

From: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Save the Flood Park Trees.  
Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 6:02:20 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 San Mateo County Supervisors - David Canepa, Carol Groome, Don Horsley, Warren Slocum, and Dave Pine,

I want to thank you all for your efforts and work during the hard and difficult the COVID pandemic.

I am writing today to ask you to please spare the old oak trees in Flood Park. These are the large old valley and live oaks in the Heritage Oak Meadow. The San Mateo County Parks Department's Landscape Plan 2020 introduced an additional playing field that I did not realize would require taking 31 of these old oaks down. I did not realize this until I studied the maps and went to the park to see the location. This was a shock to me, and as it turns out, almost everyone that I speak to about the removal of these trees do not know about this, and are shocked and some are outraged by the loss. These are big beautiful healthy old oak trees; some are hundreds of years old. It is possible that the removal was not thoroughly communicated to the Menlo Park community.

I visit the park almost daily, and I can say that this part of the park, with all the picnic sites, on the weekends is enjoyed and appreciated by many people in the area. I see many birthday parties, graduations, weddings and community gatherings in this area of the park. It would be a shame to have these amenities removed, or diminished.

The Landscape Plan has a playing field as a dual use field with the ballfield. Do we really need a second playing field? And I would add that the location of this playing field is problematic. Parents will use the Bay road gate, as it is closest to the field for drop off. It would move convenient for the players, and parents will be able to ensure and be comfortable that the players reach the coach and field. But dropping off players at the Bay road gate will cause problems and danger for cyclists of all ages and types , they will be forced out of the bike land and into the road.

People love and respect these trees. They value their beauty, and their role in combating global warming. I attached a photo to give you an idea of their size and beauty. There is a petition to save the Flood Park trees, it has been signed by more than 1500 people. I have posted a link to petition at the bottom of this email. I encourage you to visit the link and read the comments.

I encourage you all to visit the park, preferable on the weekends, and see the trees that are slated for removal. I hope this removal can be addressed in the upcoming design phase meetings, and the plan modified to save the trees in the Heritage Oak Meadow, and save the other trees if possible.

Respectfully,

Daniel Meehan  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-county-parks-department-save-flood-park-native-trees?original\\_footer\\_petition\\_id=&grid\\_position=&pt=](https://www.change.org/p/san-mateo-county-parks-department-save-flood-park-native-trees?original_footer_petition_id=&grid_position=&pt=)

[Sign the Petition](#)

Save Flood Park native trees



[www.change.org](http://www.change.org)

<https://www.change.org/SaveFloodParkTrees>



Supervisor Warren Slocum  
County of San Mateo  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
wslocum@smcgov.org

July 19, 2021

Subject: Save Flood Park Trees

Dear Supervisor Warren Slocum,

I hope you and your family are all well. I imagine it's been a difficult time to govern during the pandemic. I want to thank you for all the work you and the SMCo. Board of Supervisors have done to support the residents and businesses of San Mateo County. My husband has a micro-business in the arts, and the benefits he received from the local government are helping sustain his business through these unpredictable times.

I'm writing to urge you to be aware of and get involved in the community efforts to minimize the removal of healthy trees, especially Oaks, at Flood Park. My mother, Alice Newton, has been working on educating the communities surrounding the park about the redesign plans since the Re: imagine Flood Park project started in 2015. We are thankful that the SMCo. Board of Supervisors responded to their first request, which was to move the sports fields away from the closeby houses on Del Norte Avenue. However, the placement of the second ballfield near to Bay Road, along with some of the other planned amenities in the park, require the removal of 31 healthy trees and 41 other trees (72 trees are 8% of the number of trees in the park). It is important to note that the section of the park where the new second ballfield is currently placed is some of the only oak woodland left in our urban area that is open to the public and not developed or privately owned. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to protect it and the wildlife it supports, learn from it, and value its lessening of climate warming through carbon sequestration, its cooling shade, and peaceful ambiance.

We began [a petition called Save Flood Park native trees](#) that now has 1,529 signatures. The petition states the following:

"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 combating 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."

We are aware that the SMCo Parks Dept. is scheduled to present their choice of a design contractor to the SMCo. Board of Supervisors this month. We urge you to ask the Parks Department to have the designer try to modify the plan to take out the new second ballfield or at least save as many of the old trees as possible, and to present these modifications when they host their public input meeting when the design is 30% complete.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter that will impact the use of this beautiful park for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Carmela Meehan



[floodparktrees@gmail.com](mailto:floodparktrees@gmail.com)