

Lori Mrizek

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Lori Mrizek
Subject: Re: Possibly eliminating the vehicle entrance fee to Flood Park
Attachments: Screen Shot 2020-06-03 at 2.32.42 PM.png

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

To the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

I have lived on Del Norte Avenue adjacent to the eastern border of Flood Park for 33 years and am very familiar with the activities that have occurred in the park and the impact of those activities on the residents living near the park. Changes to the operations and amenities in the park may impact the surrounding neighborhoods, both very near the park and farther away, for decades.

I don't know if what you will be discussing is changing the way vehicles are charged to park in Flood Park or if the parking fees are sufficiently detrimental to the public's ability to enjoy the park that they should be eliminated altogether or the fee amount changed.

I know that the current vehicle entry fee of \$6/vehicle (with a few exceptions listed on the Parks Dept. website and seen in the attachment) has caused some people (actually, an unknown number) not to visit this beautiful park. This was voiced at the Parks Dept.'s community meetings. The volleyball players who have come around 4:30 M-F since before the park closed for Hetchy Hetchy work and again after it reopened park along Bay Road near the eastern pedestrian entrance and along Del Norte Avenue in front of my house. They do not cause a problem for us, but are, obviously, avoiding having to pay \$6 to play volleyball for a couple an hour or two. I know that people who would like to bring children to the playground for an hour or less or to walk through the park just don't do so if they have to pay \$6 to do so. Flood Park is entirely within the city limits of Menlo Park and no city parks charge for parking. Accessibility limited by parking fees should be a major concern.

Another major problem with charging to park is that when the park has big events, many people park on neighborhood streets to avoid the parking fee. This is a safety and annoyance factor for neighbors of the park.

I know that I'm also speaking for many neighbors who think that there should be no fee for people to park in the park.

I also realize that on a busy park day, over \$2000 can be raised by the current \$6 parking fee. (Approx. 330 parking spaces x \$6 = \$1980. Actually, there would be more money gained since when cars leave, others enter and pay. I know that the Parks Dept. will not want to give up these funds.

In my view, a workable compromise would be to have spaces numbered and pay digitally with the first 2 hours being free. Some of the funds lost would be compensated for by not needing a ranger or two in the entry kiosk.

Sincerely,

Alice Newton

Menlo Park



\$6.00 per vehicle

none

- Veterans with proof of veteran status
- Seniors (62+) (non-holiday Mon - Fri only)
- VA hospital sponsored patient activities (non-holiday Mon - Fri only)
- Vehicles displaying disabled plates/placard
- County employees on County business
- Archery Club Members using Range
- Coyote Point Rifle Range users
- CurriOdyssey members and visitors (1 vehicle entry per member who is only visiting CurriOdyssey at Coyote Point Park)
- Yacht Club members visiting Club
- Marina berthers and guests visiting Marina only

If site or parking is not available



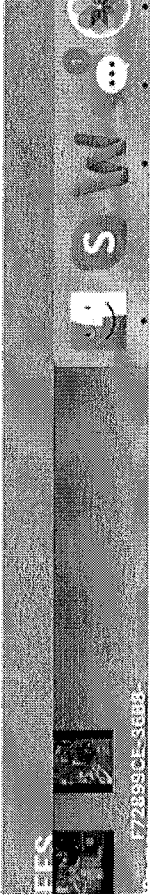
\$20.00

\$0.00

None

None

None



My name is Nettie Wijsman, and I have lived on Del Norte Avenue for 32 years.

I am in total support of eliminating all parking fees for Flood Park.

- Elimination of the parking fees will not solve the traffic and parking problems at Flood Park with the addition of so many new activities.
- As occurred in the past, inadequate parking will result in cars spilling over into neighborhoods, which is not acceptable.
- Elimination of the fees will not solve traffic problems at the Northeast side of the park when parents drop off players and supplies at the Iris Lane gate. No amount of education will change this, as it will just be too convenient.
- Elimination of the fees may increase usage of the park

After the Parks Department completed a revised EIR to fully evaluate activities from phases II and III, they discovered they had a parking problem.

- The only way they can make their parking numbers work, is by eliminating the majority of the picnic use.
- The current 8 reservable sites can accommodate 765 persons. This has been reduced to 325 persons. Most of these sites are reserved all spring, summer, and fall.
- The 20 non-reservable sites can accommodate 376 persons (assuming 8 persons/table) and has been reduced to 4 sites with 6 persons/site.

This is a 70% reduction in picnic use at Flood Park. (Please see the summary of current picnic facilities at Flood Park included with this email.)

- The current proposal will essentially displace the majority of the current picnic users (primarily ethnic minorities of our community).
- As I have attended all meetings pertaining to Flood Park, the community was assured at many meetings that there would be adequate picnic space. There will not be.
- Picnic use was a high priority item per the community meetings, and is being treated as a low priority item. Soccer was a medium priority, and Lacrosse a zero priority.
- The Parks Department is assuming only 25% of trips of the 70% reduction for picnic use would occur during the Saturday peak hours of 12-4PM! **Per table 33 and the W-trans Trip Generation, this would result in only 32 cars coming and going during the peak hours for picnic use.** This is deceptive number manipulation.

CURRENT PICNIC FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT FLOOD PARK

Reservable (Information is Per County Flood Park Website)

Name	Number of Tables	Number of People	Number of BBQ
Fir Group	5	50	1
Madrone	12	100	2
Maple	12	100	1
Redwood	9	50	2
Bay	8	75	2
Pine	20	150	3
Manzanita	4	40	1
Oak Shelter	24	200	4
Total	94 Tables	765 People	16

Non-Reservable

Number of Sites	Number of Tables/site	Total Number of Tables	Number of People/site	Total Number of People	Total Number of BBQ
13	2	26	16 (assumes 8 persons/table)	208	13
7	3	21	24(assumes 8 persons/table)	168	7
Totals		47 Tables		376 People	20

There are currently **141 picnic tables** at Flood Park

- **Flood Park is able to accommodate 1,141 people for picnic use in its current facility (765 + 376).**
- This is the reason the parking lot is so full many weekends, spring/summer/fall.

The current proposal is to accommodate only 344 persons for picnic use, per Table 6 of EIR.

- Event/group picnic 200 people, Small group picnic 120 people, Drop-in picnic 24 people (they are assuming 6 people/site in 4 sites for drop in). Yet there are 20 sites. Vehicles counted for the small and large group picnic during the peak hours of 12-4PM on Saturday should be 128 (but only ¼ of usage counted resulting in 32 vehicles counted for parking analysis). There are no estimates for car usage for the 4 drop- in sites.

This is a 70% decrease in picnic use

- The EIR states "The number of existing picnic tables at Flood Park would remain following implementation of the Landscape Plan." Pg 15 Flood Park Revised EIR.
- **They are severely under evaluating picnic use.** If the picnic tables remain, they will be used. If they are used, there will not be enough parking. **If you divide 376 by 2.5 persons/car would yield 150 more cars.** This is how trips have been calculated per the W-Trans Trip Generation document.
- **Given how much the reservable group sites have been reduced, there will be an even greater demand for the drop-in sites.**
- The 344 spaces is only accounting for 25% of the already severely reduced picnic use vehicle count.
- Development of Picnic use, Event/group Picnic and Small Group picnic is not until phases II and III.
- If they discover they don't have adequate parking once phase I is built out, they will reduce picnic use more than is even proposed now.
- Group and individual picnic were high priority activities per the initial 350 community surveys. Picnic use is being treated as low priority.

Lori Mrizek

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Lori Mrizek
Subject: for public comment period at 6/4 meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

I would like the commission to reconsider two items about the redesign of Flood Park

1. The placement of playing fields, specifically soccer/lacrosse needs to be away from houses and the Iris Street back entrance. Noise and traffic on these residential streets will be greatly impacted. Many children play in their front yards and in the streets and an increase in traffic will significantly decrease their safety.
2. Any fields constructed in Flood park should be natural grass and not artificial turf. I have played on numerous types of artificial turf and when it gets warm, the temperature is unbearable and the turf offgasses, smelling awful. I also wonder if some of those gases are toxic. In addition, the gases do not just stay near the field, they diffuse and can be smelled from significant distances. These chemical smells will affect the entire park and the surrounding homes that will be continuously accosted by these fumes each summer day.

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Regards,

Whitney Thwaite
Flood Park Neighbor

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Lori Mrizek

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:10 AM
To: Lori Mrizek
Subject: Flood park entrance fee

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear supervisors,

I am addressing agenda item 7.9, eliminating the entrance fee to flood park.

Please explain the reasoning for this, out of the blue, idea to eliminate the parking fee.
I am suspicious that there is a manipulative reason.

I think the fee helps keep this relatively small neighborhood park more accessible by limiting overcrowding and encourages walking or bike riding to the park. Traffic to flood park, if the sports facilities are implemented, is a concern for those of us who have to use Bay Road to leave our neighborhoods on the East side.

Some may think eliminating the fee will help with traffic but it will only help with the que to go in not the cars going to Flood Park.

Walking and biking also helps the environment. Flood Park is practically sitting on the 101 freeway. With the sheltering order the wildlife is more comfortable in Flood Park.
The EIR started no wildlife in the one hour the park was observed for wildlife. I could see hawks from the neighborhood entrance and there is a mother fox and her babies living in the park.

The fee at the entrance allows the ranger to explain the rules, particularly that amplified noise is not allowed.

The entrance fee to the park should remain. Th idea to eliminate the fee is puzzling.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Ordonez

[REDACTED]
Menlo Park

Sent from my iPad