

PRC Special Meeting

May 18, 2022

Written Communications

Item 1

Update on Fiscal Year  
2021-22 City Work Program  
Item Blackberry Farm Golf  
Course Needs Assessment

**From:** [George Maxe](#)  
**To:** [City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** FTSV - Letter - Blackberry Farm Golf Course  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 6:31:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [FTSV 2022 Letter Cupertino PC 05-18.pdf](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please confirm receipt of the attached letter to the City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commission to be posted for Commissioners and read by the Staff Liaison during their special meeting about Blackberry Farm Golf Course on Wednesday, May 18th (tomorrow).

Best,  
George

**George Maxe**  
President & CEO  
First Tee — Silicon Valley

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408-288-2937

Tue to Fri — 10am to 5pm  
[Locations](#) — [Web Site](#)





17 May 2022

City of Cupertino  
Parks and Recreation Commission

**Re: FY 2021-22 City Work Program Item Blackberry Farm Golf Course Needs Assessment**

Dear Chair Xu and Commissioners,

**First Tee – Silicon Valley (FTSV) urges the City of Cupertino and its Parks and Recreation Commission to preserve Blackberry Farm Golf Course (BBF) and consider improving it in ways that include natural habitats.**

FTSV develops youth through golf at municipal golf courses throughout Silicon Valley. We teach children important life lessons using golf as a vehicle in our golf course and school programs. Respect for oneself, others and one's surroundings is possibly the most important core value that we teach. This includes being good stewards of the natural spaces in which golf courses exist.

Since 2000, we have positively impacted the lives of over 86,000 children in Santa Clara County – 16,000 in golf course classes and 70,000 in school programs. Cupertino residents consistently comprise about 5% of our class participants. All youth – regardless of background or ability to pay – may participate. As a result, over 35% are from low-income families and 85% are non-white. Over 90% of our families and school teachers consistently report seeing behavioral and character improvements in their children.

We rely upon municipal golf courses for our character building programs and for our participants to develop into life-long golfers. We strongly encourage our participants to play area golf courses like BBF outside of our regular classes. We are a long-time partner of Youth On Course, which subsidizes rounds so that children may play BBF for just \$5. Silicon Valley ranks near the bottom nationally in golf courses per capita, so we at FTSV are passionate about helping the Bay Area preserve the courses that we already have.



FTSV is fortunate to have Rancho del Pueblo Golf Course (East San Jose), Gavilan College Golf Course (Gilroy) and Baylands Golf Links (Palo Alto) as environmentally-friendly program locations. All three are beautiful, natural settings for the public and FTSV participants to enjoy. Rancho del Pueblo is certified by Audubon International as a Cooperative Sanctuary and Baylands Golf Links is a shining example of an excellent golf course co-existing with natural habitats. We believe that Cupertino, like Palo Alto, has a unique opportunity to enjoy the best of both worlds by improving BBF while preserving natural spaces. This would benefit all residents and give FTSV even more reason to encourage our participants to play – and appreciate the natural beauty of – BBF.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Maxe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**George Maxe**

President & CEO

First Tee – Silicon Valley

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