

From: Judd Volino <kazalino@kazalino.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 4:20 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Cc: Anderson, Daren
Subject: SF Bay Trail easement needed in East Palo Alto
Attachments: Bay Trail at Weeks St_Faber-Laumeister Tract Missing Link Summary.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Palo Alto Parks and Recreation Commission:

I am writing to raise a problem with the Bay Trail in East Palo Alto. There is a missing easement on a small section of the trail north of the end of Weeks St., which results in this trail remaining unimproved, while bounded by improved Bay Trail on either end of the section. With the imminent completion of the Ravenswood Bay Trail that links the Bay Trail in Ravenswood OSP with University Ave., this unimproved section will be the remaining missing link in this area. East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (which manages the adjoining Ravenswood OSP) should collaborate to *truly* complete the Bay Trail in this region.

I am asking the various jurisdictions to begin a dialogue on how to solve this problem. Please let me know how I can advocate with the appropriate staff and officials, and potentially with the land owner.

Some documents for reference:

[Bay Trail at Weeks St/Faber-Laumeister Tract Missing Link Summary](#)

[Resources folder](#)

Also below is some previous correspondence I had with Commissioner Jeff Greenfield.

Sincerely,

Judd Volino

Palo Alto resident

On August 17, 2019 at 5:51:44 PM, Judd Volino (kazalino@kazalino.com) wrote:

Jeff:

Hi. It was nice to see you and thanks for reaching out.

Yes, basically, what you describe is the issue. The really troublesome section is just the 0.1 mile running north of Weeks St. until it reaches the bend at the PG&E substation property. Whereas south of Weeks to Runnymede, the trail is either well-packed gravel or paved already.

Mike Williams of Midpen suggested at the meeting that there may be a new opportunity for City of EPA to ask for an easement in return for approving a pending development request. Maybe Palo Alto can reach out to EPA to see if they have this in mind?

If the new property owner is also unwilling to grant easement, is there any chance trail could be shifted east by 20' to sit on City of Palo Alto's own property (the Faber Tract)?

I've put together a folder that contains info I gathered looking into this and details on the various conditions in a summary document:

Doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xNfNwoXqkNopWRSbWfKZnClCbtqRuKVuWSNrlWFsqh0/edit?usp=sharing>

Folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n7zebFrT2EH0WXgnKwOnZ4_24GSPeynr?usp=sharing

--Judd

On August 15, 2019 at 3:55:15 PM, Jeff Greenfield (jeffg13@gmail.com) wrote:

Hi Judd,

Thanks for speaking about the SF Bay Trail issue between Runnymede and Bay Road at

the MROSD meeting last night. David Moss and I received an update from City staff today regarding this matter. Staff is aware of this "opportunity" and has tried in the past to get an easement to pave the unpaved portion of the SF Bay Trail from Runnymede to Bay Road. Apparently there is a new property owner who recently was not willing to grant permission for this as easement, as was the case with previous owners.

If this is not the specific issue that you raised or if you have other ideas / advice on how to proceed, please let me know.

Thanks,

Jeff

From: Canopy <info@canopy.ccsend.com> on behalf of Canopy <info@canopy.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:30 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Resilient Trees for a New Climate | Webinar Recording & Resources

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Thank you to those who attended the Resilient Trees for an Urban Climate webinar! If you missed it, click on the link below to watch the recording.

[Watch the webinar recording.](#)

You will need to register to view the video. The webinar begins at minute 6.

[Please fill out the survey.](#)

ISA Certified Arborists will receive the CEU code upon submission of the survey until 10pm today, July 16th.

Speaker Resources

Dr. Igor Lacan, Environmental Horticulture Advisor, University of California, San Francisco Bay Area Cooperative Extension

- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [Igor's Urban Website](#)
- [Igor's Climate Change Research Article](#) (email Igor for the pdf file)
- Email Igor: ilacan@ucanr.edu

Dave Muffly, Former Senior Arborist, Apple

- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [Dave's Oaktopia Website](#)
- [Nut Job Video](#)
- [California Billion Trees Initiative Video](#)
- [Torrey Gardens](#): Assisted Migration (Assisted Colonization, Managed Relocation, Translocation) and Rewilding of Plants and Animals in an Era of Rapid Climate Change
- [Oak Tree Evolution Article](#)
- Email Dave: dave@oaktopia.org

Dr. Erica Spotswood, Senior Scientist, San Francisco Estuary Institute

- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [Making Nature's Cites](#): A Science-based Framework for Building Urban Biodiversity
- [Ecology for Health](#): A project to link biodiversity and human health
- Email Erica: ericas@sfei.org

Additional Resources

- [SelecTree](#): An online tool designed to help you select “the right tree for the right place.” It is created and maintained by the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.
- [Cal-Adapt](#): Cal-Adapt provides a view of how climate change might affect California.

Questions & Answers

Find answers to questions asked during the webinar on this pdf.

[Webinar Questions & Answers](#)

Sign up for future webinars!

Landscape Resilience Lessons from the Facebook Bayfront Campus

Thursday, August 20th, 10:00 - 11:30am

Several Silicon Valley tech campuses have realized innovative landscape approaches to climate resilience that can be models for urban solutions. In this webinar, learn about the successes and challenges of Facebook's landscapes at its 80-acre Bayfront campus, which was restored from a partial brownfield site to a resilient landscape that incorporates a 13-acre rooftop forest. *Certified Arborists will earn 1.5 ISA CEUs upon completion.*

[Register Here!](#)

Save the Trees Please: Best Practices for the Development Plan Review Process

Thursday, September 17, 10:00 - 11:30am

Learn how collaboration between planners, arborists, and landscape architects can “save the trees” by navigating the review and permitting process of development projects. *Certified Arborists will earn 1.5 ISA CEUs upon completion.*

[Register Here!](#)

[Visit us online](#) | [Canopy Tree Library](#) | [Find an Arborist](#) | [Canopy Blog](#)



Canopy's mission is to grow the urban forest in Midpeninsula communities for the benefit of all. Our vision is a day when every resident of the Midpeninsula can step outside to walk, play, and thrive under the shade of healthy trees.



Canopy | 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

[Unsubscribe_parkrec.commission@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:unsubscribe_parkrec.commission@cityofpaloalto.org)

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From: Marykathryn Butcher <vagabondbutcher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 5:06 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Please 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
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 just moved to Mountain View in December of 2018 and don't have the background on what Palo Alto was like in 1965 or why Palo Alto restricted the use of non-residents for Foothills Park. I associate policies like this with country clubs and the Jim Crow south of my parents youth.

I understand that the argument against opening Foothills Park fully to non-residents has been stated as an effort to keep the park pristine. The way that State and Federally managed lands are kept pristine is that no roads or trails are built on some pristine lands, and there are lotteries for popular trails passing through wildernesses, like the John Muir Trail. Either everyone is excluded, or everyone has a chance.

It's not restricted to Californians or Americans, which is why I link the Palo Alto restrictions to undesirable people rather than undesirable outcomes and determine that the root issue is negative bias against non-residents.

It is time to think about how we proceed with any policies seeking to exclude people on the basis of negative bias against race, status, wealth, and class. You can choose to say yes to eliminating biased laws and policies. Most of us have had some personal experience with being on the

receiving end of negative bias and know it doesn't feel good or fair.

By
repealing laws prohibiting non-residents from fully using Foothills Park you
will decrease the structural negative bias against non-residents.

Please
vote to repeal laws prohibiting non-residents from fully using Foothills Park.

Respectfully,

Marykathryn
Butcher

From: Flaurie Imberman <flauriei@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 5:03 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Open Foothills 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.

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,

Flaurie
S. Imberman

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Gracias a la vida, que me ha dado tanto. - Violeta Parra

From: Stephanie MacDonald <stepmac1226@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:51 AM
To: ParkRec Commission; Council, City
Cc: Fine, Adrian; Cormack, Alison; DuBois, Tom; Filseth, Eric (Internal); Kniss, Liz (internal); Kou, Lydia; Tanaka, Greg
Subject: Foothills Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

I'm writing to provide my input regarding the ongoing discussion about Foothills Park in Palo Alto. I am a new Palo Alto resident, but I have lived in the Bay for a little over two years now. So far, Palo Alto has been a great move, and I enjoy many aspects of living here. However, I recently learned about the "private" Foothills Park, and I was shocked that such a place has been allowed to exist for so long.

Barring people from entering what should be a public space is not only being a bad neighbor, it is unconstitutional. Palo Alto is not a gated community or an HOA (no matter how many residents may wish it was). The exclusionary practice of only allowing a certain group of people into a public space calls back to the not-so-distant days of Jim Crow. It is not a stretch to say that barring a public space to non-residents is a racist policy, especially in this case, considering the demographics of Palo Alto versus our neighboring city, East Palo Alto. Racist policies have segregated America, and we still see the implications of these policies today. To paraphrase Professor Ibram X. Kendi: there is no such thing as being an innocent bystander when it comes to racism; you are either being actively racist or actively anti-racist. Allowing this park to be closed to non-residents is an actively racist policy.

While councils and commissions in the past may have failed to make the changes necessary to open this park to *all* who wish to enjoy it, I believe that this council has the ability to be on the right side of history. When discussion reopens in August, I hope that you all approach the debate from the viewpoint of an anti-racist. This change is long overdue, and the time to make it right is now.

Thank you,

Stephanie MacDonald

--

Stephanie MacDonald

stepmac1226@gmail.com

336-404-2869

From: Nina <nwouk@ix.netcom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:52 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Foothill Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Commission Members:

I live in Menlo Park, specifically the Belle Haven area of Menlo Park, and would like to be able to go to Foothills Park without needing a Palo Alto friend for cover. For years I have thought there was no way this could happen, however it appears to be in the city government's power to change the residents-only policy. Given that Palo Alto is overwhelmingly rich and white (with a few east and south Asian academics) the policy is unfair to virtually everyone over here. Parks are among the very few places that it is safe for people to be these days, and that isn't going to change soon. This is the time to make all the outdoors available to all the people.

Sincerely,

Nina Wouk

From: Rina Barouch-Bentov <barouchr@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:59 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: A time for the realization that unity rather than divisiveness can bring true peace

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parkrec.commission@CityofPaloAlto.org

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Palo Alto and see inherent inequality in your current policy regarding restricting entrance to Foothills Park to city residents only.

I take my lead from Pastor Kaloma Smith of AME Zion Church, which is located in Palo Alto. His strong statements to open up the Park to all resonate with me.

I believe there is room in the park for all who would like to enjoy this special access to nature which I have enjoyed myself.

I believe this is in the best interest of both residents and non-residents of Palo Alto alike.

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.

Sincerely,

Rina Barouch-Bentov, PhD.
Research Scientist

Sent from my iPhone