

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: 2050 Santa Cruz Ave. TREES
Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 3:01:28 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.

FYI

Please see below.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Yvonne F Schmidt [REDACTED]
Subject: 2050 Santa Cruz Ave. TREES
Date: July 19, 2021 at 10:27:36 AM PDT
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

+ Mike C.

See below.



On Jul 18, 2021, at 8:47 PM, Yvonne F Schmidt <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hello BOS and Planning,

Please see the attached photos taken today, Sunday, July 17th from the Faris's property looking into 2050 Santa Cruz Ave. - Please note the two small trees planted are now dead. These have not been cared for or watered as I don't believe the property has water. Please let us know the resolution to having new trees planted as these trees were planted due to the large tree being cut down without a permit. Thank you. Please provide a timeline and a plan to keep these trees alive.

Best,

Yvonne

On Aug 4, 2016, at 4:29 PM, Lynne McClure
[REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Steve,

I am a homeowner on Crocus Ct, Menlo Park adjacent to a soon-to-be-developed parcel at 2050 Santa Cruz Ave. Menlo Park.

I am joined by my neighbors in informing you of mature, large trees which the developer intends to remove in order to square-off the lots for building. The developer is currently in the process of gaining approval for the subdivision of the property into 3 parcels and access road.

ISSUE: There are mature oak trees (best guess 80 years old and 75ft high) and mature redwood trees along back perimeter which are healthy and can easily be saved in the development process. We believe the developer is not only allowing the trees to deteriorate but also plans to remove some or all of them.

We are the group of homes who have applied to be annexed into the City of Menlo Park for the purpose of not only protecting these great tree assets of our community, but to hold the developer to the higher standards of setbacks, design and building codes of the City. An article was recently published in the Country Almanac regarding the annexation and trees.

Preserving these trees and making certain that current easements, ample allowance for fire department access, allowance for proper utility access, allowance for off-street parking (once annexed into the City this will be critical) is carefully considered and built into the project is our goal.

I welcome an opportunity to speak with you both directly. Please let me know you have received this email and if a phone meeting is possible in the near future.

Thank you,
Lynne McClure



From:

Subject:

Date:

Flood Park Tree Removals

Sunday, July 18, 2021 5:53:09 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.

Since last week's public meeting was postponed, I hope you can answer my questions prior to or during the meeting next week.

I'm writing you as a concerned resident living in the unincorporated Menlo Oaks part of San Mateo County. I drive by Flood Park almost daily. I have enjoyed walking in the park and discovering a wide variety wildlife in the park as well. I've noticed many family picnics and outings in the park--even weddings. I've rarely seen any sports being conducted in the park.

Above all, Flood Park is a peaceful place, and often a quiet, happy place, punctuated by children's laughter, adult conversations in several languages, joyful music and lots of enjoyment of nature. **Why is there a push to spend money cutting down 72 trees, many of them are Significant trees and Heritage Oaks--all to put in several sports fields?**

Flood Park could serve as a wonderful community center, like it used to, or an ecology center for nature education. Why change it in this way when grade school and high school playgrounds and athletic fields are barely used the way they used to be.

I don't understand the motivation to change Flood Park, when the County obviously has not spent the money needed to maintain the trees and other parts of the park in a way it could have. It has suffered benign neglect; yet still it is loved by all who go there. **The park could be re-imagined with the same balance of sports fields and tree-filled picnic areas and pathways that exist today. Rather than creating several athletic fields, perhaps it would be wise to see how modifying what's there goes.** It's the crawl before you walk, walk before you run theory.

I have many questions which I hope you will answer in writing to me or at the upcoming hearing.

- Why do we need this project at this time?
- How will it be paid for?
- Who wants it to be so drastically changed?
- Is this happening in other parts of the County, and if so, when we need trees more than ever due to climate change and droughts?
- Improvements can always be made to parks, but how does this plan to insert athletic fields into shady, wooded spaces improve anything?
- How does cutting down Significant and Heritage trees (some 100, 200 and 300

years old) during a climate crisis improve the park?

- Surely, the County has calculated the carbon sequestration loss in that all of the trees to be removed show their measurements. Can you tell me how large that number is?
- Why force wildlife out of the park and into nearby neighborhoods?
- What was the rationale to kill wildlife like the County started to do that earlier this year?
- Why has the County selected Flood Park to develop playing fields? Are there other areas where this can be done?
- Should the County consider developing outdoor athletic centers strategically placed within the County? Since the pandemic, I should think there might be some raw land available for something like this.
- Are other efforts like what's proposed for Flood Park taking place throughout the County? If so, where? Please send me a list of similar "renovations" that have taken place in the past 10 years and that are planned for the next 10 years?
- Is there a larger strategy in place that this will be the first of many parks that must yield to playing fields?
- Has any consideration been given to the increased noise levels from 101 that will occur when so many trees are removed? This will impact park goers as well as neighbors.
- Has any consideration been given to the disruption, traffic jams, and future noise levels these playing fields will create?
- Does the County have studies showing how and how often the picnic and pathways are being used?
- Are there traffic studies available as to park entries and services used--pre-pandemic?
- Does the County have studies showing how and how often current playing fields are being used? Now and pre-pandemic?
- Should current athletic areas in the park be repurposed if under used, maybe convert them into popular sports or even orchards?
- What surveys have you commissioned that support the need for new playing fields in Flood Park? Are they posted so we may look at them? Please send links to them.
- What population studies and trends have you relied on in making the decision that playing fields offer greater benefits to San Mateo County residents than a park filled with Significant and Heritage trees, a park that's widely used by families for picnics, family reunions and weddings by people from throughout the County, not just those who live within 5 or 10 miles of the park?
- Do you have studies showing a growth spurt in youth sports or adult sports that show a need for more athletic fields? If so, please share them with the public. Please send a link to them?
- How many parks in the County, similar to Flood Park, have athletic fields at the scale you propose for Flood Park? Where are they, and are they being used as envisioned?
- What proportion of parks in the County are athletic fields, and particularly those within 20 miles of Flood Park?
- What is the estimated cost to modify Flood Park this way?
- What is the cost to remove trees? to grade athletic fields? to maintain athletic

fields?

- What has the annual cost to maintain Flood Park over the last 5 years been, and can you supply us with those annual figures?
- Why can't playing fields be placed on existing school grounds or other County lands?
- Wouldn't playing fields placed in neighborhoods help build neighborhoods?
- Wouldn't it make it easier for students and adults to enjoy playing fields close to home and where they go to school?
- What new bike paths will need to be created on Bay Road and other feeder roads? Will trees be sacrificed for them?
- Will streets and bridges need to be modified?
- How do you propose to monitor traffic on Bay Road, which during late afternoons and evenings can be jammed with people trying to get to 101--going to Marsh or going to Willow?. Pre-pandemic, it could take 30 minutes to go 3 miles.
- Do you have studies that show traffic patterns now and for what is proposed?
- What new safety hazards are created making children travel to athletic facilities far away from where they live or go to school?
- Will adding sports fields require more land for more parking lots?
- Have you surveyed residents within 5 or 10 miles of the park to see how they envision Flood Park?. They (and I) are the stakeholders, not people from farther away who need playing fields. If so, I did not get a survey?
- Have you seen the online petition asking that the County rethink and revise its plans for Flood Park? Are you considering changing your original proposal?

It Takes Years To Replace The Trees You Plan To Remove

Some of the trees you propose to remove have been growing in what is today Flood Park for more than 200 or 300 years. Why in the world, with the threat of climate change, would the County kill so many trees and reduce carbon sequestration efforts in doing so? Why would the County create even more smog and traffic problems on Bay Road and for adjoining neighborhoods?

Why remove nature's best air cooling systems, its trees with large canopies, and then plant small trees that will require lots of watering during a drought? Sounds crazy to me.

These older trees provide nature at its best for families who enjoy the park. These older trees can help the County meet its carbon sequestration goals. They shouldn't die to provide athletic fields when there are many more options within the County. Carve up the extra land around schools for that. Put them in areas where they are wanted, not where the County conveniently has some land to it could repurpose--but at what cost?.

The cost of this project must be staggering--even if grants could be part of the funding. The money would be better spent re-imagining Flood Park. The County could probably develop recreational options at far less cost than those proposed that would drastically change this jewel of nature into an urban desert.

Judy Horst
Menlo Oaks

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: RE: Flood Park Redevelopment Plan
Date: Sunday, July 18, 2021 7:23:33 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 Staff:

I have read your redevelopment plan for Flood Park and understand there is a great need for more playing fields and other amenities. However, I am very concerned about the proposal to cut down 72 trees in Flood Park as 50% of these trees are old native, California Live Oaks, Valley Oaks and Redwood trees. The Peninsula has already lost so many of these precious, heritage trees.

I am urging you and your staff to find an alternative that will spare these precious trees and preserve our tree canopy in Menlo Park.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rhea Sampson

Ron Snow

SantaCruz/Alameda For Everyone (SAFE)



From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Flood Park tree removal concerns especially re: new ballfield near Bay Road
Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 12:40:43 PM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2020-11-10 at 11.24.46 AM.png](#)

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 San Mateo County Supervisors - David Canepa, Carol Groome, Don Horsley, Warren Slocum, and Dave Pine:

It is my understanding that you can request that an item on the consent section of the agenda be changed to the regular agenda to allow for a bit of discussion of the item. I hope you will change the Flood Park item on the 7/20/21 consent agenda to the regular agenda in order to discuss the following concerns with the Parks Department.

I am one of the leaders of Flood Park Tree Advocates 2021, an adhoc group of local people concerned about preserving CA native trees and ecosystems, and who want to help the public become more aware of which trees are slated for removal in Flood Park in order to have informed comments at the public input meeting when the Plan is 30% drawn. When my husband and I realized that 31 of the 72 trees slated for removal to build new amenities were indigenous oaks, some quite large and old, we were very sad and began talking to people about it. Only one neighbor was already aware of this, not even community officials. Based on information in the Parks Dept's Tree Report at the end of the 9/26/19 Errata to the Revised Final EIR, on April 19th we began a **petition that now has 1527 signatures.** <https://www.change.org/SaveFloodParkTrees>

The petition states, "The San Mateo County Parks Department's Landscape Plan 2020 preserves 92% of the trees in Flood Park. Among the remaining 8% (72 trees) planned for removal in Flood Park to build new amenities, over half are healthy native trees, of varying sizes, many quite old and large. We, the undersigned, value these trees for their beauty, their importance in the ecosystem of the park, and their role in combatting global warming. We request that new amenities be built under and around native trees, and that the reason for each of the 72 trees slated for removal be published on the Reimagine Flood Park website prior to the first public input meeting."

When the Co. Parks Dept. says they won't remove any "heritage" trees, they are using a county definition of "heritage" as an oak with a diameter (dbh) of over 48 inches. Towns surrounding Flood Park have ordinances protecting oaks with much smaller trunk diameters. Menlo Park's ordinance protects oaks with dbh as small as 10 inches. [People](#)

assumed that the trees in Flood Park that have been thought of for decades as "heritage" oaks would be preserved and were dismayed to learn that 31 oaks are actually slated to be removed. (See attachments)

The three tree removal maps on the Tree Report show that four Live Oaks are to be removed for a new pathway, two huge Valley Oaks where a new playground is planned (see photo), other oaks for the promenade, and 16 for the second ballfield in the oak woodland along Bay Road. (See photos) Pathways, playgrounds, picnic areas, and buildings under oaks are common in our communities. Ballfields cannot be under trees and this proposed field is quite large so modifying its location will likely be more difficult, but the proposed location is in the heart of the oak meadow.

After two huge Bay Laurel trees blew down on 3/15/21, it seemed like shifting the Bay Road field 110' SE could be a possible modification to to save 7 large oaks at the SW end. I am no longer in favor of this idea. 15 trees would still be removed including one CA Live Oak that is huge with a dbh of 48". (See photo) Any location for this field in the oak meadow will result in some of the same problems that caused the Board not to approve the Parks Dept's "Preferred Plan" in Nov. 2019 and to request modifications. To save time and for convenience, parents will drop off players at the Bay Road pedestrian gate near Del Norte Avenue. They will do so also because if they drop off players at the planned drop-off site in the parking lot, they wouldn't be able to see their kids reach the field due to structures blocking the view. That would not be safe. Cars stopped at that pedestrian gate force bicyclists into the vehicle lane of Bay Road. We know this will happen because it has happened for decades - cars stop at that gate for short cuts to the group picnic areas. An ideal location for this second ballfield would be an extension of the new multipurpose field near the drop-off site. The old Flood School site adjacent to the multipurpose field would also be ideal if that site could be acquired.

These concerns and the petition should not be interpreted as opposing Plan 2020. The Plan has many nice features that we are all looking forward to. Neither should they be interpreted as not caring about the need for more ballfields. Both trees and sports are important. Although large old oaks exist in other parts of the park, the oak meadow with its circle of reservable group picnic sites is where people gather and walk the most. The group sites are fully booked every Saturday through early September and many are booked on Sundays. Many of the people who come to this beautiful park live where there aren't big trees like these. The oak woodland section of Flood Park is some of the only oak woodland open to the public in our increasingly dense urban environment. PLEASE REQUEST THE PARKS DEPT. TO ASK THE DESIGN FIRM TO MODIFY THE PLAN 2020 TO SAVE THE OLD OAKS AND AS MANY OTHER TREES AS POSSIBLE. Younger healthy trees already growing are needed to eventually replace the old ones and it is scientifically documented that older trees supply nourishment to younger ones through root connections.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and for all the important work you do on behalf of all of us in San Mateo County.

Sincerely,

Alice Newton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



REVISED LANDSCAPE PLAN 2020

November 2020

San Mateo County
Board of Supervisors
Presentation



2021

Design Phase and
Community Meetings



Spring 2022

Begin
Construction

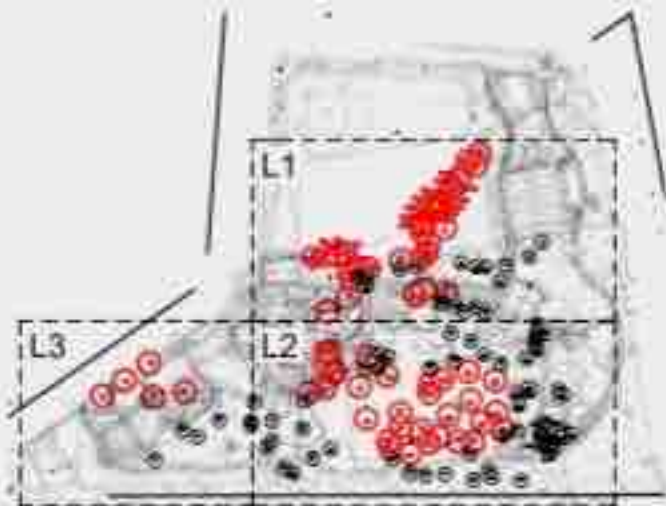
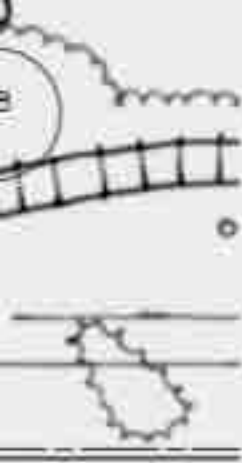
LEGEND

- 1 Promenade
- 2 Focal Element
- 3 Gathering Plazas (2)
- 4 Preserved Park
- Administrative Office
- 5 Group Picnic / Event Space (7)
- 6 Demonstration Garden
- 7 Play Area (All Abilities)
- 8 Adventure Play
- 9 Basketball
- 10 Amphitheater
- 11 Pump Track
- 12 Sand Volleyball
- 13 Tennis
- 14 Trail w Exercise Station
- 15 Ballfield / Soccer / Lacrosse
- 16 Soccer/ Lacrosse Field
- 17 Drop-off
- 18 Restrooms (3)
- 19 Large Reservable Picnic Area









KEY MAP

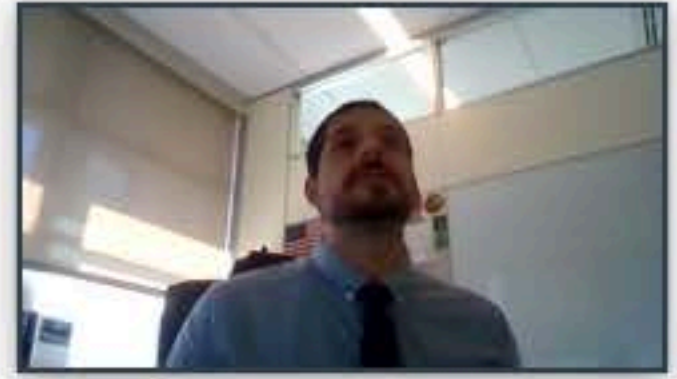


L3



**LANDSCAPE PLAN 2020
ENLARGEMENT**

Preservation of Mature Trees



- Comment:
 - *The community has requested that mature trees be preserved*
- Response:
 - *Over 92% of all trees in the park will be preserved*
 - *All heritage trees at Flood Park will be preserved*
 - *Sport fields and other amenities have been sited to minimize impacts to mature trees*



16 Coast Live Oaks dbh's 48, 40, 36, 30, 28, 24,
24, 22, 20, 20, 16, 14, 14, 12, 12, 12
1 Valley Oak 10", 1 Holly Oak 20"

Bay Road

Redwoods 24", 18"
Bay Laurels 22", 16"

Notations by
Aline Newton 12/2020

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