

Draft Notes – Public Workshop
November 10, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Open Space Vision Project
City of Walnut Creek

Attendees:

City Staff

Dan Cather, Public Services Manager
Nancy Dollard, Open Space Supervising Ranger
Art Janke, Ranger (facilitator)
Bruce Weidman, Ranger (facilitator)
Rafat Raie, Traffic Engineer (facilitator)

Open Space Foundation

Bob Brittain facilitator
Bob Simmons

Parks, Rec & Open Space Commission

Dan Lawrence facilitator

Open Space Task Force

Sandra Jacobsen
Mary Naegeli
Rick Underwood
Bill Hunt
Fran Garland
Price Russ

Consultant

Randy Anderson, LandPeople

Public¹

1. Cathy Aaron
2. Jeannette Kade
3. Eliot Hudson
4. Gary Locke
5. Bill Rupley
6. James Pezzaglia
7. Yvette Pezzaglia
8. Dinah Darvas
9. Jerry Christopherson
10. Mitch Forcier
11. Martijn Lemmens
12. Dan Schrantz
13. Jane Steven
14. Nancy Hanna
15. Brenda de Laossa
16. JoAnn Hanna
17. Jake Bronson
18. Ralph Kraetsch
19. Chris Dix
20. Dan Schoenholz
21. Linda Judd
22. David Favello
23. Lesley Hunt
24. Jerry Fritzke
25. Iren Fritzke
26. Ed Montgomery

Notes:

Group A – Facilitator Bruce Weidman

1. Health of woodlands need looking at
2. Activities of younger generation changing use
3. Kids love nature programs – night hikes
4. Howe Homestead – dogs getting out of hand; not closing at dusk
5. Preserve versus reserve
6. Provide animal corridors – keep areas passable
7. Evaluate uses at specific facilities (Howe Homestead) parking, access, fencing
8. Create opportunities for alternative education experiences (e.g. guided trails at Shell Ridge).

¹ List from sign-in sheet; 28 total were counted in attendance.

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9. How to manage and balance trails uses, multi-use
10. Cows are destructive to trails

Group B – Facilitator Bob Brittain

1. **More education programs; include restoration activities
2. Residents love and appreciate their open space
3. Safe pedestrian access needed to some entrances (e.g. Marshall)
4. Share parking with other public facilities; don't build more
5. **Preservation higher priority than activities
6. Off-trail use by some bikers "not major problem"
7. Have special meetings with bikers, equestrians, dog owners (guardians) – maybe together
8. [Also meet with] PTA/school groups
9. We should acquire more open space if possible – even for parcels outside but adjacent to City Limits
10. Annex open space lands adjacent to Walnut Creek
11. **Don't commercialize activity areas like Borges Ranch
12. **Renew Open Space bonds
13. Allow planning more trees to offset greenhouse gasses
14. **Better publicity for volunteer opportunities

Group C – Facilitator Rafat Raie

1. [Manage] As preserve:
 - a. Native plants
 - b. Habitat/animals
2. Hiking [a priority]
3. Preserve viewsheds – outside looking in
4. Support biking/manage horses/equestrians
5. New ideas for shared use
6. Preserve quiet – keep motorized vehicles out
7. Preserve historic structures and functions
8. Protect Native American archaeology
9. Provide access to disabled
10. Broaden support for other special access needs
11. More youth programs
12. Staff for programs
13. Appreciation trail – idea for providing access
14. Need key acquisitions
15. Lime Ridge is an island; need better connections
16. We need the connections to Mount Diablo State Park from Lime Ridge
17. Existing plan has unfinished business. Complete projects – look for money to do it

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18. Recreation improvements out of plan – keep it interesting (?), attractive for a variety of users:
19. *Clearly post horse/bike trails
20. Post why certain users are restricted
21. Coordinate with Big. AD.(?) Committee
22. Most of it works well – great experience
23. Size and diversity are great!
24. Take [into account?]/evaluate need for all existing trails to maximize natural area
25. Connections are great between trails
26. Proper protection in the General Plan
27. Nothing in current plan to preserve/restore wild habitat
28. *Sustainability is key
29. Adequate directional signs
30. Do we need all current trails?
31. More information/rules of use
32. Educational/how to protect, example: Post restoration areas –
33. Engage potential users – youth
34. Staff support and volunteers
35. Review grazing practices – timing/frequency/goals
36. We like it the way it is. How do we keep it like this?

Group D – Facilitator Dan Lawrence

1. Pursue acquisition opportunities
2. Improve trail signage
3. More ranger presence in open space
4. Keep open space natural – no development
5. Keep distinction between parks and open space – not growth inducing
6. Keep vehicles on the perimeter of open space
7. Dog waste bag dispensers at trail entrances
8. Protect deteriorating barn structure at Borges Ranch
9. Develop volunteer programs for trails, programs, public relations
10. Have rangers make personal contact with neighbors living near entrances
11. Maintain passive open space uses
12. Change “recreation” designation

Group E – Facilitator Nancy Dollard

1. Maintain “open” multi-use nature of space
2. Fire roads for bicycle use
3. Trail maintenance – cows, erosion, bicycle ruts
4. Make area for mountain bikes
5. Remain open for mountain bikes (BTCEM, EBRPD)

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6. Single track as appropriate (EBRPD matrix) (National ranking)
7. Dogs:
 - a. chase wildlife
 - b. owner responsibility
 - c. “rule of reason”
 - d. dogs should remain
 - e. consistent rules (and for bikes)
 - f. cleanup after dog
8. Trailheads:
 - a. access
 - b. bicycle racks/lockers (BikeLink cards)
 - c. parking
9. Old quarry areas may be appropriate for bicycles – not enforce laws/r&r(?)
10. Recycling bins/trash cans at trailheads
11. Puncture vine/goathead – noxious and invasive weeds – yellow star thistle
12. Seeing fewer wildflowers
13. Cows: Twin Ponds Loop/trail access area – selected areas for appropriate
14. Wildlife corridors – important, observable wildlife
15. People belong in open space and are compatible with restoration or preservation