

From: [V.A](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: suggestions for parks and street improvements
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:09:55 PM

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Dear City Council,

Thank you for your work for the City of Mountain View.

I would like to make a couple of comments pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan and the California Street plan to be discussed at this week's City Council meeting.

The first comment is regarding the Mountain View's city parks. Despite announced canopy goals (https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/cs/parks/community_tree_master_plan.asp), we still see very few trees in city parks. When I have asked about this previously, I was told that either

- 1) More trees are being planted. True, but the target numbers of trees are very low (say, 30-50 for the entire MV). Why? Is this a funding issue?
- 2) Parks department would like to balance trees with open turf areas. Sure, but the balance is certainly skewed. And you could still plant trees on both sides of walking trails and at/around playgrounds while hardly making a dent in the open turf area (which is typically under-utilized, by the way)

Tree alleys in the parks (and in the streets) are stunningly beautiful and provide much-needed shade in our hot and sunny climate. Why not institute a city-wide policy for surrounding all trails and playgrounds with large trees?

When the developers remove many mature trees, they are supposed to contribute to the parks fund. Unfortunately, we do not see these park funds being used to replace the removed trees with comparable species planted in parks. It is particularly painful to watch Redwoods go. I understand that Redwoods are not doing very well due to drought, but what about planting other large conifers, some of which are quite hardy and drought-resistant?

The second comment is regarding California Street improvements.

It's a great opportunity to make California Street safer, more walkable, and more beautiful. And the best way to make a street more walkable is to widen sidewalks and, surprise, plant trees around the sidewalks. Why not combine a bike lane with a sidewalk (with a separator)? It encourages casual bikers, such as young kids, that would not feel comfortable riding on the street, even if it has a bike lane. It also gives more comfort and space to pedestrians when bikers are not around.

Thank you for your consideration.

Valentin