



Regular Meeting Agenda

Parks and Recreation Commission

<i>Richard Scott</i>	-	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Maureen Grzan-Pieracci</i>	-	<i>Vice Chair</i>
<i>Neil Berman</i>	-	<i>Commissioner</i>
<i>Ronald Locicero</i>	-	<i>Commissioner</i>
<i>David Lovato</i>	-	<i>Commissioner</i>
<i>John Moniz</i>	-	<i>Commissioner</i>
<i>Craig van Keulen</i>	-	<i>Commissioner</i>

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

In accordance with Executive Order N-25-20 and guidance from the California Department of Public Health on gatherings, remote public participation is allowed. Physical meetings will not be in the City Council Chamber until further notice. Parks and Recreation Commission meetings will be live streamed on Channel 17, on the City's website and on the City's Facebook page. Those members of the community that would like to participate in the meetings remotely may do so by joining the virtual meeting at: <https://bit.ly/ParksandRecreationCommission> or by calling in to: (669) 900-9128, then enter the webinar id: 845 7667 3771#.

Public comment may be provided in the following ways:

- Join the virtual City Council meeting via the link above, when public comment is opened, raise your virtual hand, and be called upon to speak for up to 3 minutes
- Join the virtual meeting by calling in to the number above, dial *9 to raise your hand and be called upon to speak for up to 3 minutes
- Send public comments in writing to chris.ghione@morganhill.ca.gov

* Please note that comments made on Facebook are not considered public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

DECLARATION OF POSTING AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

This opportunity for public comment is for items that are not on the agenda. If you would like to make comments on an item that is on the agenda, please wait until we get to that item to offer your comments. Members of the public are entitled to address the Commission concerning any item within the Commission's subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes. Except for certain specific exceptions, the Commission is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. Public comment is intended for comments. Questions posed during public comment are not generally answered. If you have questions, please send them to the Commission's Staff Liaison at chris.ghione@morganhill.ca.gov to receive a response. (See additional noticing at the end of this agenda)

RECOGNITIONS

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

BUSINESS

1. ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation:

Accept January 2022 meeting minutes.

2. PROVIDE INPUT ON FUTURE PICKLEBALL COURTS

Recommendation:

1. Provide input on interim pickleball court locations; and
2. Provide input on long term court development options.

3. PROVIDE DIRECTION ON THE DIANA DOG PARK TRIAL

Recommendation:

Provide direction on moving forward with the trial off-leash dog area at Diana Park.

4. COMMISSION WORK PLAN UPDATES

Recommendation:

Provide Updates on Work Plan Items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE

Any documents produced by the City and distributed to the majority of the Commission less than 72 hours prior to an open meeting, will be made available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Counter at City Hall located at 17575 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA, 95037 and at the Morgan Hill Public Library located at 660 West Main Avenue, Morgan Hill, California, 95037 during normal business hours. (Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the Public are entitled to directly address the Commission concerning any item that is described in the notice of this meeting, before or during consideration of that item. If you wish to address the Council on any issue that is on this agenda, please complete a speaker request card located in the foyer of the Council Chambers and deliver it to the Minutes Clerk prior to discussion of the item. You are not required to give your name on the speaker card in order to speak to the Commission, but it is very helpful. When you are called, proceed to the podium and the Chair will recognize you. If you wish to address the Commission on any other item of interest to the public, you may do so during the public comment portion of the meeting following the same procedure described above. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less.

Please submit written correspondence to the Minutes Clerk, who will distribute correspondence to the Commission.

Persons interested in proposing an item for the Commission agenda should contact a member of the Commission who may plan an item on the agenda for a future Commission meeting. Should your comments require Council action, your request may be placed on the next appropriate agenda. Council discussion or action may not be taken until your item appears on an agenda. This procedure is in compliance with the California Public Meeting Law (Brown Act) Government Code §54950.

City Council Policies and Procedures (CP 03-01) outlines the procedure for the conduct of public hearings. Notice is given, pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, that any challenge of Public Hearing Agenda items in court, may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or on your behalf at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Commission at, or prior to the Public Hearing on these matters.

The time within which judicial review must be sought of the action by the Commission, which acted upon any matter appearing on this agenda is governed by the provisions of Section 1094.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure.

For a copy of Commission Policies and Procedures CP 97-01, please contact the City Clerk's office (408) 779-7259, (408) 779-3117 (fax) or by email cityclerk@morganhill.ca.gov.

March 15, 2022

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (408)779-7259, (408)779-3117 (fax) or by email cityclerk@morganhill.ca.gov. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least two-full business days before the start of the meeting.



MEETING MINUTES

Planning Commission

Craig van Keulen - Chair
Richard Scott - Vice Chair
Maureen Grzan-Pieracci - Commissioner
Neil Berman - Commissioner
Ronald Locicero - Commissioner
David Lovato - Commissioner
John Moniz - Commissioner

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:00 PM

Online

CALL TO ORDER

7:01pm

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

All Present

DECLARATION OF POSTING AGENDA

Per Government Code Section 54954.2- City Clerk Michelle Bigelow

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public are entitled to address the City Council concerning any item within the Morgan Hill City Council's subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes. Except for certain specific exceptions, the Commission is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. (See additional noticing at the end of this agenda)

None

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Provided by Chris Ghione.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion van Keulan, Second Locicero, 7-0

BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

Recommendation:

Accept December Meeting Minutes.

Motion Locicero, Second Moniz, 7-0

2. COMMISSION WORK PLAN UPDATES

Recommendation:

Provide Updates on Work Plan Items.

Updates provided by Commissioners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 15, 2022

PREPARED BY:

Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

APPROVED BY: Chris Ghione

PROVIDE INPUT ON FUTURE PICKLEBALL COURTS

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Provide input on interim pickleball court locations; and
2. Provide input on long term court development options.

REPORT NARRATIVE:

Background

The City has been approached by several community members interested in developing outdoor pickleball courts in Morgan Hill. Currently, the City has no outdoor courts available for the community. Over the last several years, pickleball has been a very fast growing sport across the country, often with older adults participating in high numbers. Considering the continued growth in popularity of the sport and the continued growth of the City's older adult population, the City staff is highly supportive of developing pickleball for the community.

City staff is specifically asking for Commission input on two areas. The first area is looking at options for immediately using existing facilities to add pickleball lines. Building new facilities could take considerable time even if fast tracked and prioritized, so finding an immediate location would provide players with a place to play until dedicated courts could be constructed. The second area of requested input is on potential locations where new pickleball courts could be constructed in a quick location. In reviewing locations, feedback from pickleball players has helped to identify priority needs for the courts. The biggest factors are a hard scape surface, areas where sounds will not impact adjacent residents, nearby restrooms, and adequate space for multiple courts to be located in a location.

Immediate Court Development

In working with the pickleball players, the City has reviewed options for two potential locations that could be immediately painted for pickleball use. The first is utilizing a limited number of existing tennis courts at Community Park and the second would be adding lines at the basketball court also at Community Park.

The tennis courts provide a better surface for play, but would reduce the availability of

the courts for use for tennis. City staff met with representatives of the Morgan Hill Tennis Club, who were very opposed to the pickleball lines being added to the court for multiple reasons. The tennis club members felt the tennis courts are already heavily used and tennis players would lose time on the courts. The club members were also concerned that once the pickleball lines are added to any courts, the courts would be out of compliance for United States Tennis Association (USTA) events. As the only courts available for the Club in the City, the lines would risk eliminating their ability to host USTA events in Morgan Hill. Each tennis court could provide space for two pickleball courts.

The basketball court at Community Park would fit at least 2 and possibly 3 pickleball courts. The concrete basketball court surfacing is not as ideal as the tennis court surfacing, however, many players felt it would be adequate for an interim solution. The use of these courts may require some adjustments to the fencing as well, but there are currently plans to make that adjustment to support basketball in the future. Additionally, based on staff observations, hours for pickleball and basketball could be scheduled without a significant impact on users of the courts.

At this time, staff recommends continuing to review the basketball court option for the immediate court development and is requesting Commission input on this alternative.

New Pickleball Court Construction

The City's Bikeways, Trails, Parks and Recreation Master Plan does call for construction of new courts that can be used for both pickleball and tennis in the future. However, the additional room needed to provide for full-sized tennis courts is much larger than the space required to develop pickleball courts. The Commission has previously reviewed development plans for the expansion of Jackson Park, which could include pickleball and tennis courts, but that expansion is linked to the construction of a new housing development and a schedule for that development is unavailable. Additionally, constructing new permanent tennis/pickleball courts adjacent to the current courts at Community Park is not a possibility due to space constraints and anticipated parking impacts. The City staff has done some preliminary work to identify potential locations for new pickleball courts that could be developed in a shorter timeframe should the projects be prioritized.

The prioritization of any projects would occur by the Council (with recommendations by the Commission) as part of the Capital Improvement Program (which will be presented to the Commission in April). For tonight's meeting, the City staff is looking to receive feedback just on the potential sites. The sites are outlined below and with location maps highlighted in Attachment 1.

Option 1 - Galvan Park - Two potential courts could be added without impacting the other park uses. The park provides a restroom and other amenities which could complement the courts.

Option 2 - Diana Estates Park Tennis Court - Diana Estates is a neighborhood park and part of the City's Landscape Assessment District. Adjacent residents pay a property tax

assessment to the City which funds maintenance on the park/court. After meeting with a limited number of residents, it appears that an additional pickleball court could be added alongside the tennis court. The residents that City staff met with thought that pickleball could be a good idea as long as it did not share space with the tennis court. The entire tennis court surface is in bad shape and would need to be resurfaced before a court can be added.

Option 3 - Centennial Recreation Center Courts - Two courts could potentially be constructed adjacent to the CRC and be included as part of the CRC membership model. In speaking with the pickleball players, the biggest concern in this scenario would be ensuring pricing would be affordable for those who do not have or want a membership. A benefit to this option could be that the courts are provided, but the space could be alternately used for additional outdoor membership and program activities, such as exercise classes or youth sports programs.

City staff is only seeking general feedback from the Commission and more research on all the potential locations is necessary.

PRIOR BOARD ACTIONS:

FISCAL AND RESOURCE IMPACT:

Diana Park Pickleball Layout



Galvan Park Pickleball Layout





March 8, 2022

TO: Morgan Hill Parks and Recreation Commission
Chris Ghione, Public Services Director
Jennie Tucker, Recreation Manager

FM: Sherry Hemingway
Laura Lundy
Rosy Bergin
Noreen Bergin
Chris Giusiana
Lisa DeSilva
Angela Kester
Janet Hopson Dommer
Julee Klein
Nancy Miller
Teri Rousseve
Bonnie Williams
Jackie Starkovitch
Laura Perry

Pickleball, the fastest growing sport in America, is an amazingly healthy sport for seniors, both physically and socially. Currently, there are no outdoor pickleball courts in Morgan Hill, so residents drive to Sunrise Park in Gilroy to play the game in open air on four free courts in a park setting. The indoor courts at the CRC cost \$52/day for a non-member foursome or \$52/month for each member. Also, CRC pickleball hours are very limited to 2+ hours midday, four times a week.

It is heartening that the City is planning to remedy the pickleball absence, but it is critical to get the details right.

Three options were presented at the City's pickleball meeting:

- Diana Ave. – It is not recommended by the City because it is in poor condition, offers just one court, has no restroom facilities and could potentially disrupt a quiet neighborhood. Understood.
- Galvan Park – The City has proposed three courts at the edge of the park, in an area that is currently frequented by people from the unhoused community and is not an ideal location for the courts, especially since two of them back up within feet of the trash facilities of the adjacent shopping center. We submit that seniors will not be attracted to the Galvan site.
- CRC – The third City proposal is two courts adjacent to the east side in an attractive park setting. This plan would require membership in the CRC, with a possible \$25/month pickleball membership. It is the most desirable option, but will still be a stretch for seniors on limited income and we project that just two courts will not be sufficient.

We recognize that this rapidly emerging sport puts the City's excellent recreation facilities between a rock and a hard place in terms of available space and cost.

OUR CONCLUSION:

We believe the most unacceptable results would be no new courts or for the City to charge a fee to play outdoor pickleball. This would be treating this new playground differently from tennis (unreserved), Magical Bridge, basketball, skate park, etc., all of which are free to the public. A fee to play pickleball would be asking seniors, who have the least financial resources and the most need for physical activity, to bear a cost that no other Morgan Hill outdoor playground requires.

Also, as pickleball players, we understand the pent up demand for the sport. We recognize that "build it and they will come" is a likely result and we sincerely advise that two courts will not be enough. Please visit Sunrise Park in Gilroy.

We appreciate that the City is offering to convert the basketball court as an interim solution, since tennis players are adverse to sharing courts (which would be a quick fix).

Thank you for your consideration in bringing outdoor pickleball courts to Morgan Hill.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 15, 2022

PREPARED BY:

Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

APPROVED BY: Chris Ghione

PROVIDE DIRECTION ON THE DIANA DOG PARK TRIAL

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Provide direction on moving forward with the trial off-leash dog area at Diana Park.

REPORT NARRATIVE:

Background

The Parks and Recreation Commission established a Work Plan item to explore the creation of small off-leash dog parks in parks throughout the City. The intent of the Commission was not to create another large community wide dog park similar to the one at Community Park, but instead to provide smaller off-leash areas in parks within walking distance of residents' homes. Over the last two months, the City staff and the subcommittee of the commission have met with residents neighboring the park. While the planned implementation was only for a trial park, many residents expressed concerns over the off-leash dog area even for a trial period.

City staff worked to engage residents by sending a direct mailer to residents within 1000 feet of the park as well as by sharing information via email newsletters and other social media channels, including Nextdoor. The team working on the project encouraged all comments from residents, whether positive or negative, to ensure high engagement from the community.

Neighborhood Feedback

Several comments were received and are summarized in Attachments 1 and 2. Attachment 1 is the notes from the first two community meetings and Attachment 2 is the comments submitted electronically to the City.

While many of the concerns outlined could be addressed through management of the off-leash area, it will definitely take significant resources even to move forward with the trial. Considering the purpose of the project was to provide an amenity to local residents and that a significant number of residents have expressed their desire not to add this amenity to the park, City staff and the subcommittee have paused the trial to come back to the Commission for direction.

Recommended Action

Resident engagement showed there was very significant interest and a good number of

supporters for the off leash area to be added to the park. Due to this, the City staff are recommending efforts to identify an alternate location near the neighborhood, but not at the park be made at this time. Should the commission concur with the recommendation, the City would work with the subcommittee and return to the full Commission with alternatives at a later date.

Alternatively, the Commission could choose to continue to move forward with a recommendation on implementing a trial off leash area at Diana Park. However, the trial would not begin immediately as City staff would need to update operations plans and investigate more deeply some of the concerns brought up by residents. Ultimately, the recommendation would need to go to the City Council for approval before implementing the trial.

PRIOR BOARD ACTIONS:

FISCAL AND RESOURCE IMPACT:

Diana Park Trial Dog Park

Meeting Comments

2/17/22 In-person meeting

2/15/22 Zoom Meeting

Concerns

- Maintenance on the park - squirrel holes
- Discipline
- Impact parking
- Will it be double gated area
- Hours – What will they be, concerned about late night and early morning barking
- Will Gates be locked when closed
- Put fencing back so not right on walkway
- Anchoring down fence so it doesn't fall over
- Concerns about dog poop not being picked up
- Very close to neighbors homes (20-25 ft away)

Comments

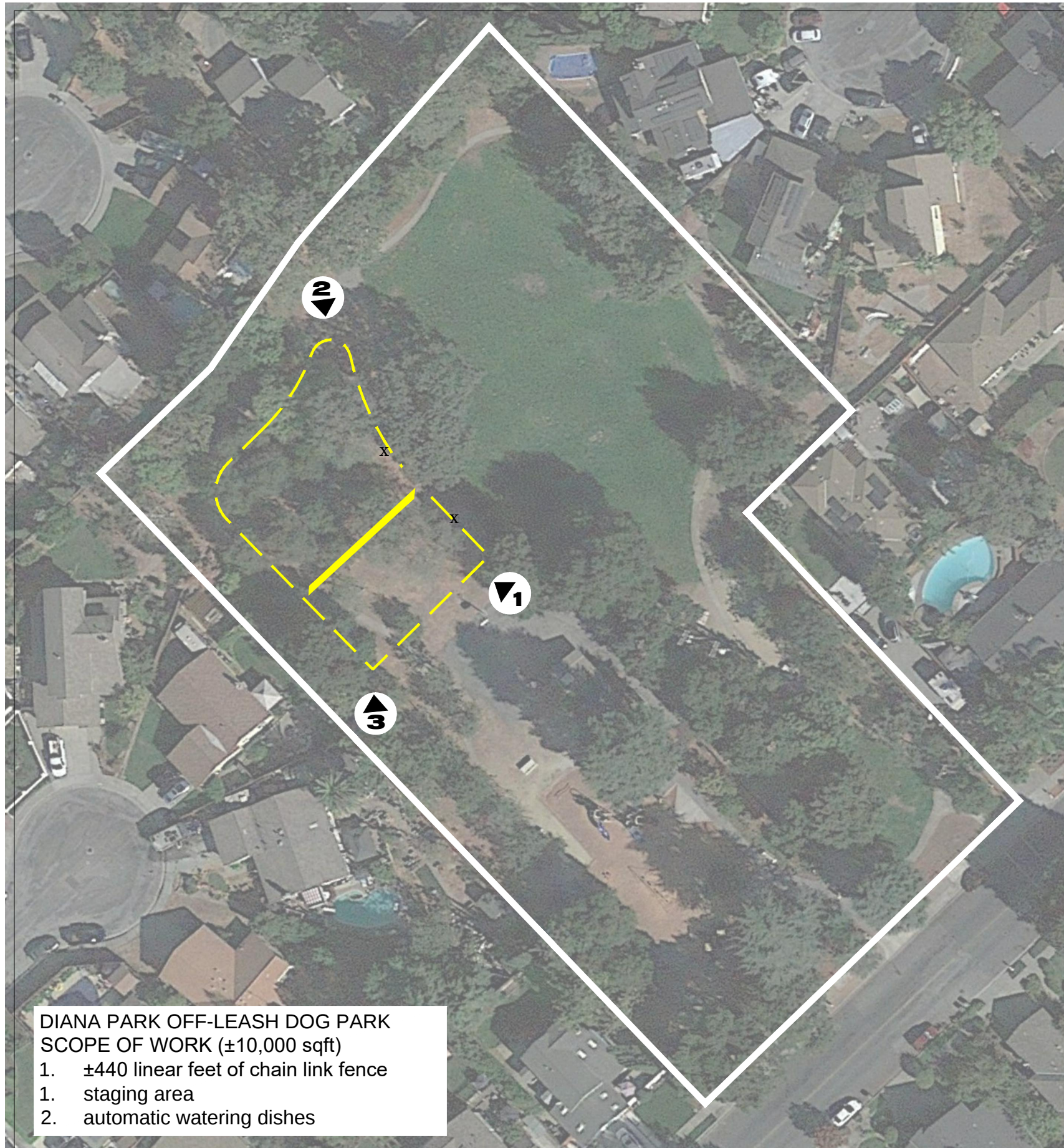
- Dog poop is an issue
- Park should be for ppl not dogs
- Some would like Picnic tables there instead
- Dogs barking
- Need a dog park so ppl that let dogs off lease can go there so kids can use fields
- Hawks nesting above the area
- Bball hoop right by small dog park - bball might hit dogs

Support/Oppose	Comment
Oppose	This was my children's park growing up. I have a daughter terrified of dogs so if this off leash park was here during those years, we would not have been able to use the park to play due to her fears. I feel it is too close to the playground, unlike at Community park where there is substantial distance between the kids playground and the dog park there. I realize this doesn't impact us now that my daughter is grown but what about other kids afraid of dogs? I assume there will be some sort of enclosure but children still have to walk by it if coming from the trail at the back of the park.
Neither	In the website (http://morgan-hill.ca.gov/2267/Diana-Dog-Park-Trial) regarding the proposed Diana Dog Park, I saw no mention of a fence surrounding the portion of Diana Park where leashes would not be required for dogs. I presume that the area in which dogs would be allowed to roam freely would be enclosed in a chain link fence. Unlike football players, dogs tend not to respect artificial lines and boundaries. Please clarify.
Oppose	I just received your letter for the dog park trial. I am a dog owner and a daily user of Diana park. It's my dog's favorite place to walk. He does not do well off leash and this is just a horrible news for us! I think that families who take their kids to the park may be fearful as well. Not to mention that the park is not fenced in. There already is a wonderful off leash dog park in Morgan Hill that is completely fenced in where one can take their dog. Also, a lot of people use the park to exercise and may not want dogs wandering around the park. I am a dog lover and it wouldn't bother me if I wasn't a dog owner who now would be unable to take my dog to the park in fear that another dog may run up to mine. I am trying to see things from all sides here. Extremely disappointed!
Support	I walk my dog through Diana Park - I live about 3 blocks away. My dog likes the dog park at the CRC, but I don't like the drive. It would be better for both of us to simply walk over. I have a large friendly dog who is fine with dogs of all shapes and sizes, but I wonder if during this trial and into the future if you plan to separate the dogs by size? I have no opinion on this.
Support	I hope you are well! I received a note from you and your team recently about the potential plans of placing a dog park in Diana Park. I'm not normally one to submit feedback to any sort of government or city plans but as I see people placing 'no dog park' signs in the area, I wanted to share my thoughts. My family and I think that this is a great idea! We have a very energetic (and super friendly) one year old golden retriever who loves to run around and play with other dogs and we think that this could be a great asset to our local park. We walk through the park every day as part of our evening walk and would love to see this plan become a reality. We love living in Morgan Hill but since getting a dog, we've noticed the lack of dog friendly parks and appreciate the work the city is doing to correct this.
Support	This is a wonderful asset to our community. Larger dogs that love to run benefit from an off leash park. Having them sprinkled throughout Morgan Hill make it easier for dog owners.
Oppose	To place the proposed high density off leash dog park so close to peoples homes is a terrible idea. Several of the adjacent properties are about 20-50 feet from the park. It will have serious and detrimental effect ecologically, environmentally and towards public health and safety. It will likely have negative economic effects to home values and other negative quality of life effects for the neighboring homes adjacent to the proposed dog park. Diana Park is highly used by young children, toddlers, babies and their families. A dog park will not be a complimentary addition to this popular park. OF IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: The temporary construction must be halted to avoid disruption of breeding raptor. The dog park is the immediate location of a tree used by a pair of raptors who bred and raised two young fledgelings to maturity last breeding season Feb-Aug feeding them squirrel from the dog park area. The pair have returned will not likely be able to raise young here with a dog par
Oppose	For decades Diana Park has been predominantly a family/ young children park. It is enjoyed by many every day of the year. A dog park in this park is NOT a good idea and would have a negative impact on the park and the homes surrounding it. The limited neighborhood street parking is already a challenge and would become more so for young families. The area is MUCH too small and within feet of backyards. It is a fraction of the size of the one at community park(which is FAR away from houses and playground) and if you take a trip there, you will see it is pretty disgusting...many do not clean up after their own dogs. There is no common sense inputting this park here. I AM a dog lover and like for them to have a place but it is NOT here.
Support	I always see dogs in our neighborhood. It would be great to let them off leash and socialize in a safe area.
Support	I attended the Zoom Meeting this evening. Thank you very much for all the information! I am a dog lover and own two dogs, and we frequently walk through Diana Park. Neither of my pups like crowds of dogs so it is likely we will NOT utilize the off leash park but I support it for those that want to. I was at the Park last week, Wednesday, when the signs were being posted. Within 20 minutes of the signs being put up, a resident of the area (seen frequently) came through and tore down each sign and either tore them up or threw them into the trash. I thought that was very rude and unnecessary. He has a right to his opinion of course but it is a public park and the notices were placed by Park personnel. Who knows how many people potentially missed seeing this information because the signs were gone?
Support	If it is well maintained (i.e. dog owners clean up after their pets and dispose of bags in trash cans) as well as dog owners being responsible for the behaviors of their dogs, as well as respectful of the homes nearby and others using the park. On the flip side folks that are not dog friendly will need to be accommodating during this trial period.
Support	I think this is a great idea! Much better than dogs running around of leash like they do now.

Support	I think this dog park in a great idea. There are a lot of dogs and community members who would use the dog park. My dog enjoys dog parks, but we don't always have time to take her to the one at the community center park. Having a local dog park would be very convient. My family appreciates that the City of Mogan Hill is investing our tax money to add community perks to local parks. On a side note, the individual who is flying the park and placing no dog park flyers in mail boxes actions can be seen as intimidation. It is not too far of a reach to assume this person's actions could keep community members who are in support of the dog park from showing their support due to fear of confrontation. Also, he is trashing the look of the park with all the flyers.
Support	I live very close in the Las Colinas area. It would be a dream come true to have an off-lease dog park in this area! Because of the busy Dunne Ave near us I am afraid to ever let my poor dog off leash. A safe area in Diana Park for this would be perfect!
Oppose	My wife and I are against the dog park there at Diana Park as I have been jogging there for over 20 years... It's the park where I run and think, it's a serene place for me... Sanctuary so to speak...
Support	I like the idea. I live in the townhomes nearby with small backyards. We badly need this in our neighborhood. It will help control some of the issues the park has seen sonce tgere hasnt been a designated dog area. I think someone maybtry to jeopardize the prk to get negative feedback like cut the fence, leave the door open, or knock the fence over. It should be watched.
Support	I believe that the dog park is a good idea, and in general would be enjoyed by the community. My only concern is the terrain; it seems somewhat uneven, so hopefully it will be a priority to ensure it is safe. Grass/turf would be ideal, if there is sufficient budget. With regard to the concerns expressed by many of the attendees to the zoom and on-site meeting, I hope it is apparent that most of these are unfounded.
Oppose	Even though I don't see myself getting onboard with a dog park at Diana Park, I did appreciate you, Keri, and Dave coming out to meet with the residents in person. I recognize that wasn't the most comfortable position to be in. I do hope all of the concerns, especially the concerns of the residents who live right up against the park, are taken seriously and given strong consideration over the desires of people who don't live in the immediate area. For me, the loss of peaceful open space, the absolute ugliness of a chain fence in what should be a beautiful open park area, and the stress it will put on one of my dogs, thus increasing his aggressive response (when he gets rushed at the fence line every time we enter and leave the park) are my top concerns. A "trial period" won't change my mind. Just this morning, I needed to use that space to create a buffer between my dog and two other dogs coming down both of the pathways. The disruption to established wildlife and disease/sanitation concerns are also at the top of my list! Again, I am completely in support of creating open spaces for dogs to run, play, socialize, and have fun with their owners - Diana Park just isn't it. It was never designed for that and I believe it will do a great disservice to the park and the residents to try to cram one in. Morgan Hill used to have so much open space. That's why we moved here, just shy of 15 years ago. Having access to Diana park was a big consideration in choosing this particular house. As Morgan Hill continues to grow, I do hope that city leaders keep in mind what has made Morgan Hill special, recognize how much people cherish their open space and parks, and use that opportunity to grow Morgan Hill in a way that other cities can no longer even consider because they've already built on every square inch of open space. It would be such a shame if Morgan Hill turned into the spitting image of every other medium/big city.
Support	I own two rescue beagles. I work full time and they are home in a small area much of that time. I would love for them to have a place close by where they could run and roam. I am a responsible dog owner and would take care of preserving the area.
Support	I think this is a great idea and plenty of room for a section at Diana Park. There is only one other dog park, on the other side of town, and it's not convenient for everyone. With the population growing, this would be so welcomed!
Support	I think that a dog park at Diana Park is a great idea. The proposed area isn't used and this will be a great use of it that will benefit community members. I know that my dog will greatly enjoy going to play with her friends without being restrained by a leash. Please make this dog park permanent!
Support	We live downtown and would love a dog park in walking distance
Oppose	I am not sure that it's safe around kids. Also, the neighborhood might not appreciate barking dogs and the noise it'll cause.
Oppose	Hello Chris, I own the property at XXX XXXXX Court, Morgan Hill. I received a letter regarding the upcoming proposal of a dog park. My property fence and gate enter right onto the back of that open area. I currently have it rented with small children. They access through there to go to the play ground. I am very opposed if that is where the dog park, Offleash dogs is planned. I no longer live in Morgan Hill to attend meetings. Please make note of my vote for NO!

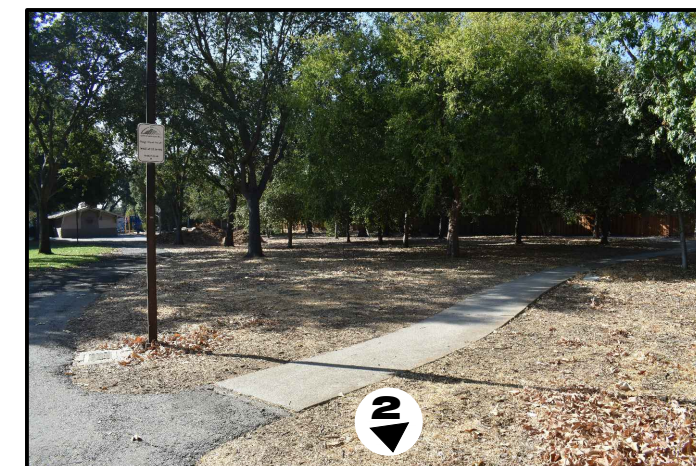
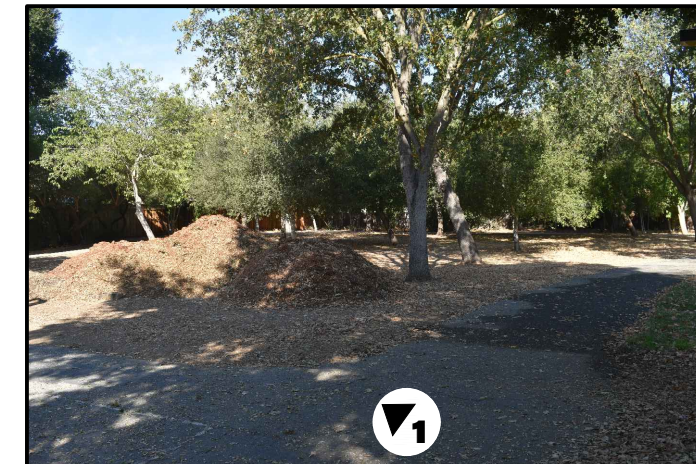
Oppose	In reference to the Diana dog park idea and the build of a trial area: It is very important that it is known there are a pair of beautiful nesting raptors which raised their young in a tree over the proposed dog park last year roughly between Feb-Aug. They have now returned to scout the nest. I see them perching the tree almost daily. Last year we studied them as they built the nest, raised young, fed them and taught them to hunt squirrel in the exact area of the proposed dog park. The oaks and the ground beneath are an area overrun by squirrel. The hawks provide great benefit in eliminating some of the huge squirrel population in the park. I believe these are red shouldered hawk known to mate for life and reuse the same nest year after year. They are also known to be very sensitive nesting and less successful in breeding season when exposed to disruptions like construction and changes to its immediate environment. Unfortunately building and disrupting habitat during breeding season is exactly what is planned. Building a dog park here will take away the main hunting and training area for feeding, teaching to hunt and raising young. I am greatly concerned construction of the dog park will drive these great birds away for good and possibly they will loose this generation of their young. We have a responsibility to take care of this sensitive species in our park. These birds are a great natural animal asset to the park and the city. It is rare that humans like us can share space and observe closely in our own city park beautiful indigenous natives like these hawks. By building this dog park at such a sensitive nesting location and season we place this nesting pair in jeopardy. If we build a park for dogs we will likely drive away the natives. Let's please consider these hawks and the negative impacts a dog park will have. I urge you and the city to not proceed with the dog park plan. There must be a better location. Please feel free to share this with others. Let me know how to help. I would be glad to meet on site, discuss further, provide more research, pictures, recordings etc. Looking forward to hearing back I'm hopeful this is beneficial.
Oppose	I am a neighbor that is right next to the supposed off-leash dog park. That will be most affected. Will not increase the value of my house, the promise is that the dog poop will be picked up, however urine will be seeped into the ground, and will not be taken out. Children are playing in the park which concerns me that a child will be bitten. The promise was made to me back in 1977 which the city promised would be a low density child park. This should be on public record ! I also work late evenings occasionally and have to sleep later in the mornings and would disrupt my sleep. I have nothing against dogs, but am 100% sure there are other places within Morgan Hill that dog owners can take their pets.
Oppose	Very Poor Location heavy Residential Area, Little or no parking for the residents in area let alone visitors from other areas of the city. Noise and other sanitation issues make this a poor choice. I am a 46 year home owner in the area. I am defiantly against this project.
Oppose	I'm writing to you to express my concern of not having a dog park in my backyard adjacent to Diana Park. For the following reasons; 1. De-value of property 2. Environmental impact on the nesting hawks 3. Safety of children in park in which it was originally planned for in 1977. I was at the meeting when the city promised that it would be a low density child play area. I hope that the city will abide by their promise and not add a dog park. 4. Consideration of environmental health hazards in the form of dog poop, urine which would impact the soil and trees within the supposed dog park, ticks and fleas in close proximity of children. 5. Occasionally work late evenings and sleep late in the mornings. Please reconsider the neighbors who will be more affected by the proposed dog park for the above reasons. I'm sure you have done complete environmental studies and careful planning before making this decision.
Oppose	I live adjacent to Diana Park and am writing to ask you to please not put a dog park here. This is a lovely quiet community park where many families from the surrounding neighborhood walk and bring small children. Currently the grassy portion of the park would be great for tossing a football or kicking a soccer ball if it were not generally unusable because of the already inconsiderate dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs and already use it as an off leash area. If anything I'd love to see dogs not allowed there at all or some enforcement of cleaning up and using leashes. A dog park would certainly bring more people, traffic, and noise to our quiet neighborhood and would be most unwelcome. I'm more than happy to talk more if you'd like, my number is XXXXX. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Oppose	A number of households including ours do not want a dog park at Diana park.
Oppose	The proposed Diana Park Dog Park is too close to neighboring residences. I am a dog owner, and a dog lover, but I do not think this park is a good idea. Setbacks from residences do not conform to best practices for dog park design. The dog park will create a potential health risk for the adjoining property owners and diminishes their ability to peacefully enjoy their property. My understanding is that there are no plans for city clean-up of animal waste, nor are there limits to the number of animals allowed. The neighbors will bear the consequences of odors, barking noise, flies, ticks etc. that may also put the city at risk for litigation. Please consider a location that is adjacent to a shopping center, business park, parking lot, or other non-residential area that reduces risk to the city and its residents.

Oppose	First of all let me state I for the record I am highly Opposed to the dog park in a highly residential area. I am a home owner and lived here for 40 plus years. I can't believe that this proposal was made by the city and apparently decided upon without input from the community. Having two weeks to discuss the issue prior to having a temporary test on March 1st of the proposed project. In my opinion is ridiculous and a waste of tax payer money. A dog park at this location would have an impact on the residential quality of life and property values of the owners in the area. In my option they would negative. How would feel about purchasing a home with a Dog Park behind it. Your back fence 60 feet from the dwelling. With a Dog Park on the other side of that fence. The noise Barking, Smell of Urine and Feces. As well to Create a breeding ground for ticks which carry diseases. There is Inadequate parking in this area. On street parking is limited now. This Dog Park will only add to the congestion. It will also increase traffic with people walking with dogs. Many are not responsible owners picking up there dropping, let alone the dead lawn and shrubs from urine. Do you think it would have positive on the value and sale ability. I think not. These things are going to affect the quality of life in our neighborhood. In my opinion there a number of other sites within the City of Morgan Hill it would be better suited for a dog park. These are as follows: 1. Peak Avenue park which has parking and Is more or less bordered by commercial properties. 2. The transportation center where the old garden use to be. 3. Taking A small piece of the new SportsCenter These locations would have little or no impact on a residential neighborhoods. I am a dog lover having had many dogs during my life time. I really don't personally think dog parks are good for dogs. Which many Veterinarians and Trainers agree. They can increase viruses and medical issues being around other dogs. It can also lead to aggressive behavior by your animal. Many Injuries occur to the Dogs and their Owners at Dog Parks I feel this project should be put on hold now before for a test is made.
Support	We have so many dogs in the neighborhood and such a large empty yard. It would be great to walk and have the dogs play instead of driving all the way to the only dog park in MH.
Support	I think making the proposed section of the Diana Park an off-leash dog park is a fabulous idea. Morgan Hill will benefit from more public spaces where people and their pets and congregate, and I feel that dog parks are a much better alternative to people meeting with their pets at downtown businesses and restaurants. I completely support a dog park at Diana Park. The park is more than large enough to accommodate this, while still providing outdoor park space for families and children.



DIANA PARK OFF-LEASH DOG PARK
SCOPE OF WORK (±10,000 sqft)

- 1. ±440 linear feet of chain link fence
- 1. staging area
- 2. automatic watering dishes



DATE: SEPT, 2021
SCALE: 1"=100'

DIANA PARK
POTENTIAL LOCATIONS
OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

From: [Melissa Clark](#)
To: [Parks Recreation Commission](#)
Cc:
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Diana Park proposal
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2022 9:47:04 PM

Good evening Parks and Recreation Commission,

I'm hoping to reach all 7 of you prior to the in-person meeting at Diana Park on Monday the 14th and prior to your regular meeting on Tuesday the 15th to speak a little further about the proposal for Diana Park. I read Chris's recommendation not to move forward with the trial dog park at this time and I read the attachments with the online commentary that was submitted, both in favor of and opposed to, the trial dog park at Diana Park. And while I remain opposed to this location for this particular project, I do understand why folks would be excited by the idea. I do hope to continue to work with you to explore ideas for potential dog park sites...but what I really want to talk about are the possibilities that could be explored for that section of Diana Park that appears to some as, "underused."

I am a School Psychologist in Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) and have worked at Gunn High School for roughly a decade. Prior to working in PAUSD, I worked in San Jose Unified and in Springfield Public Schools through Lane Education Service District in Oregon. I grew up in Miami, FL and did all of my undergrad and graduate work in Miami as well. Outside of my 17 years as a School Psychologist, I spent all of my years in grad school working with children with special needs, particularly children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. I have two dogs and a cat whom I love with all my heart. I also love the outdoors and nature and all the wildlife that inhabits it. I bring all of this up because I can see the potential that Diana Park has to offer. That seemingly underused area that was offered up for the trial dog park, has the potential to offer outdoor access to people of all ages and all abilities. It can be transformed into something that can enhance the natural beauty of the area and also cater to the wildlife that already inhabits it. It can also be a section of the park that both people and dogs can enjoy. It can be so much more to so many people instead of just being a fenced off area that only dog owners can access.

That section of land is not as used because that's what it was intended to be. it was intended to retain the open-space, natural feel of the area. Now that the Covid restrictions are coming to an end and it is warming up outside, I notice more and more people out there every day. Little kids not only at the playground and playing out in the grass field, but also running through the leaves, picking up sticks to play with, and being fascinated with the natural environment of this "underused" section of the park. The older generations spend time meandering through the perimeter paths of Diana Park and occasionally, there are caregivers out there pushing individuals in wheelchairs down the paths as well. There is a special serenity to Diana Park that people of all ages and abilities currently enjoy. And the connection

to nature is something that can benefit everyone.

What I, and others on this email, would love to see is that serenity, enhanced. In the 2017 Master Parks Plan, it says there was a demonstration garden planned for that section of Diana Park. How wonderful would it be if we could play off of that idea and create a natural playground?! Bring in some large boulders that kids and dogs could climb. Create packed dirt/gravel/sand pathways that could accommodate folks on foot as well as in wheelchairs. Add some wooden and/or natural stone benches for people to sit on beneath the trees. Plant drought tolerant gardens that attract butterflies and birds. Those are just a few ideas and I'm positive others here can contribute even more ideas!

If you have time, please come out and meet with us. I, and the others on this email, would love to share our ideas with you! Please do not try to rush a vote through on the trial dog park on the 15th and please be open to other opportunities Diana Park could offer this community as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Melissa Clark

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From: [Selma K](#)
To: [Rich Constantine](#); [Gino Borgioli](#); [Yvonne Martinez Beltran](#); [Rene Spring](#); [John McKay](#); [Chris Ghione](#); [Parks Recreation Commission](#); [Christina Turner](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] dog park in Diana park
Date: Saturday, March 12, 2022 11:25:22 AM

You don't often get email from selma@tophatplumbing.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello, I would like to give my 2 cents regarding the dog park in Diana park.

- 1) It has been a park for families and children for more than 30 years.
- 2) Dogs walking their owners though the park is fine, but poop is still left behind.
- 3) My thoughts are against the dog park, because I have personally run a daycare for 27 years.
I am always on guard for dogs that have gotten away from their owners(by accident), so now there will be more dogs and more incidents.
- 4) Some children are very afraid of dogs, so I know I will have to stay clear of this great park.
- 5) Diana park is one of the best parks in town because of the 2 levels of play structures for children to play on, the sandbox and the shade in the summer.
- 6) Children love the sidewalk that circles the park to ride their little bikes, skateboards or a simple nature walk. Children pride themselves that they can do it themselves. Now that will not be available to them.
- 7) Dog parks leave a terrible stench of dog poop odor, that dog owners don't feel they should clean up. NO one maintains it.
One example, my neighbor has ONE dog and when the wind blows north, it is an awful stench.
- 8) Please, please, please reconsider and Please do not put the dog park in Diana park. It will change the flavor of this great family park. There are so many open places. Coyote creek trail? Your neighborhood?
- 9) The noise for neighbors of dogs barking is not pleasant but irritating. I'm sure some of you have experienced neighbor dogs barking, now imagine several dogs!
- 10)Thank you for your time ...

Selma Keller

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From: [Jim Perteet](#)
To:
Cc:
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Upcoming Diana Park Meetings
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 8:18:30 AM

Thank you Chris,

I wholeheartedly agree with staff and Commissioner Moniz recommendations to not move forward with the Diana Park dog park plan.

This dog park plan is not right for this small neighborhood park.

Thank you for thinking through this with us and considering the many facts, thoughts, concerns and questions.

On so many levels this proposed dog park plan would be detrimental to Diana Park full of negative impacts for the culture, individual park users, neighbors, the beautiful and sensitive environment, and public health.

The Oak Woodland area of Diana Park being considered for this dog park trial is a unique ecosystem. A special place to experience native Morgan Hill.

It is fairly dense with mature native trees. Valley Oak, Live Oak, Sycamore and Elm emulating the natural woodland ecosystems of our South County.

This area of the park is the habitat of a very broad range of birds, animals and wildlife many of which rely on the trees, acorns and the ground beneath to forage and live.

A very special pair of federally protected migratory red shouldered hawks return to the park annually to raise their young and teach them how to forage for rodents, lizards and squirrel from this area of the park. A dog park will disrupt these beautiful birds and likely drive them away not to return. A dog park here will have significant negative impacts on the environment impairing the natural habitat of not only the hawks and other birds which use this space but the rest of the ecosystem. This will be a loss for the whole community.

The area of the proposed dog park occupies about one third of Diana Park.

The dog park by nature will isolate, separate and divide people when so many will be fenced out of a large portion of a small park and denied the benefits of such a wonderful woodland experience. So many will be pushed away from this large area of the park and denied access to the Oak Woodland (unless one has a dog they wish to subject to a dog park) Many of neighborhood park users will now want to avoid the whole dog park area, those who are not comfortable near dogs, the many dog walkers who do not want their dogs near other dogs, children and just those who walk the park and enjoy this space today will be literally locked out by a chain link fence. This cool, quite, peaceful retreat will then only be available to a small subset of Diana Park neighbors. This large part of a small park will be dedicated to a small contingent of off leash dogs and their owners. The rest of the Diana park community will be denied it's use. Morgan Hills rare precious park space will shrink.

The people who live in the neighboring homes adjacent to the dog park will suffer. The dog parks proximity (20-60 feet) to peoples lives and homes will certainly have extreme negative impacts to all who live there. These people will literally see, hear, and smell, everything dog park, everyday. Imagine laying in your bed with your window open..

We shouldn't hurt these people with a dog park. There is a better way.

We need to find the best way to plan for the future and utilize and embellish Diana Park to

invite and include and benefit for as many neighbors to this wonderful community park as is possible.

We have a great opportunity at hand to do the best thing for the Diana Park neighborhood community and in that Morgan Hill will benefit.

We can do so much better than this dog park plan.

Friends and neighbors of Diana Park (myself and family include) truly want to be invested in taking care of what we have in this great little park. In particular to find a way to emphasize and enhance Diana Park and in particular the neglected Oak Woodland.

We have some great ideas and are ready and willing to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission as a community to make these happen.

There are so many ways we could embrace the Oak Woodland of Diana Park we can embrace and protect the unique habitat of the woods in the town and enhance the park with this space to create a more inviting environment, while minimizing the need for maintenance and negatively impacting the natural environment of this unique part of Diana Park for as many ages and abilities.

Ideas like adding inviting hardened pathways through the woodland accessible for all including elderly and those with special needs to come in and enjoy the nature of the park. Adding rock formations that can be climbed, sat upon or played on, as well as being a natural eye pleasing aesthetic. Adding native drought tolerant plantings including plants that draw pollinators-butterflies, birds and bees. Adding benches or picnic tables.

A large and growing number of the Diana Park neighborhood people are like minded and excited about these ideas.

It is our hope that the dog park proposal is not forwarded and instead we can work together the PRC and Morgan Hill to use this opportunity to enhance the beauty and functions of Diana Park. We appreciate the encouragement we have received from PRC to pursue this and we look forward to it.

For the sake of the park, the uses of today and the future, the neighbors and for Morgan Hill please do not build this dog park.

We can do so much better!

Thank you,

Jim Perteet

Friends and Neighbors of Diana Park

From: [Art Metta](#)
To: [Chris Ghione](#)
Cc: Citycouncil@morganhill.ca.gov; [Jim Perteet](#); [Jim Perteet](#); [Art Metta](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Diana Dog Park
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 3:32:13 PM

You don't often get email from art_metta@mac.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

On February 26, wrote the following eMail to mayor all city council mentor and the Parks and Recreation Department

It appears in was not addressed properly and was returned.

Chris Ghione may have received a copy but my intension was to send a copy to the Mayor and each City Council Member

I am sending it again to be sure it is received by all.

I am glad that there are now second thoughts by the city about opening this project and trial.

I am hopeful that the Council Members will see it is not in best interest of the community at the location.

For that and many other reasons I hope this project be rejected.

My original eMail follows:

To: The Mayor of Morgan Hill and All Council Members 2/26/22

To: Chris Ghione Parks & Recreation

First of all let me state I for the record I am highly Opposed to the dog park in a highly residential area. I am a home owner and lived here for 40 plus years.

I can't believe that this proposal was made by the city and apparently decided upon without input from the community.

Having two weeks to discuss the issue prior to having a temporary test on March 1st of the proposed project.

In my opinion is ridiculous and a waste of tax payer money.

A dog park at this location would have an impact on the residential quality of life and property values of the owners in the area. In my option they would negative.

How would feel about purchasing a home with a Dog Park behind it. Your back fence 60 feet from the dwelling. With a Dog Park on the other side of that fence.

The noise Barking, Smell of Urine and Feces. As well to Create a breeding ground for ticks which carry diseases.

There is Inadequate parking in this area. On street parking is limited now. This Dog Park will only add to the congestion. It will also increase traffic with people walking with dogs.

Many are not responsible owners picking up there dropping, let alone the dead lawn and shrubs from urine.

Do you think it would have positive on the value and sale ability. I think not.

These things are going to affect the quality of life in our neighborhood.

In my opinion there a number of other sites within the City of Morgan Hill it would be better suited for a dog park.

These are as follows:

1. Peak Avenue park which has parking and Is more or less bordered by commercial properties.
2. The transportation center where the old garden use to be.
3. Taking A small piece of the new SportsCenter

These locations would have little or no impact on a residential neighborhoods.

I am a dog lover having had many dogs during my life time. I really don't personally think dog parks are good for dogs.

Which many Veterinarians and Trainers agree.

They can increase viruses and medical issues being around other dogs. It can also lead to aggressive behavior by your animal.

Many Injuries occur to the Dogs and their Owners at Dog Parks

I feel this project should be put on hold now before for a test is made.

This park should be improved for everyone not a a third of it for special interest group.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Concerned Resident ,

Art Metta

Art_Metta@me.com

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PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 15, 2022

PREPARED BY:

Chris Ghione, Public Services Director

APPROVED BY: Chris Ghione

COMMISSION WORK PLAN UPDATES

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Provide Updates on Work Plan Items.

REPORT NARRATIVE:

The Commission develops its Work Plan annually each fiscal year. The Commission Fiscal Year 2021-22 Work Plan was approved by the City Council on August 4, 2021. Commissioners may use this item to discuss progress and updates relating to Work Plan items.

PRIOR BOARD ACTIONS:

FISCAL AND RESOURCE IMPACT:

Parks & Recreation Commission

FY 2021-22 Work Plan – Approved by the City Council on August 4, 2021

Project (Commissioner Responsible)	City Council Priority Supported	Staff Resources Required	Desired Outcome
1. Get youth more active in Parks and Recreation	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	Recreation Manager (Minimal)	Review program opportunities for new youth programming. (Locicero/Lovato)
2. Support bicycle and trails development efforts	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal)	1. Support the VTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. (Berman) 2. Work to coordinate with community members on bicycle and trails issues with volunteer Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocacy Group. (Grzan-Pieracci)
3. Support efforts to create an inclusive playground	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Significant) CS Supervisor (Moderate)	Support the group that has formed for the creation of an inclusive playground in Morgan Hill. Support in the planning and fundraising efforts. (Locicero/Berman/Scott)
4. Support planning for updated sports facilities and partnerships	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community Economic Development	PS Director (Moderate) Recreation Manager (Minimal)	1. Evaluate opportunities to construct sand volleyball facilities in partnership with a facility operator, including support for upcoming feasibility study. (Berman) 2. Monitor Outdoor Sports Center transition to new operator. (van Keulen) 3. Monitor Centennial Recreation Center Expansion programming. (van Keulen)
5. Support City in grant opportunities	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Significant) Mngt Analyst (Significant)	Support City staff in identifying and evaluating grant opportunities and associated projects. (Scott/Berman)
6. Increase volunteer Adopt a Park Program participation	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility	PS Director (Minimal) CS Supervisor (Minimal)	As an exploratory committee, evaluate the opportunity to recreate ongoing volunteer groups to support park maintenance. (Scott/Lovato)

Project (Commissioner Responsible)	City Council Priority Supported	Staff Resources Required	Desired Outcome
7. Evaluate opportunities to increase youth involvement in park planning	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal) Rec Coord (Minimal)	Work with City staff to review opportunities to more formally include youth in park planning projects. (Grzan-Pieracci/Moniz)
8. Support City park planning efforts	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal)	1. Evaluate future opportunities for parkland acquisition and development. (van Keulen/Lovato) 2. Research opportunities for the creation of additional dog parks in existing or new park spaces (Moniz).
9. Review pedestrian access to park space for low income housing areas	Supporting Our Youth, Seniors & Entire Community	PS Director (Minimal)	Review affordable housing areas near Monterey road for pedestrian connections to park space. (Grzan-Pieracci/Moniz)
Staff Resources Required: 0-50 hours = Minimal 51-100 hours = Moderate 100+ hours = Significant			