

EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

The City Clerk's Office received the
attached correspondence regarding the
Jean Sweeney Park Master Plan

Lara Weisiger - Jean Sweeney Open Space Park

From: Frank Damico <frankvdamico@gmail.com>
To: <clerk@alamedaca.gov>
Date: 4/28/2014 10:01 AM
Subject: Jean Sweeney Open Space Park

City Council,

I attended the meeting on April 10 for the final design of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. I came away from the meeting concerned about the plan. My main concern involves the interaction between bicycles and pedestrians. At the beginning of the process we were asked for input about what kind of park we wanted. The citizens of Alameda overwhelmingly indicated that they wanted undeveloped open space consisting of mainly hiking trails. Now I feel, the park is disproportionately tilted toward bike usage. In the final design plans bikes have use not only of the Cross Alameda Trail, and the Bike/Walk Trail. They also have use of the so called Bike Skills Loop (an obstacle course). In the final design plan page entitled Circulation Diagram, the Bike Skills Loop completely encircles the Walk Loop Trail. This leaves no way for a hiker to access the walking trails without having to dodge bicyclists at numerous crossing points. I have been assured that there will be signs telling bicyclists to slow down where pedestrians are present. But, Who will enforce the rule? Bicyclists regularly ignore the slow down signs on Shoreline Drive where the path is shared. I think a lot of future conflicts would be alleviated if the Bike Skills Course was completely separated from the walking areas.

Thank you for your consideration,

Frank D'Amico
resident of Alameda

Lara Weisiger - Fwd: Re: Jean Sweeney Open Space Park final plan

From: Amy Wooldridge
To: Lara Weisiger
Date: 4/15/2014 10:53 AM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Jean Sweeney Open Space Park final plan
Attachments: Bike Skills Trail components.pdf

Hi Lara,

Ms. McIntire asked me to forward to you her email below to share with the City Council. My response is included as well. I plan to bring Sweeney Park Master Plan before Council in June or July once CEQA is complete.

Thanks
Amy

Amy Wooldridge
Alameda Recreation and Parks Director
2226 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda 94501
(510) 747-7570
awooldridge@alamedaca.gov
www.Alamedaca.gov/Recreation
Join us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/playARPD>



Parks
Make
Life
Better!

>>> Amy Wooldridge 4/14/2014 1:58 PM >>>
Hello Sue,

Thank you for your feedback. As this is a Master Plan, details such as the exact location of the pedestrian only trails will be determined when the landscape design is done. So the specific location of crossings and type of crossings will be determined at a later date. However, I understand your concerns and also want to share that the bike skills trail will have a number of "elements" for bikes to maneuver around so these will not be bikes zipping along at a fast clip. In addition, we will be conscientiously placing specific elements at any crossing points to slow the bikers down to a near stop. For example, by placing a few boulders right before a crossing, it forces the biker to slow down and move around the boulders prior to the pedestrian crossing. I've attached a sample of the elements that I'm referring to.

If you would like me to send your letter below to Council when this item comes up, I am happy to forward it to the City Clerk. Otherwise, you can email the clerk directly at LWEISIGER@alamedaca.gov

Thank you,

Amy

Amy Wooldridge
Alameda Recreation and Parks Director
2226 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda 94501
(510) 747-7570
awooldridge@alamedaca.gov
www.Alamedaca.gov/Recreation
Join us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/playARPD>



**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

>>> "Sue McIntire" <suemcintire@mail.com> 4/12/2014 8:34 AM >>>

Amy,

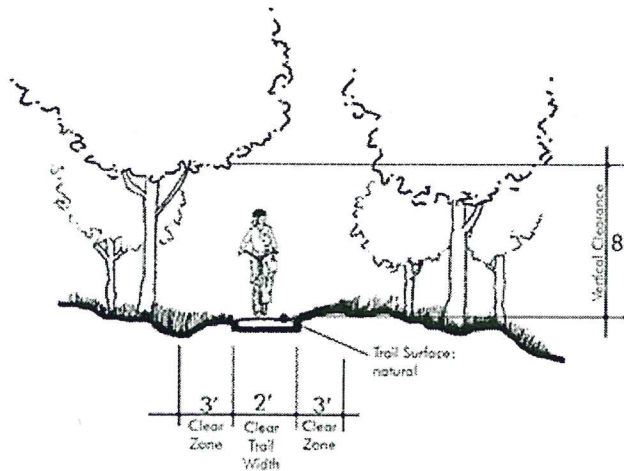
I have attended many of the meetings for the open space in the past but was not able to attend this latest meeting because of a conflict with my work. It seemed that the community in general was supportive of the direction of the park being kept primarily as open space and walking space. I remember clearly people placing the dots on the board and they heavily favored open space and walking and biking paths.

I now see in the current plan going before the City Council that the bike skills loop crosses the walking path in at least 9 places. I see that as a huge problem. As a person who walks every weekend along the Alameda Shoreline walk/bike path I am constantly protecting myself from being run off the path by aggressive bikers. And these are just normal bikers not biking skills riders. You must be aware that there are conflicts between these two pursuits and there has already been much talk about redesigning the Alameda Shoreline path so that the walkers and bicyclers don't share the same path. There will, be accidents and injuries for certain if these two paths are crossed in so many places. And it certainly wouldn't be a place where elderly or disabled people would be comfortable. Why would we want to create a new park with these same problems. I am not against bicyclists at all. I love to cycle myself. But I have seen over the years that the two pursuits do not mix well. It would be very easy at this point to redesign the bike loop path so that it does not intersect the walking path at all. I request that that be done before moving forward.

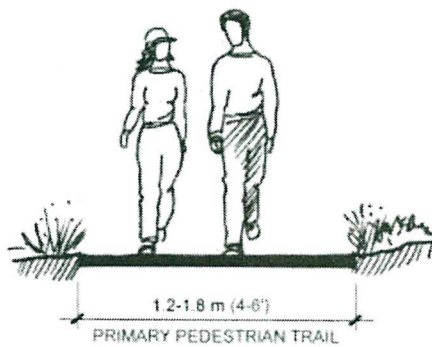
Also, I would like to know how I can get my letter delivered to or read before the City Council.

Thank you,
Sue McIntire

2. Narrow width multi-use off-road trail

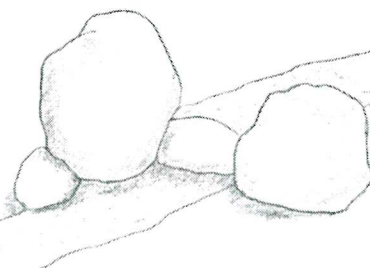


3. Pedestrian only trail



TECHNICAL TRAIL FEATURES

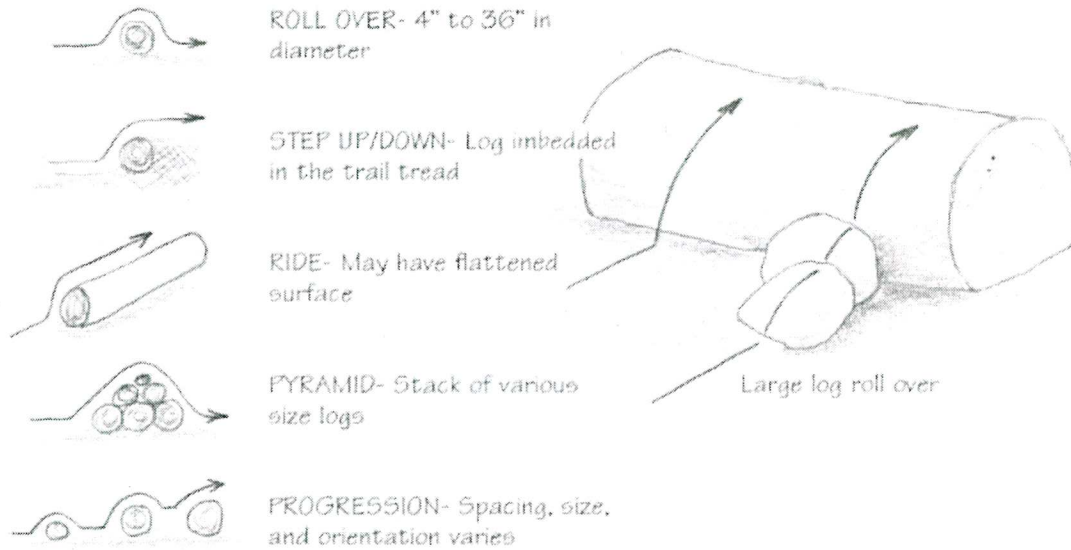
ROCKS



Boulder choke with rock step



LOGS



STRUCTURES

