

From: [Bruce England](#)
To: [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Hicks, Alison](#); [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Showalter, Pat](#); [Sally Lieber](#); [Lieber, Sally](#)
Cc: [mvfsp.info](#); [Wong, Lindsay](#); [Sylvia, Brenda](#); [Marchant, John](#); [Youngberg, Tim](#); [Ramberg, Audrey Seymour](#); [Whyte, Brandon](#); [Lo, Ria](#); [McCarthy, Kimbra](#); [Glaser, Heather](#)
Subject: GreenSpacesMV comments on the Biodiversity Strategy agenda item to City of Mountain View City Council
Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 4:24:29 PM
Attachments: [2022-06-29 GreenSpacesMV Letter for PRC 5.2 Biodiversity and Updated Urban Forest Plan.pdf](#)
[CC-BiodiversityStrategy-GreenSpacesMV-20220830.pdf](#)

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(formal letter attached including a previous letter to PRC from us)

August 30, 2022

Re: 4.6 Biodiversity Strategy, Project 23-37-Authorize Professional Services Agreement

Dear councilmembers:

Thank you for working to enhance biodiversity and urban forestry in Mountain View. We are excited for the City's first Biodiversity Strategy.

With consideration for the following suggestions and requested covered, we agree with the Staff recommendation that you authorize the professional services agreement before you tonight. We are also attaching a copy of the earlier email from us to the Parks and Recreation Commission on this topic from June 29th, which we think is also relevant to your discussions tonight.

- Where the new plan addresses native landscaping, we urge to include the full scope of native, drought tolerant, climate resilient, pollinator-friendly, and location-appropriate choices.
- Key deliverables of the Strategy for integrating biodiversity should go further to include "with these outcomes realized throughout the city, both in public and private areas where best practices and guidance can be made available and shared by all."
- For Task 3, Existing Conditions, regarding habitat zones, please ensure this includes recognition of and accomodation for wildlife migration paths. And, where existing land cover is evaluated, this should include any features that compromise wildlife needs.
- For Task 5, Recommendations for an Implementation and Evaluation Plan, where parks

are considered, please ensure the definition of parks includes any open space, both for active and non-active uses, and disbursed throughout the city for optimum availability and presence, with a goal of achieving Quimby Act requirements for park space.

- Future iterations of the Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Plan should be completed as regularly as possible, with annual reviews held on an annual basis and with comments from PRC and members of the public added to a running appendix for reference when the Plan is next updated. This approach has been used successfully with the existing Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Please be sure the goals to "guide the development of bird-safe design and lighting standards on public and private property" and to "guide the development of green infrastructure and green streets standards for public and private property" are included in scope, as indicated in the May 10th Council Report. Regarding green streets in particular, an emphasis on active transportation needs is essential, and we are pleased to see this topic included in scope for plan consideration.
- We strongly support a robust wildlife-friendly lighting policy for the City and private properties and projects, and are pleased to see this covered in the Council Report.
- GreenSpacesMV and others intend to advocate for a large tree planting at California and Castro Streets. This is an important central location for Mountain View; not only for downtown, but also along the east/west California Street corridor and at the entry point for the new Castro Pedestrian Mall.
- Given recent experience with seeing shared playing fields fenced off and the very unfortunate removal of nine Canary Island Pine Trees at Vargas School, the City's collaboration framework with the Mountain View Whisman School District clearly needs to be strengthened.
- We support for Girl Scout Troop butterfly pollinator garden project at Heritage Park and urge City Council to work with Community Services to ensure this is fully enabled at the earliest opportunity with the fewest number of obstacles standing in the way if any exist.

- We hope that the consultant can provide recommendations/ideas for feasible pilot programs as short-term strategies/outcomes of the Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Plan. For example, planting oaks in MV (re-oaking) and planting to advance tree equity (schools, urban heat islands, transportation routes). Perhaps pilot recommendations would include and help reinforce some of what we've included in this letter such as the tree at California/Castro, collaboration with the school district, and moving forward with the Girl Scouts' butterfly garden project.
- We appreciate being included in public noticing related to this topic, but please also include Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP), Soil&Water, and the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter as well in future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment!

Sincerely,

Bruce England
for GreenSpacesMV

cc:

Lindsay Wong, Senior Management Analyst
Brenda Sylvia, Assistant Community Services Director
John R. Marchant, Community Services Director
Tim Youngberg, Parks & Open Space Manager
Audrey Seymour Ramberg, Assistant City Manager / Chief Operating Officer
Brandon Whyte, Active Transportation Planner
Ria Lo, Transportation Manager
Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager
Heather Glaser, City Clerk