
From: Lada Adamic
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 2:20 PM
To: City Council
Subject: May 14, 2024 agenda item 4.12 Biodiversity Strategy, Project 23-37-Various Actions, public comment

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Dear City Council,

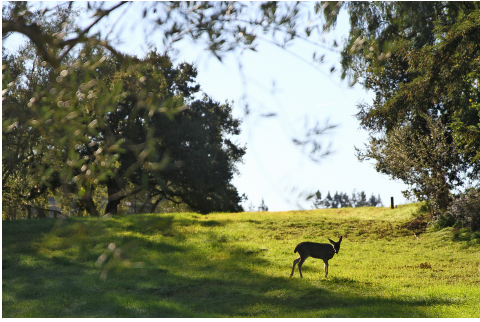
Yesterday I was discussing the city's work on its biodiversity strategy with another Mountain View resident. I mentioned my concern that it will fail to account for boosts in urban wildlife (some of which some people might consider pests) that can stem from a strategy that plants food eaten by such wildlife. I also mentioned some biodiversity strategies may inadvertently adversely affect people's efforts to live sustainably. I mentioned, as an example, how I had woken up at 5am that day when the crows started calling outside my open window. My conversation partner said "That's funny, the same thing happened to me today!" (we live in different neighborhoods). In addition to sleep and fresh air being important for human health, leaving windows open at night reduces reliance on airconditioning. Similarly, eating fruits and vegetables from one's garden boosts health through good nutrition and gardening exercise, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fertilizer runoff from industrial farming and transportation.

I wrote in to AskMV to find out if the city tracks its crow population (mentioning the early morning wake up calls). I was referred to the county for wildlife concerns. However, if the city is aiming to manage biodiversity and not just increase tree canopy, then wildlife concerns will need to be its concerns as well.

I saw that the biodiversity strategy consultant is asking for additional funds to do public outreach, including surveys.

I would like to suggest that in addition to the public, the urban wildlife be surveyed (or at least considered) as well. A [recent Mountain View Voice article](#) advocated for planting trees to feed birds, insects, and mammals. This may be the question to pose to both the human and animal populations. "Do you want the city to plant trees that will boost populations of [list of urban species that use that tree as a significant food source]". I'm sure I know what the animals would say if they understood us (or we them). But what will the human residents say? Let's please find out.

Thank you.



These trees don't just look good, they help support local wildlife

Whether your yard is downtown, stretches across the mountainside or is closer to the baylands, its landscape can be a vital source for wildlife. That's why it's important to know what type of trees are in your yard or which ones to plant to provide food, shelter and nesting sites essential for the survival of local birds, insects and mammals.

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