

February 8, 2017

Dear Santa Cruz Bird Club Members,

If Tuesday's night joint meeting with the Santa Cruz City Council and Santa Cruz Parks Commission is any indication of things to come we should hold on tight to our binos and get engaged with the process of the revision of the Park Master Plan.

With hundreds of letters from the mountain bike proponents and a packed chamber of mountain bike advocates wanting more trails it was clear the council and the commissioners were impressed.

Open Space is valuable and critical for birds and wildlife. Due to climate change, developmental and recreational pressures on these spaces, we need to have our voices heard. Being able to safely enjoy these delicate spaces without the threat of being run over, and protecting open space from erosion or dividing wildlife corridors are concerns that need to be voiced.

More bike trails at Pogonip and Delaveaga are being proposed. Language, which governs decisions about multiuse trails and protections of all park environments, will be reworked in this new Park Master Plan. The Park Master Plan will guide the city decisions on recreation for the next 15 years. Concerns about wildlife habitat protection also need a place in this document.

While we recognize that many people, including some active birders, enjoy mountain biking for recreation, transportation, and getting out into nature, there are some areas that are simply too ecologically sensitive for any vehicle traffic.

Please, write the Commissioners, Council Members and the City Park Director as soon as possible. While the final draft is likely to be finished by June the input is time sensitive. Sending a brief note in the next few week would be most effective, as the revisions will begin next week.

Consider sharing a personal story or bring forth some facts the commissions may not be aware of such as: impacts to birds and wildlife from drones, disc golf, paddling and benefits of vegetation management for native and non native plants.

Please, read the Draft Master Plan linked below and consider how you might be able to advocate for continued preservation and safety in our precious bio-diverse habitats.

Thank you for participation in local advocacy for the birds and wildlife.

Best Regards,  
Lisa Sheridan Santa Cruz Bird Club President

Last nights Sentinel Story:

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/lifestyle/20170207/santa-cruz-long-term-parks-plan-causes-stir-over-future-uses>

Pogonip website with actual Mountain bike video: <http://www.pogonipwatch.org/pmp/>

Draft Park Master Plan: Revisions taking place now and will be presented in June for approval: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/home/showdocument?id=58251>

Appendix: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/home/showdocument?id=58253>

Santa Cruz City Council Members:  
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Santa Cruz Park Commissioners:  
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For your convenience, the same letter may be sent to all address.  
Please email the club directly at if you have any other questions or would like to become involved with Conservation issues in our county and cities please email the **Santa Cruz Bird Club** [scbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:scbirdclub@gmail.com)