

From: Kate Haug [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Rebecca Mansour; Kari Svanstrom; Fernandez, Evert; Kathy Oetinger
Subject: Calder Creek Restoration, Public Comment 8_24_21

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to thank the Commission, Director Svanstrom and the Waterways Restoration Institute for pursuing restoration of Calder Creek.

I want to express my gratitude for this work and the potential positive impact the Calder Creek restoration has for our community.

Ives Park is our central urban park and home to many community organizations including Ives Pool, Little League, the Art Center and also hosts many local events. It is utilized daily by families, dog walkers, pedestrians, joggers and people simply enjoying a book on a bench.

Although we have a wonderful Master Plan, we have been unable to realize it due to lack of funding. The opportunity to implement a centerpiece of the Master Plan, the creek naturalization, would be a significant step forward in developing Ives and bringing its community potential to fruition.

For decades, Calder Creek has languished behind a chain link fence, which is unattractive and undermines the natural beauty of Ives Park. Creek restoration would help bring back the park's potential as an urban oasis and also connect it to the natural waterways which used to meander through Sonoma County.

Sonoma County is a unique landscape connected by a network of rivers, streams, creeks which eventually end in the Pacific Ocean. Calder Creek restoration would help to support and make visible this aspect of our natural history.

My specific feedback for creek restoration follows:

- 1) The chain link fence would be removed in all areas;
- 2) If barriers/fencing are needed that they are attractive, visually consistent and support the natural beauty of the park;
- 3) If possible extend the Creek restoration beyond the boundaries of the park to create a contiguous Creek naturalization for as much area that is possible. It would be beautiful to incorporate a natural Creek into our town's landscape.

I want to thank Commissions Fernandez and Oetinger for their on-going work to improve Ives Park. Ives Park is a crucial public amenity and asset; Ives Park improvements benefit the citizens of Sebastopol and visitors who come to enjoy the town, art events, community activities and sporting activity.

I look forward to seeing the plans that are developed through these feedback sessions. It would be a great moment of celebration for the whole community to see Calder Creek naturalized and restored to its natural beauty.

Best,
Kate Haug
Sebastopol