

Flynn, Allison

From: Laurie bonilla
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2022 1:46 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Tree Master Plan

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Hello,

One of the things that always strikes me about my town of Mountain View in comparison to other cities is the huge number of trees. They make the city a more pleasant and cool place to live in and visit. They also provide habitat for our local wildlife.

I would like to see more diversity in the plantings and landscaping in Mountain View. It would be great to expand public areas with more native vegetation as is being implemented by volunteers at Cuesta Park. In addition, water use for landscaping should be drastically reduced, particularly at business locations and homes with large lawns. Increasing native plants would be very helpful in this regard. Creating more habitat continuation would be beneficial to wildlife as well.

I think that the Master Plan must have a detailed road map for accomplishing these goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laurie Bonilla
Mountain View resident

Flynn, Allison

From: Jonathan Herbach
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2022 10:34 AM
To: Ronit Bryant; jongdavis@gmail.com; stevefilios@gmail.com; Joe Mitchner; sandsommer
dslextreme.com
Cc: Parks and Recreation Commission; Marchant, John
Subject: Comments for 6/29/22 Item 5.2 (Biodiversity / Urban Forest Plan) & 5.4 (Work Plan)

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Hi PRC — Having read the packet from staff, I'm looking forward to learning more in Wednesday's discussion about item 5.2, the scope for a biodiversity and urban forest plan. I'm going to resurface my prior note to council (see forward below) since I think much of what I raise remains applicable.

The following represent my personal thoughts (which I will try to succinctly raise in three minutes live) :

1. **Plan** A biodiversity plan that incorporates an updated urban forest plan is great. Beyond biodiversity, the scope should include equity and also sustainability. (See prior note below.)

2. **Implementation and Funding:** A policy document is a great start. But funding from council and concrete plans for execution are equally important. Like many I remain concerned that significant aspects of the prior CTMP remain unmeasured, and I worry that without specific metrics and plans for implementation a well-intentioned document will be just a document on a shelf.

--> Opportunities to engage the community in myriad ways remain.

--> The sooner trees are planted, the sooner they offer broad benefits.

--> There are clear and simple ways to align these efforts with council priorities and try both pilot programs with the community as well as larger-scale efforts.

3. **2022-2023 Work Plan** Let me politely draw the direct connection to above: you have an opportunity on Wednesday to go further by advocating for concrete next steps beyond longer-term funding and policy creation. Add items to the work plan commensurate with your belief in this space.

Potential opportunities might include:

- Further PRC agendized items with staff to brainstorm community- and neighborhood-oriented events to advocate and facilitate planting of trees.
- At least one, if not two joint meetings with the Council Subcommittee on Sustainability, to align on strategic plans (as I believe there are many shared objectives).
- Joint meeting with Council to focus on the Biodiversity/Urban Forest plan, to solidify alignment and urgency.

These are but a few quick ideas — surely collectively as a commission you can think of more.

Thanks for your continued care and attention to biodiversity and the urban forest. Decisions you make on policy coupled with plans and funding for action will result in benefits residents will immediately see and literally grow for future generations here.

Jonathan

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

From: **Jonathan Herbach**

Date: Mon, May 9, 2022 at 1:25 PM

Subject: tomorrow 5/10 meeting consent item 4.2 — community tree master plan and biodiversity strategy

To: <city.council@mountainview.gov>, <Lucas.Ramirez@mountainview.gov>, <Alison.Hicks@mountainview.gov>, <Margaret.Abe-Koga@mountainview.gov>, <Ellen.Kamei@mountainview.gov>, <Sally.Lieber@mountainview.gov>, Matichak, Lisa <Lisa.Matichak@mountainview.gov>, <Pat.Showalter@mountainview.gov>
Cc: <prc@mountainview.gov>, Ronit Bryant <ronit.bryant@gmail.com>, jongdavis@gmail.com <jongdavis@gmail.com>, <stevefilios@gmail.com>, Joe Mitchner <jsmhome@comcast.net>, sandysommer dslextreme.com <sandysommer@dslextreme.com>, Marchant, John <john.marchant@mountainview.gov>

Hello Councilmembers:

I will not be able to attend tomorrow's council meeting live however **I write with concerns about consent item #4.2 which I think merits some discussion rather than a quick approval.**

I recently completed eight years on PRC. I was deeply involved with major and minor updates to documents like the parks and open space plan, and the community tree master plan, and believe as policy documents they are critical guardrails for the future of our city. I am hopeful that our city is considering both the policy implications of these as well as how to *implement* change. I applaud the work the current commissioners and staff members are doing to move forward to ensure we have a city that considers the importance of biodiversity, open space, and trees generally.

Admittedly, I was surprised to see the proposal to relegate future CTMP be folded into a subchapter of a biodiversity plan. Perhaps the intent here is to tactically accelerate investment in tree canopy plans for the city — I have not had a chance to chat with staff on the matter today. However, the importance of trees is multifaceted — 1/ biodiversity; 2/ improving quality of life and equity of access to nature across *all* residents and visitors, whether homeowners (R1 or otherwise) or renters; 3/ the critical role trees play in climate change and sustainability.

Given the council's prioritization of sustainability in particular, and the opportunity of tree-planting broadly to relatively inexpensively and rapidly affect change, I believe relegating a tree plan to a subchapter of a biodiversity plan is the wrong direction, and I hope you do too.

Tomorrow, please bring this topic up for a broader discussion at minimum.

Ideally, please collectively direct staff (and provide requisite funding) to plan for an in-depth update of the CTMP, and explore ways in which PRC and the council subcommittee on sustainability might be able to work together to achieve more in this space that will broadly benefit all and be eminently actionable.

Apologies again that I will not be able to attend the discussion in person tomorrow! To the extent any here would like to independently discuss these topics, I am happy to do so.

Jonathan

Flynn, Allison

From: Michelle MacKenzie
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Community trees, birds and pollinators

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I write because I understand that urban forest and rewilding the city through management of trees and parks is on the agenda this Wednesday. I comment the Commission for addressing this issue. I write as an avid birder and wildlife watcher. Native plants and trees are critically important in restoring habitat and helping our birds and wildlife, which have lost much to development. Baby birds rely on up to 96% of a diet that is only caterpillars and those caterpillars need native plants - their host plants - to reproduce. Therefore replenishing our native plants is absolutely critical to pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Moreover, in the face of worsening drought, California natives are well adapted to dry spells.

The Community Tree Master Plan must reflect not only more native plants and trees but should also take into account the importance that trees play in our environment. Trees provide important heat mitigation - especially important as our climate continues to heat up - as well as habitat for birds, small wildlife and pollinators. The Plan should address how to address maintaining tree coverage for these reasons and work to ensure that our parks are less manicured and include native vegetation as well as habitat linkages along creeks and streets for wildlife corridors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

Michelle MacKenzie