

Public letters 82020.txt

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

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

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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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 Dignonet

1045 College Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94306

(650) 723-0719

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

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Red Category

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Dear Park Personnel,

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

From: Carmen Enciso-Steinberg <carmen@findthecat.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 6:48 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Foothill Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Parks and Recreation Commission 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 righ.

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!

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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 supremecist history and its continued elitism.

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

Barb Voss
2600 Colubmia Street Unit 200
Palo Alto CA 94304

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Barb Voss - barbvossis@gmail.com <mailto:barbvossis@gmail.com>

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

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

Thanks and have a great day.

B-

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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

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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

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From: Terri Weber <tlweber0@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 11:19 AM
To: ParkRec Commission

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Subject: Foothills Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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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

From: Courtlyn Schreiber <cschreib2@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 11:15 AM

To: ParkRec Commission

Subject: Foothills park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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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.

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,

Courtlyn Schreiber

Sent from my iPhone

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

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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.

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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

From: Kristi Corley <kristilcorley@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 7:09 AM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Parks for All

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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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
From: Valerie Quarmby <quarmby.valerie@gene.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 6:40 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Cc: quarmby Valerie

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Subject: Foothill Park must be open access

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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

From: stuart oremland <soremland160@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 5:45 PM

To: ParkRec Commission

Subject: Foothill Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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Whatever reasons you have to keep your Park - only for your residents, could equally be applied to access Windy Hill and Huddert Park to name just two of the many parks available to Palo Alto residents.

However, because towns like Portola Valley are more open minded, one can find many Palo Alto residents using Portola Valley to access Windy Hill- or ride the "loop" with bikes.

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Equal and reciprocal access sounds a lot better than " do as I say, not as I do. I hope you change your policy.

Stuart Oremland

Portola Valley

From: Lee Middleman <lee@leemiddleman.com>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 4:57 PM

To: Council, City; ParkRec Commission

Subject: Palo Alto Foothills Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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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>
<<https://www.etsy.com/shop/LeeMiddleman>> Thanks.

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Lee Middleman
www.LeeMiddleman.com <<http://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>

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

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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

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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

From: Kim Marinucci Acker <kimacker@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:30 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Open Access to All for Foothills Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Parks & Rec Commission,

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

From: Kim Marinucci Acker <kimacker@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 12:16 PM

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To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Open Access to Foothills Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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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.

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Sincerely,

Kim Acker
Unincorporated San Mateo County
94028

From: Robert Schreiber <r_schreiber_98@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:51 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Foothills

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear commissioners,

I listened to the discussion online this week and was struck by what seemed a shortsighted notion. The claim was made that opening the park to nonresidents would entail a large expense for peopling the entrance during the week.

How's that? It isn't monitored now and we know that nonresidents are making use of the park then. Why would that need to change?

The real question is whether or not to allow, perhaps with online permit purchase or on site permit purchase, some specified maximum number of nonresidents on weekends and holidays, isn't it? And the entrance is monitored at those times already, correct? So a check of a license plate or driver's license would be no different than what is being done now, it seems.

The argument that increased use would deteriorate the park, its natural character, and the experience of residents suggests that the country ought to restrict visits to Yosemite to residents of the Sierra Nevada; or California; or the United States. Yet somehow the park survives. If numbers have to be controlled (and we are a rather long from that at Foothills) then control numbers, not home addresses.

Thanks much for your volunteered time on the commission!

Rob Schreiber

From: Laurie Gamelsky <lgamelsky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 9:40 AM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Expanding Access in Foothills Park Palo Alto

Follow Up Flag: Public email August meeting
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Good Day,

As a resident of Palo Alto , I was very concerned to learn about the potential expansion of access at Foothills Park. During the Covid 19 pandemic, it is a blessing to have a beautiful outdoor location that has SO much social distancing easily available. As I approach my 60's and have an underlying condition, please

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keep access as it is, I desperately need an outdoor space that is close to home and free from crowding.

Thank you for listening

Laurie Gamelsky

650.906.0028 (cell)

From: Adele Gershater <adele.gershater@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:27 PM

To: ParkRec Commission

Subject: Open Foothills Park to non-residents

Follow Up Flag: Public August attachment

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Dear Parks and Recreation Commission 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 <mailto:adele.gershater@gmail.com>

650-245-7952 (cell)

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My question - Becky Sanders

ⓘ Flag for follow up. Start by 8/20/2020. Due by 8/20/2020.

RS Rebecca Sanders <rebsanders@gmail.com>
Wed 7/29/2020 1:44 AM
To: PRC.PublicMeetings

[👍](#) [↩](#) [↩](#) [→](#) [⋮](#)

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I was up at the park earlier this month. I have noticed that we don't really have a gate monitor anymore, I guess we can't afford one. So de facto, anyone can go in there, correct? I was disappointed to see some adults hanging out with beers and smoking dope, being loud and basically interacting with their phones. That's not the kind of activity I want the park to support. Call me a killjoy, but how can we make sure the park is managed to promote the environmental, social and emotional health of the community - no matter who is using it or where they come from?

Thank you.

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Foothills Park should be for everyone, no strings attached

ⓘ Flag for follow up. Start by 8/20/2020. Due by 8/20/2020.

JE Jeremy Erman <jeremy_erman@yahoo.com>
Wed 7/29/2020 2:45 AM

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To: PRC.PublicMeetings; Council, City

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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

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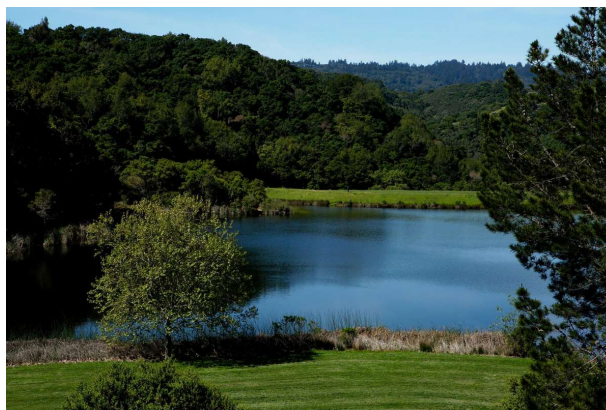
Should Foothills Park be opened to non-residents unescorted?

🕒 Flag for follow up. Start by 8/20/2020. Due by 8/20/2020.

CT Councilmember Tanaka <councilmember.tanaka.office@gregtanaka.org>
Thu 7/30/2020 8:07 PM
To: PRC.PublicMeetings

👍 ⏪ ⏩ ⏪ ⏩ ⋮

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Friend --

On Monday, August 3rd, the Palo Alto City Council will consider whether to open up Foothills Park to non-Palo Alto residents unescorted. In efforts to understand and represent the feelings of Palo Alto residents, I would like to know your opinion on this topic. I welcome you to voice your thoughts through this survey: [Should Foothills Park Be Open to the Public?](#)

Additional Resources

- Here is the [staff report](#) on the item that will be heard Monday, August 3rd.

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Report of a Walk in Arastradero Preserve

CO

carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>

Tue 8/11/2020 1:03 AM

To: PRC.PublicMeetings; Reckdahl, Keith



ArastraderoPreserveReport.do...

3 MB

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

Dear PRC:

Attached is a report from a short walk that I took at Arastradero Preserve today.

I have prepared this report to back up my recent comments about the condition of this Preserve. I consider the condition (given that it is a "preserve") horrendous. This Preserve is overused and abused by too many visitors.

I did not walk every trail in the Preserve, but I took pictures of the damage on the trails that I did walk, and took notes of the people whom I observed in the Preserve during my 90 minutes there.

I would very much like you to help the City Council figure out how to stop the destruction of the property. What can the City do to protect the Preserve better? How can we repair the damage that has already been done?

Carlin Otto

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Foothills Preserve: Cost per Pilot Study car

CO

carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>

Thu 8/6/2020 9:42 PM

To: PRC.PublicMeetings



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Total cost of the one-year Foothills Pilot Study is estimated at \$198,000.
This cost will be incurred regardless of how many Pilot Study cars actually participate.

The total cars allowed by this pilot is 15,600 for the entire year:

50 cars x 5 weekdays x 52 weeks = 13,000

and

25 cars x 2 weekend days X 52 weeks = 2,600

In the MOST optimistic of circumstances,
to recover the costs for the Pilot you need to charge about \$12.70 per car.

$\$198,000 / 15,600 \text{ cars} = \12.69 per car

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Fwd: The Daily Average Foothill Visitor Count is 416 to 474

ⓘ Flag for follow up. Start by 8/20/2020. Due by 8/20/2020.

CO carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>
Thu 8/6/2020 8:21 PM
To: PRC.PublicMeetings



Foothill_averagedailyuse.xlsx
11 KB

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FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **carlin otto** <carlinotto@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 6, 2020 at 1:15 PM
Subject: The Daily Average Foothill Visitor Count is 416 to 474
To: <city.council@cityofpaloalto.org>

Dear City Council:

The attached spreadsheet calculates the average occupancy of Foothills Preserve from the statistics that were presented to you by the PRC on 3 Aug. From these statistics, the average daily occupancy is between 416 and 474, depending on whether you calculate it from the Annual Use figure of 152,000 per year or from the monthly breakdown.

POINT:

This is the usage that maintains the preserve in its CURRENT CONDITION. Any additional usage will degrade it. The current 1000 maximum is NOT USEFUL in making any decision. The Preserve has not contained that many people for over 20 years.

You approved up to 50 additional cars (approx. 135 people) per day for the Pilot Study.

This increases the visitor count by **28% to 32%**.

If this scenario comes to pass, the impact on Foothills will be significant !!!!

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Protecting Foothills Nature Preserve as it Opens to the General Public

 Flag for follow up. Start by 8/20/2020. Due by 8/20/2020.

CO

carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>

Wed 8/5/2020 3:52 PM

To: PRC.PublicMeetings



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

Dear Members of the PRC:

In preparation for the upcoming Palo Alto resident vote (slated for 2022) on whether or not to open Foothills Nature Preserve to the general public, it is really important to make sure that the ballot measure itself include provisions that will prevent damage to the Preserve, meaning things like degradation of the land, causing the animals to retreat, and destruction of native habitats. It is NOT enough to just change the City Ordinance to open the Preserve to the general public. As part of the ballot measure it will be important to assure the voters that this occupancy change will not damage the Preserve. This assurance needs to be based on (meaning, backed up by) scientifically based (industry-wide approved) facts and study methods, and the proposal itself must include a new daily occupation limit that has been verified and determined by scientific methods to be sustainable and non-damaging to the Preserve.

I do not believe that the current maximum visitor limit of 1000 people is sustainable over time. If that many people were to be in the Preserve day after day, enormous amounts of damage would be inflicted that would take years to heal. The only reason this number has worked for so many years is that with a very limited number of potential occupants (approx. 60,000 Palo Alto residents), the maximum occupancy has been reached only a very few times. Once the pool of potential occupants is expanded to include everyone (millions of Bay Area residents), we can expect the Preserve's occupancy to consistently be greater than the historical numbers. There will be no way in advance of the full opening to predict how many of these millions will actually use the Preserve. The pilot study (which was approved by the City Council on 3 Aug) will not provide data to help set this number since the pilot allows only a limited number of non-resident visitors per day, and will not get the wide publicity (which will occur at the full opening) that will attract visitors from among the millions of people in the Bay Area. What number is sustainable without doing any damage to the Preserve? 200 a day? 400? 600?

Please consider doing the following:

- First, investigate which park-management-approved best practices, scientific methods, and resources could be used to determine a non-damaging sustainable maximum daily occupancy limit.
- Second, investigate which park-management-approved best practices, scientific methods, and resources could be used to identify other changes to the Preserve and the City Ordinances that would be needed in order to avoid any damages (or negative consequences) to the Preserve or to the City (e.g., traffic, law suits, additional expenses).
- Third, spearhead a proposal to the City Council (once the City has spare funds available) that it authorize funds to have a study done (using information gathered from the first 2 bullets) and a report written that (1) proposes a sustainable occupancy limit, (2) identifies and proposes fixes for other changes that would be required in order to avoid negative effects from opening the Preserve to the general public, and (3) documents the facts and methods and results of the aforementioned study that support both #1 and #2 (in this paragraph).

Carlin Otto

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Foothills Preserve and Park

ⓘ Flag for follow up. Start by 8/20/2020. Due by 8/20/2020.

CO carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>
Mon 8/3/2020 6:47 PM
To: PRC.PublicMeetings

👍 ⏪ ⏩ ⏪ ⏩ ⋮

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

Dear PRC:

Attached below is a petition and accompanying letter to the Palo Alto City Council. This is just for your information.

****START

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

****END

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Opening Foothills Park

[i](#) Flag for follow up. Start by 8/20/2020. Due by 8/20/2020.

CO carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>
Wed 7/29/2020 2:56 AM
To: PRC.PublicMeetings

[👍](#) [↶](#) [↶](#) [→](#) [⋮](#)

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

Dear PRC:

Arastradero Park has been completely destroyed by being open to the public.

BEFORE you open Foothill Park, please implement your ideas at Arastradero Park and see if you can somehow save that park. Let's not ruin Foothill Park too.

Carlin Otto

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Heritage Tree Protection Comment

[ⓘ](#) Flag for follow up. Start by 8/20/2020. Due by 8/20/2020.

CO carlin otto <carlinotto@gmail.com>
Wed 7/29/2020 2:24 AM
To: PRC.PublicMeetings

[👍](#) [↩](#) [↩](#) [➔](#) [⋮](#)

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I would like to make some recommendations regarding how the City could better protect heritage trees.

I am currently in the ZOOM meeting

Carlin Otto

[Reply](#) | [Forward](#)

Report of a Walk at Pearson-Arastradero Preserve

10 Aug 2020, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

1. 16 cars in the parking lot on Arastradero.
2. Encounters with humans during the hike:

Man + woman in 30s	2	Hiking	
Man + woman in 50s	2	Hiking	
Man + 3 children	3	Hiking	
Man in 40s	1	Biking	
Teenage girl	1	Biking	No helmet; far off trail
Man + 2 boys	3	Biking	No helmets
Man in 70s	1	Hiking	
Woman in 60s + dog	1	Hiking	Dog off leash near lake
Man, woman, 2 children, dog	4	Hiking	Dog on 15 foot lease, often far off trail
Man in 20s	1	Biking	

3. Photos of damaged areas.

New trails created by visitors:

















Official trails widened by overuse:













Foothills Preserve Stats

	Total	Daily Ave
20 Year Annual Total	152000	416
2019		
Mem Day Weekend	729	365
2nd Weekend aft Mem Day	931	466
3rd	1398	699
4th	700	350
5th	622	311
6th	1025	513
7th	739	370
8th	787	394
June	11040	368
July	11731	378
2013		
Mem Day Weekend	1017	509
2nd Weekend aft Mem Day	763	382
3rd	1224	612
4th	1081	541
5th	561	281
6th	937	469
7th	1121	561
8th	1178	589
June	7360	245
July	7593	245
2011		
Mem Day Weekend	1447	724
2nd Weekend aft Mem Day	1261	631
3rd	1041	521
4th	907	454
5th	1041	521
6th	907	454
7th	811	406
8th	940	470
June	24459	815

July

18413

594

103764

474

Reply all Delete Junk Block ...

FW: History of Foothills Park Red Category

Flag for follow up. Start by 8/3/2020. Due by 8/3/2020.



Minor, Beth

Sat 8/1/2020 6:42 PM



To: Council, City; French, Amy; Lait, Jonathan; Tanner, Rachael; Kirsten Squarcia <KirstenS@cupertinc>
Cc: Planning Commission; ParkRec Commission

History of Acquisition of Palo ...

17 KB

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



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

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