

Amy Wooldridge

From: Amabella Bernardino <amabellabernardino@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 9:42 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: East End/Bay Farm Island Dog Park to Recreation and Parks Commission
Attachments: 2022-09-08 RPC Agenda.pdf; We sent you safe versions of your files

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

This Message originated outside your organization.

Hi Amy,

Thank you for sending this update. I wanted to share a concern about this location as I am both a dog owner who is supportive of a new dog park as well as a basketball player who plays on the Leydecker basketball court frequently. I am concerned about the location of this dog park being too close to the basketball court. The basketball court is highly utilized by community members, and with the proximity of the dog park to the basketball court, the dogs will be overstimulated from the basketball action and the dog activity/barking will in turn distract the basketball players.

If the height of the fence of this dog park will be similar to the height of the fence at the Washington dog park, there will be high chances that the basketball will accidentally get thrown into the dog park and injure dogs. The basketball often gets accidentally thrown into or bounces off the backboard into that lawn location without a dog park there today.

Furthermore, as a small dog owner, I am concerned about there not being separate dog parks for small and large dogs. I am concerned that community members will not respect separate days for different dog sizes.

I would like to propose the location of the old children's park next to the other side of the library as the location for the dog park if we are opening one up at Leydecker.

Additionally, instead of another dog park at Tilden way, are we still considering Towata park? Towata is an underutilized park (versus a very utilized location at the basketball court at Leydecker).

Sincerely,
Amabella

On Sep 2, 2022, at 9:07 AM, Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Hello,

You're receiving this email because you requested to be on the outreach list for the East End/Bay Farm Island Dog Park updates. Next Thursday, Sept. 8 at 7:00pm, the Recreation and Parks Commission will be hearing a final recommendation for a dog park located at Leydecker Park adjacent to the basketball court and additional information about a potential location off Tilden Way. All information including the staff report with details and the exhibits with maps are links within the attached agenda document. Or you can click [here](#) to link online to the agenda with the same information.

The meeting is on Zoom and the registration information is below. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may email me your comments in advance of the meeting and I will include them in public comments.

Thank you and have a great weekend.
Amy

For Zoom meeting registration, please go to:
https://alamedaca.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aYUe2dkCRtMrBv71ciqDwQ

Amy Wooldridge, she/her
Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda
(510) 747-7570
awooldridge@alamedaca.gov

From: [Dawn Jaeger](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dog Park / Parks and Rec Meeting
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2022 3:54:47 PM
Importance: High

Good afternoon, Amy –

If you would let your board know that my board is still opposed to the dog parks being located at Leydecker, it would be helpful, and you won't need me to come and talk and slow down your meeting.

The CHBIOA Board believes it is premature to transition Leydecker to dog parks. A decision to transition should not be considered in a vacuum, but instead with the city's new housing element and upcoming general plan. The Board further believes that once the housing units are built the park, as it is, will be needed since most developments are required to provide green belts and parks. Lastly, they believe the park should be left as is until after it is determined exactly how many housing units will be placed within the shopping center.

Thank you and Best Regards,

Dawn

DAWN JAEGER

Executive Director
CHBIOA, Inc.

—

Community of Harbor Bay Isle Owners' Association, Inc.

www.HarborBay.org
3195 Mecartney Road
Alameda, CA 94502
(510) 865-3363 Ext. 340

—

Amy Wooldridge

From: Ben Levy-Wendt <blevywendt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 10:52 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] East End Dog Park

This Message originated outside your organization.

Hi Amy,

Thank you for your update on the dog park. I believe this is the first public update since the meeting in January, so I wanted to share a few thoughts I had. As someone that both uses the Leydecker basketball courts and has a dog, I have some concerns in both regards.

As a user of the basketball court, I believe this court is probably the second most popular in Alameda after Washington, so I am concerned about how placing a dog park only feet away from the court would impact the experience of using the court. I can say confidently that, if my dog were in the park, he would run along the fence barking and chasing the basketball only feet away from the players, which would be quite a nuisance. This would have a major impact on the usability of the court, not to mention that a high fence (at least 8-10ft) would be an absolute must.

As a dog owner, I am most concerned about the idea that this would be a shared park, with certain days designated for different size dogs. I am quite confident that this rule would be entirely ignored, forcing many small dog owners like myself to basically accept that it is a mixed use park or we just don't use it altogether.

I read the staff report in your email and I wanted to offer some brief thoughts on the previously discussed locations. At Leydecker, I understand the concerns of the church, synagogue, etc. with respect to noise. To alleviate both their concerns and what I have expressed above, I am wondering if an alternate location along McCartney between the street, baseball field, and playground has been considered. As for Towata, I think the concern over a lack of bathroom is irrelevant personally. Dog owners should be in the park watching their dog the entire time, not using the restroom. And since this will be a smaller neighborhood park for short term use, most users would likely live nearby and not have a need for bathrooms anyways. The Washington dog park will still be the destination dog park, where bathrooms are more important. And lastly, I appreciate the respect for the Towata family's original intent for the park, but I live near there now and it is far from what is described in the staff report. There really aren't any flowers to speak of and the park is entirely underutilized and underdeveloped currently.

Most importantly, thank you very much for your time! I recognize that it is impossible to please everyone in this, so I just wanted to say I appreciate your effort regardless.

Thanks,
Ben

Amy Wooldridge

From: Sierra Filucci <sfilucci@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 12:27 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Leydecker park dog park

Hello!

I'm writing in support of the proposed dog park at Leydecker. It's a great spot convenient to lots of folks and nearby popular dog walking paths. I've also seen folks using the baseball field for off-leash space and the dog park would provide a safer and more sanitary place for dogs to be off leash.

We can't wait for it to open!



Sierra Filucci
801 Ironwood Rd 94502

Amy Wooldridge

From: David Stoller <dstoller3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: East End/Bay Farm Island Dog Park to Recreation and Parks Commission

Hi Amy,

Thanks so much for the update. I have to share my extraordinary disappointment and frustration that after more than a year of surveys, meetings, etc... ARPD has landed on a small location on Bay Farm that doesn't serve the primary purpose of the East End Dog Park community, namely, an East End location. Selecting a small location on Bay Farm (that may not even be available every day to all dogs) in lieu of locations such as Krusi park, which was heavily favored in the surveys, seems almost comical.

I understand that all of the East End locations required some element of compromise, and that there is a broader opportunity on Tilden, but that is many years away. In the meantime, we are left without off leash Dog facilities in the area that needed it most.

I sincerely hope that the commission reconsiders this approach and I look forward to the conversation on Thursday.

Best,
David

On Fri, Sep 2, 2022 at 9:06 AM Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Hello,

You're receiving this email because you requested to be on the outreach list for the East End/Bay Farm Island Dog Park updates. Next Thursday, Sept. 8 at 7:00pm, the Recreation and Parks Commission will be hearing a final recommendation for a dog park located at Leydecker Park adjacent to the basketball court and additional information about a potential location off Tilden Way. All information including the staff report with details and the exhibits with maps are links within the attached agenda document. Or you can click [here](#) to link online to the agenda with the same information.

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Thank you and have a great weekend.

Amy

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Amy Wooldridge, she/her

Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda

(510) 747-7570

awooldridge@alamedaca.gov

Amy Wooldridge

From: Nancy Lee <nancyl1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support for Leydecker Dog Park

Ms. Wooldridge,

I am writing to express my support for the creation of a dog park at Leydecker Park. This park will help reduce the amount of traffic driving from Harbor Bay to the West End of Alameda. The park will also support the many dog-owning citizens who live in the Harbor Bay area.

Thank you,
Nancy Lee
1430 Mound St.
Alameda, CA

From: [Enrique Padilla](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against the leydecker dog park
Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 12:40:07 PM

I am emailing you to share my thoughts against the proposed plans to add a dog park to leydecker park.

Leydecker park is the only nice, regulation size basketball court we have on the east end of Alameda. Even on weekdays you can find adults and children enjoying the courts, on weekends there are typically full 5 vs 5 games being played. Which is the only court on this end of the city that gets that amount of basketball players. Putting a dog a dog park next to it will diminish the quality of the park drastically. All other dog parks in alameda are dirty, smell and become very dry. What happens when a child's ball bounces into the dog park? What happens when dog poop is left all over the place (like the other dog parks) a long with the urine and that lead to a cleanliness issue when the ball goes over the fence and lands directly in it.

However my main concern is safety of the players enjoying the basketball court. Basketball courts need to be clean and have lots of grip in order to prevent injury. All the dog parks in Alameda are a dirt pit that gets dried out. That kind of environment next to a basketball court could cause major injury risk for our youth and adult basketball players. Any wind (which there's a lot of on bayfarm) will push the dry dirt onto the court and make a slick and unstable court. Which will definitely lead to injury and an environment that will make that court nearly unplayable for the avid basket player. Then the only courts our island will have that are nice will be at Washington park, which is a journey most of our youth will not make. Which will make the investment under armour and Stephen curry made into that court worthless.

If you value the cleanliness of leydecker park and value the safety of the youth in our community you will not put a dog park at the leydecker location.

Towata park on the other hand seems like a perfect location. It is a a park with no amenities that has lots of space. The dog park will attract more people to that beautiful location, without ruining any park amenities that are already there.

Thank you for your time.

Enrique Padilla

Life time Alameda resident and business owner.

From: [Paula Vergara](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bay farm dog park
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 3:26:04 PM

Hi Amy

I live on Bay Farm, on Kofman parkway. I drive clear to the other side of the island 3xweek for an off leash dog park.

PLEASE open an off leash dog park—with an area for large dogs and small dogs.

We need this on Bay Farm!

Thank you,

Paula Vergara
510.593.5774

From: [Tracey McCormick](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bay Farm Dog Park Needed
Date: Sunday, September 4, 2022 4:31:49 PM

Hello Amy!

Yes! to the off leash Bay Farm dog park next to the basketball court. I am in full support of this project. Currently I drive to Washington Park to run my dog off leash. The Bay Farm dog park would be a short walk for us - and keep me off the road.

Thank you,

Tracey McCormick and Rajon Rondo.

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Wooldridge

From: Jodie Moran <themorans2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2022 11:56 AM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dog Park

Hello Director Wooldridge,
I am excited a location (or 2 !) have been selected as a dog park for the East End of Alameda.
Please add my email to the positive side of the final choices !!
I will attend the meeting on the 8th.
I have emailed in the past.
Please note my new email address ..
Themorans2@gmail.com
Tku,
Jodie Moran
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Charles North](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] East End dog park
Date: Saturday, September 3, 2022 2:06:10 PM

Dear Director Woolridge,

Thank you for your efforts on an East End Dog Park. Unfortunately the proposed Leydecker Park is no closer to most of the East End than the existing Alameda park. Only for that reason am I not signing the petition. Congratulations to Harbor Bay, and now we desperately need a dog park on the East End of this fine city. I hope the efforts to provide one continue in earnest, as this is not it.

Thank you for your hopefully continued efforts,
Charles North

P.s. It's a shame the Towata family did not approve of that site, as it is near perfect. I understand the choice to respect their views even though the land is Alamedas. It would be a great legacy to have a dog park named after them, it's most unfortunate they don't appreciate that.

From: [Irving Gonzales](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] East End Dog Park
Date: Friday, September 2, 2022 3:51:29 PM

Hi Amy! Your ears must have been burning. I was just thinking of reaching out to you a couple of days ago as I was driving down Fernside and wondering what happened to our dog park efforts. Thanks for sending out the notice of meeting and updates. I will be out of town and unavailable to speak and wanted to let you and your staff know that I'm truly appreciative and anxious to hopefully have a much needed dog park at this end of the island! With safety concerns mounting the school district has fenced and locked off the grass area at Amelia Earhart school, folks are still informally using Lincoln Park's soccer and ball field, and many of the remaining open spaces are woefully inadequate or too small for chuck-it ball runs for my energetic dog. (Thankfully my golden doodle and I have a new dog park at the recently opened Francisco Park (formerly a City reservoir) just blocks from my office for noontime romps. But for those 4 other days I live/work from home, lordy! Let's have one here for us east enders, please!

Totally support the efforts and need for those new dog parks. And with the ill-fated end of an unnecessary roundabout at Mecartney and Island, perhaps the City can reallocate those infrastructure funds to a more useful and welcome island amenity?

Irving—
626 Centre Ct

From: [Maureen Kraw](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dog park
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:46:26 AM

Hello. I am a resident of Bay Farm Island and I also have a dog. I do not like the suggested area that you have chosen. It is right up against the basketball court that's being used constantly. I think the dogs would be reacting to all the pounding of the basketballs and the young men playing ball would feel very confined. Balls go flying all the time when they are playing. I think a wonderful spot is just on the other side of the path from Liedecker's library. It's a shaded area and it would not interfere with the baseball and would just be steps away but still have all the amenities that you are proposing will go with the dog park such as the water, bathroom, parking. Please, please consider this spot.

Maureen Kraw
510-682-6818

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andrew Yoo](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bay Farm Dog Park
Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:12:20 PM

I am a Bay Farm resident at 1065 Gardenia Terrace, Alameda, CA 94502. I am writing in support of the proposed Bay Farm Dog Park at Laydecker Park. The location is central to all Bay Farm residents and walking distance for many.

My only suggestion is that the original proposed location on the north side of the library would be better than the south current proposal. Being so close to the basketball courts as well as Mecartney Road and the pedestrian and bike lines will very likely be distracting to the dogs in the enclosed area, which will not only be stressful for the dogs and owners, but potentially to people who are walking by or trying to play basketball.

Ideally, the dog area could be set back more and away from the higher pedestrian and auto traffic as well as people running around with a ball.

That being said, I am still very much in support of this dog park.

Thank you,
Andrew Yoo

From: [Karen Shops](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dog park at Leydecker
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 1:34:36 PM

Hello Ms Woolridge,

I strongly disagree with the proposed dog park at Leydecker. To start with parking, just because signs are posted to park in a certain location doesn't mean people will comply.

The area is too close to the basketball courts that are used at all hours everyday. When there are several games going people hang out on the hill to watch the games.

I walk the lagoons several days a week and see so many dogs that get wonderful exercise walking along the lagoons or the bay shore paths. There are many people that walk with friends with dogs, so there's plenty of dog interaction. As far as off leash, a lot of people won't take their dogs to dog parks for health and safety concerns.

Because funds were initially allocated for a dog park doesn't mean it was a wise decision. A small open space doesn't mean it has to be filled in, that's part of the beauty of the park.

Please reconsider the proposed location. I understand there's been extensive research and if this is the best location found after reviewing multiple options, maybe the dog park plan should be abandoned.

Thank you,

Karen Magnuson

Sent from my iPad

From: [Sarah Larcker](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Cc: [Jeff Cambra](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] East End Dog Park comment for tonight's meeting
Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022 10:10:39 AM

Hi Amy –

I just wanted to say thank you for continuing the efforts with the dog park. I unfortunately can't attend tonight's meeting due to personal circumstances, but wanted to let you know that (so far) 16 people have signed the petition in support of the Leydecker location on eastenddogpark.com. Hopefully a number have also written to you directly.

I also wanted to send my own note for public comment:

"As one of the organizers of the East End Dog Park community group, with over 500 members who publicly support a dog park on the East End / Bay Farm side of Alameda, thank you for your continued efforts and consideration of this issue. I realize that in a space-constrained community like Alameda, there are many complexities when it comes to projects like this. I support the Leydecker location, as it will provide some much needed space for neighbors on Bay Farm who currently have no outlet for their dogs close to home. However, I also urge the Commission to continue to seek an additional location closer to the East End area of need. In the survey we conducted of our members, the strong preference was for locations that are walkable from the local neighborhood. Results indicated that residents located in 94501 (which comprise 62% of the group) would be very unlikely to utilize the Leydecker location, given that a car is still required and Main Street dog park is equidistant. The new Tilden location is hopeful, but potentially years away, leaving East Enders without a near-term solution. It also is not centrally located to the East End and would likely require driving for most folks, though in this case, there are other amenities (including Pet Food Express) that could make this requirement more appealing.

Again, thank you for all your efforts. The 500+ strong East End Dog Park group is ready to help advance this project in a way that can serve all members of the community.

Thanks,
Sarah Larcker
East End resident and an organizer of the East End Dog Park group "

From: [warren.vegas](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] East end dog parks
Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022 9:54:13 AM

Director Wooldridge,

I want to send this email in support of the efforts for additional dog parks in Alameda.

This not only is positive for the dog owners but also provides additional benefits to all Alamedans. Dog owners that walk their pets have actively stopped many crimes in progress and are the eyes and ears to suspicious activities. During the past 2 years there have been several owners who have witnessed and stopped catalytic converter thefts. Adding dog parks will increase local walking to/from the area and increase visibility.

Secondly, adding multiple parks will reduce owners using other areas for dog play - fields, school grounds etc. I find there are not enough places for pets to run free and additional dog parks would reduce the need to use soccer fields and school grounds to let pets have some free time to run. As a pet owner this capability is critical for their mental state and a tired pet is a happy pet.

I hope that you and the commission will support Leydecker and the Tilden parks. We need more pet, bike and walk areas in our city to improve quality of life.

|
Warren Vegas
2911 Fernside Blvd Alameda, CA 94501
510-501-4387

From: [Maureen Kraw](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Dog park
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 7:05:18 PM

Thank you for answering me so quickly. I recently had a lot of people wondering why we couldn't have a large and a small dog park at the corner of Fir and Holly. Harrington Park. Perfect size to divide and all fenced except where gates should be on. That would save a lot of money and there's no one parked along those streets and it has a bathroom and a water fountain. That's a new suggestion. Thank you for listening.

Maureen Kraw

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 7, 2022, at 10:10 AM, Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi Maureen,
>
> Thank you for your comments and I will include with public comment to the Recreation and Parks Commission.
>
> Amy
>
> Amy Wooldridge, she/her
> Recreation and Parks Director, City of Alameda
> (510) 747-7570
> awooldridge@alamedaca.gov
> www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
> Find us on Facebook at PlayARPD
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Maureen Kraw [mailto:1aloha@sbcglobal.net]
> Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:46 AM
> To: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>
> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dog park
>
> Hello. I am a resident of Bay Farm Island and I also have a dog. I do not like the suggested area that you have chosen. It is right up against the basketball court that's being used constantly. I think the dogs would be reacting to all the pounding of the basketballs and the young men playing ball would feel very confined. Balls go flying all the time when they are playing. I think a wonderful spot is just on the other side of the path from Liedecker's library. It's a shaded area and it would not interfere with the baseball and would just be steps away but still have all the amenities that you are proposing will go with the dog park such as the water, bathroom, parking. Please, please consider this spot.
>
> Maureen Kraw
> 510-682-6818
>

From: [Rebecca Pollon](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Excitement and some ideas
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 10:22:02 PM

Dear Director Wooldridge-

I am really looking forward to hearing the details tomorrow about the proposed dog parks, especially a potential (future) location off Tilden way! I am a dog owner, parks industry professional, and a regular commuter to Fruitvale BART, and I have frequently dreamt about that area becoming a park.

It was mentioned that this project might be part of a transportation initiative, so I wanted to pose the idea of an improved commuter corridor for pedestrians and bikes. Since I don't know what the city/county's plans are, it's possible these options or similar ones have already been considered. In any case, I wanted to share these ideas early in the process.

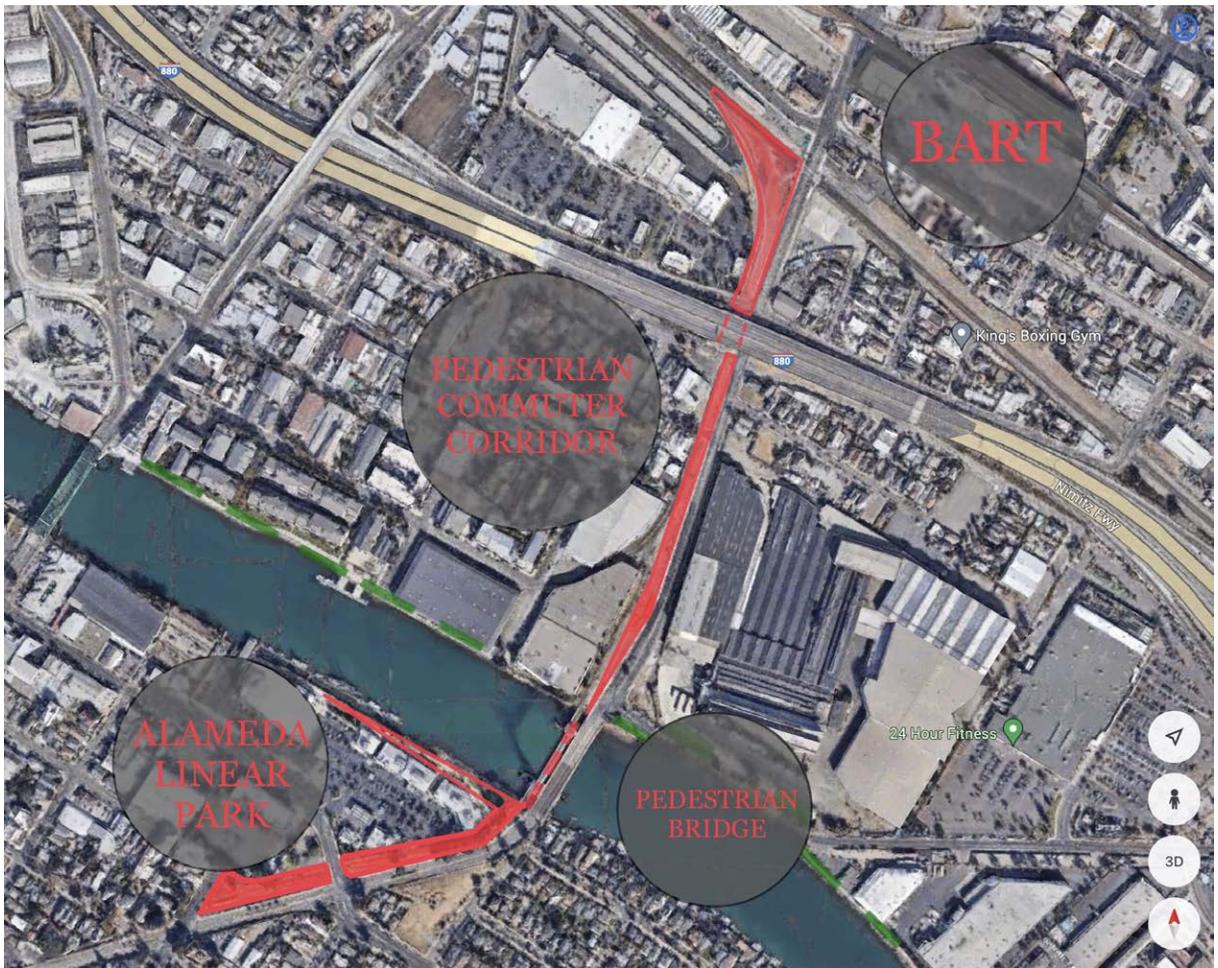
1) In addition to the potential for a dog park, the area adjacent to the shopping center would make an ideal linear pedestrian park, with linkages to the existing waterfront zone of the Nob Hill commercial plaza and the Fruitvale bridge.

2) The park could be extended further west down Tilden to take advantage of the vacant area behind the mortuary and around what appears to be an old railway terminus.

3) On the north side, the old rail bridge could be converted to a pedestrian bridge which could also be of historical interest/value and link to the Oakland side of the corridor.



In the long run, a regional project to extend the corridor all the way to BART would yield real value to Alameda residents and commuters. Since this is an old rail line, the organization Rails to Trails may have some funding sources or other suggestions to offer.



I know how busy you must be and I really appreciate you having read this email. If the dog park or any other part of this project moves ahead, I'm happy to help in any way I can.

See you at tomorrow's meeting,
Rebecca Pollon