consider adding a road to give access to the area behind flood park ...
Preservation of the trees is a crucial part of keeping this park alive. With numerous unused space, I do not see a need to chop down these trees.
Please take the trees down they are very obnoxious
Keep dem trees
There are hardly any other public open spaces in Bayside San Mateo Co. with oak woodland like Food Park.
Protecting and preserving our heritage trees and canopy is a fundamental value that must be clearly and unequivocally embraced by the city in all its actions. If the city so loosely disrespect this value, what to expect from the individuals?
Would like to add a golf range
In 2020 we were promised access for dogs. I see no reference to dogs or access by dogs in any of the plans presented. Please advise where the poop dispensers and garbage cans will be and what trails we can use for exercising our pooches.
I don't get there much when it's too cold but I enjoy walks and exercising mostly during spring and fall. In the summer, it provides a real respite from the heat although with record breaking highs of late, even the cooling shade from the trees is not enough. Cut those down and the place will become downright inhospitable during hot spells.
We need more urban and suburban oasis like these instead of more athletic fields with artificial turf that create more heat island effects in our neighborhoods. There are already many athletic fields in the area that sit idle a lot of the time and kids need time to interact with nature as well.
I feel it is very important to preserve the existing flora in the park and not cut down any of the old growth that is in the area proposed for the two playing fields. It does not make sense to remove nature for more playgrounds when those playgrounds can be built on already developed land.

We drive from the other side of 280 specifically because of the impressive trees and the shade they provide. Preserving this as much as possible would be our priority.
One unique thing about Flood park, that no other park in the area has, is a quiet and natural atmosphere. It's relaxing and peaceful, where as other parks are loud and active. My family loves to spend time in Flood Park weekly. One of my methods of managing during the pandemic has been to slowly walk through the back paths and appreciate the birds and ground squirrels.
Please preserve as many trees as possible in our beautiful park.
Keep the trees. Allow dogs. This county is not dog friendly enough.
don't cut down trees!
Please preserve the trees in the heart of the woodland. I don't want an additional sports field. Keep and add on to the fields near the current baseball area.
An area for a dog park would be nice.
I wish the pool was still there. Flood Park used to have a swimming pool. I really like the canopy. Where Flood school used to be would be a good site for the playing fields so fewer trees would be removed.
Please do not cut down the native oak trees. They belong there. Leave the oak trees in the heart of the woodland. Leave them to help with the cool shade and natural beauty of the the park. This is why some of us go to a park, to enjoy the natural environment.
Please do not take down trees to make room for athletic fields
Preserve trees, they help fight climate change
I teach at Peninsula School and classes regularly walk over for science classes and free play among different classes. Keeping the natural areas wild and unmanicured is essential to maintaining this pocket of woodland habitat on this side of the Peninsula.
The Small Playing field disrupts the natural setting and peacefulness in the center of the park and does not belong so far from the other field. Remove that option for now, removing shaded areas in park seems to go against the environmental health of people, what will clean the air, reduce sounds of the highway and naturally cool the area next to all that open space. Doesn't add to climate crisis to remove trees.
We find the park unusable because dogs are not permitted. Please permit dogs. Also, remove the trees that are tying up the power and cable lines.
Buy or lease the Ravenwood School property next to park
Please save as many trees as possible. This is so important in the time of climate change. Also the trees make leaving around Flood Park so pleasant. Raven's with school district is playing a giant apartment building behind flood park and the trees will help hide this huge hidensity project. Please preserve as many trees as possible. This is what the neighbors that I've spoken to want most of all.
Don't cut trees under San Mateo plan use the Community proposed alternative A.
I used to live a couple blocks from this park and have always appreciated the natural setting. We have lost so much of our oak woodland in Menlo Park that I really don't want to take out any of our native oaks. A new tree can't replace a century old tree.
Keep the trees.
Please make the park DOG FRIENDLY!!!
Dog park please. Or at minimum allow responsible dog walking within the park.
While I think the effort is genuine, I feel the current woodland space is vastly underused currently and encouraging the use for a sports field.
Spend less \$\$\$ and revamp what's currently there. Stop cutting down more trees - need the shade in particular!
Our family cares deeply about preserving the heart of the woodland. Please position the multi-use field alongside the other fields on the sports side of the park!
Please do not build any more sports fields and do not cut down any trees!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Build the sports fields somewhere else!!!
Please preserve the oak woodland. Instead of sports fields, why not use the woodland as a space for harvest festivals, art festivals, a small annual Renaissance faire, or other uses for which the woodland is an asset. But preserving the trees and woodland in its own right is the principal benefit.
Please preserve the woodland, the habitat it provides, the nature at the park. With todays climate change, habitat loss, and need to protect our trees, don't cut down trees for a 2nd soccer field. Instead, keep the sport fields in the area east-north-east of the woodland trees. Add the 2.5 acres available from the old abandoned Flood School. Don't put a soccer field in the woodland - if a 2nd soccer field is needed, add it to the old school property and make it part of the park.

Try not to take out too many trees.
Please do NOT overbuild Flood Park! Please preserve the heart of the woodland and position the multi-use field alongside the other fields on the sports side of the park. This means just building ONE soccer field and keeping the current tennis courts (which only need to be repaired – not rebuilt).
The alternative plans proposed, which allow for retention of so many trees, is my strongly preferred approach.
Thank you for all the work that has gone into Flood Park! One concern that I have is regarding increased car traffic. We need to make sure that the surrounding roads, parking entrances, and parking are sufficient to support park visitors while ensuring that pedestrians and cyclists have very safe routes. One of our favorite aspects of the park is how it is right in the middle of our neighborhood and is very easy for us and many families to access by walking/biking.
Sport facilities should be together
I don't think we need another playing field with all of the ones available. Love the park for its nature and picnic areas. Please renovate the tennis courts and keep all of the volleyball courts, because those are hard to find.
Don't cut down existing trees. Aren't you about reversing climate change be consistent. Why are we even fighting to save our trees. Do the right thing people
Please save the heritage oak trees
please do not change it
The future is pickleball. Do the research . You'll see.
Thank you for asking for input
Please do not cut down trees in the heart of the woodland
Don't cut ANY trees
I really like the natural woodland area, it helps me to clear my mind and I enjoy reading under the trees. Even though we're not near the mountains, it has a similar feeling and I would love to see that preserved. Having a soccer field next to a baseball field also helps to consolidate the noise and creates a designated sports area.
I would like the existing fields at Laurel Lower and M-A to be multi-use on the weekends rather than installing more sports fields in Flood Park.
The sports community was organized due to their rosters, \$ spent on sports. They do NOT represent the silent MAJORITY of the city or users of our parks. Children are a shrinking population in our state and this community. We don't need another sport field AT ALL. We need access to nature which 90% of our parks DO NOT HAVE. Super hard for me to drive to Woodside Parks and pay the fees. Pls preserve the nature of Flood Park. We need to SAVE the big trees - ALL of them. Grass does not produce clean air. Trees do. Trees & nature benefit Everyone. Sports fields do not.
Si me gusta una area de bicicletas y patinetas.
Don't cut down the trees in the woodland area.
Keep woodlands intact, develop amenities under and around the woodlands
No
I support adding affordable housing to flood park. Stop using trees as an excuse to impeded the development of affordable housing.
Also, it ridiculous that 2 boxes on the trees had to be checked. This skews the answers to make it sounds like everyone thinks trees are important. Trees aren't a priority for me at flood park.
Please do not cut down any established trees.
Please add pickleball courts as that's the fastest growing sport in the US. Also consider removing parking fee would make the park more accessible.
Save the oaks in the heart of the woodland! Tree preservation is essential in our increasingly dense urban environments and is necessary to offset global warming. Unnecessarily cutting down mature trees is contrary to the good of all.
Many huge groups reserve space in this park for large events. Local neighbors would use the park more if dogs were allowed- our neighborhood had so many walkers! Please allow them to use their local park too! Not just make it a destination for huge outsider picnics and baseball games

We're very excited about the park upgrades! One concern we have is whether water use of the fields and ongoing maintenance costs are accounted for. It would be sad to see new features become decrepit like the baseball field is currently. But we like the progress these plans have made so far and look forward to seeing the work begin!
Putting a soccer field in the heart of the oak woodland is a terrible idea. It goes against virtually everything discussed at all the prior meetings. The large combination sports field - another terrible idea - will not be suitable for baseball games. It will be used almost exclusively for soccer while there is an acute shortage of public baseball fields in the area and clearly no shortage of soccer fields. It should be, as was always "promised", a baseball field with a fence first and space inside for a smaller soccer field or multi use but primarily a baseball field. High schools will not be able to use the field as currently shown for games and as I said, there is an acute need.
Please save the trees. Trees are what make Menlo Park so special. The park will be so much less attractive without our beloved trees. It is essential for the long term health of us all to preserve as many trees as possible
The park should incorporate street access from Iris Lane to access the Ravenswood old school site.
Please keep the woodlands intact, saving healthy trees, and build amenities around and under them. Trees have environmental benefit and support well-being. They are especially important for children and families to experience accessible natural surroundings.
Preserving the heart of the woodland is critical to sound stewardship of Flood Park. Please do preserve it.
I would like to say that our few, precious wooded areas need to be preserved , the mature trees are too fundamental to our health and well being, and new trees will need to be replacing the one removed or diseased.
who ever proposed 2020 landscape plan never was involved in playing soccer since any strong kick can go over on bay rd and creatate car accident community proposal A jan 2022 makes sence since is safer and sport area concentrated safe from the bay road street activities hope we will make sence and not destroy heart of the woodland and provide safe area away from bay rd traffic thank you for asking opinion of community
I have seen a proposal that would preserve the heart of the woodland while allowing for a multi-purpose field to be built. This seems like the appropriate solution.
although we do not have big family picnic we love to see other families having fun. The family picnics are the vitality of the park
we like the community proposed alternative a plan. thank you!
roller hockey rink would be amazing
The appeal of this park to me is the natural habitat and the scenic areas.
The baseball field is way too big for little league, and much larger than baseball fields at neighboring parks. Perhaps the size should be reconsidered. The multi-use sports fields are the most important aspect of the new fields and would accommodate the most people.
Save all the trees.
The vocal but small group advocating against the removal of trees have more time push their agenda. The silent majority of people that would love to see the new Flood Park are busier folks that do not have the time to support this new project. Most of us are parents with two full time jobs and multiple kids. We need a modern park in the area.
It's Flood PARK not Flood Sports Facility. Let's keep it as a park.
Parks are one of the most accessible and convenient ways for people to be among nature. Flood Park deserves to be that space for the people of Menlo Park and surrounding areas.
Preserve the oak woodlands heart and heritage.
I attended the Zoom "Break Out" Meetings and it seemed that was a way to deflect the large group of people that wanted to express their concerns for preserving the established trees on site that the County wishes to take down. To me, it did not sound like the County Parks Department Meeting Facilitators really wanted that sort of input.
Beyond preserving the natural wooded areas of the park, it is also important to have naturally shaded areas that protect my family and others from the sun and heat while enjoying the outdoors, especially in summer.
Please do not remove the trees at the heart of the oak woodland! Mature oaks are an incredible resource that can't be replaced with replanting elsewhere. In addition to being important anchors in the entire park ecosystem, they provide shade and a cathedral like quality to park that can't be replicated. Reimagine the baseball diamond into multipurpose sports fields, but put any other field in the same area, at the entrance, or on the school property.
This project needs to sync with the Flood School development. There should be a road to let the tenants get directly to Bay Road.
Don't cut down heritage trees or any trees, we need trees in our parks

Do not cut down trees and make a big open space for sports. There must be a solution. We need natural shade and preservation of our canopy.
I've been coming to flood park for family gathering at reservable picnic area. Please don't get rid of them. It'll be impossible to try to reserve a spot with only 2 areas to rent. Drop in areas don't work for bigger groups of 50-70
I visit the park every single day as it's a 10 walk from my house. I value the trees in the park and want to make sure they remain. I support the community proposed location for the new soccer fields and want to see the "heart of the woodland" remain intact
I am opposed to cutting any of the oak trees, or removing any of the lovely trees along Bay Road. Menlo Park has enough sports fields, but not enough Nature areas with shade trees to walk in close to home.
Unless I missed them, I see only one picnic area that can be used for large community gatherings. We have used the Oak Picnic area numerous times. There were times it was not available for the days we needed it. It would be nice to have a second one or a couple more that can hold 100+ people.
Use one multiplayer field and save heartland trees.
Why is cutting down native heritage trees even on the table. Very sad.
Please please please preserve the sand volleyball courts - Publicly accessible courts are a rare commodity on the Peninsula
Please preserve the heart of the woodland and position the multi-use field alongside the other fields on the sports side of the park.
There are very few wooded area to enjoy, there are many playing fields!
I would like to be able to walk my dog on a leash in the park.
We had our 50th reunion of Menlo Atherton High School in October of 2021 in the Oak Picnic Area with about 100 people. We would like to continue to use Flood Park for future reunions, and hope that large picnic sites are a part of any improvement plans.
We really need more basketball courts and that would be a HUGE help. Currently there are not really any for the kids. BASKETBALL! I would also like the splash pad idea. We don't have any of this near us. Trees can be planted. i don't mind the removal if necessary
Why is so much of the park being covered with ball fields? Nature is important to.
It would be great if dogs were allowed. Even making a dog park one for small animals and one for large. I used to go there a lot before I got my dog. IWe don't have enough dog parks in MP. I know a lot of other people in the community would appreciate that. For example, Mitchell Park in Palo Alto has everything, sports area even a school and is free and allows dogs. Even has a dog park.
Please keep the sports field out of the heart of the woodland area.
Double sinks WITH hot water in the group area is important to maintain safe handling of food. Idea -on demand hot water heater installed with lock and key for reserved events?The entrance cost is prohibitive for anyone who wants to sit for an hour to eat lunch-disappointing. Currently, garbage collection areas in the group picnic area are not large enough. There must be enough room to store trash from large events on both Saturday AND Sunday (and sometimes Friday). PS I do not have an opinion on Heritage vs Oak Woodland, but your survey requires that I make a choice-so I made something up.
I would love to see Flood Park Revitalized with sports fields so that more people can enjoy this space.
Preserving the heritage trees is off utmost importance. Trees like these are unlikely to grow due to the drought and must be preserved. There is already a huge baseball field that is never used that can be part of the remodel, but leave the massive trees that make this park worth coming to.
We have our annual family reunion there in August and would love to see another "premium" area in the park
When a person pays \$50 or more for a picnic area, there should be a RESERVED SIGN - IN RED - puts up on that spot so that you don't have to rush to the park to secure the spot that you had paid to reserve. RUSHING TO THE PARK EARLY IN THE AM, DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF PAYING FOR A SPOT TO SECURE IT.
We enjoy the use of the BBQ area in the Oak picnic area. Having the BBQ pits together is a fun, healthy way for families to be together and monitor coals in one area.
There are other alternatives for playing fields, but there are no other alternatives for heritage trees and oak woodland. Once these are gone, they are gone for the protection of the environment--oak woodlands are natural air conditioning, which we desperately need in hot weather, especially with global climate change. And they are gone for the enjoyment of future generations and cannot be replaced.
I also use big picnic areas for parties

multiple bathroom areas would be ideal so you don't have to walk far to use, especially with small children
We use the park for our annual church picnic
Preserve areas which are used most frequently by the largest and most diverse demographic. NOT sports teams which use it infrequently.
I would come to flood park way more often if it was improved. The current park is sad but has so much potential to serve Menlo Park residents and beyond.
I believe preserve that natural elements in the park is very important. The notion of flood park is all about nature and being able to preserve it. I believe building more to it will take the nature aspect away from it and will make it less "nature-homey" like. Also I don't think the multi purpose field would be used as much as other areas
I was born and raised in Menlo. This park was a go to place when I met my husband and then took my kids there. My Autistic Grandson lives with me now and I want go be able to take him. It's being in nature in the city. We can't lose that.
the citizen 2020 plan looks the best
The question above about tree preservation is unclear at best, and deceptive at worst. Unless people know better, "preserving heritage trees" and "preserving the oak woodland" sound the same, and they sound similar to planting more trees and balancing nature and sports use. There are already sports fields present that are not used - why build more? It seems San Mateo county has a preference for building more sports areas, and surveyed populations and creates questions that lead people in that direction. This park is unique in all of San Mateo, and building more "amenities" will make it like going to a foreign county to learn more about it, and finding McDonalds there. In this time of climate change and loss of nature all around us, cutting down trees unnecessarily seems foolish and out of synch with the times. Please keep the current healthy ecosystem intact - thousands of people have signed a petition to support keeping the oak woodland intact. Once the trees are gone, they are gone forever. There are alternative plans for the sports fields and also keeping the woodlands intact – please use these!
Please do not cut down the trees. You don't need to cement over everything.
Very excited about this. I am most concerned about the installation of artificial turf and pour in place rubber given the PFAS exposure and increased heat. This is one of the few natural parks and It can still be a natural area that is accessible to everyone with all abilities. PLEASE do not install artificial turf or pour in place rubber. Too many places are becoming like magical playground.
Do not plan large sports fields
I loved growing up being able to wander through the woodlands and playing amongst the trees. I would spend lots of time riding my bike on the paths weaving through the park.
Trees are essential to offset the impacts of global warming, none should be removed. More should be planted. This should be priority one. We lived next door to the park for years.
Please save the trees
I live in Flood triangle in Menlo Park. Both of my children are in elementary school and play in organized sports. We have a field shortage in this area for sports. I really wish the Flood Park renovation project would stop being stalled. This has been going on for YEARS. Let's move forward, improve Flood Park and make progress! The constant delays have created "analysis paralysis". Let the designers, arborists and landscape professionals do their jobs.
More shades!
I would like to see a change in the park rules, so that dogs are permitted if on a leash.
I'm very upset to learn about the proposed cutting of the heritage trees. Isn't there any other place to put the fields?
No new soccer field, please.
Trees provide shade and act as natural sound barriers - as a neighbor we appreciate a thoughtful plan keeping noise levels low.
Please don't destroy the tranquil beauty and wildlife of this park.
This county has been negligent in preserving heritage trees to the detriment of public health, wildlife, and climate change. To plan on cutting down multiple trees to make room for sports fields when the county could make better use of HS fields is utterly insane
It's such a beautiful place with so many big trees that offer shade & homes for wildlife. Love the concentration of the trees which would be lost with their extermination. Ballfields, sure, but not in the middle of the park. They belong outside the groves & with the other fields.
Glad to see the improvements in open space

Please leave the woodland picnic area as woodland. One large multi-use field is enough. There isn't enough parking for that intensity of use anyway. Too much of the park would be set aside for only sports. It's a park, not a sports complex. Plus, the foxes, bats, eagles, and owls would probably be displaced.

Preserving the trees is essential

Trees make the park and can never be replaced. That is the magic of the park!!

Rather than extra soccer fields, effort could be put into maintaining & enhancing the current field.

Have only small areas for sports

The county is going through the public hearing process because it's a required process. I don't believe you're actually going to change your mind. It's very disheartening.

If you're honest with yourselves how many time have you ever changed plans? 10%? 30% 50%?

If the percentage was high, what really impacted that movement? Personal impact based on living near a project?

I imagine the rest of the time you label community input as required nuisance but nothing more than complainers to ignore.

Our neighborhood is losing healthy, growing trees; will be overrun with cars that aren't going to pay your \$5 fee when they can park for free on streets; noise and traffic. On top of a new housing project close to the park.

It will affect quality of life here.

So I can comment, but you're so convinced of your "progress" that it doesn't really matter. It's just another way to check off boxes without listening.

Cultivate a "heart of the woodland" feature.

Keeping heritage trees important for us all

I support the community proposed alternative A that preserves the heart of the woodland heritage trees.

Our neighborhood used to host annual picnics in Flood Park. I see lots of family, church, and other groups using picnic areas in the parks, having weddings, and much more. It's a great gathering spot for the community, particularly with so many of us not having personal yard space for outside play.

Most of all, though, I really want to see this project happen soon so we can have more field space for multiple sports, particularly baseball for older youth/adults.

Lastly, I'd like to consider having the park serve as an access point for the newly proposed housing development on the adjacent vacant parcel that was previously a school and is owned by Ravenswood School District. This high density housing community could use direct access to the park, as well as much more direct access to Bay Road, rather than a longer, winding route through an existing neighborhood. Would love to leverage this moment to see the housing happen without negative traffic impacts to adjacent neighborhoods-- and add vibrancy to the park.

I'd like to see events here - small neighborhood concerts, beer garden, things that bring the community together.

buildsoftball and playground areas as soon as possible

Thank you!!

Any reduction of trees would be a mistake. We need all the shade and open space the trees provide in this time of climate change. The openness of the park is the reason my group uses it for our annual gathering. Any restrictions on availability would also be a mistake.
The fact that you've been able to save 92% of the trees with the current plan is enough for me. Cut down the 22 trees, plant some new ones elsewhere, and let's move forward. Thank you!
We are Seniors and enjoy having a place away from Bay Road traffic to get daily exercise, also to see some wildlife and neighbors enjoying picnics and play areas.
Our family and guests take frequent walks in of Flood Park; it's a refuge that we relish. We are refreshed by the park's natural woodlands—the rich atmosphere of the groves, and pleasure of sharing the space with resident creatures.
Given that there are feasible plans that could maintain the central heritage woodland and still provide the enhanced sports facilities that some desire, it would feel like a crime against nature to choose a plan that destroys the central groves.
I want to point out that designing the survey to require two selections in the question of priorities distorts our vote to give top priority the central oak woodlands. We are aware that the "preserve heritage trees" is a misleading description for a plan that does not protect the central oak woodlands.
Please preserve heart of woodland. Those trees are irreplaceable and they define this area. There are plenty of space to build sports facilities. We should not trade irreplaceable old trees for totally replaceable sports fields
It's painful how long you have been talking about this project. I will be dead before you implement it and I'm 45. The plan really isn't that much different than what is there now. Spruce up the existing field add a community building and actually maintain what is there then stop wasting all of these planning resources
I live within walking distance of the park. Right now the park is not very appealing to walk through as a result of the ground squirrel population. I also have a dog, it would be nice to be allowed to walk a dog through on a leash. The mature trees most certainly are a habitat for wildlife. I know a previous wildlife survey stated there was no wildlife. A hawk frequents my area and it surely also pays a visit to the park trees. I also feel that the people pushing to update the park are the people who are not currently using it. The picnic areas is frequented by large groups and the volleyball pits are very popular. Please do outreach to the groups that actually use the park, like live, in-person surveying.
There have to be other areas that could be used for sports. Why does the solution have to involve going to a site that has lots of heritage trees already and we think nothing of just taking them out. The city seal of Menlo Park is an oak tree and I have never been in a city that thinks nothing of taking out trees as much as Menlo Park. We should change that seal if we keep behaving this way. It is appalling.
I hope the community building will be affordable for non-profit groups such as Girl Scouts. It is very hard for MP based troops to find affordable indoor & outdoor spaces for events. We do use Flood Park picnic sites occasionally but are always in search of affordable indoor options.
Please add a turf field with Men's and women's lacrosse lines.
My family has lived in Suburban Park for two years and have fallen in love with Flood Park! It's been such a nice escape for us during pandemic closures and lockdowns. We really believe it is a focal point of the community and can't wait to see the changes/improvements that will be made.
Would love to see as few trees lost as possible. Would also love to do what we can to minimize traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods.
Looking forward to seeing this project come to life.
Wheelchair access is important
It is important to balance the woodland areas with other uses. Tranquility is one of the nicest parts of woodlands to enjoy nature without kids and people talking loudly and screaming.
We are very concerned about the additional traffic and noise that would be generated in the park by adding large playing fields. Flood Park is a beautiful nature area and must be preserved as such!
Natural green space for people and wildlife is a benefit to neighborhoods and should be a priority when planning for the future.
no
I enjoy walking in the park very much

<p>Flood Park has been an important part of my family's recreational life. My sons played ball there, they explored, and we had picnics there. As a teacher, I brought 4th grade classes there every year to learn about nature. Please do not cut down those healthy trees. The other trees need them for a healthy woodland community, the animals there need them, the people who visit need them, the residents of the county need them.</p>
<p>This area is one of the best oak habitat parks in San Mateo county. Prioritizing leaving it in its current state is important to me. Having a field at the expense of the trees would also lead to damage and overuse in the areas that lead to and from parking, which would mar any remaining serenity to these sections. Playing fields are not for all users, but the trees and the oak habitat are, and they are distinctive. Please maintain them!</p>
<p>sport fields please!! Kids need more fields to accommodate the demand for playing organized sports. Adults need more fields to play organized adult leagues sports.</p>
<p>I feel strongly that heritage trees should not be cut down in order to make a new soccer field; the soccer field should be placed near the baseball field where there is open space.</p>
<p>I do not think that a second sports field is necessary if the larger one can be multipurpose. More needs to be left in a natural state to promote mental health, curb climate change, and allow for space for wildlife. Large, heritage trees are critical to reducing the temperature of the earth. Tennis courts are particularly troublesome as the manufacture of cement is a leading cause of CO2 emissions and thus climate change, and it does not allow the earth to soak up water and "breathe".</p>
<p>Our family likes picnics in the park and enjoying the big trees, especially in the summer. It's so peaceful for us. Please don't change that.</p>
<p>Been resident in Suburban Park adjacent to Flood Park for over 60 years. PLEASE stop removing trees that I enjoyed as a child and that my grandchildren will soon enjoy!! Also STOP exterminating the squirrels!!</p>
<p>I hope you will reconsider the location of more sports facilities in order to preserve the habitat and ecosystem that already exists at Flood Park. The park already lends itself to more nature-heavy activities rather than sports. Removing precious habitat that already exists for birds and other animals is the wrong direction for this park.</p>
<p>I moved a few streets away from the park in 2015 and was excited to hear improvements were coming to the park for my young family. I now have 3 kids, will probably move away soon, and this park has taken so long and is in such disrepair, it's a real shame. It's just got worse and worse. I have to drive across town to visit parks that aren't run down and I'm sure in 2023 I'll be asked to fill out another survey about Flood Park because some new concern will arise from a nostalgic nimby intent on delaying building for anyone other than themselves.</p>
<p>I would love to see Flood Park be an active location for sports practices and games, so we need fields. Playing sports and promoting an active lifestyle for our youth is more important than preserving trees.</p>
<p>The addition of a pump track to the plan is tremendously exciting. We are enthused about the upcoming movie night - is that something the county might support in the future?</p>
<p>Keeping the big beautiful mature trees should remain a priority for the park revamp.</p>
<p>Parks provide habitat we don't have at home. We get to see birds and other animals because of the wooded areas. Please do Not remove the trees to make a sports field. We need the trees that we still have. Mature trees are important in an area with a lot of asphalt and houses. It's respite for us. Please keep the trees. Thank you for asking!</p>
<p>Please help preserve natural areas. These areas provide well-documented health and emotional benefits to people of all ages and abilities. Ball fields only serve for a narrow age and ability group.</p>
<p>Despite living in San Carlos, we go to St. Raymond, and play lacrosse for the M-A Grizzlies youth lacrosse team. If we have practices or games at Flood park we'll be there. It's hard to get fields reserved, which yields odd times and days for practices. Having more sport fields will ease the demand and allow for better practice/game times and days.</p>
<p>soccer fields appear to be more important than Lacross fields.</p>
<p>From what I see of the patrons of the park, they would be more interested in playing soccer, rather than lacrosse.</p>
<p>One of the reasons we love Flood Park is all the trees. My kids love going birdwatching there. The large trees provide shade so the park is still pleasant in the warmer months and there's a diversity of interesting birds, including screech owls, great horned owls, red tail hawks, red shoulder hawks, and woodpeckers. We're bird nerds and it's one of the few parks where there's a good bit of nature AND a playground</p>
<p>Use existing sports areas and leave the trees in place. The park is perfect the way it is now.</p>

Drop-in soccer fields and picnic areas don't mix. The flying balls, shouting, and swearing (believe me, I played soccer for 20 years) will be annoying to other visitors and a hazard to small children. Sports fields should be kept to the current ballfield area of the park.
It would be great to have the fields available for kids sports. We are lacking fields in Menlo Park for baseball.
Menlo Park definitely needs more space for kids to play sports and have a place to hang out with friends and family for picnics or pickup games.
Natural areas, with native oaks, are essential for the health of cities, as they help intake carbon, which is the major culprit causing climate change. Playing fields are a great way to get kids outside, but please don't destroy the heart of the woodlands in our park. Please place the fields in another space.
The mature trees and oaks are a big draw of Flood Park. Trees and woodlands, especially in urban areas are important and valuable for animals, people and the planet.
Please keep the heritage trees
Trees breathe life into our environment and should be preserved as much as possible to create a fine balance between them and other uses. Please keep the heritage trees.
Please balance woodland and sports fields with a STRONG preference to not destroy the heart of the woodland for a ballfield. We don't get mature trees back once they are gone and they are vital for human and animal health, particularly in offsetting global warming.
We need an enclosed dog park and dogs allowed on leash in other areas
We live two blocks from the park. My son was one in 2015 when this process kicked off, and he is now almost 8. We're ready to see this project realized so another generation doesn't miss the opportunity to utilize the park as it's intended. You will not be able to please everyone. Please stop trying and just move forward with the plan.
Please don't cut down the heritage trees. They are beautiful and we appreciate their shade and nature.
I taught primary school in MP for many years and took my students to the park. I would like to save the trees in the picnic area, and move the playing fields away from Bay Road.
The trees at the park, especially the oaks, are what make the park such an attractive place to visit. They make it a place to breathe, relax, enjoy the birds and wildlife. People often are unaware of the benefits of the natural world while they focus on active recreation. Please locate the 2nd field away from these trees, and preserve the trees. Some of the non-native trees (e.g. privet) can gradually be removed and replaced with more suitable species.
For so long, this park has been run down and the space not well used. It's great to see this project happening. It's a great opportunity for community and enabling activity for family and youth.
I believe that the planned removal of trees is reasonable. If we are to accommodate population growth in Menlo Park (and the surrounding areas), we need to create recreation space, including sports fields, tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, gathering spaces, etc. I am OK with tree removal to create these spaces and perhaps we can replant with trees that are more drought resistant and better suited for the area.
Very excited about this project and the positive impact on the community. My kids will age out in several years but so happy for younger youth
We desperately need more baseball and lacrosse fields in Menlo Park to accommodate all the kids who want to play!
Preserving the baseball field is important to me, along with preserving heritage trees and trees in the oak woodland.
Would a fenced dog park area be possible? We would use that weekly!
Please add sports fields for the youth in our community!!
The park is beautiful and it would wonderful if there were better multi-use sports fields for youth sports. My family often stays after games are concluded to play in the parks and have a picnic. What a nice treat that would be in your park! We visit Flood frequently - 5 to 6 times per month - but find the lack of sports fields to be a drawback since we have very active children
I am really excited to have the park remodeled. It has always been so disappointing that there is a park nearby but it has been unusable for most of my lifetime.
Menlo Park needs more baseball fields. There are many interested families and it creates competition for the few baseball fields available.
Most important to me is preserving the baseball field and the heritage trees.
With climate change consequences and extended droughts, please do not remove the oaks and other native trees who offer much needed benefits to wildlife and all of us. Spend funds to take care of the woodland and older trees. Don't spend money to remove them and replant trees.
Do something to increase sports fields, baseball, soccer, etc..
pickleball courts would be very helpful. The sport is catching on and courts are in need. The baseball field would also be important. The local M-A Little League can always use more fields.

<p>This is taking way too long and we wish it would start already. Also, we'd like to see the pet restriction lifted asap - even before the project begins. The fact that dogs aren't allowed is ridiculous.</p>
<p>This looks like a call for sports fields. The more people that reply for sports fields to more the county can push removing the heritage oak trees. There is plenty of sports, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, pickle ball, pump track. How about forgoing ONE field , just ONE field to save the trees. Everyone gets something. That is compromise.</p>
<p>The additional multi-use field further reduces the more natural areas in the park at the expense of shade, loss of heritage trees, and decrease in small drop in gathering areas. We need to preserve one of the few remaining oak woodlands in Menlo Park.</p>
<p>If there must be a second sports field please consider the Alternate A plan suggested by community participants that places the field up next to the baseball field. This will keep the sports activities toward the back of the park, preserve the oak woodland, keep the picnic areas separate from the sports, and allow for people to have direct access to the sports fields from the parking lot areas. Also I feel the promenade and those areas near the edge of the parking lot are too much organized concrete and is requiring some additional trees to be removed. I would prefer casual walking paths (the ones we have are adequate) that meander through the park and don't require further tree destruction and create such a formal look. I look forward to enjoying the demonstration garden. I would prefer that play ground equipment not be placed in the woodland area if possible.</p>
<p>I am a board member of Menlo Park AYSO, serving the Menlo Park, Atherton and parts of Palo Alto areas. We DESPERATELY need more field space for all age groups. The field at Kelly Park is great from a layout perspective (lined for full size but with 2 7v7 U10 fields length wise) but hard to access for many due to traffic and location. We need both game and practice space on this side of 101. We LOVE the current plan and I'd love to see both fields stay. We have LOTS of trees, and this move to sacrifice usage for trees is not looking at the whole picture...Ken Rutsky, Asst Regional Commissioner, AYSO Region 109 Menlo Park/Atherton</p>
<p>A Dog Park should be included where dogs can exercise off lead.</p> <p>Changes should include abundant parking so as to avoid parking congestion on city of Menlo Park neighborhood streets.</p> <p>Any sports field lighting should be shielded from residences near the park.</p> <p>County should somehow by eminent domain perhaps taken the Flood School property from Ravenswood School District----or by arranging a trade of other property for school district.....horrendous to place housing on that site (for both people who live there and for adjacent well-established Menlo Park neighborhood.</p>
<p>The proposed placement of a field next to Bay Road is disturbing. The immediate loss of trees, plus likely damage to remaining trees would permanently alter one of the unique values of the park.</p>
<p>Adult sized baseball field important to the local community, it wasn't one of the field size options (appeared to soccer focused)</p>
<p>Would like Flood Park to have an off leash walking area for families with dogs. Menlo Park is lacking of dog park and many families with dogs have to drive their dogs to other cities for dog park. Nealon is the only dog park area that operates weekdays, mornings hours. Not everyone is able to come because the morning is the working hours for us. Please give the Menlo Park residents a good dog park</p>
<p>I moved to Menlo Park in March of 2021. A major plus to my decision to live in the area was was flood park. A peaceful family park that can be appreciated by all ages. Please preserve the trees in the heart of the woodland. I understand the desire to have more sports fields but they can be located elsewhere. We do not have enough nature preserves like where I grew up outside of Chicago.</p>

One of the major mistakes the parks department has made in this project, is not using data you already have from picnic use. You don't really need to do a survey to ask people what kind of picnic use they would like. If you go to the park on weekends, you will see nearly every picnic area is reserved and used with thousands of people. But do those people even know of the plans for Flood Park? My guess is, most of them have no idea the park will be changing. Several years ago, I spoke with 12 picnic groups, and none of them knew anything about the park changing. In the beginning, there was a lot of feedback that picnic use was important. However in the current plan, picnic use seems to have taken a backseat to sports field use.

There are numerous things within the current 2020 plan that should be changed. All playground areas should be located close to each other, so a parent can watch multiple children in different age groups. In the present plan, the adventure play is far away from the younger kids. The placement of the pump track is in a poor location. The prime users of this activity will likely be youth males. This age group is also an age group that can require more supervision. The pump track should be moved over towards the main entry, so Rangers can keep an eye on the kids. Kids on bicycles ride very fast, and are often not careful. I was nearly run over with a group of kids riding bikes home from Menlo Atherton high school. Where the pump track is now, is a perfect place for the demonstration garden. It is a quiet activity and won't disturb neighbors. Please don't place picnic areas along side the fence on Norte/Iris Lane. With picnics, comes a lot of smoke. Where they are currently placed are good locations.

Please do not remove established trees in the heart of the woodland or elsewhere in the park. These trees are precious and of vital importance to nature and the ecosystem of the park.

Este proyecto es fenomenal- para nuestras familias siempre y cuando no se abuse de la gente con los costos

It is a beautiful park that should be utilized by many more families. We need more places where to take kids in this area. Kids need places where they can be safe, and run around and play.

It is also important for teenagers to have a safe place to do sports and activities that will keep them away from drugs, alcohol and social media.

This is what the community NEEDS.

Written Public
Comments for **Item No. 4**

From: [Jedi Master](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Board of supervisors meeting July 26, mor attachments for 501 Palmer Lane
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 6:36:56 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Could you please attach these documents to Board of Supervisors record for 501 Palmer Lane. I will be referring to them in my public comments at the meeting. Thank you

Michael Templeton
650-323-3367



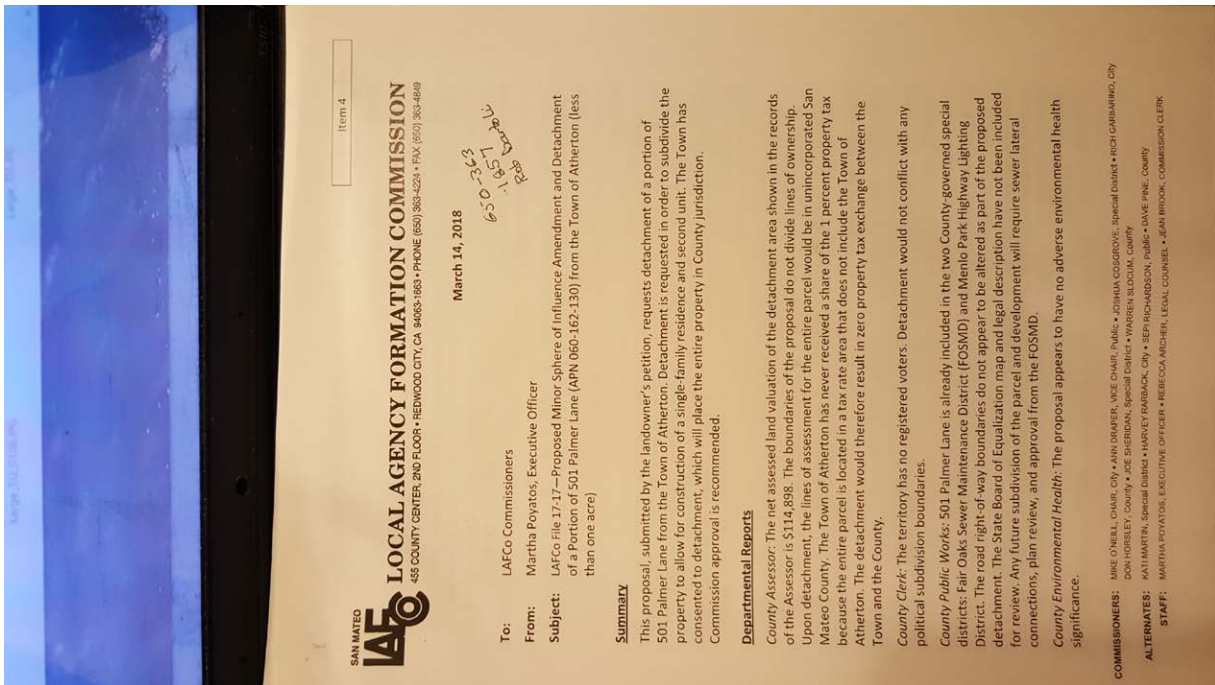






From: [Jedi Master](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Board of supervisors meeting July 26, attachments for 501 Palmer Lane
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 6:19:08 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.



LAFo File No. 17-17-SOI Amendment/Detachment of 501 Palmer Lane from the Town of Atherton
March 14, 2018
Page 2

County Planning and Building: The County's General Plan designation is Single-family Residential and zoning is Residential, minimum 10,000 square feet per dwelling unit (R-1/S-93).

If the proposal is approved, the County will amend the zoning map and General Plan to include the detached portion of the property, which must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. General Plan Policy 7.24 encourages cities to annex urban unincorporated areas within designated spheres of influence. In this case, however, detachment is favored so as to have a single service delivery jurisdiction for the parcel.

The property is currently developed with one single-family dwelling unit served by water from the California Water Service Company (Cal Water) and sewer connection from the Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District, and the detachment would not increase the need for any County services. The detachment process has no additional impacts on multiple jurisdictions or regional resources.

San Mateo County General Plan Policy 8.33 (Cooperation Toward Annexation) speaks to working with residents and adjacent cities to increase an understanding of the implication of annexation. This particular LAFCo application is for detachment of a portion of the parcel located in Atherton. The County Planning and Building Department has historically issued permits for development on this property. Detachment would clarify which agency has land use jurisdiction and provide for consistent application of land use regulations by one agency over the whole of the property.

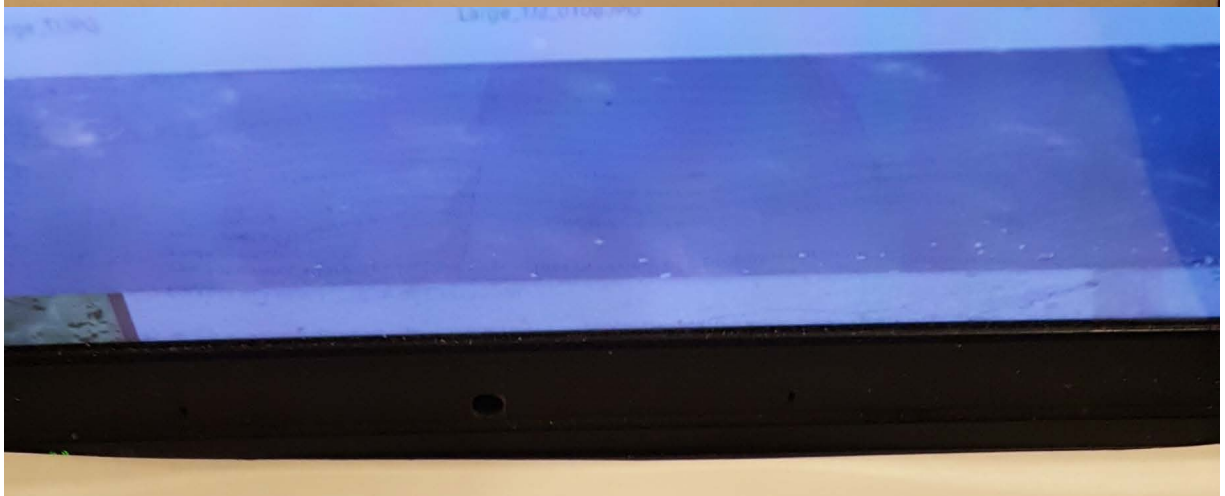
Town of Atherton: The Town's General Plan designation is Low-density Single-family Residential and zoning is Residential, minimum 43,560 square feet (one acre) per dwelling unit (R-1A) for the detachment territory, which consists of a portion of a parcel that is otherwise already in unincorporated San Mateo County and developed with an existing residence.

Executive Officer's Report

Submitted by petition with 100 percent landowner consent, this proposal requests detachment of a portion of a parcel that is split by the County/Town of Atherton boundary. The territory consists of a portion of an existing parcel. It is located in the Town of Atherton and is contiguous with the unincorporated County on one side and fronts Palmer Lane. The parcel directly behind the area to be detached (98 San Benito) and in the Town of Atherton, was once under the same ownership as 501 Palmer and was sold in 1951 resulting in the irregular shape of 501 Palmer.

The requested minor sphere amendment and detachment will allow the property owners to subdivide and construct a single-family home and second unit that would not otherwise be permitted with split land use jurisdictions or if the entire parcel were to be annexed to the Town of Atherton.

The County of San Mateo and Town of Atherton have adopted resolutions agreeing to zero property tax exchange pursuant to Section 99 of the Revenue and Tax Code.



Factors in Consideration of a Proposal

The following addresses factors to consider in review of a proposal pursuant to Government Code Section 56668:

- (a) *Population and population density; land area and land use; per capita assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries, and drainage basins; proximity to other populated areas; the likelihood of significant growth in the area, and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas, during the next 10 years*

As reported by the San Mateo County Planning Department, 501 Palmer is currently developed with one single-family residence with the majority of the structure located in unincorporated North Fair Oaks. As of the 2010 US Census, the population of unincorporated North Fair Oaks was 14,687. The average size of an American household is 2.58 persons. For the portion of the parcel that is located in the Town of Atherton, the County will go through a process of an amendment to the Zoning Map and General Plan. This process will require approval by the Board of Supervisors. These amendments will expanding the existing zoning (R-1/S-93) and General Plan designation (Single-Family Residential) to the detached portion of the property. Any future development on this parcel would have a minimal impact to the overall population of the area due to the likely zoning and General Plan designation the property will have.

- (b) *The need for organized community services; the present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in the area; probable future needs for those services and controls; probable effect of the proposed annexation, or exclusion and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the area and adjacent areas. "Services," as used in this subdivision, refers to governmental services whether or not the services are services which would be provided by local agencies subject to this division, and includes the public facilities necessary to provide those services.*

The proposed detachment would not change service delivery patterns for water, street lighting, and sewer service. The majority of the residence is currently located in unincorporated North Fair Oaks. Future construction permitted as a result of subdivision would include a single-family residence and second dwelling unit, which would have minimal impact on municipal service demand.

- (c) *The effect of the proposed action and of alternative actions, on adjacent areas, on mutual social and economic interests, and on the local governmental structure of the county*

The proposal is consistent with existing residential uses in the surrounding neighborhood and would have negligible, if any, impact on adjacent areas, social and economic interests, and the local government structure of the county.







Could you please attach these documents to Board of Supervisors record for 501 Palmer Lane. I will be referring to them in my public comments at the meeting. Thank you

Michael Templeton
650-323-3367

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Jedi Master <mktiam@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 6:48 AM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Board of supervisors meeting July 26, attachments for 501 palmer lane

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Could you please attach this letter to the Board of Supervisors record of public comment for 501 Palmer Lane, if it has not already been attached by the Planning Commission (they may have already attached it - but I don't know).
Thank you

Michael Templeton
650-323-3367

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jedi Master <mktiam@icloud.com>
Subject: Planning Commission Meeting June 22, 501 Plamer Lane Subdivision
Date: Jul 4, 2022 at 10:01 PM
To: planning-commission@smcgov.org

To: Steve Monowitz
Planning Commission
County of San Mateo Planning and Building
Date: July 4, 2022
Re: Planning Commission Meeting June 22, 501 Plamer Lane Subdivision

From: Michael Templeton

Steve,

I believe the way in which you and your staff conducted the public Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday June 22 at 9:00 am was contrary to the purpose of these meetings. I am in disbelief as to how you personally took the time to lecture me without giving me a chance to either clarify your understanding/misunderstanding of my statement of the FACTS, or rebut your statements. I believe there was a violation of my statutory constitutional rights to “directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public ... that [are] within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body....” I also believe my comments were neither repetitive or irrelevant.

Instead, you all hid behind your Zoom call, and acted like petty dictators and just silenced me by cutting off my microphone after an arbitrary 5 minutes, and not giving me a chance to speak to additional concerns or respond to your comments, while I repeatedly asked to respond by "raising my hand" in your Zoom "meeting". This behavior is something I would expect in a third world country. I shouldn't have to explain that much of purpose of a PUBLIC meeting is to have two-way discourse with the public! If you feel it is too much of a bother to listen to more than 5 minutes of public comment on any one project, I think you all should resign.

I expressed to you my concern that the applicants deliberately FALSIFIED their LAFCO application so as to make it appear as development would be less than what was really intended, and Doris Ann Girerd deliberately lied to Atherton Town Council when she said "the simple thing to do is ask for a detachment". . . "the neighbors don't seem to care one way or the other to do this." (Neighbors did care!)

THE FACTS ARE:

1)Neither LAFCo or the Town of Atherton notified neighbors of the detachment of 9,500 sq. ft. of the 34,816 sq. ft. from the town of Atherton that will enable a change the zoning for the 9,500 sq. ft. from R1A to less restrictive R1s9.

2)While the LAFCo application states "the parcel will be subdivided to allow for construction of a single-family residence and a second unit", instead, the current proposal is for 3 single-family residences (and at least one second unit).

3)Rene Girerd showed me a plan for a 3 single-family home subdivision around the time this application was being processed (So this was their clear intention at the time of detachment).

4)Doris Ann Girerd lied at the Atherton council meeting on December 20, 2017:

"a sliver of it is in Atherton" . . . (27% of the total parcel is NOT a Sliver!).
"the simple thing to do is ask for a detachment" . . . "the neighbors don't seem to care one way or the other to do this." (Neighbors did care!)

5)The Mayor of Atherton expressed his concern about the detachment at the same meeting:

"I guess it's a comment, a question I'm concerned it appears that what we are doing is making it easier for someone to develop a parcel of property which is partially in Atherton and giving up our ability to control that development to I would think the negative impact the potential negative impact to the neighbors to that piece of property and the process does not appear to have been uh it certainly didn't seem to go through the planning or anyone else and come straight here and it makes me uncomfortable that we are doing it uh I'd love to ask the question at least what process was followed, did the neighbors get any notice of this or whoever at least?"

6) After the proposed subdivision, the new parcels on palmer lane created by the subdivision will become 1/2 the size (10,000 sq. ft., vs approx 20,000 sq. ft.) and have 1/2 the required front setback (30 ft vs 60+ ft) of the existing single-family homes on either side of it, as well as the existing single-family homes across the street from it. Making these homes not fit in with the rest of the community. Some members of the Planning Commission seemed to be completely unaware of the lot size & house size in our community.

It is unconscionable that the Planning Commission is rewarding THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR.

I do NOT buy your argument that they can apply to LAFCo and state one reason, and then simply change their mind later, and make a much more impactful development. This makes a mockery of the LAFCo process and the whole planning process. It rewards unscrupulous people whose sole purpose is to enrich themselves at their neighbors' expense. Remember these are absentee landlords, some even out of state.

Your Planning Commission talked about "Mansions". I don't have a mansion. I have a 75 year old, 1250 square foot home. I am simply trying to preserve the "green space" that I and my neighbors are being systematically robbed of by the Planning Commission's approval of the 7 or 8 subdivisions that have been approved within approximately 500 feet of my home (all in San Mateo County), and the resulting impact of the huge "mansions" that have been built on these subdivided lots.

It seems many of Planning Commissioners are out of touch with our neighborhood. My neighbors down the street have gone so far as to PUT A SIGN IN THEIR FRONT YARD PROTESTING OVERSIZE HOMES. I also believe that members of the Planning Commission should be ELECTED, so they can more accurately reflect the interests of the community. Also, no good will come of just trying arbitrarily to put huge houses on every square inch land in the bay area.

Sincerely,

Michael Templeton
mktiam@icloud.com
650-323-3367

July 25, 2022

Re:PLN2018-000271

501 Palmer Lane

060-162-130

I am opposed to this project. I have owned a neighboring property for over 45 years and lived there most of the time.

When I chose to buy and live in the North Fair Oaks area, it was because of the large parcels, quiet neighborhood and numerous heritage trees.

In the last few years, I have watched many parcels split and many McMonsterMansions built.

Many beautiful heritage trees removed, some with and some without permits. I recall at least one nearby case where the county said a new tree would be planted by the builder and this was never done.

I find this very sad. The traffic and noise have also greatly increased to where I choose not to live there any longer.

I do not believe that sub dividing into three parcels with the proposed removal of heritage trees and extensive grading is a good fit to improve the neighborhood.

Please help to preserve the historical, rural quiet nature of this neighborhood by denying this project.

Thank You

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Summer Burlison
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 8:11 AM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Steve Monowitz; Timothy Fox; Janneth Lujan
Subject: FW: 7/26 BOS Item 4 - Subdivision of 501 Palmer Lane

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

From: meghan.km@gmail.com <meghan.km@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Summer Burlison <sburlison@smcgov.org>
Subject: Subdivision of 501 Palmer Lane

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Hi,

With regard to the tree removal, I see the NFOCC pushed for larger box sizes, but I would also implore the planning department to work with the applicant to avoid tree removal where possible (even if inconvenient to the applicant).

We are facing increasing development pressures in NFO with respect to our canopy, and if a land owner wants to move their jurisdiction from Atherton to SM county in order to subdivide, they need to be held accountable for the impact to the natural environment.

Meghan Kirby-McFarland
827 15th Ave

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Summer Burlison
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 10:04 AM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Steve Monowitz; Timothy Fox; Janneth Lujan
Subject: FW: 7/26 BOS Item 4 0 Jonh 501 palmer

From: Jedi Master <mktiam@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2022 6:45 PM
To: jennifer.acheson@ropers.com; Janneth Lujan <JLujan@smcgov.org>
Subject: Jonh 501 palmer

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I live next door to the proposed subdivision. I oppose this 3-way subdivision, especially subdividing that front portion of the parcel that is adjacent to me.

Despite what Dorris Ann Gerird said (that "the neighbors didn't seem to care one way or the other") at the Atherton Council meeting on the detachment of the 9,500 sq ft (to which I received no notice) I did & do care about putting another house practically smack in my front yard.

Let me point out that Every Single existing house adjacent or across the street from the proposed subdivision currently has a 60ft setback from the street, even the one in the county to the north west. The 30 ft front yard setback requirement of the proposed parcel adjacent to me will make any house construed on it out like a sore thumb.

Also, Every Single existing house adjacent or across the street currently have side yard setbacks of nearly 25 ft. If they put a two story house with at 10 ft side yard setback, they will be practically staring in my front & side windows. It will detrimentally affect my privacy.

Also, it is an odd shaped parcel with more room at the back than the front, so it has lesser road frontage. Some of their designs show a merged driveways, but it's not clear how this would work and the congestion it would cause, especially because of the traffic choaker a few feet away. There is also a large county hydrant in front.

Currently there are at times 5 or 6 cars parked in front of the rental unit (end on). You can imagine the congestion what will happen with another 5 or 6 cars.

I urge you, Don't feel sorry for the Gerirds. At the detachment meeting (to which I received NO notice), In addition to falsely telling the Atherton Town Council about how the "neighbors don't care one way or the other", Dorris Ann Gerird went on and on about how she didn't want to leave her children with a lot split between Atherton & San Mateo County- that this was such a "tragic thing".

The truth is, they chose that situation they are in. They sold the other portion of their original lot that was in Atherton to someone who built a house on San Benito.

They CHOSE NOT to sell the 9,500 sq ft. remained in Atherton probably because they wanted to keep their Front Yard or the guy buying the other Atherton portion didn't want to buy it.

Either way they CHOSE it. Either way, they knew the consequence.

This 3-way subdivision is purely an exercise in monetizing their property as much as they can. Dorris Ann's children don't live close by - one is in Los Angeles, the other is in Seattle, I think. They don't care what happens to the property. They don't care if they, or some builder comes along and puts a huge albatross in my Front yard. They are just in it for money. It will not be affordable housing. and it will dramatically lower my property value, and my neighbors property value, and most importantly very negatively impact the character of the neighborhood. (Which I might add, has been already greatly diminished by the nearly 9 subdivision the county as allowed in the past 10 years, all nearly within 500 ft of my home).

At the minimum, please do not allow the reassignment of the zoning from R1A to county zoning for 9,500 sq ft. It is based on telling lies to government.

Written Public Comments for
Item No. 11



July 25, 2022

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Written Public Commentary:
Agenda Item #11 - Adopt a resolution:

- A. Allocating \$4,100,000 in American Rescue Plan- Operating Grants Program
- B. Allocating \$100,000 for San Mateo County Credit Union for grants program distribution.

On behalf of First 5, Thank You Honorable Supervisors, for considering Resolutions A and B on agenda Item 11 allocating \$4,100,000 in American Rescue Act funds for the 2022 Childcare Grant program to provide grants to Center-based agencies and Family Childcare business operators in SMC who are adversely impacted by the pandemic and authorizing SMCCU to distribute said grants. You have made critical targeted investments in childcare in the beginning of the pandemic as short-term, long-term & structural needs remain across the childcare field. Stabilization of the sector for economic recovery is necessary. Preventing closures, underutilization of programs due to staffing shortages and health concerns are a few critical needs for the industry. Thus, general operating grants, supports for re-opening spaces, health and safety upgrades and staff incentives for new hires and retention are some helpful strategies many counties locally and across the nation are supporting for pandemic recovery. As context:

- In a recent survey of programs serving low-income families, 29% reported that they are continuing to maintain smaller class sizes due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19. This reduces the number of spaces available for families and can impact the revenue coming into programs.
- Childcare programs are still seeking funds to make health and safety upgrades to their facilities, such as improving ventilation systems and outdoor playgrounds/classrooms. The California Department of Social Services recently took applications for a new renovation & repair program. Applications far surpassed available funding and San Mateo County was among the top ten counties around the state for the number of grant applications submitted.

We are enthusiastic in our current and future partnership with the SMC BOS and community partners in supporting the childcare sector.

Regards,
Michele

Michelle B. Blakely MA

Deputy Director

mblakely@smcgov.org

1700 S. El Camino Real, Ste. 405

San Mateo, CA 94402

first5sanmateo.org

From: [Christine Padilla](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Board of Supervisor's meeting 7/26/2022 - agenda item #11
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 3:50:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear President Horsley and Honorable Board Members,

I just wanted to send a quick note to thank you for continuing to support child care throughout the many phases of our county's recovery and relief. The support you've displayed for child care providers, working families and our youngest residents has been successful in so many ways. Thank you for showing your commitment again today through item #11. These ARPA funds will greatly assist the child care sector we all depend on to keep our community thriving.

Many thanks,
Christine

Christine Padilla
Director, [Build Up for San Mateo County's Children](#)
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits – Redwood Shores

An initiative designed to preserve, grow and improve the supply of child care and preschool facilities in San Mateo County. Read our Case Study: [A Multi-Sector Approach: Childcare as an Infrastructure Priority](#)

Written Public Comments
for **Item No. 12**

From: [Michelle Blakely](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Cc: [Kitty Lopez](#); [Myra Cruz](#)
Subject: BOS Agenda item #12 Public Comment: Resolution A and B ARPA Funding Allocation_ Out Of School Care Grant Program
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 4:30:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Written Comment:

First 5 is in full support for Agenda Item #12 allocating ARPA funding for Out of School Care Grant Program. We know that supporting the county's children along the cradle to career continuum is a key strategy and need for your youngest citizens and supporting organizations. Thank you to the BOS for support and pandemic recovery is still needed.

Regards,
Michelle Blakely

- A. Approving an allocation of \$2,562,500 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the 2022-2023 Out-of-School Care Grant Program to increase the availability of before and after school and school vacation programs for socioeconomically disadvantaged students in the County; and
- B. Authorizing the County Executive, or designee(s), to enter into an agreement with SMCU Community Fund to administer the 2022-2023 Out- of-School Care Grant Program for an amount not to exceed \$62,500, with a term ending November 30, 2022.

Michelle B. Blakely MA (she/her/hers)

Deputy Director
650.372.9500 mblakely@smcgov.org
1700 S. El Camino Real, Ste. 405
San Mateo, CA 94402
first5sanmateo.org

