

Parks and Recreation, Planning,
and Bicycle Pedestrian
Commissions

Special Joint Meeting

June 13, 2022

Written Communications

Item 1

Consider an update to the Joint Commission on the status of the Environmental Summary Report, public outreach process, and next steps for the Lawrence-Mitty Master Plan project.

From: [Connie Cunningham](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
Subject: 2022-6-13 Joint Planning Commission, Bike Ped Commission, Parks Rec Commission Lawrence Mitty
Date: Monday, June 13, 2022 4:50:36 PM

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2022-6-13 Joint Planning Commission, Bike Ped Commission, Parks Rec Commission

Lawrence Mitty. Saratoga Creek

Please note that I plan to speak at tonight's meeting.

Good evening, Chairs and Commissioners,

This is an exciting topic—a new park in Cupertino—I have walked the length of the planned park from Bollinger Road to Lawrence and Mitty at the pedestrian crossing. My friends who live nearby, are also excited about walking this trail.

The several plans, General Plan, Bike-Ped Plan, Parks and Rec Plan, and CAP 2.0 all speak to balancing the needs of nature and the needs of the community. It is heartening to read about the community input supporting the local wildlife habitat and use of parks that promote education about nature and play that allow time for interaction with nature. Although this particular location has noise from Lawrence Expressway, that noise can be mitigated

One addition to your report about the CAP 2.0 plan that is different from the existing CAP: the addition of the tree canopy as an important climate change strategy. This park is large enough to accommodate many California native trees, plants and grasses. It already has several of these trees so will support the existing natural growth.

1. I urge the designers to put the bike trail as far from the creek as possible to keep the faster traffic away from the quieter area of the creek. The bikes will still be in the vicinity of the creek and can enjoy it a little farther away than those who are walking.

I urge the planners to take more soil samples throughout the area, rather than just the portions of the park along the street. This was a construction yard where many things have been discarded over the years. It will be important to ensure that toxic waste or lead is not in the soil, nor the berms nor piles of debris, nor in the soil beneath the impervious surface of the previously developed area

Eliminate artificial lighting. Artificial lighting disturbs the natural biological rhythms of birds, insects, animals, and plants. Many studies show that light pollution impacts humans, too, leading to moods changes, difficulty with sleeping, as well as cancer.

This park is ½ mile in length. Since it is planned to be a connector for an existing trail, it is important to note that perhaps design elements and signage to slow bicycles through this area be considered.

With the 280 overpass, the bicycle route north of the park needs to go through neighborhoods using bicycle lanes with as much separation as possible for the type of ongoing trail that this plan envisions.

Please ensure that appropriate irrigation is included for the native vegetation that is planned. Native vegetation needs some irrigation for up to 8 years to become established. After that, natural rainfall and below surface water will be appropriate.

Allow for bulb outs for people to approach the creek, but keep some locations non-admissible by people. Too much compacted earth and foot traffic disturbs the natural ability of trees to cope with dry times.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this exciting new park.

Connie Cunningham

Resident

Audubon Member and Advocate for Birds/Wildlife/Native Plants