

**Draft Notes – Public Workshop**  
**January 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Open Space Vision Project**  
**City of Walnut Creek**

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**Attendees:**

**Open Space Task Force**

Sandi Jacobsen (PROS Commission)  
Harvey Ceaser  
Mary Naegeli  
Bill Hunt  
Price Russ  
Fran Garland

**Open Space Foundation**

Bob Brittain (facilitator)  
Bob Simmons

**City Staff**

Dan Cather, Public Services Manager  
Nancy Dollard, Open Space Supervising Ranger  
Art Janke, Ranger (facilitator)  
Bruce Weidman, Ranger (facilitator)  
Dan Bylin, Ranger (facilitator)

**Consultant**

Randy Anderson, LandPeople

**Public**

1. Ralph Kraetsch
2. Carolyn Kraetsch
3. Beverly Grunder
4. Jennifer DiGrazia
5. Connie Loosli
6. Teresa Adler
7. Jean Vieth
8. Jan Diepersloot
9. Heidi Alef
10. Dick Alef
11. Andy Naegeli
12. Francie Ough-Price
13. Darlene Yount
14. Alan Ginos
15. Barbara Ginos
16. Tom Worthy
17. Jeff Maddox
18. Bob Hill
19. Michael Hill
20. John Hosack
21. Ken Snyder
22. Dick Daniel
23. Karin Deas

**Notes:**

**Group A – Facilitator Nancy Dollard**

1. Borges Ranch 4-H concern on barn roof, gates.
2. More farm animals.
3. Staff – vacation coverage, especially at Borges.
4. Bob Pond/Deci Lake info – viable fishing area
5. Bicycles – single track, rutting
6. Sutherland – dog feces not being cleaned by owners. Install dog mitts.
7. Cattle:
  - a. No bulls in Open Space.
  - b. More limited areas.
  - c. Limit cattle to Borges.
  - d. Advantages vs. disadvantages = 50/50.
  - e. Concern about calves being “skittish.”
8. Dogs:

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- a. Sutherland water.
  - b. Dogs not under control.
  - c. Dogs disturbing wildlife.
  - d. Survey of wildlife in Open Space
9. Trails:
- a. Gravel strips on muddiest areas.
  - b. Park benches – more, for viewshed.
  - c. Park benches on map.
  - d. Don't turn Open Space into a park.
10. More staff presence in Open Space, particularly on weekends.
11. More connections between sites.
12. Connection between Mangini/Lime Ridge/State Parks
13. Connection Tice Valley – Olympic to Iron Horse.
14. Monopole at Lime Ridge or other sites – limit Open Space use for commercial.
15. Water tank removed from Lime Ridge.
16. No additional group camps (4 votes).
17. Walk-in group camp.
18. Commercial water at Hannah Grove.
19. Concerned deer are traveling out of Open Space/
20. Expand quail habitats.
21. Dumping of animals at Borges.
22. Cattle removed from all Open Space
23. Cattle damage trails.
24. Bow hunting of deer/turkeys.

Group B – Facilitator Dan Bylin

- 1. Uses:
  - a. Equestrian trail.
  - b. Pleasant Hill 4-H.
  - c. Hiking.
- 2. Leave the Open Space Alone – the way it is. Don't develop the Open Space. No trail signs or unobtrusive signs (just use map). No visual clutter.
- 3. Want trail signs – need to improve the trail signs; easy to get lost without proper signs (2 votes).
- 4. No new parking lots, trailheads, trails or development.
- 5. No bikes on single trail trails (3 votes).
- 6. Trails specifically for bikes, horses, hiking.
- 7. Equestrian use in wintertime on wet, muddy trails should not be allowed to due to trail damage.
- 8. Carriage barn roof (Borges Ranch) needs repairs (leaks).
- 9. Keep current drinking fountains in Open Space (Borges, trail heads), but don't add more.
- 10. Don't turn the Open Space into Disneyland (don't overdevelop).

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11. Do we need to find more/new funding sources to meet the needs of the Open Space (e.g. educational programs, staff limited due to funding issues)?
12. Quicker repairs to trail erosion, problems.
13. All funding money into land purchases. Purchase/save as much Open Space land as possible.
14. Keep Borges Ranch available to 4-H. Great opportunities for children.
15. Keep Borges Ranch cozy; don't overdevelop.
16. Allow cow/steer or horse projects at Borges Ranch for 4-H projects.
17. Possibility for an Open Space trail connection between Shell Ridge and Lime Ridge Open Space/
18. People/dog owners need to clean up after their dogs (droppings). Especially on the trails.
19. Don't develop any more of the Open Space (picnic areas, campgrounds, etc.). No large developed areas.
20. Horse droppings also need to be cleaned up. Horses should wear bags?
21. The Open Space is perfect the way it is.

Group C – Facilitator Art Janke

1. Enjoy dogs off leash:
  - a. Pet waste – clean up from owners.
  - b. Separate leash/off leash/no dogs.
2. Fewer cattle – impact on trails (damage).
3. Focus on restoring “natural conditions” (define). Study history; natives.
4. Concern about non-native invasives (reduce) – yellow star thistle.
5. Open Space access La Casa Via.
6. Bikes on single track – hazards.
7. Minimize development in adjacent Open Space. Protect trailhead development around Snyder from encroachment.
8. Protect trailhead parking.
9. Acquire land adjacent to Open Space.
10. Foster natives and discourage exotics.
11. Preserve/restore “wild conditions” of 200 years ago – “Wildlife Museum.”

Group D – Facilitator Bruce Weidman

1. Wet weather use:
  - a. When to use trails (dry enough?) – all users.
  - b. How to educate/manage.
2. Single track trails:
  - a. Need better erosion maintenance
  - b. Timing of trail work.
  - c. Get more volunteers.
  - d. Need better publicity.
3. Cows:
  - a. Benefits of grazing?

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- b. Fire control?
- c. Habitat?
- d. What is cost of grazing – erosion, maintenance, fence, visual distractions, trail damage, liability.
- 4. Weeds – need better control of weeds (Italian thistle, yellow star thistle).
- 5. Keep parklands like they are.
- 6. No more paved roads.
- 7. Don't expand picnic areas.
- 8. No further development.
- 9. No more parking lots.
- 10. Need better trailhead/parking info. Too confusing presently.

Group E – Facilitator Bob Brittain

- 1. How do you currently use Open Space?
  - a. Dog walking.
  - b. Hiking (3 votes).
  - c. Birding.
  - d. Discovery.
  - e. Jogging.
  - f. Holiday walks.
  - g. Photos.
- 2. How would you like to use Open Space?
  - a. Horse riding.
  - b. Biking.
- 3. What would make Open Space more useful?
  - a. Better trail maintenance.
  - b. Tick problems, cow damage, etc.
- 4. What's working well?
  - a. Easy access.
  - b. Connectivity with other Open Space areas.
  - c. Good response to problems by City (e.g. pigs).
- 5. What's bad?
  - a. Cows.
  - b. Damage in drainage areas.
- 6. What do we do for the next 20 years?
  - a. Eliminate grazing.
  - b. No, keep horses and cows.
  - c. Acquire more Open Space (3 votes).
  - d. Don't changes uses (2 votes).
  - e. Need more benches.
  - f. More access points in some places.