

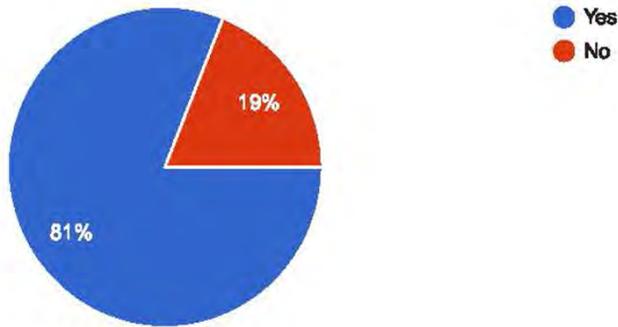
Foothills Park Survey

A survey of residents was conducted by Councilwoman Lydia Kou to assess the opinions of the residents of Palo Alto regarding the proposed opening of the Foothill Park to non-residents. The survey ran from July 28, 2020 to August 2, 2020. A total of 1129 responses were received.

Results were as follows:

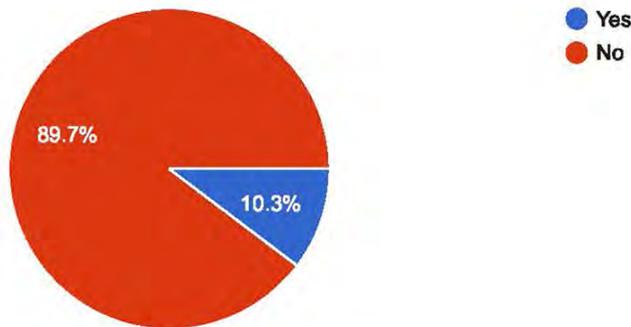
Should the Foothills Park remain "for residents only"?

1,112 responses



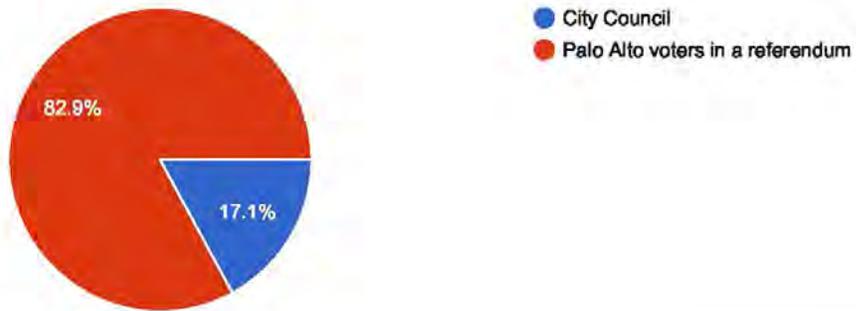
Do you believe it is morally wrong to restrict Foothills Park to residents and their guests only?

1,106 responses



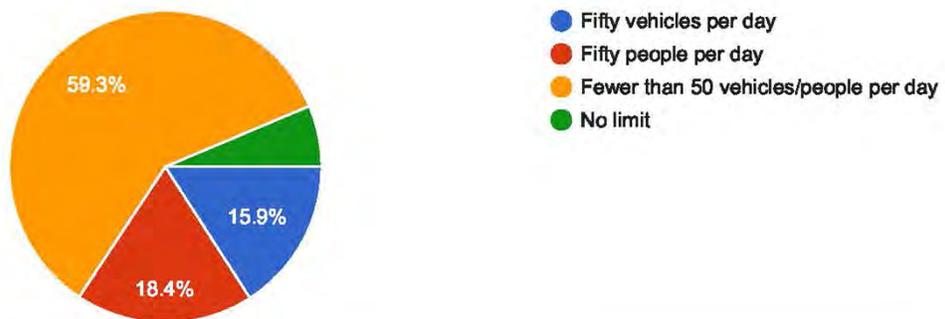
Who should make the final decision on whether to revoke or modify the restriction of allowing Park entrance to Palo Alto residents and their guests only?

1,095 responses



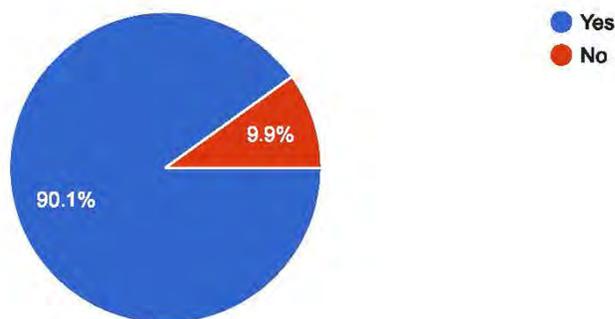
If the pilot program is adopted, what should the daily limit for non-residents be?

1,070 responses



Are you concerned that increased use of the Park may impact wildlife and the Park's environment?

1,117 responses



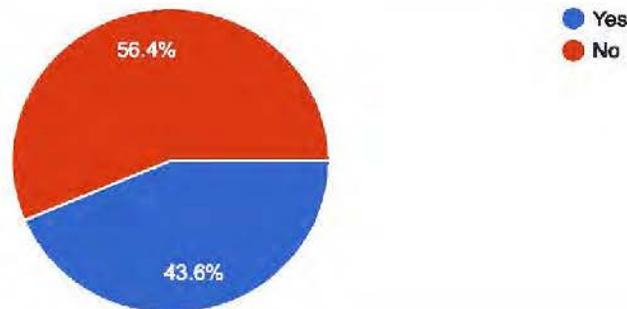
Currently there is no identified source of funding for the proposed pilot program. Anticipated costs include maintenance costs, the on-line reservation system, and additional Park and support staff. In June, Palo Alto City Council cut 40 million for the fiscal 20-21 budget. There are concerns how the proposed pilot program will be funded. How should the pilot program and all costs associated with any pilot program be funded?

1,042 responses



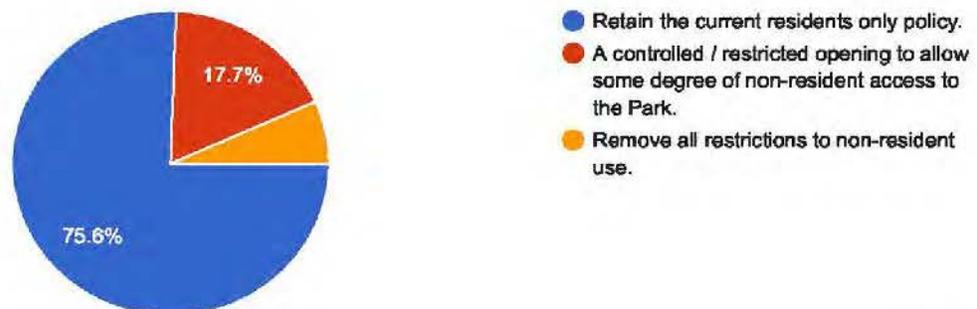
Should the current penalty for illegal entry into the Park be reduced from a "misdemeanor" (maximum \$1000 fine and/or 6 mos in jail) to an "infraction" (maximum \$250 fine)?

1,094 responses



Having considered the questions above, which of the alternatives do you now support?

1,123 responses



Brettle, Jessica

From: Dan Mahoney <dan@mahoney.net>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I'm writing to record my position that FHP should be retained as open space for the residents of Palo Alto. I'm fairly confident that if this ever went to a vote of citizens the result would be to keep it for Palo Alto residents. We already have enough open space for people from out of town. Have you ever tried to get a table at Rinconada or Mitchell Par on a weekend? It's almost impossible.

Let's keep Foothill as a Preserve, and please don't crater to the radicals who say that we are racists (ridiculous) and such because we want to preserve open space.

Thanks

--

Dan Mahoney
dan@mahoney.net

Brettle, Jessica

From: Stuart Bernstein <snbernst@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 12:33 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: These are all valid points

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2020/07/24/opinion-nows-not-the-time-for-full-foothills-park-discussion?utm_source=express-2020-07-24&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=express

Brettle, Jessica

From: Marija Jovanovic <pubspro@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Leave the Foothills Park as is

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Please postpone any discussion about the use of Foothills park for a better time.

Just leave it as it is.

Thanks,
Marija Jovanović
650-798-7448

Brettle, Jessica

From: Rol Williams <rol.wi2liams@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 6:01 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

The Guest Opinion by Roger Smith in this week's Palo Alto Weekly resonated strongly with me. I firmly agree that the issue of allowing nonresidents into Foothills Park (beyond the ways they are already allowed in) should be discussed at another time, when the discussion can occur in the absence of immediate events that are causing emotions to run high and distorting the issue. As Mr. Smith said, given the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the city, the council has many urgent matters that require its attention. Given the significant impact to the park of allowing non-residents broader access, this issue is best served by measured discussion during calmer times.

Sincerely,

John Williams

Brettle, Jessica

From: Ian Temple <ian_temple@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: cyotemple@hotmail.com
Subject: Now is not the time for Foothills Park discussion

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello City Council members,

Let me first say thank you to *each* of you for your service. Your efforts are extraordinary, especially during these trying times!

I am writing to echo Roger Smith's recent editorial in the Palo Alto Weekly. His comments are spot-on, and a fair review of the future of Foothills Park requires data, measured thought, and time. We have "other fish to fry" at this current moment, so I ask we delay this full discussion and focus on what's most important *now*: Keeping our community safe and managing our way successfully through the Covid-19 crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

- Ian

Ian Temple
750 Stone Lane
Palo Alto, CA 94303
USA

Brettle, Jessica

From: Kathleen Tarlow <kbrizgys@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Council, City; ParkRec Commission
Subject: Foothills Park access

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to express my support for the movement to open Foothills Park to non-residents.

I grew up in Palo Alto, hiking and picnicking at Foothills Park. After years away, I live here now with my family, and we frequently use and enjoy the park. I work as part of a local land stewardship group, and I care deeply about the ecology of the land and all its natural resources.

But it is time to remove the discriminatory residents-only policy from this local treasure. Public land should be for public good. We live in the midst of a dense urban sprawl, and greenspace here is precious. Palo Alto professes to support social justice and equity: opening our largest park is a way to show the city means it.

Thank you for your time.

Kathleen Tarlow
University Ave

Brettle, Jessica

From: Martina Poquet <martina@finepoquet.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello, I would like to go on record in favor of opening up Foothills Park. It has been a source of discomfort for me vis a vis many local friends (Stanford, Los Altos, Mountain View,...) that they can't enjoy this beautiful open space. Also, our children who all grew up here and enjoyed hikes and picnics there can no longer visit their old haunts as adults with their own children. Thank you, Martina Poquet

Brettle, Jessica

From: pearl louise karrer <plk37@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: plk37@comcast.net
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Palo Alto City Council Members,

Please delay any voting regarding access to Foothill Park.
Roger Smith's Guest Opinion in the *Palo Alto Weekly* list many good reasons for delay. These are not normal times and require a less charged atmosphere for this debate.

Sincerely,
Pearl & Henry Karrer
570 Kingsley Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Brettle, Jessica

From: RICH STIEBEL <w6apz@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 1:36 PM
To: ParkRec Commission; Council, City
Subject: Keep Foothill Park for Palo Alto

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I urge the commission and council to keep Foothill Part exclusively for Palo Alto.

Rich Stiebel
840 Talisman Dr.
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Brettle, Jessica

From: richard gelman <rbgelman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 4:12 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

To whom it may concern:

I have been a resident of Palo Alto since 1978 and want to let you know that I am 100% against changing the rules which would allow non Palo Alto residents access to the Park for any reasons or circumstances unless as currently stated they are in the company of a current Palo resident. I see no valid reason to change the current requirement and to do so will bring about a whole host of unintended consequences for current residents. Please do not give in to current political pressures. The park serves this community as it was intended: it ain't broke and there is nothing that needs fixing.

Thanks for your consideration

Richard Gelman, PhD
1026 Fulton Street

Sent from my iPhone

Brettle, Jessica

From: Julian E Gómez <jeg@polished-pixels.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 6:54 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Comment for Meeting ID: 979 3073 5263 about Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

This email is a comment on the idea of opening foothills Park.

Opening the park to a greater level of use will increase its operational expenses. Since the city is currently facing a \$40 million decrease in revenue, any proposal to increase overhead is utterly foolish.

Outside agencies that want to use foothills Park should pay their full share of the increased operational costs they create. An entrance fee of a few dollars is not going to cover it; that won't even cover the cost of the officer who has to be stationed at the entrance gate to collect entrance fees.

In short, any proposal to open foothills Park must start with how it's going to be paid for, and that answer cannot include increasing taxes on city residents. Anything else is irresponsible and should be immediately dismissed.

Dr. Julian Gomez
Midtown
856-9839

Brettle, Jessica

From: Annette Ross <port2103@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills ("Park")

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I am writing in support of Roger Smith's suggestion that a decision regarding opening Foothills "Park" be tabled until after the current pandemic and economic crises are behind us. You know the history of Foothills and how that complicates this issue. You also know the safety concerns and how those concerns complicate this issue *and* the finances associated with this issue. To rush this decision now, when full focus should be on getting Palo Alto back on track health-wise and economy-wise, strikes me as both unnecessary and a wrong move. What is the point in focusing time and energy on opening a park that is already essentially open? Most days of the week, anyone from anywhere can drive right in, park, and fully enjoy Foothills. Walkers, hikers, and bicyclists can go in anytime. Race is not a criterion for entry; I don't believe it ever has been.

I think it important to keep in mind that Foothills, while referred to as a park, is really more a reserve with unique maintenance requirements. Fire safety there is critical and it would be foolish to open Foothills to greater usage without fully funding and staffing the fire station there.

Brettle, Jessica

From: Adele Gershater <adele.gershater@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open Foothills Park to non-residents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council members,

I am a resident of Palo Alto. I see inherent inequality in Palo Alto's current policy restricting entrance to Foothills Park to city residents only. I take my lead from Pastor Kaloma Smith of AME Zion Church (located in Palo Alto). His statements to open up the Park to all resonate with me. I've enjoyed Foothills Park and I believe there is room in the park for all who would like to enjoy it. This is in the best interest of both residents and non-residents of Palo Alto alike. We need to progress with the times and right the wrongs that were implemented many years ago.

I urge you to support proposed or new programs which will fully open up Foothills Park to non-residents. It is time to take action against inequality in our community and beyond.

Respectfully,

Adele

Adele Gershater
adele.gershater@gmail.com
650-245-7952 (cell)

Brettle, Jessica

From: Jeremy Erman <jeremy_erman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 7:43 PM
To: PRC.PublicMeetings; Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park should be for everyone, no strings attached

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Parks and Recreations Commission and City Council,

I don't understand why there is so much angst over opening Foothills Park to everyone.

As I understand it, right now the entrance is only staffed on weekends and holidays, so how does opening it up two more days a week make much difference?

And how is making non-residents pay an online fee "opening the park"? In some ways that's more restrictive than the current policy: it says: if you have an internet connection handy, and want to spend some money, come on in; otherwise, sorry, not allowed!

Foothills Park is huge. Most of it is empty most of the time.

Isn't it time to just open the park to everyone, for free, as Palo Alto residents have enjoyed for years?

If you want to make money, then put in donation boxes. Asking people to pay what they can afford often raises more money than charging mandatory fees. Many non-profits offer facilities and services for free and fund themselves through donations.

I don't see how opening Foothills Parks to everyone will do anything other than make people happy that they can go there any day without fear of being turned away. The hand-wringing over this has struck me as ridiculous ever since I was an elementary school student in Palo Alto. It's just an excuse for people to feel self-important because their city has restricted property.

It's past time to end this selfish, discriminatory policy and open Foothills Park to everyone, no strings attached.

Thank you,

Jeremy Erman

Brettle, Jessica

From: Sylvia Gartner <outlook_1E6077B2337162FB@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:03 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I am completely opposed to opening up Foothills Park to other communities, especially when there is not enough money to go around with the reduced budget.

Anyone who votes for this “pilot program” has lost my vote.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Brettle, Jessica

From: Sylvia Gartner <sgartner@ix.netcom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:08 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I am completely opposed to the pilot program to open Foothills Park to residents of other communities.

Now, when we are facing budget shortages, why in the world would we implement a plan like this to spend more money on opening up the jewel of Palo Alto. There is no way such a program won't result in a deterioration of the general environment and conditions for the wildlife of this fabulous park. It ain't broke. Stop trying to fix it!.

Sylvia Gartner
Moreno Avenue

Brettle, Jessica

From: farrell@farrellhome.attlocal.net on behalf of Phil Farrell <webaccount@pgfarrell.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:18 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Letter in support of opening Foothills Park to non-residents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council Members,

I understand that at your August 3, 2020 meeting you will consider a pilot program proposed by the city Parks and Recreation Commission to allow non-residents to access Foothills Park.

I strongly support opening Foothills Park to everyone, without restriction! I have been a homeowner and resident in Palo Alto with my family since 1983. I am a frequent user of Foothills Park - at least one visit per month, primarily to hike the trails. Over the years, I have seen visitation dropping. Many times on a sunny February day, we see no one else in the park.

I have always been embarrassed that my city excludes non-residents from Foothills Park, especially because it is so under-utilized most of the time. All the arguments for restricting access to residents only are either obsolete or thinly veiled covers for elitism and racism.

The most common reason given to keep excluding non-residents is "We paid for it. No other city would help. They shouldn't get the benefits." This is a ridiculous assertion. First of all, the park was purchased 60 years and the cost is long since amortized.

Secondly, where did the money come from to pay for the park and its continued maintenance? From the success of the regional economy, which includes our neighbors! That regional economy provides our tax base, both sales tax and property taxes. Palo Alto is not some island nation, wealthy solely because of its virtuous citizens!

Every one of the 100,000 workers in Palo Alto contributes to the regional economy, and thus to the taxes raised in the city, but only a fraction of those workers live in Palo Alto and thus are able to use Foothills Park. How can that be fair? Service workers living in East Palo Alto but working in Palo Alto are indirectly supporting the park financially, but can never use it! And what about people who lived in Palo Alto, and supposedly "paid" for the park, but have now moved to Mountain View or Redwood City. Suddenly, they are no longer worthy of entry, even though they directly helped pay for it?

A second reason cited against opening Foothills Park to non-residents is the fear that the park would be overwhelmed with visitors and its pristine nature would be trampled. The solution to such a problem, if it occurs at all, is simply to restrict the total number of visitors. The park rangers can easily count how many parking spaces there are and how many cars arrive. They can turn people away when the parking is full. This would only be an issue, I contend, on a few holiday weekends. Furthermore, the park is hardly pristine wilderness. All the improvements - the roads, the picnic areas, the artificially irrigated lawns, Boronda Lake - were created by major manipulation of the natural environment. Then we have the stream channelization with rip-rap and the siting of the fire station on top of a very visible hill as further wounds on nature willingly imposed by the city over the years. The primary impact on nature in the park has been from management, not from visitors!

I contend that the vociferous group that is always opposed to opening Foothills Park to non-residents is really motivated by elitism or racism. They simply don't want "the others" around in "their park".

Whether intentional or not, the effect of the exclusion of non-residents from Foothills Park is clearly racist. For that reason alone, we need to open this park to all, just like every single other public park throughout the state of California!

Sincerely,
Phil Farrell
883 Loma Verde Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Brettle, Jessica

From: Shannon Rose <shannonrmcentee@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: Shikada, Ed
Subject: Opening Foothills Park to the General Public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

I strongly urge you not to open Foothills Park to people who are not Palo Alto residents.

Individuals who are currently pushing hard to access the park are trying to exploit the current racism issues in order to gain access. Our park restrictions aren't racist. I can bring a black guest with me, or a guest of any race. Palo Alto has residents of every color and background. They are welcome in the park if they are PA residents!

The racist argument is completely specious. This wouldn't even be an issue now except for the Black Lives Matter movement which has allowed many other interest groups to co-opt this crisis and push their own agendas. Black Lives do matter greatly, however this important issue is not associated with Foothills Park. Adding this issue to the City's workload during budget cuts, staff layoffs, and the difficulties of staff working from home is unconscionable. We can't afford to add this to the staff's already daunting workload.

At a minimum, this issue should be put on hold until the city's finances, staffing and the virus issues are once again under control.

Sincerely,

Shannon Rose McEntee
410 Sheridan Avenue

Baumb, Nelly

From: Linda Drey-Nightingale <dreynight@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Non-Resident use of Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Honorable City Council Members,

I would like to address a few of the educational benefits for opening up Foothills Park. For almost 20 years I was a Palo Alto School Naturalist. In my last 5 years we brought in school groups from outside Palo Alto for 2 specific tours - Local Native American Life and Foothills Ecosystem.

- 1) The students were extremely engaged.
- 2) They learned quickly to be respectful of the natural environment.
- 3) The tours opened their eyes to what was in their "backyards" and to take care of it.
- 4) These were often students from Mountain View and Redwood City who did not frequently or ever get out into nature because of their background.
- 5) Their Foothill experience provided them a base of knowledge to share with their families.

Opening Foothill Park can benefit not only Palo Alto but all the surrounding communities by giving them an outdoor experience that gives them awe and respect for their natural environment. Isn't this the ethos that Palo Alto professes? Why only let Palo Altoans have this experience? We all benefit from a community united in this ethos.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.
Linda Drey-Nightingale

Baumb, Nelly

From: carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:44 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Opening Foothills Preserve and Park to general public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

City Council Members and Staff:

I present to you 33 signed postcard petitions from Palo Alto residents in the Charleston Meadows Neighborhood. These petitions ask you NOT to open Foothills Preserve and Park to the general public, not even as part of a pilot study.

This is the text of our petition (printed on every signed postcard petition):

I do NOT want Foothills Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay my taxes to keep it in this condition !!

These petitions were collected on very short notice without any publicity, education, prompting, or neighborhood conversations. I simply put one postcard petition at the front door of 100 houses in my immediate neighborhood, and 33 people returned the postcards to me within 3 days. This indicates that at least 33% of my neighborhood is strongly against the proposal to open Foothills Preserve and Park to the general public. If I were to engage in a campaign to educate and publicize this issue, I am very sure that I could double this number of signatures.

Please stop wasting our tax dollars on plans to open Foothills Preserve and Park to the general public. This issue has been brought up by various city councils over the years and has always failed due to resident opposition. If you feel that you absolutely must continue with this idea, put the issue on the ballot in November so that you can know how Palo Alto residents feel before you proceed any further.

I would sincerely hope that you do not intend nor wish to force this down our throats. Remember, we the residents of Palo Alto are the owners of Foothills Preserve and Park, not you. Your job is to manage this resource in accordance with **our wishes**. I firmly believe that you do not actually know our wishes and that by spending our tax dollars on plans to open Foothills (e.g., running a pilot study) you are overstepping your legitimate authority and powers.

Carlin Otto

231 Whitclem Court, Palo Alto, CA 94306

3 Aug 2020

Baumb, Nelly

From: Evan Goldin <evan.goldin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open Foothills Park to all

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

City Council,

I'm excited to hear that you'll be considering a pilot program to open Foothills Park to a wider group.

As a native Palo Alto, I grew up going to Foothills Fun Camp and Foothills Day Camp in the summers. I celebrated my birthday there with friends both as a young child (pictured) and as a teenager. I returned as a camp counselor in my teens as well, and organized BBQs there when my childhood friends and I were back from college.

When my friend [Brian Rozelle](#), the last us to call Palo Alto home, was getting his final months of chemo treatment at Stanford Hospital, we regularly drove to the panoramic lookout to take in the sunsets before we lost him.

And then, I got a new driver license with a Menlo Park address, and most of my friends (who can't afford to live in their hometown) either moved out of the area or moved to more affordable places nearby like Mountain View.

None of us now have Palo Alto addresses, and unless accompanied by our parents, none of us can visit the park that still has so much meaning to us.

I understand well that Palo Alto fronted the money for the park. And as a result, residents have had decades of exclusive use of the park. It's time to be more welcome, and open the park to a wider group of Bay Area residents.

We want to go back. Let us go, I urge you.

- Evan
Paly '03



Baumb, Nelly

From: Shirley Eglington <shirleyeglington@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:22 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: open Foothills Park to non-residents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council members,

The proposed pilot program is too limited and too cumbersome. Please opt for a plan that will truly address the problem of inequity.

Shirley Eglington
chair Cool Planet Working Group
First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cpwper St.
Palo Alto 94301

Baumb, Nelly

From: Joy Sleizer <joy.sleizer142@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I am in favor of opening Foothills Park to non-residents. This is the time for inclusion & Palo Alto can stand up for what I think has become a moral issue.

The pilot program is too cumbersome & doesn't go far enough.
I would be in favor of everyone who uses the park, paying a fee when entering
Having to make reservations on line is unreasonable-pay at the gate

I am in favor of rules in order to protect the environment--trails well marked

Thank you!

Joy Sleizer
850 Webster St Apt 706
650-324-7425
650-353-4481 cell

Baumb, Nelly

From: Lauren Sparandara <lauren.sparandara@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: In support of opening Foothills Park!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

My family moved to Palo Alto in 1988 when I was 6. I now live here with my own family, including my two boys who are 4.5 and 6 months old. I loved Foothills Park as a kid and I do now. However, I think it's wrong that it's not open to others outside our City. I am in strong support of opening it up. It is the right thing to do and it is the smart thing to do. The more people we can get out in nature, the better off we will be, and the more likely we will all be invested in protecting it.

Thank you for your time in listening.

Sincerely,
Lauren Sparandara
Resident of Barron Park in Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Steven Nelson <nelsononschools@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park as a regional issue -please make as OPEN as MV Shoreline Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Palo Alto Councilmembers,

I know you are getting a lot of correspondence on this issue. As a former Mountain View Whisman school board member, I also got a lot of correspondence on hot-button issues.

I urge you to support any 'straight uniform' admission policy.

If you charge \$6 per party, do it for all parties, no matter their residence. This would suppress attendance.

Or a policy of "admit until the attendance cap is reached". Since you have a manned gateway entrance, overuse can be easily prevented in a 'straight uniform way'.

Shoreline Park in Mountain View acts as an example of the neighborly way to set public policy. We (MV) paid for it, we do not exclude Palo Alto residents from its facilities. (unfortunately not even a limit on summer - Overwhelmed - weekend days). Even Sunnyvale Baylands park, which charges a fee, does not seem to discriminate by residence!

Please -VOTE NEIGHBORLY - by voting for one of the possible many OPEN access policies.

Steven Nelson

retired MVWSD Trustee

(The MV community has had an Open Access school field and city park policy since the 1950s. In that aspect of public policy, we have been much more progressive than Palo Alto)

Baumb, Nelly

From: Pat Kinney <pkkinney48235@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Opening Foothills Park to non-residents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I support opening Foothills Park to non-residents. I believe that to protect this resource there can be limits on the total number of visitors or cars, but it doesn't matter where the visitors live.

I think the pilot program is poised to fail. Why does there need to be online registration? This will definitely make it much harder for non-residents. People could pay when they come into the park.

I don't see why allowing perhaps 50 more cars a day is going to require intensive staffing. I think enforcing a total limit on visitors is more important than where they live.

I would be in favor of charging residents and non-residents a minimal fee (~\$5) to drive their car into the park.

I've been a Palo Alto resident for over 40 years and use the park a couple of times per year.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kinney
Willdwood Lane
Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Patty Irish <irishpw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park open to public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Please open the park to all for a time to see what happens. Perhaps open it for a year or 3.
Give time for the word to spread and for a time what all activities are less restricted.
Thanks for your consideration.

Patty Irish

850 Webster #628
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650 324 7407
650 245 3906 cell

Baumb, Nelly

From: Mary Vincent <westieluvr@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council member,

I like to think of our community as open and neighborly and caring about others. We have neighbors in East Palo Alto and East Menlo whose families have been sheltering in place with their school age children since March. As good neighbors, let's open Foothills Park, giving people a new venue to enjoy the outdoors. The meadow is perfect for family picnics and the lake is a new place to explore. Also, Rev. Kaloma Smith, pastor of Palo Alto AME Church and member of Palo Alto's Human Relations Committee, wrote an op ed telling us how to be a more welcoming community. His very first recommendation is to open Foothills Park.

In addition, let's honor the team of community volunteers who developed the pilot program. They spent many months developing the program, while seeking input from the community through open meetings along the way. Let's start the pilot program ASAP. We can make necessary adjustments during the year, as needed. Also, it is time to let go of the grudge we have been carrying for over 50years, about Los Altos Hills not helping to pay for the purchase of the land. It is time to move on and focus on our neighbors to the east of us.

Thank you for your service and working to continuously improve our city.

Mary Vincent

86 Erstwild Court

Palo Alto, 94303

Baumb, Nelly

From: Nodelyn Smith <nodelyn1@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: LEAVE FOOTHILLS PARK ALONE!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello
LEAVE FOOTHILLS PARK ALONE! It is a gem for the community and the children of the community. With the past history of Palo Alto's youth and suicides, having Foothills park is a valuable respite for children growing up. When we first moved to Palo Alto, our kids spent almost the entire summer in Foothills Park summer camps and as school children, went to Foothills Park to study the Ohlone Indians and camped there overnight. Please leave Foothills Park alone!

My children have all grown up and loved Foothills park from the time they were at the Foothills Fun Camps to today when they go there on walks. All other Palo Alto parks are open to all visitors and they are PACKED on weekends especially with the lockdown restrictions lifting. FOOTHILLS PARK IS A NATURE PRESERVE and shouldn't be packed on weekends with overflowing garbage cans and litter as I have seen at other parks around town. There is a fragile ecosystem at Foothills Park. Let us be responsible stewards of this nature preserve. There are many parks up and down the peninsula where people can go. LEAVE FOOTHILLS PARK ALONE!

Best Regards,
Nodelyn Smith

Baumb, Nelly

From: Paul B Goldstein <marmot@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:26 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Aug 3, 2020 Agenda Item #10 - Please open up Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Honorable Members of the City Council,

Foothills Park should not be restricted to Palo Alto residents only.

I am long time resident of Palo Alto and I frequently use Foothills Park. Most weeks, I spend at least 5 hours in the park, hiking the trails. I love the park. I have read the staff report and I think it is a very sensible way to move forward on opening the park to all people.

Sincerely,
Paul Goldstein
Emerson Street
Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Jeff Acker <jacker_95014@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 7:37 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open Access to Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Palo Alto City Council,

I am writing to support the efforts of Parks for All and to ask you to change Palo Alto's policies restricting access to Foothills Park to Palo Alto's residents.

Public spaces belong to the public. White people and affluent people have far more access to open spaces than people of color and people who do not live in resource-rich Bay Area cities. Palo Alto can change this by opening Foothills Park to the public.

Please consider this issue not only as a racial justice issue, but also as a policy that normalizes the integration of parks trail systems with surrounding parks and open spaces.

The time for this change is now. While the history of the park may have been financially motivated, the Council must face the unintended consequences of this park acting as an exclusive club for Palo Alto residents. Make the choice for "a more perfect union" at the local level and open Foothills Park for all.

Sincerely,

Jeff Acker
94028

Baumb, Nelly

From: Keri Wagner <keriwagner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:25 AM
To: Council, City; City Mgr
Cc: Keri Wagner
Subject: Please open Foothills Park on a trial basis

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council members and Mr Shikada — Please open Foothills Park to non-residents on a trial basis. I believe this park is a resource we should share with our neighbors, particularly in this time of lock-downs and remote schooling.

We could open the park Monday-Friday for non-residents for a year-long trial, then look at the environmental impacts after the trial ends. We can reserve weekends for Palo Alto residents as that is when the park is most crowded. The park would provide educational opportunities and respite for our neighboring cities, especially for parents and children who are likely stir-crazy with this shutdown. The lake and trails would offer our neighbor families a chance to experience the fantastic natural resources of our county.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our community.
Keri Wagner
311 Edlee Ave

Baumb, Nelly

From: Irina Beylin <irina.beylin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 9:29 PM
To: kou.pacc@gmail.com; Council, City
Cc: Irina Beylin
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Lydia,

I trust you, as a city council member who's program is to retain Palo Alto's character and livability, would support Foothills park status remains unchanged.

We love Foothills park and visit this wonderful place 3-4 times a month. Last three months, since the park's re-opening, the Palo Alto residence requirement has not been enforced. I see a lot of garbage, especially around the lake area. I am concerned the official opening to all non-residents (now it is open if non-resident is accompanied by a resident) results in park's deterioration, greatly increased maintenance cost, and will endanger park's animals and plants. Please keep the current access requirements to preserve the park's environment.

Allowing more people will harm the environment, the serene preserve where you feel as a part of nature will disappear. Now we have this unique nature sanctuary for the diverse community of Palo Altans and their guests, a few years down the road it will become a park with garbage, loud music, booze, narcotics and piles of extrements. Preserve and the habitat for many species will disappear,

The change is unfair and hurts the residents. Palo Alto properties south of Oregon are small, we paid more money for lesser properties (small houses and lots) as it came with amenities, - schools, sidewalks, lit streets, proximity to Stanford, Baylands and Foothills park for Palo Altans, Foothills is a part of our property, it is city council responsibility to protect it. People in surrounding towns made their choice to have larger parcels and bigger houses, and refused to pay for Foothills maintenance, we preferred nature and paid for park's maintenance. Please protect your constituents interests,

The figure of 150 K people visiting the park annually is grossly incorrect, now 300-400 cars are in the sanctuary daily, weekdays and weekends, 1000+ people daily. Please survey.

Once the pilot program strats, it would be practically impossible to stop, as then you would deprive people who would get used to visiting the park.

Irina and Boris Beylin
771 Ames Avenue
Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Gail Price <gail.price3@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 8:31 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: Gail Price
Subject: Support Foothills Park Pilot Program: Agenda Item No. 10 (August 3, 2020)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

August 2, 2020

Dear Mayor Fine and Palo Alto City Council Members,

I have contacted you in the past regarding your consideration of opening Foothills Park to non-residents. I was one of many community members and former elected and appointed officials who co-signed a letter in support of increasing access to non-residents.

I support the staff recommendation: a. Direct staff to return with an Ordinance to amend the Municipal Code to allow non-residents to access Foothills Park through a pilot plan and a Resolution to define the pilot plan itself.

This important issue has been brought forward on many occasions over the years. Most recently, it has been discussed and recommendations have been made by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the PTC. I appreciate the on-going thoughtful deliberation and discussion.

The pilot program connected with increasing access to the park to non-residents will be an important structured opportunity to evaluate how this new program could be managed and evaluated. A well designed pilot program can ensure the program serves the needs of all users while maintaining Foothills Park's high quality and beauty.

Thank you.

Gail A Price
Former Palo Alto School Board Member
Former Palo Alto City Council Member
Barron Park resident
Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Kevin Ma <kevinma.sd@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 8:18 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Comments on Items 10 (Foothills), 11 (PBA 2050 & RHNA), 12 (Caltrain)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

TL;DR: Support opening Foothills Park (can start with limited pilot), oppose the proposed PBA 2050 and RHNA letters unless amended, support a letter in favor of the Caltrain measure (especially if specified to be "clean")

As a Palo Alto resident, I support fully opening Foothills Park up to non-residents. My first experience with the park was actually getting turned away, as I did not have government identification papers yet to show I lived here (and a library card doesn't count). That experience is the only time I was ever denied a chance to enter any park and gives off an exclusionary feel, as there's not even any visitor fee mechanism either. The park is already partially open to non-residents as part of the Bay to Ridge Trail anyway.

I understand that historically, other cities declined to assist with the purchase. However, to restrict today implies a certain environmental parochialism, where one should only enjoy things they directly paid for. Same logic could go to other cities, like Mountain View parks restricted to Mountain View residents, because we did nothing to contribute. In a time where society is reviewing its efforts of inclusion, reaffirming an us-only park with the power of misdemeanors seems to be out of step. Even the [organization that handles volunteers](#) at the park would like it seen open to others, noting that many of those same volunteers would normally be prohibited from the park. If there's a funding problem, having visitors fees for now or increasing volunteer capacity while everyone's stuck at home (if safe) are possible options; funding reflects the city we would like to be after all.

With regards to the proposed PBA 2050 and RHNA letters, I do not support sending them as they currently stand. To use existing households as the baseline ignores the well-known consensus that many in the area who work here don't live here, especially in our economically-hit retail sector. At some point, planning does need to take reality into account, or else we might find a workplace that increasingly chooses to go elsewhere and make our future economic outlook poorer.

While it is true that planning will need to take into account COVID and its aftermath, I don't think it will need major delays to do so. As a person who is currently teleworking, I don't quite know if it's going to stick as well as the letter implies; the current announcements within the tech industry are still expecting people to return for the most part.

A few parts of the letter also point out our flaws rather than the proposal's. "Electrification of Caltrain ... diminishes crossing the tracks" sounds like our issues regarding grade separation. Off-peak capacity issues on VTA routes sounds like our common complaints about VTA governance, which seems to have not changed at all; meanwhile we just cut our own shuttles. Placing a development cap is commendable, but it merely slows/stops a jobs-to-housing balance; it doesn't necessarily reduce it. (Much like getting to carbon neutral could ignore the carbon we already emitted). And while I like the city's chosen strategies, the failures of any progress on the previous S/CAP leave much to be desired.

With regards to Caltrain, I support the staff recommendation for a letter in support of the proposed ballot measure. I also supported the Mayor's letter sent during the break, understanding that the entire situation is very time-dependent, what with the 7 boards needed to approve by Aug 7 and the turbulence of competing measures at the last minute. Caltrain is an important institution to address many of our common issues, from traffic to environmentalism. To let it die for petty governance issues is a shame in this region, and criticizing a valid use of authority in line with council policies (especially on one that reduces a big chunk of our GHG) is a short-sighted mistake.

I would like the letter to be amended to specify that it's the "clean" version of the ballot measure: a straight, no-strings-attached sales tax measure to fund Caltrain only. This would be the one supported by San Mateo, Samtrans, and SFMTA. Any others would either threaten the timeliness of the situation, or open up to legal issues as [Jerry Hill, the author of the enabling legislation \(SB 797\), signaled](#) to the county Board of Supervisors.

I thank you for your time to read a constituent's comments, especially on such an item-packed agenda.

Sincerely,
Kevin Ma

Baumb, Nelly

From: Nifer Goldman <nbfasman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park Policy

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council Members,

We are current residents of Redwood City, and are writing to you about Pastor Kaloma Smith's editorial regarding Palo Alto's restrictive policies for Foothills Park use.

We are unsure of the history and current usage of Foothills Park, but we trust Pastor Smith and his priorities. If he believes opening Foothills Park to non-residents in an important step to combating inequality in our local community, then he has our support and we believe he should have the City Council's support as well.

We therefore encourage you to vote to repeal any and all laws which prohibit non-residents from enjoying Foothills Park as fully as residents can.

Respectfully,

Nifer and Aaron Goldman

Baumb, Nelly

From: Natalie Telis <natalie.telis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park -- a resource for all members of the peninsula

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council Members:

I am a resident of Mountain View and am writing to you about Palo Alto's restrictive policies for Foothills Park use.

It is hard to know all of the reasons why the current laws exist. In any case, prohibiting non-residents from full use of the Park is exclusionary and disrespectful. In this day and age especially, it is easy to view your policies as elitist and racist, like so many laws and practices in our country that have kept people of color from enjoying full rights and access to outdoor spaces. This is especially harmful in these times when outdoor spaces are a precious resource and some of the only ways that families can get exercise and recreation. These resources should be shared with the community.

I strongly encourage you to vote to repeal any and all laws which prohibit non-residents to enjoy Foothills Park as fully as residents can.

Respectfully,

Natalie Telis

Monta Loma | Mountain View

Baumb, Nelly

From: Margaret Kallman <kallmanm@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Discussion is premature on Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Councillors,

Please defer discussion and votes on expanding admission to Foothills Park to people who don't live in Palo Alto.

Please defer discussion of, and defer implementation of, a pilot program for expanding admission to Foothills Park.

We need you to approach this issue in a very calm, measured fashion - for the fiscal health of the City, and the environmental health of the Park.

Sincerely,

Margaret Kallman
Palo Alto resident

Baumb, Nelly

From: Tom Belick <tbelick@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Council, City; Council, City
Subject: Defer discussion of Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Sunday, August 2

Dear Council Members: I ask that the Council defer discussion of whether to expand opening Foothills Park to non-residents. Discussion of this issue now, which would have significant financial as well as environmental impacts, is too early given the City's uncertain finances.

Respectfully,

Tom Belick, Barron Park

Baumb, Nelly

From: John Bender <bender@stanford.edu>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park--Agenda upcoming

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

Please do not open Foothills Park to non-residents. Palo Alto has numbers of lovely parks that are open to any and all all comers. Often, surrounding communities have elected, over time, not to have such parks.

Foothills needs to be the exception because it is not really a park but a nature reserve.

Instead of opening up this "park," rename it as "Foothills Nature Reserve," which is what it is. This would be honest and would prevent future misunderstandings about limited use by Palo Alto residents. Might deal with legal issues, if they are real.

Most of the "park" is not set up as a classic park with lawns and barbecue pits. It is, instead, a nature reserve with paths for walking. The park would be damaged by additional use.

The present proposal to open the park to 50 non-citizens per day obviously is a slippery slope.

John Bender
Resident of Palo Alto, and property owner

Baumb, Nelly

From: Jane Moss <jgm0ss@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:04 PM
To: letters@paweeekly.com; Council, City
Subject: Now IS the time to discuss Foothills Park (as a PRESERVE)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I attended last week's special panel discussion about Foothills Park. Roger Smith was a panelist and the author of "Now's not the time for full Foothills Park discussion", *Palo Alto Weekly*, 7/24/2020. Smith prefers the status quo (residents only) and cites the lack of sufficient City budget and higher priorities as reasons to leave things as they are. I cannot agree. While it is extremely important to enforce a strict maximum number of daily visitors, who compose that number is not of consequence to the preservation of the park. Crowds escaping Covid-19 sheltering pressures have lately come to Foothills in great numbers and the challenges are many. But I am glad that people are using it. To care about the future of a resource you must experience it. Why not rename Foothills Park on all web pages, materials, and articles to "Foothills Biological Preserve", or "Foothills Open Space Preserve"? There is education in using the name "preserve"; it sets a different expectation than urban "park." It is easier to accept that visitor numbers are purposefully low, and it is a reminder that visitors need to use it gently. Since Palo Alto is not averse to renaming its institutions, having recently renamed two middle schools, do this small thing for Foothills. While the larger issue of resident versus non-resident access must be resolved in an orderly fashion, it should not be at the expense and abuse of this treasure.

Jane Moss, 347 Ferne Ave, Palo Alto, 650-862-5809

--

Jane Moss
jgm0ss@gmail.com

Baumb, Nelly

From: claught1@earthlink.net
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park ... do NOT open it up to non-PA residents!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Now is not the time. At a minimum, put it to a vote of Palo Alto citizens.

Craig Laughton
Harvard St.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Baumb, Nelly

From: susan cole <sccole7@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 11:04 PM
To: Council, City; ParkRec Commission
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

City Council Members,

I have lived in Palo Alto for 40 years. I am an avid hiker and nature enthusiast, and enjoy very much our Foothills Park. I have been shocked and pained over the last few weeks to hear that it was possibly going to be opened to everyone, as opposed to Palo Alto residents only. Here is why.

1. Over the last decade or so, all of the parks on the western fringe of the Peninsula cities have received vastly increased visitation—my estimate is at least ten fold. It is now impossible to find peace and quiet while hiking on Windy Hill (it is not uncommon to encounter a couple of hundred visitors on a two-hour hike), Huddard Park, Wunderlich, the Dish, or San Antonio Co. Park. Foothills Park is the ONLY one that still offers quiet hiking close to home. One of its most valuable assets is the solitude that it provides to its visitors. Opening it to even a few dozen extra vehicles from will without a doubt ruin this invaluable feature.
2. Palo Alto has pioneered over the years many pilot innovations that have been emulated by many other cities around the country. This includes one of the country's first curbside-recycling programs, the acquisition of more sustainable electricity, and more recently curbside collection of compostibles. Palo Alto also, in this light, pioneered the preservation of a large portion of its real-estate for the enjoyment of its own citizenry. This was a visionary move that is setting an example for other cities around the world. We should not let go of this groundbreaking legacy. Let other cities do the same, and create their own nature sanctuary whenever possible.
3. Regarding the elitist argument for opening the park to non-residents, let me point out that at least portions of Monte Bello belong to Palo Alto, and are open to the public. Foothills is also open to non-residents already provided they are a guest of a resident. Palo Alto is sharing a large and beautiful portion of its land with the rest of the world. This is more than can be said about almost all Peninsula cities.
4. Also regarding the elitist argument, to live in Palo Alto, you have to pay an enormous price, which is the price of our insanely high real estate. No one is arguing that this is elitist. Owning our own park is not, inasmuch as the money that finances it comes in part from our (equally high) property taxes.
5. Opening our park is almost certainly going to result in major changes to it in terms of traffic but also increased noise, increased garbage along the trails, stress to the abundant wildlife that calls it home (especially the large deer and turkey populations), and damage to its small network of trails, and its even smaller road system and infrastructure.
6. Palo Altans will pay for this through regular taxes, not visitors from other towns, which is also unfair, and speaks strongly too against the elitist arguments.
7. Finally, it is my understanding that it is the people of Palo Alto who voted decades ago for the creation of this park a few decades ago, instead of developing it. It is only fair, and it may in fact be mandated by our laws, that the decision be reverted not by a small group of people, with all due respect, but by Palo Alto residents again. It is much too important a decision. I should also point out that very few people are aware

that our park is on the chopping block, and very few people have therefore had the chance to express their view. As a democracy, we should give everyone a chance to be heard, and have a public vote.

As a more recent addition to this message, which I originally wrote a year ago, shared with the city council then, and discussed in person with a councilman, I must point out that what has happened to Foothills Park since the COVID outbreak is a good preview of what will happen if the park is opened to non-residents. On a typical weekday, when the main gate is not guarded, the park is literally assaulted by visitors. There are cars everywhere. The deer are hardly ever there any more. The amount of trash along the trails is noticeably greater—I saw one every few minutes along the main loop around the park a few weeks ago, and probably missed quite a few, and I never used to see any. The central portion of the park felt like an amusement park. Visitors were playing music loud at the picnic areas. Hikers were playing music on the trails. I saw several dogs on the trail, on one occasion off leash, and bicycles. Hikers commonly hike in the wrong direction on the trails that have been made one-way to minimize the spread of the virus. I realize that the park was then at 135% capacity, or so I read, but even at half as many visitors it would have been too crowded. The impact of opening the park to a broader fraction of the population will undoubtedly result in the park being at capacity much more often, with all the damage and loss of peace that it entails.

Please do not make the mistake of thinking that these problems can be fixed with proper education or enforcement. They are not being fixed now, they will get worse with more visitors, and we will not be able to fix them then. Once we open that door – letting non-residents in – we will also have great difficulty closing it. It would create a nightmare, and kill the quietest large preserve within easy driving distance of our busy cities. This is not right.

I very strongly urge you to keep the park open to residents only.

Sincerely,

Michel Dignonnet
1045 College Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 723-0719

Baumb, Nelly

From: Robert Neff <rmrneff@sonic.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 10:58 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Parks and Recreation Commission proposal for Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Palo Alto City Council,

I read the staff report and the Parks and Rec Commission recommendations and considerations. I think they have done a great job looking at this, and City Council should move ahead with the pilot program. I particularly like the way this will open up Foothill Park for educational visits from schools outside Palo Alto. The park can be an educational resource for us and our neighbors.

Especially given the scale of this program, compared to historical use, as described in the staff report, I am not concerned with overuse at all, and the pilot program includes ways to change the program if there are unexpected difficulties or issues. So let's try this out.

Thank you for your service to the city of Palo Alto.

--
-- Robert Neff
robert@neffs.net

Baumb, Nelly

From: Gloria Taffee <gtaffee@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 7:11 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to support the efforts of Parks for All and to ask you to change Palo Alto's policies restricting access to Foothills Park to Palo Alto's residents.

Public spaces belong to the public. White people and affluent people have far more access to open spaces than people of color and people who do not live in resource-rich Bay Area cities. Palo Alto can change this by opening Foothills Park to the public.

Please consider this issue not only as a racial justice issue, but also as a policy that normalizes the integration of parks trail systems with surrounding parks and open spaces.

The time for this change is now. While the history of the park may have been financially motivated, the Council must face the unintended consequences of this park acting as an exclusive club for Palo Alto residents. Make the choice for "a more perfect union" at the local level and open Foothills Park for all.

Sincerely,
Gloria Taffee

Baumb, Nelly

From: Carmen Enciso-Steinberg <carmen@findthecat.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 6:50 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council Members

I am a resident of Mountain View and am writing to you about Palo Alto's restrictive policies for Foothills Park use. I grew up in Palo Alto and have lovely memories of family picnics at Foothill Park with my grandparents, parents, and cousins. Now, I can't share this lovely place with my daughters because I am no longer a Palo Alto resident.

It is hard to know all of the reasons why the current laws exist. In any case, prohibiting non-residents from full use of the Park is exclusionary and disrespectful. In this day and age especially, it is easy to view your policies as elitist and racist, like so many laws and practices in our country that have kept people of color from enjoying full rights and access.

It saddens me that when people of color are trying to find a healthy place to spend time with friends and family, their options are severely limited.

I strongly encourage you to vote to repeal any and all laws which prohibit non-residents to enjoy Foothills Park as fully as residents can.

Respectfully,

Carmen Enciso-Steinberg

PS. Many business owners, city staff and teachers who work in Palo Alto and benefit the community in many ways cannot visit Foothill Park.. that is not right.

Baumb, Nelly

From: Lottie Price <lprice1502@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: I support limited opening of Foothills Park to non-residents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Council,

I'm a regular visitor to Foothills Park, and I do like how quiet and uncrowded it is. It's great to see turkeys in the fields and deer on the lawn. I understand that we need to regulate the number of visitors to maintain its condition and its role as a refuge for wildlife.

Nonetheless, I'd love to see the park open to non-residents on a limited basis. I would especially like to see the camping available to anyone walking the Bay To Ridge trail.

And, if needed, I support an increased budget for rangers to manage the larger numbers of people that opening the park could generate.

Sincerely,

Lottie Price
350 Edlee Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Baumb, Nelly

From: Barbara Kingsley <barbara@abcking.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear council members,

I've lived in Palo Alto since the 60s and spent much good time at the park. As much as anyone else, I've enjoyed the peacefulness, quiet, wildlife, etc.

However. It has always been an embarrassment that we treat this like we live in some gated community, excluding Those Other People from enjoying the same.

Put restrictions on the number of entrants. Charge a small fee (waved for residents). Restrict noise making devices (not just recorded.. one picnic was seriously disturbed by a group of Palo Alto Residents loudly playing an accordion!)

Our town is getting a bad enough rep with regard to exclusivity without this literal Private Country Club. (And, yes, i know all about its origin)

I hope you can remedy this unfair situation.

Sincerely yours,
Barbara Kingsley

Sent from my iPhone

Baumb, Nelly

From: Tricia Kellison <kellison@alum.mit.edu>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:21 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Comment on agenda item to open Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council Members,

I have been following this debate closely, each of the times it has arisen, during the 20+ years I have lived in Palo Alto, and I have a suggested modification to the currently-proposed pilot.

To each of you, I would like to ask: what your reaction would be to an interim step, such as opening Foothills Park to residents of East Palo Alto as well as current Palo Altans? From what I understand, East Palo Alto was not even incorporated until the 1980's, helping to mitigate any "Little Red Hen" concerns. Such a step would help us to make progress in a debate which is often contentious, and would let us all learn what the demand was like from another community, while at the same time being more generous with our resources. To me this seems much better than a fee at the gate for everyone outside Palo Alto. (But honestly, there is no reason why we couldn't do a combo approach: we could allow residents of BOTH Palo Alto and East Palo Alto to enter the Park for free, while applying the other terms of the pilot to everyone who does not live in either Palo Alto or East Palo Alto.)

It seems that such a "half-way step" might possibly satisfy both sides: the "impact" people could hardly object to us welcoming one more city, half our size, into the Park: from an impact standpoint, this is significantly better than opening the Park to everyone. And those who want the Park to be opened to everyone might be more inclined to accept the currently-proposed pilot plan if it included free-and-open access to the residents of at least one nearby city that could benefit from access to this significant open space.

I did run this idea by Roger Smith (Co-founder and Director of the Friends of Palo Alto Parks) in response to his recent PA Weekly editorial. I sent him an email pretty much outlining what I have said above, and he responded tersely by saying "Any change would require the gate to be manned all the the time. No money for that". But I don't see WHY we would have to "man" Foothills Park gate any more than we do now, merely because we are including one more small community into the group of residents who are freely entitled use the park. We could continue to staff the booth just as we do now (during busy times) with no change in operations or costs.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposed amendment to your current plan.

Tricia Kellison
Louis Road, Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Margaret Heath <maggi650@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Please do not approve opening up Foothills Park to non-residents at this time, not even as a pilot program. That this should be put on the council's agenda for discussion at a time when there are so many pressing issues requiring precious council time appears completely irresponsible.

There is no rush to open up Foothills Park, except by those impatient advocates pushing the idea, and at this time there is no evidence that this proposal even has the support of a majority of the community.

Please either table this proposal indefinitely or recommend that it be put to a vote by residents after such time as Palo Alto's budget improves to the point where we can return funding to the fire department, the many community services that have been cut, fund our pensions, pay for grade separations, etc.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely,
margaret heath
cornell street

Baumb, Nelly

From: Barbara Voss <barbvossis@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Council, City; ParkRec Commission
Subject: make Foothills Park open to all!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council and the Palo Alto Parks & Rec Commission,

I am writing to express my deep support for ending the "residents-only" policy that makes it a crime for non- Palo Alto residents to use Foothills Park. As a Palo Alto resident, I enjoy other spectacular city-run parks throughout the Bay area - from San Francisco's Golden Gate Park to San Jose's Kelley Park. Barring non-residents from Foothills Park is not only discriminatory, it is un-neighborly and begs retaliation from other municipalities. Most damagingly, it has become a symbol of Palo Alto's white supremacist history and its continued elitism.

Please do the right thing and open the park to all.

Barb Voss
2600 Columbia Street Unit 200
Palo Alto CA 94304

--

Barb Voss - barbvossis@gmail.com

Baumb, Nelly

From: Terri Weber <tlweber0@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 11:21 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I feel as though Foothill Park should be less restrictive concerning admissions but that some guidelines need to be made.

Non Palo Alto residents should be allowed but charged an admission fee of about \$5- \$10 per car. Sugar Pines State Park in Tahoe charges \$10 per car. This would help offset the increased upkeep needed as well as assigning a ranger at the gate. There could be an option for a yearly pass fee for non residents. Identification would be required and initially could have a trial time of two years after which time the park use would be reevaluated and determinations be made as to whether to continue. There would need to be a limit as to the number of people allowed.

Our family has enjoyed the park especially when our children used the summer parks program there years ago. They loved it but are now restricted unless they attend with us.

It is a wonderful perk

Terri Weber

150 Southwood Drive

Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Susan Phillips Moskowitz <susanpm@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Vote no on opening Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I am a resident of PA for 45 years. I think foothill Park should remain only for Palo Alto residents!

If that means we have an added tax then do be it.

Do Not Open it. I was there yesterday and nobody was at the little house to check my ID. The lake is peaceful and beautiful.





Susan Phillips-Moskowitz
1941 Tasso Street
PA 94301

Baumb, Nelly

From: Ada Braun <adahbraun@yahoo.de>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Council, City; ParkRec Commission
Subject: Access to Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Palo Alto city council members and neighbors,

As a resident of the neighboring city of Portola Valley and a citizen who deeply cares about diversity, equality and inclusion, I am deeply concerned about the segregation practices that bar non-Palo Alto residents from accessing and enjoying Foothills Park and even make the simple enjoyment of a local park a crime.

These restrictions are antiquated, discriminatory, unethical, and ultimately unlawful.

I wonder how you would feel if Palo Alto residents were not welcome in our Portola Valley parks, the Coalmine Ridge preserve, Windy Hills, or local beaches along the coast.

As a concerned citizen and neighbor, I call on you to

- (1) Repeal this ordinance and
- (2) direct staff in the parks and recreation commission to craft a new policy that demonstrates Palo Alto's commitment to equality, openness, inclusion and resource protection.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ada Braun
136 Pecora Way
Portola Valley, CA 94028

Baumb, Nelly

From: Kristi Corley <kristilcorley@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 7:11 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open the Park!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Please open up Foothills park. I live in Portola Valley and I'd like to hike in the beauty of Foothills Park. What if Windy Hill was not open to Palo Alto residents? How would you feel? It feels like a Wall around nature. Nature should not be walled off to surrounding residents.

We all need nature, especially during these times.

Thank you,
Kristi Corley

Baumb, Nelly

From: Cindy Rowe <crowe@roweweb.net>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 7:31 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello -

I live adjacent to Foothills Park. The view from my kitchen, dining room and living room window is on Foothill Park. I have lived here for 31 years and have never stepped foot in that park - a stone's throw from my house. My feeling is that if you don't want Portola Valley Residents (or any other residents) in your parks, then we should keep Palo Alto residents from riding our bike paths, hiking Windy Hill or any of our many, many town trails. Is that the spirit of what a public park is - only for the people in the immediate town? What a restricted view of nature that would present. Maybe we should close all of the nature preserves to allow only people in the town or county to visit. Let's close Jasper Ridge, Huddart Park, all of the parks in Foster City, San Mateo, etc. to Palo Alto residents. Does that make sense to you? Open your park. What are you afraid of?

Change your outdated, misdirected policies, please.

Cynthia Rowe
Ramona Road
Portola Valley

Baumb, Nelly

From: Valerie Quarmby <quarmby.valerie@gene.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 6:40 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: quarmby Valerie
Subject: Foothill Park must be open access

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Palo Alto's Foothills Park residents-only rule is discriminatory, unlawful and immoral.

By definition, public parks are for everyone.

Please act responsibly and end this decades-long rule NOW.

Valerie Quarmby

Baumb, Nelly

From: mary cooper <mfcooper47@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 6:26 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Council,

I am a longtime Ladera resident who loves the outdoors and want to share this love with All the public.. that includes Foothills Park. You have an opportunity to show the value of inclusion with your vote to open the park to the public. We all know the value that being in Nature plays in our physical and mental well being. I urge you to show your support for All the citizens of the Peninsula and beyond that you recognize the legal and moral imperative to share this jewel with the public.

Thank you for your consideration and your public service.

Mary Cooper
la Mesa Drive
Ladera

Sent from my iPad

Baumb, Nelly

From: Stephen Harrison <stephenjhcello@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 6:04 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council members,

We are concerned that any decision regarding Foothills Park will not be directly voted on by Palo Alto residents. No change to the status quo should be implemented only by a vote of the Council members. This issue is dear to many of us, and the issues are very nuanced. People need time to figure out their individual priorities for this gem of a park. And they need to understand the details in any opening up of the park to non-residents. We need to understand the ecological ramifications and make a plan that equates comfortably with the available parking. What we DO NOT want is a situation similar to the one at Rancho San Antonio, where parking is a nightmare. Any weekend attempt to hike there is taking a significant risk that you just won't be able to get in. Finally, we do not understand why the cost of opening up the park would be borne by the City of Palo Alto. The City already made the initial investment by stepping up to buy the property when other communities would not! A just solution to paying for increased staffing and other costs associated with greater use would be to have surrounding communities pay their fair share.

Until these questions are clearly answered it would be a mistake to have increased accessibility to the park decided by the City Council only. This must be on a city-wide ballot!

Sincerely,
Susan Freier and Stephen Harrison
lovers of Foothills Park and long-time Palo Alto residents

Baumb, Nelly

From: Frances E Liu <franliu@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Pls keep Foothills Park for residents only. It is a beautiful peaceful spot. If you open it up to non-residents, that tranquility will be lost. During tight budget times, I do not think We should undertake more security and cleaning expenses in connection with The park.

A review of police practices should be undertaken. In the last couple Of yrs. we've made fairly large outlays to compensate victims of our Overly aggressive police force.

Sincerely,

Fran

Baumb, Nelly

From: Lee Middleman <lee@leemiddleman.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Council, City; ParkRec Commission
Subject: Palo Alto Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello,

I support the opening of the Foothills Park to all.

I live in Portola Valley at the Portola Ranch. Our town and local community support inclusive use of our open spaces. I have been to Foothill Park with Palo Alto friends. It is a lovely resource that should be shared. I may never use it, but I believe it should be open to all.

You can limit the number of outside visitors (perhaps 50/50). You can charge a modest fee to help support the cost of maintenance. But our neighbors in other parts of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties would benefit from your inclusion.

Thank you, Lee Middleman

I recently opened my ceramics gallery shop on ETSY, take a look and give a "like" to the shop.
The ETSY link is: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/LeeMiddleman> Thanks.

Lee Middleman
www.LeeMiddleman.com
email: Lee@LeeMiddleman.com
Studio Phone: 650.851.0295
Home Phone: 650.851.0535

ETSY Shop: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/LeeMiddleman>

Baumb, Nelly

From: David L Vander Wilt <vanderwilt@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 4:14 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills park preservation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear council members:

I have been a resident of Palo Alto for over 40 years and am a frequent user of Foothills Park and many other hiking venues in the area. Foothills is the only "close in" park to retain a sense of wilderness. (I was also a backpacker in the Sierras during my adulthood). This wilderness exists only because of limited human access to the park. One thousand people per day visiting day after day will change the nature of the park. The deer stay out of the meadow when filled with people. Rancho San Antonio has had mountain lion attacks perhaps because the lions are being encroached upon by too many visitors. With limited budget now is not the time to haphazardly begin a project without a baseline of data of animal populations and migration in the park. I URGE YOU TO REJECT THIS PILOT PROJECT until it can be done with more complete data.

Sincerely

David L van der Wilt
Sent from my iPhone

Baumb, Nelly

From: Leslie Mahoney <leslie.m.mahoney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: PLEASE don't give away Foothill Park!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I went to go for a hike today at 9am and could not find a place to park at Arastradero Preserve.
Thank goodness I could safely distance hike at Foothill Park.
I did not feel COVID safe at Arastradero which I'm sure was so crowded with non-Palo Alto residents.
We have enough parks in our city that are open to everyone!
Thank you
Leslie Mahoney
2267 Tasso St
Palo Alto
Sent from my iPhone

Baumb, Nelly

From: Laurie Gamelsky <lgamelsky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Expanding Access Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Good Day,

I understand there is currently consideration of expanding access to Foothills Park to non residents of Palo Alto. During the time of Covid , it is a blessing to have a beautiful outdoor space that can accommodate social distancing restrictions. As a Palo Alto resident that is close to 60 with an underlying medical condition this space has been such a godsend. Is there any way this can be revisited when social distancing is not as critical?

Thank you for listening

Laurie Gamelsky
650 906 0028

Baumb, Nelly

From: Peter Blum <peter.blum@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Council, City; ParkRec Commission
Subject: re: Foothill Park for all

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hello,

I live in the Los Trancos Woods neighborhood next to Foothills Park. I grew up in midtown Palo Alto and later returned to South Palo Alto where I lived with my own family for over six years. I loved going to Foothills Park as a kid, and enjoyed taking my own children there when we lived in Palo Alto.

While I enjoyed the fact that it was never busy I always felt guilty about having this amazing big park almost to myself on many visits. Where I live now we have lots of open space which we welcome anyone to use without regard to their residence or ability to afford the high cost of housing in our direct area.

Right now even with an increase in visitors due to Covid and folks looking to get fresh air there is still plenty of room for folks to spread out and enjoy nature.

I've heard you are rethinking how you look at access to Foothills Park and I just wanted to voice my support to opening it up so everyone can enjoy the amazing space I had been so lucky to experience in the past.

Having spent most of my life in Palo Alto plus still having many friends there I always felt in general the culture was progressive and inclusive despite the high cost of entry. It's a real shame that the policies around Foothills park access don't reflect that point.

Thanks,

Peter

Baumb, Nelly

From: Ellen Hartog <elh109@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: SAVE OUR PARK

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Honorable Members of the Council,

I am writing today to express my concern for Foothills Park. I am a long time resident of Palo Alto and part of the initial move to purchase and maintain the park. We took on keeping open space for preservation and succeeded. I remember the restoration of the pond when it leaked and at an enormous cost to keep the park viable. We have done a wonderful job and have managed the land well. We enjoy knowing open space is in the hills and work to preserve and maintain the ecosystems and wildlife. This is the point. It is not designed to be a recreational park but a natural reserve / preserve. It is not equipped to entertain other than spotted picnic tables and two group areas along with the center and restrooms. The pond is only 4 feet deep - it is not for swimming. Our other parks are being used by nonresidents and locals are ousted at that point - we have many parks and I need to wake up early to claim a picnic table. That tells of the scale of use to be expected when open to the public but opening up during a pandemic is not going to show the future attendance - this is bad timing for a prototype. Numbers are off obviously so why is this being addressed now to survey. That's not fair to use bad numbers. Google is closed till July 2021. Please postpone any decisions till we are sure. I am opposed to opening to the park for fear of the overuse and abuse to the environment and wildlife. I am opposed to opening making us liable for a higher risk of losing all the work to preserve. More people means more risk of fire or vandalism and we do not police the park. Jasper Ridge is off limits to anyone for that reason - it is wildlife to be preserved at the experimental level and Stanford land. Foothills Park is now Palo Alto land and I would want to preserve open space and for the future generations to preserve - we are the guardians and take that responsibility not lightly to protect and preserve open space. Others may think differently how the land should be managed but I am a voice for the trees and wildlife that have no voice. Let's keep our park safe and sound: Please save our park.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ellen Hartog
330 Victoria Place

Baumb, Nelly

From: Kim Marinucci Acker <kimacker@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:15 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open Access to Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Palo Alto City Council,

I am writing to support the efforts of Parks for All and to ask you to change Palo Alto's policies restricting access to Foothills Park to Palo Alto's residents.

Public spaces belong to the public. White people and affluent people have far more access to open spaces than people of color and people who do not live in resource-rich Bay Area cities. Palo Alto can change this by opening Foothills Park to the public.

Please consider this issue not only as a racial justice issue, but also as a policy that normalizes the integration of parks trail systems with surrounding parks and open spaces.

The time for this change is now. While the history of the park may have been financially motivated, the Council must face the unintended consequences of this park acting as an exclusive club for Palo Alto residents. Make the choice for "a more perfect union" at the local level and open Foothills Park for all.

Sincerely,

Kim Acker
Unincorporated San Mateo County
94028

Baumb, Nelly

From: netigone@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park Discussion and Dog-Owner Access

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear council members,

TL;DR: Opening the park to non-residents is fine, but please, please, please do not restrict usage to dogs and dog-owners during the week as a result.

As a long-time Palo Alto resident and frequent Foothill Park visitor, I would like to add my comments to the current discussion of the park's future. I support the pilot test of opening of the park to some number of non-residents, though I share concerns of impacts to the local wildlife and native plants with greater usage, so I also support monitoring any increased impact and rolling back the usage if there is a negative result.

I have seen some public comments on this issue calling for the elimination of access to dogs and dog-owners to the park as part of this process. I do not know if the council is considering anything of the sort, but I want to strongly voice my support for continuation of the current policy of allowing dogs and dog-owners during the week. While dog-owners tend to be frequent users of hiking trails, the vast majority of open space in our community is not available to dog-owners. Foothill Park is one of the few places we have to enjoy the outdoors. Restricting Foothill Park for dog owners would be a disproportionate impact to us. I think current policy of restricting usage to week days is a very effective compromise that appears to be working well for everyone.

I share some commenters' concerns about people leaving bags of dog waste on trails or dogs off-leash, but my observation is the the users of Foothill Park do a much better job of cleaning up after their dogs and keeping them on leash than I see in other parks. I think that is a result of the park's effective deployment of trash cans as well as the park's overall good management. As a responsible dog-owner, I always make sure to clean up after my dog and keep him on-leash, but I also frequently pick up any other trash I see on the trails to try to do my part to maintain this special place. If the park were shut off to dog owners, that would only serve to centralize more dogs in the few remaining parks, such as Arastradero and Baylands, thereby increasing the impact to those parks. And if this becomes more of a problem if the park is opened up, I would encourage looking at other possible solutions rather than the full prohibition of dog-owners to this wonderful local resource.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Weber

Baumb, Nelly

From: neva yarkin <nevayarkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: from neva yarkin, regarding Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

August 31, 2020

Dear City Council:

Growing up in Palo Alto, I would like to see Foothill Park remain open to Palo Alto residents for the following reasons:

- 1) Cost for maintenance (we have a deficit of 40 million)
- 2) Damage to the ecosystem (concerned for the wild life)
- 3) Great place to go during COVID and also peace and quiet.

I am also concerned that city parks in Palo Alto are used by a lot of non-residents for their parties, etc. I have seen Riconada Park, and Peers Park (closest to me) with all the garbage after the weekend. It is not something I am proud of.

Thank you for reading my email.

Sincerely,

Neva Yarkin
Churchill Ave.
Palo Alto
nevayarkin@gmail.com

Baumb, Nelly

From: Susan Weber <susan@webers.org>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Public Comment re: Foothills Park agenda item Aug 3rd

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hi -

I visit Foothills Park nearly every day and have been doing so since I moved here 11 years ago.

I have noticed so much new litter along the trails that I now pack an empty garbage bag in my pocket on all my hikes. Since April I have been removing 15-30 items of litter from the park each week.

I do support expanding access to non-Palo Alto residents, particularly if the number of daily visitors is capped, but you might consider adopting a city ordinance with a stiff fine for littering, and prominently posting don't litter signs at the entrance to each trail. People are careless and thoughtless, but if they have just seen a sign reminding them to be more careful and thoughtful, it may help mitigate the damage the additional visitors are guaranteed to do.

Susan Weber
Palo Alto Hills

Baumb, Nelly

From: Kim <ksuz1981@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 11:12 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please start pilot program for Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I support the pilot program to allow some non-residents to get permits to use Foothills Park.

I've read the report which is posted online in your meeting packet. I've also read a few articles in Palo Alto Online discussing this and the history of the issue and I feel like I'm making an informed decision.

Thanks,
Kim Lemmer
2282 Amherst St
Palo Alto CA 94306

Baumb, Nelly

From: Gail Thompson <Gail.thompson2018@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:35 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I support opening up the park to neighboring communities and adding addition staff in the park.

Gail Thompson
Palo Alto resident

Baumb, Nelly

From: Carl Darling <cdarling@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:22 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Stop the foothills park change

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

This will only result in more money being allocated to administer. he must be higher priorities for the council to consider. It must be political

Baumb, Nelly

From: Susan Jensen <susan@sunassembly.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Parks for All

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Palo Alto City Council members,

As a resident of Portola Valley who lives in Los Trancos Woods just over the official border of Foothills Park, I don't understand why you have a policy that doesn't allow me to visit your park. My husband and I visit Palo Alto regularly, supporting your stores, restaurants, theaters, libraries and churches. We allow you to hike on our trails and visit our parks in Portola Valley.

I think it's a time in our country to be more unified and more inclusive of others. Please consider opening your trails to us as we do to you. Why should this public land not be accessible to me?

Thank you,
Susan Jensen
1031 Los Trancos Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028
1-650-851-5535

Baumb, Nelly

From: atkinsonkim@pacbell.net
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 6:09 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Do NOT open Foothills Park to the public

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

To the Palo Alto City Council

How can you possibly, and during a pandemic, suddenly plan to turn Foothills Park into a public park on August 3, after it has been a private city park for **55 years** ? Funded by Palo Alto taxpayers **since 1965** ? (When Los Altos chose not to co-buy the land with us ?)

You have given the public little notice. The city council should have no right to make this decision. This needs to be put up to a **vote by all the residents of Palo Alto**.

You are furthermore **endangering** Palo Alto residents who use the park, during the **pandemic**, by inviting more people in from other areas. **People are hiking the wrong way up marked one-way trails**, as recently as today. Your ranger staff cannot possibly manage an increased visitor load and keep us all safe during the pandemic.

Opening Foothills Park up to the public, *during a pandemic*, with little notice and no city-wide vote, reeks of the behavior Donald Trump is exhibiting, undoing decades of environmental laws and protections while the nation is distracted with the serious issues of the pandemic. What are you doing here ?

You do not have the right to damage this fragile, beautiful, tranquil park and lake by opening it up to the public. The park already has had many visitors this summer. It will be ruined if you allow more people to enter.

What right do you have to take this park away from Palo Alto residents, who have been paying for the park for 55 years ? With no city-wide vote ? None.

You will ruin the park. You will hurt the Palo Alto users who are there. Parking spaces are full every day.

Where will you put more cars ? More trash ? More covid exposure ?

Do not bring in more people. **You will ruin one of the gems of this city**, and you will devalue our lives here, and our property values, which some of us have worked very hard for over many years.

Kim Atkinson

Baumb, Nelly

From: Amy Keohane <amykeohane@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:42 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

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At this time when money is not flush and covid surrounding us I would say not a good time to open Foothill. We don't have the money to have someone up there during the week and the weekend is very crowded. Time to think about our downtown that is dying. Our parks are being used more than ever and garbage is piling up during the week. I love downtown and the garbage overload is a problem. Time to table the Foothills unless you are getting money from other cities to support. Charging a fee is not going to pay for the rangers to keep the parks clean.

Sent from my iPhone

Baumb, Nelly

From: Elizabeth Arndorfer <earndorfer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Open Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I am writing to support opening Foothills Park to non-residents. As an avid hiker, I have used Foothills for years. It is a gem. Sharing it beyond our residents makes sense and is an important equity move.

I understand that it may cost the City money to expand access. This seems a small price and am supportive of using resources in this way.

Warmly,

Elizabeth Arndorfer
3505 Laguna Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306

--

Elizabeth Arndorfer

Baumb, Nelly

From: mwilliams <moniwilliams@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 9:13 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park
Attachments: Foothills Park 2020-07-29.docx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Palo Alto City Council

Dear Mayor Fine and Palo Alto City Council Members,

I am in favor of opening up Foothills Park to non-residents on condition they are charged an entrance fee. And to keep the park from being overly-used the numbers of non-resident daily visitors can be restricted. 60 years ago, other cities would not help with the purchase so I see no reason why other city's residents shouldn't now help to maintain this beautiful resource.

Many opponents to opening up the park say that anyone can enter through the "back door" if they don't mind the hike. But isn't this discriminatory to those who are physically challenged?

I have lived, worked, volunteered, and paid property taxes in Palo Alto for over 30 years, but can no longer enjoy the park due to moving to a neighboring city. I look forward to the day when this tiny part of God's Country is shared with all people, no matter who they are, where they were born, or where they now live.

Thank you,

Monica Engel Williams

July 29, 2020

Monica Engel Williams

City Hall
Palo Alto City Council Chambers
500 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Mayor Fine and Palo Alto City Council Members,

I am in favor of opening up Foothills Park to non-residents on condition they are charged an entrance fee. And to keep the park from being overly-used the numbers of non- resident daily visitors can be restricted. 60 years ago, other cities would not help with the purchase so I see no reason why other city's residents shouldn't now help to maintain this beautiful resource.

Many opponents to opening up the park say that anyone can enter through the "back door" if they don't mind the hike. But isn't this discriminatory to those who are physically challenged?

I have lived, worked, volunteered, and paid property taxes in Palo Alto for over 30 years, but can no longer enjoy the park due to moving to a neighboring city. I look forward to the day when this tiny part of God's Country is shared with all people, no matter who they are, where they were born, or where they now live. Thank you,

Monica Engel Williams

July 29, 2020

Baumb, Nelly

From: Minor, Beth
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 11:42 AM
To: Council, City; French, Amy; Lait, Jonathan; Tanner, Rachael; Kirsten Squarcia; Anderson, Daren; Nguyen, Vinhloc
Cc: Planning Commission; ParkRec Commission
Subject: FW: History of Foothills Park
Attachments: History of Acquisition of Palo Alto Foothills Park.docx

Please see email below from Enid Pearson and the attached history of Foothills Park.

Thanks and have a great day.

B-

Beth Minor, City Clerk
City of Palo Alto
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650)329-2379



From: Enid Pearson <enidpearson1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Minor, Beth <Beth.Minor@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Subject: History of Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Beth, Would you please distribute this history of the Palo Alto Foothills Park to the City Council, the Planning Commission, Parks Commission, and any on going Foothills Committee that we have. Thanks so much,
Enid Pearson

--

History of Acquisition of Palo Alto Foothills Park as Remembered, 8/1/20

By Enid Pearson, enidpearson1@gmail.com

How I got involved with Palo alto politics:

My family and I moved to Palo Alto (1200 Bryant St) in September 1953. Within the first few months I was involved with Palo Alto politics. The City Council (15 members) was favorably responding to a City Manager proposal to make Bryant and Waverly Streets one-way streets to encourage traffic into the downtown business area. The purpose was to increase downtown business and eventually expand the business area to Embarcadero Road. Immediately, the neighborhood organized against this and I was assigned the job of watching the council. Within two years, the council brought up the idea almost 24 times and each time opted not to discuss the concept because of the need to notify the public. The council appointed a committee to find a solution. The result was placing stop signs every other block from University to Embarcadero to slow traffic down. I was hooked on the council and attended as many meetings as I could.

Foothills Park - How it became for Palo Altans Only: In a late December, 1959 Council meeting, Dr. Russell V. Lee presented a proposal to Palo Alto City Council. He was offering to sell 1,294 Acres of his property in the foothills for \$1,300,000 which was less than it was valued. But There was a slight catch, the deal had to be done before the end of December, 1959. The City Manager told the council they needed to do the usual 30-day publication of this proposed action. This would postpone the deal. Neither the council nor Dr. Lee wanted postponement. The Council saw a bargain and Dr. Lee was very firm: Do the deal now or the offer was gone. The council directed the city manager to start the purchase action without the 30 day publication. This was totally illegal.

At this time there was a downtown group of merchants who were very active, organized and not supportive of handing over 1.6 million dollars to Dr. Lee. They also inspected the property and they noted the following: the property had no source of water, it was very dry, grass and weeds and there were lots of rattle snakes. Furthermore, the army had used the area as a training ground and purportedly there were landmines buried in the flat area which had to be found and dug up. They launched a crusade against the purchase and they threatened to take the city to court. I think there was some legal action, but can't remember what.

The council was a little nervous about spending \$1,300,000 and floated the idea that maybe our neighbors, i.e., Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, might want to join in the purchase and the City Manager was directed to ask them if they wanted to share. Part of the problem was that these were relatively new cities. Remember PA was incorporated in 1894 and Palo Alto was considered a very wealthy city. Palo Alto had the new and thriving Stanford industrial park and a very successful business downtown.

Los Altos had just incorporated in Dec. 1952 and had very little industry and Los Altos Hills just incorporated in 1956 and also had little industry. These cities were not loaded with extra cash

to spend on a park that would need a lot of work (money) to make it usable by the public and so they declined.

There was a lot of opposition and grumbling regarding the purchase of this land. Council decided to place the park/land purchase on the ballot. Let the people decide. At the Monday night council meeting, the night before election day, the council promised that if the voters verified the park purchase, the council would make the park available to Palo Alto residents only. The election day issue of the Palo Alto Times had a huge headline stating the council's promise to the voters. The voters responded verifying the land purchase by 62% of vote. The council immediately kept their promise and passed a resolution declaring use of the park by Palo Alto residents only.

There have been several attempts by different councils to revoke this resolution and open the Park to all. Staff's response always outlines what I consider the worst scenarios – hoards of people will overrun the park. The flora and fauna of the park will be destroyed. All wild animals such as deer, etc, will vanish, the lake Palo Alto installed will be polluted, etc. This usually scares the council into not taking any action, but small changes have been added, such as outsiders can visit the park if accompanied by a Palo Altan (and verify your residence in Palo Alto), or if a Group has a public event (and they are responsible for cleanup) a limited number of guests can visit on the day or evening of the event.

Opening the Park to All: In my opinion, Foothills Park should be open to all. The council in 1959 was trying to figure out how it could justify spending this amount of money on what seemed like a pretty awful piece of land. They had no confidence that the grumpy groups of citizens appearing before them might just vote them out of office. I actually think they thought they were doing a good thing. The truth is we have all figured out that this kind of action by governments is bordering on dictatorship and racism and we should not be engaging in such actions. Yes, it is time to open Foothills Park to all. We are perfectly capable of managing the numbers of folks in the park at anyone time and we should, just to protect the whole area from being used to death. And I think we can stay within the bounds of good neighborliness. Just look around us. There are many parks all open and managed, and in my opinion, really well cared for by both the public and each government entity. Foothills Park would definitely survive and thrive.

How to fund an increased use and resulting necessary protection of the park is a legitimate question. Palo Alto's population increases daily to over 100,000 people. These are the many workers employed by our industrial parks and shopping centers and other employers, including households and schools and more. These folks contribute to the income of Palo Alto and if they chose, should be allowed access to all our parks.

It should be embarrassing to any Palo Altan that we restrict one of our parks. Also, Foothills Park is not the kind of park that attracts vandalism and destruction and huge crowds of people.

It's a park that urges picnics and hikes and baseball, etc. And there is not a lot of infrastructure (buildings, etc.) which sometimes encourages vandalism. A citizens committee with staff assistance could figure out how to open the park, how to set limits, times, and numbers and how to pay for increased costs. I urge the Palo Alto Council to step up and take charge. Make history, and correct the action taken 61 years ago. It might have been justified for the years the park was being upgraded. It was a new park and needed a lot of work to make it what it is today. We really are better than that and have learned a lot since. Open Foothills Park to all.

Enid Pearson

Former PA Councilwoman, 1965-1975

Baumb, Nelly

From: City Mgr
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:56 PM
To: O'Kane, Kristen; Shikada, Ed; leConge Ziesenhenne, Monique; Minor, Beth; Stump, Molly; ORG - Clerk's Office
Cc: City Mgr
Subject: August 3, Item 10 (Foothills Park)
Attachments: 2.png

Fyi, the attached survey results were emailed to the City Council individually and @City Mgr. It pertains to August 3, Action Item 10 (Foothills Park).

Thank you.

Danille Rice

Executive Assistant to the City Manager
(650)329-2105 | Danille.Rice@cityofpaloalto.org
www.cityofpaloalto.org

From: Roger Smith <rogervernonsmith@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Cormack, Alison <Alison.Cormack@CityofPaloAlto.org>; DuBois, Tom <Tom.DuBois@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Filseth, Eric (Internal) <Eric.Filseth@CityofPaloAlto.org>; Fine, Adrian <Adrian.Fine@CityofPaloAlto.org>; lizz.kniss@cityofpaloalto.org; Tanaka, Greg <Greg.Tanaka@CityofPaloAlto.org>; City Mgr <CityMgr@cityofpaloalto.org>
Subject:

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Enclosed are the results of my one-day (24 hrs.) Survey on Nextdoor Palo Alto. 251 people responded with 78 percent favoring keeping Foothills Park Preserve closed. We must move on to more important matters so please stop the Gish gallop. I hope we can make the decision quickly Monday night to keep this Fragile Preserve closed. Thank you for all your hard work for all of us, feel free to contact me at (650)327-7323

Roger Smith



Roger Smith

Old Palo Alto • 1 day ago



Should we open Foothills Park Preserve to Non-Residents? City Council Meeting

Discussion of the Parks and Recreation Commission's Pilot Program to Increase Access to Foothills Park for Non-residents and Provide Direction to Staff (Continued From June 23, 2020)

August 3, 2020 at 5:00 PM

****BY VIRTUAL TELECONFERENCE ONLY****

<https://zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 362 027 238 Phone:1(669)900-6833

FYI Opinion Piece:

<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/print/story/2020/07/24/guest-opinion-nows-not-the-time-for-full-foothills-park-discussion>

We welcome your comments and suggestions!

YES

22%

NO

78%

251 votes

Posted to **23 neighborhoods**

Thank

67 Comments

4

Baumb, Nelly

From: Nancy <ngkrop@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 12:21 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hi

I favor opening Foothills Park to non-residents. I so enjoy visiting the parks in our neighboring communities. I can not imagine being excluded from those parks (or having to pay a fee to go to parks in other cities).

Increased costs solutions

- Fees? I would rather not charge fees as I enjoy visiting the parks in our neighboring cities without having to pay a fee each time.
- Business taxes? I read we don't charge large businesses any business fees but they pay those fees in neighboring cities. If true, then we could charge our large businesses a fee for doing business in our city rather than making low income people and families pay a park entrance fee.

Thank you for considering my input.

Nancy Krop
Barron Park neighborhood

Baumb, Nelly

From: Barry Hart <hartb88@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park - Nature or People?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Foothills Park is an amazing nature preserve that will be negatively impacted by increasing the number of visitors, including letting in non-residents.

I have noticed this during the pandemic with increased use.

I ask that council keep the resident requirement and continue to cap the number of daily visitors

Barry Hart

Baumb, Nelly

From: Ronna Shpall <ralshpall5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: defer Foothills Park discussion

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council,

I am concerned about what seems to be a rush to start a pilot program on for expanding admission to Foothills Park. I request that you put off discussion and voting to increase users of the park to non-residents of Palo Alto. This discussion of and implementation of a pilot program should be deferred. This issue of opening up the park should be studied carefully, thoroughly, and calmly not only because of its fiscal impact, but also its environmental impact on the flora and fauna of the Park.

Sincerely,
Ronna Shpall
Palo Alto resident

Baumb, Nelly

From: susan chamberlain <suschamberlain@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: open Foothills Park to non residents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council,

Please take action to open Foothills Park to non residents. As a member of First Presbyterian Church, I believe we have the moral/ethical responsibility to consider social equity and inclusion in our city policy decisions. Excluding non residents is simply unacceptable in this era of challenging racism and privilege. Palo Alto should not miss this opportunity to take action on opening Foothill Park to non residents of our city.

In the proposed pilot program the process for getting a visitor pass online is too cumbersome. I suggest no pass required.

If you charge an entry fee it should be the same for residents and non residents to achieve equity.

The 50 person limit is too restrictive. Don't put a limit, then collect data on usage. Make policy decisions based on that data.

Susan Chamberlain
121 Byron Street
Palo Alto

1. Moral/ethical issue: Social equity and inclusion issues have been headline, critical issues in recent months in our country. Palo Alto should not lose this opportunity to take action on these compelling issues by opening Foothill Park to non residents.
2. In the proposed pilot program the process for non residents is too cumbersome — For example, getting a visitors pass online.
3. In terms of equity, all visitors (resident and non-resident) should pay a fee (or it should still be free — my opinion. — Debbie)
4. The 50 person limitation is too restrictive. Base the number on available parking spaces, not a person count.
5. This plan is set up to fail. Too cumbersome and restrictive.
6. The pilot program is good but needs to go further. We need to do more to open Foothill Park to non residents.

Baumb, Nelly

From: Anne Woodbury <annekwoodbury@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please do not open access to Foothills Park during Covid because it will be hard to distance and there will likely be parking issues

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Hi City Council,

I am not sure why Foothills Park keeps coming up for opening access. I can see why you might open access to the people who live right around it, but not to open it to everyone.

If you do that it will not be the peaceful respite that it has been for Palo Alto citizens because there will be too many people to social distance safely and there is limited parking so it will likely be impossible to park. And also, if Palo Alto is the only community that pays for the upkeep of the park then it still makes sense to keep it limited as a place for Palo Alto.

I love Foothills Park and I hate to see it overrun. It is such a peaceful place, a place of solitude and stillness, but it may not be if you open it up.

Thank you,
Anne Woodbury
443 Ventura Avenue #10
Palo Alto, CA 94306
annekwoodbury@mac.com
650-813-9357 office/home
650-722-2681 cell/text

Baumb, Nelly

From: Joe Hirsch <jihirschpa@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Council Members,

I cannot be at tonight's CC meeting, as I have a Stanford Continuing Studies Program at the same time, but I do have some comments about the proposed opening of Foothills Park that I wish you to consider.

Many years ago, Rinconada Park had many problems with non-Palo Altans using the Park, as it was (and presumably still is) open to the public. Many came on the weekends and camped out early in the morning and throughout the day, leaving little room for Palo Altans. They came in large numbers, blared their boomboxes loudly, and left lots of trash. Neighbors were rightly concerned and complained often. I'm not sure what the resolution of that was or whether that continues on and off to this day.

A recent article in the NYT (July 31st edition) entitled "A Hidden Gem, Loved by All, but Now Closed to Everyone" tells of similar occurrences at Lake Solitude in High Bridge, New Jersey. When non-residents (many from out-of-state) found out about the lake and surrounding park, and I quote from the article: "People began pouring in, bringing portable speakers, children and food, and leaving behind trash". City officials had to close the lake and park, even to city residents, when the overcrowding and littering could not be properly controlled.

The article reported a similar situation at Big Deep and Little Deep swimming holes in Woodstock, N.Y. because of the "littering and messes left behind by visitors" that made it difficult to "maintain safety during the pandemic".

Will the same thing happen if Foothills Park is opened to the general public? Reservations may be limited, but others will walk in and the park soon will be crowded and overrun. It is a beautiful pristine area, home to many deer, and should, in my opinion, be left that way, conservation first. Accordingly, I am in favor of keeping the park open only to Palo Altans and our guests. There many other Palo Alto parks open to the general public, so we should not feel shamed that we are not opening this particular park to all. There are also County and State parks that are open to the general public. People will have the selection of many public places, many in Palo Alto, to go to if they want to.

Please keep Foothills Park as it is now for a very limited number of people - and the deer.

Thanks for considering these comments.

Joe

Baumb, Nelly

From: Jessica Hyde <jessicaleehyde@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Vote yes to approve the Foothills Park pilot program

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I'm a Palo Alto resident who loves hiking and picnicking at Foothills. Before moving here I worked in Palo Alto for several years but lived in East Palo Alto, Santa Clara and Menlo Park. I watched the Parks and Recreation commission panel and I read the pilot proposal and I would like the city council to approve the pilot program to allow non-residents access to Foothills Park.

Why is now the time?

In particular during this pandemic when our recreation options are limited and things like domestic abuse are up (<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/06/05/covid-19-dv-story/>) we all need access to these public lands, these open spaces for our mental health and physical health. We all benefit from opportunities to get outdoors and see wildlife and awe-inspiring, transformational views. Based on personal experience, people who live in more crowded apartments and smaller homes may benefit even more.

It is not just Palo Alto residents who need open spaces. Our neighbors who happen to live in other city boundaries but who often work, volunteer or attend schools or religious organizations in our city also benefit from access to open spaces. Connection with nature is something that bridges the differences we have, it connects us and brings us together as a species at a time when racism is pulling us apart. Please listen and give us some good, positive news so these protests are not in vain and we can begin the work of healing bad feelings between cities.

How will this benefit the park?

The more people who can visit the park, the more people who become fans and supporters of the park. In all the many times I have visited the park I have seen very few people there. If people can't go there they won't have a connection with the land and won't care about doing volunteer work to help care for the park. It is so sad the current state of affairs where non-resident students volunteer at the park but are not allowed to enter the park on the weekend to show their families the work they did and the beauty of the park. What lesson are we teaching these children?

If this place is "special" to you, do your part to leave it better than you found it

As someone who hikes in many of the preserves up and down the peninsula I would say the wildlife is very similar to other parks. People who are saying this park is "special" may refer to the fact that it has some very accessible trails and a large picnic area near a forest. But it isn't a completely unique or special place. The main thing that differentiates it is the bad reputation it gives Palo Alto as elitist and racist. Yes, I know Palo Alto is diverse but there is no denying our demographic is more privileged than other nearby cities whose residents we are denying access to an open space, public preserve.

If you care so much about the wildlife, why do **you** get to trample all over the fields and trails but someone who lives across a city border doesn't get to? I'd gladly stay home or go to another park if Foothills ever gets a lot of visitors. We can all do our part to clean up trash, volunteer to remove invasives, report issues, ask people to follow guidelines, etc and truly show that we value this place and that we will help take care of it while sharing it and teaching others how to care for it.

A step in the right direction

I'd love to see a day where access is the same for residents and non-residents (we all pay fees or no one pays fees) but for now I think the pilot program is a good first step to start opening access to everyone. Let us be humble and admit the mistakes we made in the past in keeping others out. I'm super curious why it costs about \$90K to monitor the gate on weekends. It seems like mechanical counters and gates or a minimum wage worker could reduce this cost and let the senior rangers work on other tasks.

Thank you for representing my voice,

Jessica Hyde

Baumb, Nelly

From: Anne Cribbs <acribbs@basoc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Letter to City Council regarding opening of Foothill Par

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Good afternoon. Please see below... and thank you.

Mayor Fine and City Council Members:

I will be part of the PRC presentation to you tonight about the pilot program for opening Foothill Park, representing the Commission as Vice Chair.

Speaking for myself, it is important for me as a long time resident of Palo Alto - and one who loves Foothill Park - to let you know that I hope that your action tonight is to repeal the restrictive ordinance, welcome our neighbors – especially the children who will be responsible for the future.

I hope that we can commit to working together to continue to protect the incredible environment that we know and love as Foothill Park. I believe a citizens committee can work with our great city staff to figure out how to open the park, set limits and figure out how to pay for increased costs.

Please, in this understandably challenging time, “meet this moment”, make history and open the Park to all - demonstrating Palo Alto’s commitment to equality, access, openness and resource protection.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the future of Foothill Park.

Anne Warner Cribbs, OLY

415.264.2067

Anne Warner Cribbs OLY
President and CEO
BASOC - the bay area sports organizing committee
1960 Olympian
2450 Agnes Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Ph. 650.323.9400
Fx: 650.323.9403
415.264.2067
acribbs@basoc.org
www.basoc.org

Baumb, Nelly

From: Rabbi Amy Eilberg <rebamy1@gmail.com> on behalf of Rabbi Amy Eilberg <rebamy@eilberg.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Please accept the proposal to begin opening Foothills Park to non-residents

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Rabbi Amy Eilberg

899 Lundy Lane

Los Altos, CA 94024

rebamy@eilberg.com

I am a rabbi and a resident of Los Altos, and I provide leadership at Congregation Kol Emeth, and serve on the steering committee of Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice, a grassroots organization in Palo Alto that works with dozens of houses of worship and community organizations in Palo Alto for the dignity and well-being of all.

I am deeply concerned about the exclusionary policy of allowing only residents of Palo Alto to use Foothills Park. I am moved by the leadership of Pastor Kaloma Smith of AME Zion Church, whose community feels the sting of marginalization due to this policy. The policy may not have been originally instituted for expressly racist reasons. But as we are all learning, "innocent" policies can have unintended impact, sending messages of rejection and degradation to minority and oppressed communities.

We all care about the park, which is a gem in our area. No one wants to harm the beautiful ecosystem in the park. We understand that there are concerns about how many people the park can accommodate without being hurt. But restricting people by zip code (and skin color) in no way benefits the park. On the contrary, it creates harm for individuals and communities within Palo Alto, and it leaves a stain on the reputation and self-image of Palo Alto as a progressive and inclusive, anti-racist city.

I urge you to accept the proposal, which will create a thoughtful and cautious experiment with opening up the park, hoping that this will lead to a fuller opening at a later time.

Rabbi Amy Eilberg

Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble. (John Lewis)

Rabbi Amy Eilberg
(she/her/hers)
Spiritual Director, Kindness Coach, Peace and Justice Educator

rebamy@eilberg.com
www.rabbiamyeilberg.com

Author, *From Enemy to Friend: Jewish Wisdom and the Pursuit of Peace* (Orbis Books)

Baumb, Nelly

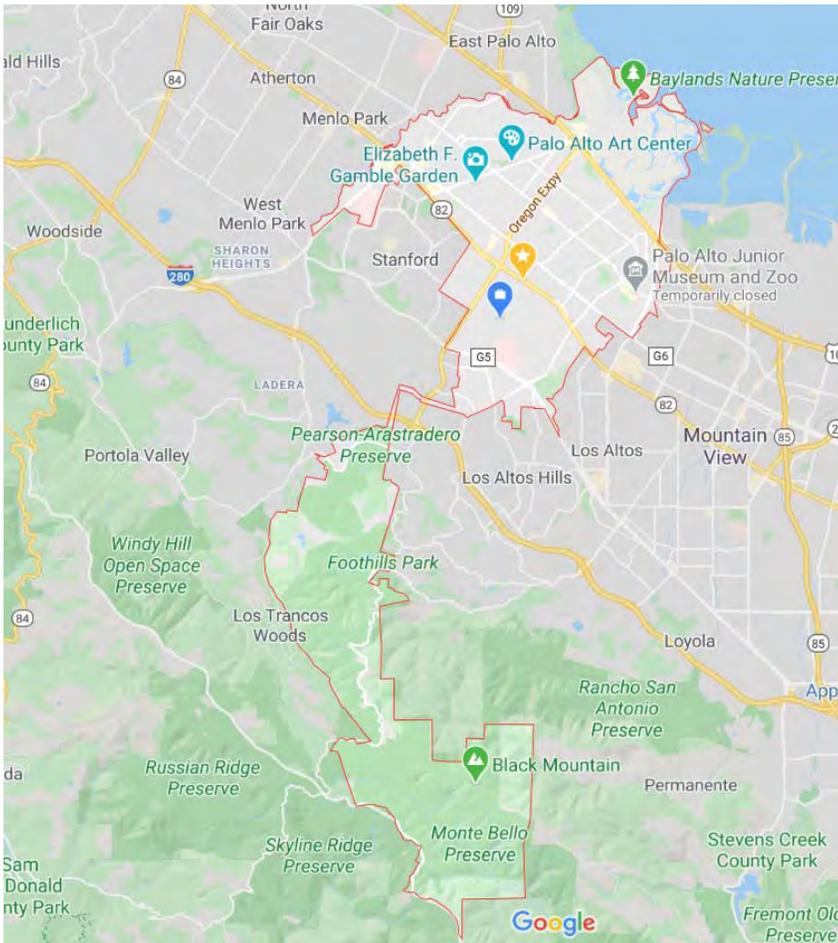
From: Elizabeth Goldstein Alexis <ealexis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 2:46 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Item 10 - Foothill Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I am writing to propose a compromise to provide wider access to Foothill Park. The city should consider a short-term lease (1 to 5 years) to Santa Clara County Parks and/or Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), which would help achieve a number of goals.

The debate about Foothill Park has been very heated. It is important to appreciate that the city of Palo Alto has a history of open access to its many city parks and other public facilities. Our libraries remain open to any resident of California unlike some other library systems, Cubberley (normally) hosts many regional events and the city's playing fields are used by teams from all over the Bay Area. We have invested in new playgrounds and recreational facilities that welcome all comers.

Foothill Park is a little bit of an oddity beyond being the one facility not open to non-residents. This can be observed by looking at the map of the city limits where it is only attached to the core part of Palo Alto by a string. In some ways, it functions as a nature preserve that is simply managed by Palo Alto, rather than a park - almost like Berkeley Family Camp.



Foothill Park, however, is not located in the Sierras. It is in the foothills of our own Santa Cruz mountains, where other similar natural spaces are either County Parks or Open Space Preserves. In fact, if MROSD had existed when Foothill Park came into being, it seems likely the property might have been included in their holdings, given that it is contiguous to other preserves.

Coronavirus has made us appreciative of the incredible outdoor spaces that are available to Bay Area residents. We should be taking any action we can to increase the accessibility to nature, including Foothill Park which is a real gem. Palo Alto has been an incredible steward of the land and the investment in maintenance and upkeep over the years has paid off.

I hear the concerns that Foothill will become overcrowded and the desire to go slow with any change in policy. The staff proposal, while well-meaning, seems like it adds a lot of complication and overhead.

Why not simply lease the park to the regional authorities who already maintain similar facilities? This could be for a limited time period which would allow reconsideration and include a provision for the city summer camps to continue.

This has several advantages:

- 1) Save taxpayers money. This would allow the city to maintain other services, most of which are open to all.
- 2) Better integrate Foothill with adjacent open spaces.
- 3) Piggyback off existing ways that the County and MROSD balance access and crowding.

Regards,
Elizabeth Alexis

Baumb, Nelly

From: Elizabeth De Oliveira <elizabeth.deo@me.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Council, City; ParkRec Commission
Subject: Foothills Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Members of the Palo Alto City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission,

It is time to end the policy of reserving Foothills Park for the exclusive use of Palo Alto residents. Whether or not it made sense at the time the park was created, it doesn't feel right now. Yes, as a resident of the Los Trancos neighborhood overlooking the park, I resent that Palo Alto residents use my neighborhood as a playground while I am subject to penalties if I walk across the creek. A second generation Palo Alto myself, I have remained silent about that for years. What I cannot remain silent about anymore is the de facto exclusion of people of color and diverse backgrounds from our natural areas. Many people grow up feeling our parks and open spaces are not for them. Rarely is such exclusion so explicit as in the case of Foothills Park, however. This is not who Palo Alto is nor what it wants to be.

Thank you,

Elizabeth de Oliveira

Baumb, Nelly

From: carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: How to submit petition for tonight's meeting?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear City Council:

I have a petition with signatures that I want to submit to you at your meeting this evening (3 Aug). How can I submit this petition to you?

Due to Covid-19, the petition is a stack of signed postcards, not a single sheet of paper.

Carlin Otto

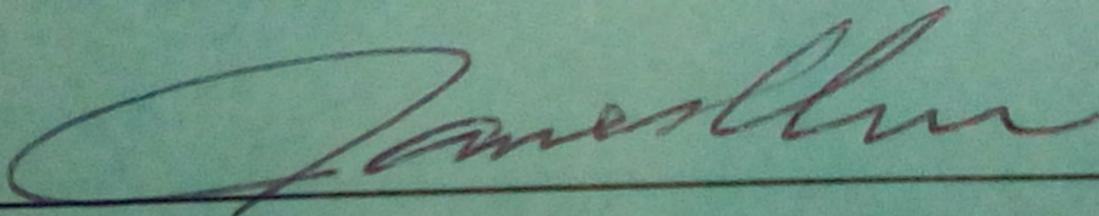
To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): July 31, 2020

My name (printed): James CHU

My address (printed): 246 Edlee Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306

My signature: 

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 7-29-2020

My name (printed): The ANDERSON'S

My address (printed): 297 Whitclerm DR

My signature: J.R. & L. Anderson

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 29 July 2020

My name (printed): Carlin Otto

My address (printed): 231 Whitclerm Ct Palo Alto

My signature: Carlin Otto

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): JULY 29, 2020

My name (printed): PATRICIA FEWER & JOHN

My address (printed): 321 WHITCLEM DR FLEMING

My signature: Patricia Fewer

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): July 30, 2020

My name (printed): Agha (meg) Rizvi

My address (printed): 225 Whitclerm Drive

My signature: A. Rizvi

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): July 30, 2020

My name (printed): SYED RIZVI

My address (printed): 225 Whitclen Drive

My signature: S. Rizvi

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): August 1, 2020

My name (printed): Robert Gillespie

My address (printed): 384 Whitclen Drive

My signature: Robert Gillespie

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 7/30/2020

My name (printed): SON NGUYEN

My address (printed): 292 WHITCLEN DR.

My signature: [Signature]

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 7/29/2020

My name (printed): Sang-Min Lee

My address (printed): 302 Whitclen Dr.

My signature: [Signature]

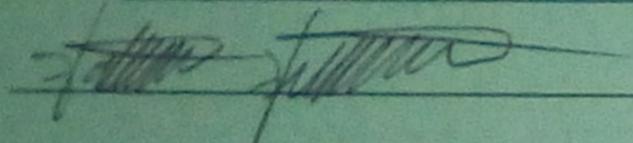
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Today's date (printed): 7-29-20

My name (printed): Fatima Freitas

My address (printed): 398 Whitclen DR.

My signature: 

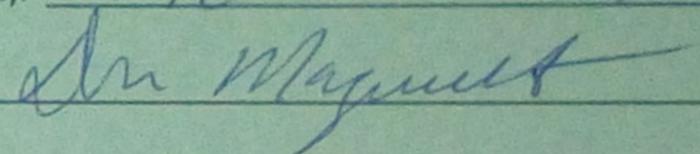
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Today's date (printed): 7-29-20

My name (printed): Don Marquardt

My address (printed): 398 Whitclen DR.

My signature: 

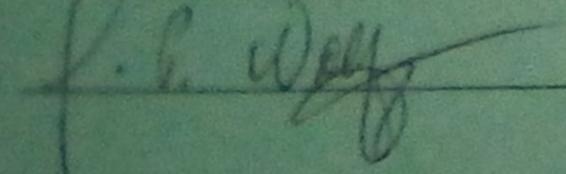
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Today's date (printed): July 29, 2020

My name (printed): Jennifer & Jeff Wolfeld

My address (printed): 272 Whitclen Dr, Palo Alto

My signature: 

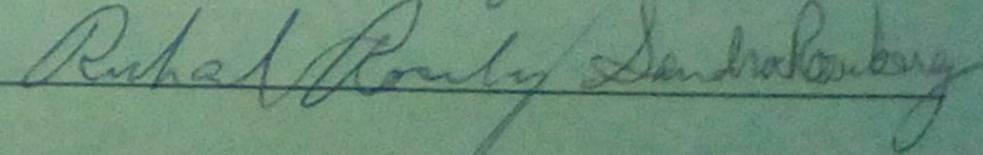
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Today's date (printed): 7/30/2020

My name (printed): Richard Rosenberg ^{& Sandra} Rosenberg

My address (printed): 4211 Wilke Way,

My signature: 

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 7/31/2020

My name (printed): Chris Cooke

My address (printed): 4279 Wilkie Way Palo Alto

My signature: Chris Cooke

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): JULY 29, 2020

My name (printed): STEPHEN LUHEELER

My address (printed): 4241 WILKIE WAY

My signature: Stephen Wheeler

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 7/31/2020

My name (printed): ANNA BERMAN

My address (printed): 4297 WILKIE WAY, PA 94306

My signature: A Berman

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 7-31-2020

My name (printed): Plato Wang

My address (printed): 4268 Wilkie Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306

My signature: Plato Wang

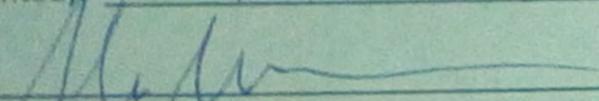
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Today's date (printed): 7/30/20

My name (printed): John Di Cosmo

My address (printed): 381 Edlee Ave. Palo Alto, CA

My signature: 

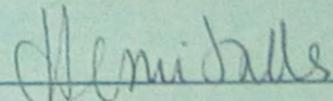
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Today's date (printed): 31 JULY 2020

My name (printed): HENRI SALLES

My address (printed): 361 EDLEE AV PALOALTO CA 94306

My signature: 

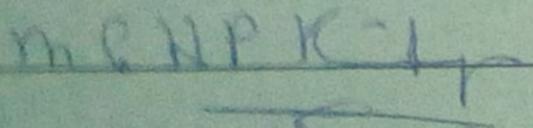
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Today's date (printed): 7/29/20

My name (printed): M L H P. Kruitwagen

My address (printed): 391 Edlee Ave, Palo Alto
94306

My signature: 

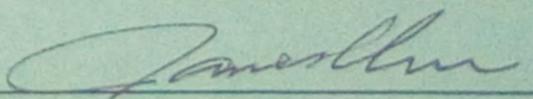
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Today's date (printed): July 31, 2020

My name (printed): James CHU

My address (printed): 246 Edlee Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306

My signature: 

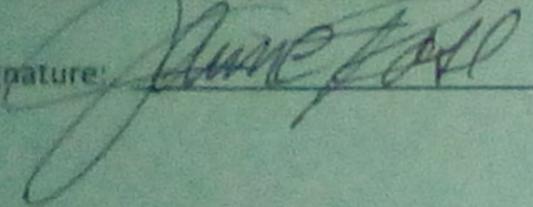
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Today's date (printed): 7-30-20

My name (printed): Joime Ross

My address (printed): 380 Edlee Ave; Palo Alto 94306

My signature: 

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 31 ^{JULY} ~~FEB~~ 2020

My name (printed): ~~Henri~~ ASTRID ~~Salles~~ SALLES

My address (printed): 361 EDLEE AVE ^{PALO ALTO} ~~PALO ALTO~~ CA 94306

My signature: ~~Henri Salles~~ A Salles

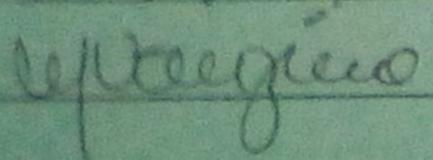
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Today's date (printed): 7-30-20

My name (printed): ~~Joime~~ Martha Vanzina

My address (printed): 380 Edlee Ave; Palo Alto 94306

My signature: 

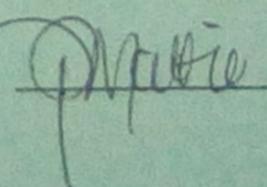
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Today's date (printed): July 30, 2020

My name (printed): Patricia Mattio

My address (printed): 4266 Ruthelma Ave, P.A.

My signature: 

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): 7-30-2020

My name (printed): EDUARD TEJNIL

My address (printed): 4259 Park Blvd. PALO ALTO, CA
94306

My signature: Eduard Tejnil

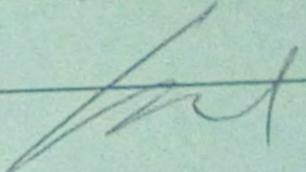
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Today's date (printed): 07/30/2020

My name (printed): IRENE LLOYD

My address (printed): 4203 PARK BLVD P.A.

My signature: 

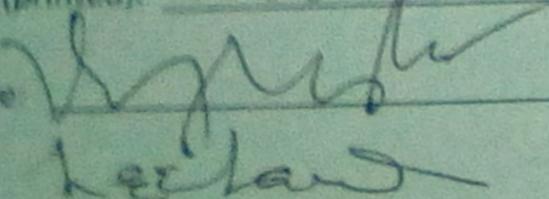
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Today's date (printed): JULY 29, 2020

My name (printed): WING LAW & LEE LAW

My address (printed): 4253 PARK BLVD

My signature: 
Lee Law

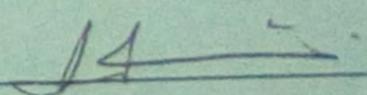
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Today's date (printed): July 29, 2020

My name (printed): IVY KENNETH LI

My address (printed): 4293 PARK BLVD PALO ALTO

My signature: 

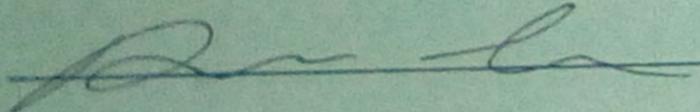
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Today's date (printed): 7/29²⁹/20

My name (printed): Anna Wang

My address (printed): 4240 Darlington Ct.

My signature: 

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): July 29, 2020

My name (printed): Anne Littleboy

My address (printed): 351 Duluth Circle

My signature: Anne Littleboy

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): July 31, 2020

My name (printed): Edwin S. Fox

My address (printed): 294 Tennessee Lane, P.A.

My signature: 

To the City Council of Palo Alto:

I do NOT want Foothill Park opened to the general public. I value its quiet, its uncrowdedness, its pristine condition, the opportunities to see wildlife. More people in the Park will degrade all of these. I pay the taxes that keep it in this condition !!

Today's date (printed): August 1, 2020

My name (printed): BARBARA PASEK

My address (printed): 275 W. CHARLESTON RD

My signature: Barbara Pasek

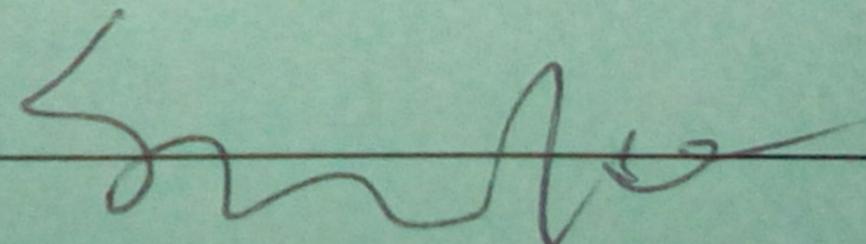
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Today's date (printed): July 31st, 2020

My name (printed): SHU DONG He, Zheng Chen

My address (printed): 295 W. Charleston Rd. PA, CA 94306

My signature: 
Shu Dong He