

Is there a plan written up for this park to never be developed? (I hope it can stay like this always)

It worried me to hear visitors “praise” the huge monster home being built below the vista point, to hear others want to have ball fields built on the grassy area, and others want restaurants and playgrounds built. Can city council allow and override?

You can relax a bit; Foothills Park will stay as it is.

The City of Palo Alto adopted its first zoning ordinance (Ordinance Number 234) on April 24, 1922 which separated the city into eight distinct districts. Open space, by definition, did not exist in the city.

On February 19, 1951 Palo adopted Ordinance Number 1324 (also known as Chapter 18 of the municipal code). The previous 8 districts were more than doubled to 17; including zone “O-A Open Area District.”

Among other things Chapter 18 “establishes comprehensive zoning regulations for the city” provides for “the provision of open space” and adopts a zoning map.

Chapter 22 section 08.090 of the Palo Alto municipal code states “That certain parcel of land known as Foothills Park as delineated and described in Exhibit A-9 attached hereto is hereby reserved for park, playground, recreation or conservation purposes.”

The city has polled its residents who rank the availability of open space areas as a place for recreation very high among things they feel are important for the city to provide. Until Palo Altos residents decide they don’t like open space; Foothills Park will be Foothills Park, not a ball field, playground or shopping mall.

The very big house, that many people have looked at and asked questions about, is at the very end of Alexis Drive, above the Palo Alto Hills Country Club. It is owned by the CEO of Cisco Systems and is currently undergoing a two-year plus remodeling before the owner moves in. In my view the best thing about the house is that it has 2,000 acres of open space for a back yard.