



## **Staff Report**

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### OPEN SPACE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Honorable Park & Recreation Commissioners:

#### **Summary**

The purpose of this presentation is to update the Commission and the public on current open space projects, revisit the open space issues in Belmont, discuss the future of open space, and ways to engage the public.

#### **Background**

Belmont is fortunate to have over 300 acres of open space mainly in the western hills including Hidden Canyon Park, Waterdog Lake, and the John Brooks Open Space. Planning efforts related to the open space areas were completed in 1990 as part of the Western Hills Area Plan, 1992 as part of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, and in 1994 in the Report of the Belmont Ad Hoc Open Space Preservation Task Force.

Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department is working with volunteer groups to create the new Lake Loop Trail. This is a priority calendar item and the Department is providing the materials while volunteers are providing the labor.

#### **Discussion**

Some of the questions the Department would like the Commission to consider:

- What trail improvements are envisioned for the future?
- What amenities (benches, picnic areas, etc.) are appropriate for Belmont's open space?
- What other projects are foreseen for Belmont's open space?
- How do we preserve the natural resources in the open space?
- How do we create advocates for Belmont's open space?
- What initiatives would be appropriate for the Master Plan relating to open space?
- Should the areas be renamed into one name?
- Would it be beneficial to establish a standing subcommittee for open space?

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The Department currently has a 2008-2009 priority calendar project for \$30,000 that includes the materials for the trail loop around Waterdog Lake. Additional projects or amenities could lead to additional fiscal responsibility.

**Public Contact**

Posting of the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda.

**Recommendation**

No recommendation at this time.

**Alternatives**

1. Refer back to staff for further information.

**Attachment**

None

Respectfully submitted,

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Jonathan Gervais  
Parks & Recreation Director