
From: "Tim and Joanne Wendler" <joandtim@charter.net>
Date: April 2, 2010 2:36:28 PM PDT
To: <bbogaard@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, <jacquerobinson@cityofpasadena.net>, <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, <cholden@cityofpasadena.net>, <shaderlein@cityofpasadena.net>, <vgordo@ci.pasadena.ca.us>, <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, <ttornek@charter.net>
Cc: <mbeck@cityofpasadena.net>, <plane@cityofpasadena.net>, <mPastucha@cityofpasadena.net>, <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>, "Laveaga, Rosa" <rlaveaga@cityofpasadena.net>, "Don Bremner" <donbremner@earthlink.net>
Subject: **Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan**

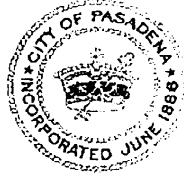
Mayor and Members of the Council –

The Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee voted at its last meeting to send the attached letter to the City Council. We are seeking your guidance on whether to reevaluate the approach of the 2003 Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan with regard to creating more playing fields in a City open space.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. Thanks!

-Tim Wendler

Chair, Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee



Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee

Comprised of
Recreation and Parks Commission ♦ Northwest Commission Members ♦ Environmental Advisory
Commission Members

March 23, 2010

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Council Members,

The Hahamongna Watershed Advisory Committee respectfully asks the City Council's guidance on whether to reevaluate the approach of the 2003 Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan with regard to creating more playing fields in a City open space.

The Hahamongna Master Plan, adopted in 2003 amid sharply differing opinions, provides for two additional multipurpose playfields in the central part of Hahamongna Watershed, but since then there have been significant changes in conditions and attitudes that merit a second look at this important decision before the City makes a major investment there.

The proposed Sycamore Grove Field, now being planned by city staff, would be constructed in the stream-zone area between the current Oak Grove Field on the west side and the former Johnson Field on the east side of the Hahamongna basin. Although the proposed field would be built on compacted fill to raise it from 1040 feet elevation to 1050 feet, it would nevertheless be subjected to occasional flooding since it would still be within the inundation area of the Devil's Gate Basin. This area has previously been degraded by mining activities, but it is characterized by environmentally precious riparian and alluvial scrub habitat and is part of what makes Hahamongna Watershed Park unique in our region.

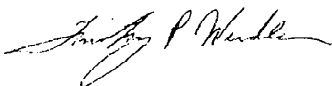
We strongly support the development of more athletic fields for the young people and residents of Pasadena. Since 2003, the city has added more multipurpose field capacity with the recently dedicated splendidly upgraded artificial field at Robinson Park. A similar project is funded at Villa Parke. School playgrounds are now being widely utilized after school hours for recreational purposes. These additions underscore the need to reevaluate the addition of more athletic fields and another parking lot in such an environmentally sensitive area as Hahamongna.

Since 2003, Pasadena has also embraced "green" goals in many fields and established itself as a leader in environmental excellence.

All of this reflects a growing appreciation in our city of the natural environment and the value of water resources and open space in an urban area. Our young people need additional opportunities to recreate, but they also need to develop a greater awareness and respect for our natural environment. We believe that it would be appropriate to solicit the views of interested parties and the public about the nature of Hahamongna. A public review of this plan would be a healthy process. We hope you will agree.

Thank you for your consideration and guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy P. Wendler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Timothy P. Wendler

Chair, Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee

Jomsky, Mark

From: Kareem S Badaruddin [rc@ayso13.org]
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 3:32 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Additional Sports Field in Pasadena - Hahamongna Watershed Park

Dear City Clerk

I am writing to reaffirm AYSO Region 13's support of the City of Pasadena's plans to construct new athletic fields.

Since the City committed to build new fields in the 2003 Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan, little has changed from AYSO Region 13's perspective; the new Robinson Park turf field has not been made available to us (nor do we expect access to it), and we do not expect to be given access to the new Villa Parke field. Even were we given some access to these new fields, we could still well make use of more field space.

AYSO's mission is one of community development, as we require the contribution of the community to operate our program. More field space will be good for our program and will be good for Pasadena.

Regards
Kareem Badaruddin
Regional Commissioner
AYSO Region 13

05/10/2010
ITEM # 21

5/10/2010

From: Hugh Bowles [mailto:hsbowles@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 3:59 PM
To: Tornek, Terry; Bogaard, Bill; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Haderlein, Steve; Robinson, Jonathan (ITSD); McAustin, Margaret; Holden, Chris
Cc: Laveaga, Rosa; Beck, Michael
Subject: Response to staff memo: "History of Soccer Fields in Hahamongna".

Dear Mayor Bogaard and members of the City Council:

Attached is a letter in response to City staff's memo titled: "History of Soccer Fields in Hahamongna".

It is appropriate to respond to the memo as key events described by City staff were driven by community action. There were also events that occurred in 2003 that are pertinent to the issue.

I have include a copy of the staff memo as an attachment.

I hope the attached letter provides perspective, and assists with your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hugh Bowles

cc's in letter received a bcc e-mail.

Hugh Bowles
Hahamonga Watch
1030 Shelly Street
Altadena CA 91001
626 482 9116
hsbowles@yahoo.com

May 20, 2010
Via e-mail only

**A response to the staff memo
“History of Soccer Field Use in Hahamonga Watershed Park”**

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

This letter is to clarify from a community perspective the memo from the Director of Public Works dated March 10, 2010 to the City Council. The memo is titled “History of Soccer Field Use in Hahamonga Watershed Park”.

The memo fails to mention drivers behind the removal of proposed projects on the eastside of the Park.

In August 2003 the Windsor Arroyo Neighborhood Association (WANA) invited Council Member Joyce Streater to a community meeting at the police helicopter hangar in NW Pasadena. At this meeting 70 local residents informed Council Member Streater they opposed developments planned for the east side of the Hahamonga Watershed Park (the Park). This included road widening, two parking lots, a bus turn around lane, the re-furbishment of Johnson Field and the installation of a second field. The community was united in its opposition. This was no design charrette organized by the City, but a politician hearing directly from her constituents. WANA represents the community in the Northwest pocket of the City and has residents in both Pasadena and Altadena.

In September 2003 on the night the Hahamonga Park Plan was up for approval Council Member Streater moved that all the developments on the eastside of the Park be removed. Her premise was why would the City bring more traffic and its attendant pollution into an area the City uses to harvest its water supply? This was a reference to the spreading ponds adjacent to the planned developments. The motion passed. The projects were removed.

If the City claims a consensus on constructing soccer fields in Hahamonga, it was not reflected at the community meeting or in the Council decision. The City needs to produce the public comment at meetings, and the public comment in response to the ASMP MEIR that supports the statement there was a “consensus” about playing fields in Hahamonga. Council Member Little did state at a Council meeting that he would

like 7 playing fields in the basin. The City needs to produce evidence that the community was behind this comment.

In July 2003 – two months prior -- Council Member Tyler placed an information item on the agenda to review a City sponsored study of water conservation and sediment management in the Park. The study, titled "Flood Hazard, Sediment Management, and Water Feature Analyses, Hahamongna Watershed Park" was conducted by Philip Williams and Associates in 2000 (Williams Study). Placing this item on the agenda was in response to community concern that the City had failed to meet its CEQA responsibility to consider alternatives, especially those less impactful on the environment, in regard to water conservation. The Park Plan failed to mention the Williams study. The Park Plan adopts an approach to water conservation the Williams Study states would be expensive to install and maintain and would impact the natural environment.

The City proposes to install a pump back system from the dam to the upper area of the Park to increase the amount of spread water. The Williams Study states:

"The primary drawback of this alternative is that significant new infrastructure would be required to convey water from Devil's Gate Dam to the north end percolation ponds... This infrastructure would be expensive, and would require regular maintenance.... (and would be) contrary to the park goal of increasing natural habitat." (Williams Study p. 156 Section 8.2.3)

The Williams Study proposes using the natural stream in conjunction with the dam to optimize aquifer re-charge. The Williams Study also cites another City sponsored study by Converse Consultants West (1995), which indicates that the percolation rate of the spreading ponds is low relative to the alluvium in other parts of the basin. So while spreading ponds enable the City to meet its legal obligations to divert water to gain pumping credit, this is not the best way to get water underground and into the aquifer. The premise of the Williams Study, backed up by Converse Consultants West, is that the natural stream and the porous nature of the basin as a whole is a more efficient mechanism for replenishing the aquifer than diverting water into ponds. The Williams Study estimates that in a normal rainfall year re-charge to the aquifer could be increased by 130 to 160% through greater use of the stream in conjunction with holding water behind the dam for short periods.

The Hahamongna Park Plan *states* in its section on water conservation that the basin is a "giant sponge". This supports treating the whole basin as a key component to supplying the City with water. Any proposal that, based on the City's own research, could impact the ability of the "sponge" to absorb water must be challenged. For why would the City bring more traffic and its attendant pollution into an area that supplies the City with water?

It is worth noting that during this storm season the City has been unable to divert water into spreading ponds due to high silt levels. Any aquifer recharge will have come from

the natural alluvium of the basin, the stream, and water behind the dam. It is likely recharge from the stream and dam was compromised due to high silt levels. This leaves the remaining open space in the basin as a key source of water for the City. The more this area is compacted and paved the less water goes into the aquifer.

The memo claims the location of the new soccer field is in the flood plain but not in the "stream zone". The photograph below was taken after the storm of February 5, 2010. The stream changed course turning directly west just south of Johnson Field and flowed right into the area planned for the new soccer field. The stream flowed in that direction until the end of February when another storm caused it to flow more directly south, although substantially further west than when the storm season started. Stream flows are likely to remain high over the next few seasons while the mountains recover from the Station Fire. The circled area shows the stream flowing west and into the area planned for the new soccer field:



The photograph below shows the habitat before the storms:



The memo states that the habitat in the area planned for the soccer fields is considered “developed” and “ruderal” and is of poor quality due to past surface mining. The surface mining stopped in the basin in 1996. At that time the dam went through refurbishment which caused as much disturbance as the surface mining – all the gravel for the concrete was extracted from the basin. At the same time the City graded about 30 acres in the north of the basin under a mitigated negative declaration with no public input. The combined impact of both those activities caused a collapse of wildlife populations. Over the last 12 years there has been something of a recovery as habitat has re-established the disturbed areas. When the County releases water from behind the dam, it leaves a pond in the area planned for the new soccer field. There are ruderal and seral plant habitats around this pond. The pond supports seasonal populations of wildfowl -- mallard duck, hooded mergansers, egrets, herons, coots – and holds water into midsummer. In 2009 the area just to the east supported a den of coyotes, and three coveys of quail. This area is also a key hunting ground for raptors. These populations, with their habitat displaced by storms (compare photos above), hang on in segmented pockets of habitat left behind. One of these areas is the willow and mulefat habitat around the pond. Mulefat, which the City plans to remove as much of as possible in the Park Plan, is a valuable habitat for wildlife in Hahamongna -- it is dense, and deters humans and dogs.

The photograph below was taken at the end of April 2010. The pond and the area to the south will be lost in the construction of the soccer field. The memo describes this area as “developed”. This is untrue. 15 years of nature’s own restoration has occurred here.



The memo fails to mention that fill for the soccer fields will come from excavations close to the dam. This is the "precious" riparian habitat mentioned in the letter from the Advisory Commission. The Hahamongna Park Plan envisages removal of most of the willow habitat at the south end of basin, using the fill to create new playing fields further north. The project will remove the willow habitat close to the dam in the photograph below.



In the March HWPAC meeting, Ms. Lane from the City provided an overview of the issues behind the City's drive to build more playing fields. Ms. Lane cited a study that showed that Pasadena had a higher demand for playing fields than other cities based on per capita population. The explanation was that Pasadena was a popular location for sports organizations requiring playing fields. A comment from the HWPAC suggested that the City may never meet the demand for playing fields – as the City builds more, so the demand grows.

The question was also posed to Ms. Lane -- how does Pasadena fare in the provision of natural open space? Is there enough? Ms. Lane stated the study did not cover this subject. However, no one disputed the validity of the question.

If the City moves ahead with the construction of the soccer field, it will trigger a contentious – and probably expensive -- CEQA process. The City has to:

1. Provide evidence of the community “consensus” for constructing soccer fields in Hahamongna through transcripts of public comment at meetings, and written comment to the ASMP MEIR.
2. Provide detailed evidence that all alternatives are exhausted and there is no choice but to develop natural open space to meet playing field demand.
3. Define the impact of not putting a new playing field in Hahamongna.
4. Consider the City financed research that indicates that developing the basin might limit the Park's ability to conduct water into the aquifer.
5. Look at the total impact of the playing field construction -- the removal of ruderal and seral habitat in the area planned for the soccer fields, as well as the removal of mature habitat to the south. The combination of these activities will likely have a significant impact on wildlife.
6. On the same grounds as it justifies the need for additional playing fields, use the same criteria to assess the adequacy of its provision of natural open space for residents.

It is also worth noting that in 2008 John Muir High School was declared a failure and “re-invented”. This was a traumatic process for those of us with children at the school. However, out of that crisis came a new Engineering and Environmental Sciences Academy. Hahamongna, barely half a mile from the school should be a living laboratory for the students. The City has just approved a 6000 sq. ft. educational center in the Hahamongna Annex, which should also represent an opportunity for the students at Muir. The City should weigh the example it sets to these students and the community from which they come as it pursues its goals in Hahamongna.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Bowles

Cc:

Rosa Laveaga, Hahamongna Park Director

Michael Beck, City Manager

Members of the HWPAC

WANA

Friends of Hahamongna

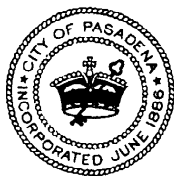
Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy

Pasadena Audobon

CA Dept Fish and Game

Arroyo Seco Foundation

Spirit of the Sage Council



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: March 10, 2010
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: HISTORY OF SOCCER FIELD USE IN HAHAMONGNA
WATERSHED PARK

On March 23, 2010 the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee recommended their support to seek further direction from the City Council for reconsideration of soccer fields as a part of the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan adopted in 2003. The letter from the HWPAC to the Council is included as Exhibit A.

Staff has assembled the following history regarding soccer fields in Hahamongna to assist the City Council in reviewing the HWPAC request to review on this subject. Exhibit B illustrates the adopted master plan for Hahamongna, with the athletic fields highlighted.

HISTORY:

The prospect of athletic fields in Hahamongna is not a new topic of discussion. Proposals for such recreational activity extend back prior to the City's oversight of the area:

1986 – '91 In January 1987 the Devil's Gate Multi-Use Project Advisory Committee was established to further develop and design this plan. Preliminary economic, biological, and feasibility studies were conducted by outside consultants.

The Devil's Gate Joint Power Planning Authority (JPPA), made up of appointees representing Pasadena, La Cañada-Flintridge, Native Americans and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy held a

05/10/2010

series of public meetings during an 18-month period. It also oversaw the development of the Preliminary Plan by Takata Associates which included the consideration of four 'meadows' with open space/play fields in addition to the Oak Grove field. The JPPA held three public workshops as part of the planning process, developed governance and funding recommendations, and obtained \$1.86 million in County Parks bond money through the November 1992 election.

- Dec 1992 The Devil's Gate Multi-Use Project Preliminary Park Plan was approved by the Pasadena City Council. This plan proposed upgrading the existing Oak Grove field and made no recommendation for additional fields.
- 1993 The area was re-named Hahamongna Watershed Park
- Oct 1993 The Pasadena City Council established a Creation Task Force to develop the legal structure for the Hahamongna Operating Company (HOC) which would implement, manage, and operate the project. The transfer of the operation and maintenance responsibility of the Oak Grove Park portion was returned to the City of Pasadena.
- Aug 1996 The Pasadena City Council disbanded the Hahamongna Operating Company Board and transferred all responsibilities of the Hahamongna Watershed Park to the Department of Public Works.
- Nov 1996 Hahamongna Watershed Park was allocated \$1 million for capital improvements as a result of the 1996 Los Angeles County Park Bond Act.
- Jan 1997 Pasadena City Council established the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee (HWPAC) which was comprised of all members of the City's Recreation and Parks Commission with two additional members representing the Northwest Commission and two members representing the Utility Advisory Commission.
- May 1997 The HWPAC resurrected the approved 1992 Preliminary Park Plan and hosted a series of community meetings to gain input.
- Dec 1997 The HWPAC determined that the Council approved 1992 Preliminary Park Plan provided a good basis for the future of the park. They developed a list of "Park Elements" which represented refinement to that plan based on community consensus and input at that time. The Park Elements list included two athletic fields; the existing Oak Grove field and the conversion of Johnson Field on the east, to a public field.

Nov 1998 to

June 2003 The landscape architecture firm of Takata Associates was brought on board to develop the final Master Plan for Hahamongna Watershed Park. During the planning process led by the Takata team, a number of community meetings were held in which alternatives for the project were presented. The community was split between no playing fields vs. incorporating as many fields as the park could accommodate, including options for up to seven new fields. The process resulted in a compromise and what the HWPAC at the time (see Exhibit C: HWPAC meeting minutes from May 1999) considered the best possible balance between all the competing uses, which was two fields on the eastside and two fields on the west side of the park.

1/24 and
2/7/2000

Staff presented a Conceptual Master Plan to City Council for approval that included four multi-purpose fields: the existing Oak Grove field and three additional fields as described above. City Council conceptually approved the staff recommendation and in addition asked for the consideration of a plan that that would utilize nine holes of the 18 hole disc golf course as an additional (or fifth) soccer field(s) and to evaluate these in the draft MEIR. (See Exhibit F)

Sept. 2003 Staff recommended the adoption of the Hahamongna Watershed Park as presented. The staff recommendation to Council proposed a total of four athletic fields: the existing Oak Grove field and the proposal of three new fields. Exhibit D illustrates the staff recommendation for the west side of Hahamongna, consisting of the existing Oak Grove and Sycamore Grove fields. Exhibit E illustrates the staff recommendation for the east side of the park, consisting of the conversion of Johnson field to a public field and the addition of a new field.

The plan was adopted and the MEIR was certified. The final adopted plan for Hahamongna includes the Oak Grove and Sycamore Grove fields and the addition of a third field recommended by Council, on the west side of Hahamongna (in the location of the lake, formerly recommended by staff and illustrated on Exhibit D). There are no athletic fields on the east side of Hahamongna included in the adopted master plan. It should be noted that the certified master EIR for the HWP master plan evaluated the four multi-purposed fields in the locations described above and as shown on Exhibits D and E; the location of third field as recommended by

Council and included in the adopted HWP master plan, was not evaluated in the master EIR.

- Nov 2004 Staff submitted a grant application for the Proposition 12 Youth Soccer Grant Program for the Sycamore Grove Field project in Hahamongna.
- Dec 2005 City was notified of the \$1 million award for the Sycamore Grove Multi-purpose field project.

In addition, staff member Rosa Laveaga, Arroyo Seco Project Supervisor, provides the following response to the following several points in the letter from the HWPAC to the City Council (Exhibit A):

- “The proposed Sycamore Grove Field, now being planned by city staff, would be constructed in the stream-zone area between the current Oak Grove field on the west side and the former Johnson Field on the east side of the Hahamongna Basin.”
It would be more correct to say the subject field is outside of the stream zone, but on the western edge of the flood basin.
- “Although the proposed field would be built on compacted fill to raise it from 1040 feet elevation to 1050 feet, it would nevertheless be subjected to occasional flooding since it would still be within the inundation area of the Devil’s Gate Basin.”
Based on historical storm records, it is highly unlikely that the inundation level of the basin would be higher than the elevation of 1046, when the known spillway elevation of the dam is at 1040.5. Should the highly unlikely occurrence of flooding of the proposed Sycamore Grove Field occur, it would also occur on the Oak Grove field, but would not remain inundated for more than one day.
- “...it is characterized by environmentally precious riparian and alluvial scrub habitat...”
It would be more correct to say that 80% of the site for the proposed field is considered by biologists to be 'developed' and 'ruderal' with 20% of the site in Southern Willow Scrub which is planned for mitigation. The habitat within this plant community is of poor quality due to past mining operations.

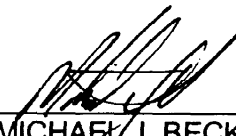
The Director of Human Services and Recreation provided information to the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee on the demands, availability, and usage of sports fields in Pasadena (Exhibit F-1 and F-2). This information

will be presented to the City Council as part of the background information on this item.



MARTIN PASTUCHA
Director

Concurrence by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attached Exhibits include:

- Exhibit A: 3/23/10 Letter from HWPAC
- Exhibit B: Adopted HWP Master Plan Illustration
- Exhibit C: 5/13/1999 HWPAC meeting minutes
- Exhibit D: Westside Park Recommendations – Draft HWP Master Plan
- Exhibit E: Eastside Park Recommendations – Draft HWP Master Plan
- Exhibit F: Council Minutes of 2/7/2000
- Exhibit G-1: List of City Sports Fields
- Exhibit G-2: PUSD - Summer 2009 Field Permits

From: Tim and Joanne Wendler [mailto:joandtim@charter.net]

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 6:53 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; ttornek@charter.net

Cc: Beck, Michael; Lane, Patsy; Pastucha, Martin; Jomsky, Mark; Laveaga, Rosa; 'Don Bremner'

Subject: Hahamongna Watershed Park Environmental Education Center

Mayor and Members of the Council –

At our May 25th meeting, the Hahamongna Watershed Advisory Committee considered possible missions for the Environmental Education Center. We heard from members of the public and received input from Eaton Canyon Superintendent Helen Wong and Mickey Long, Natural Areas Supervisor, County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation (key quote: “Nature centers are a gateway to the wild”). This mission development is to provide input into a \$7 million grant application that is due on July 1. Here are the conceptual highlights that were expressed:

- Education on the Arroyo watershed, which is not a focus of any other center
- Education on sustainability (for example through leveraging JPL climate studies, LEED-certified rehab of buildings)
- Focus on pre-school- 2nd grade, high school education, and college level education (Eaton focuses on 3rd-6th grade) with a target on at risk youth
- Connect with areas role as a trail hub from a biological, cultural and historical perspective
- Connect with historical equestrian activities particularly opportunities for children with disabilities, and disc golfing
- Dormitory facilities provide a rare opportunity for indoor overnight stays
- Physical facilities should include an auditorium, kitchen, outdoor pavilion
- Develop partnerships with community organizations to accomplish these goals (such as PUSD, PCC, JPL, Outward Bound, Altadena Trails Restoration Group, Arroyo Seco Foundation, Disc Golfers, etc.)

Please let us know your thoughts – thanks!

-Tim Wendler

Chair, Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee

Hahamongna Environmental Education Center Comments
(received by Tim Wendler May/June 2010)

Brian Biery (Brian@Flintridge.org): First of all, thank you for sharing this information with the community!

Next, the proposed areas of focus below are excellent, so I hope that you are able to incorporate them into the project. Of particular import is the emphasis on introducing teens to the natural surroundings that are adjacent to where they live. And connecting with OBA will be one terrific avenue for that objective, but linking with all of the local high schools, including PUSD's charter Learning Works and Rose City HS will be key to inspiring "high risk" youth to visit the center.

Finally, it would be terrific if you could hold a couple of public town hall meetings or forums in order to gauge the interests of the public towards this center. Unless, of course, the May 25th meeting accomplished that public access/input on this issue?

Thanks, again, for sharing! And best wishes with this outstanding project!

Gerda Govine (ggov@earthlink.net): Thanks for the information. One thought is to provide environmentally related art to be woven into the architecture and landscape of the education center, inside and outside. If you are interested, I would love to talk with you further.

Roger Klemm (treehuggers@ca.rr.com): Yes to all. Congratulations on your good work!

An element of sustainability that I'd like to see included is one of sustainable landscaping, which can be pretty wide-ranging and inclusive. I would encourage the most inclusive view on this topic, starting with designs for the structure of the land that incorporate such things as grading for water retention, rainwater interception and storage systems, use of existing materials, use of locally indigenous plant species (including locally derived genetic material), and designing for native plant and animal habitat where appropriate. Sustainable landscaping continues through the construction process, involving re-use where possible of existing materials (i.e., broken concrete can find new life as garden walls, turf doesn't have to be scraped off and hauled away but rather can be incorporated into the soil), installation from small container sizes (why spend the resources to grow a tree to a 24" or larger box specimen, when with proper care, it can be installed from a 15 gallon size and actually perform better in the long run; most shrubs do better from 1-gallon sizes than the 15-gallon that are typically spec'd in commercial installations). Finally, the maintenance of the landscape can be done sustainably, and usually costs less than when done in more energy intensive ways.

One thing I didn't see below was the native plant nursery. I'd really like to see that included in the plans, if only to propagate the Engelmann Oak, which is a rare and endangered tree found on site. I think Pasadena should have a city-wide program to propagate this special tree, and this location could house that program. There are other cities to look at as models for this kind of thing, so we don't have to re-invent the wheel.

Developing the concept of sustainability in the (urban) forest is a theme this native plant nursery could embrace. As beautiful, majestic, and long-lived as oak trees are, they don't last forever, and there is turnover in the population. Gathering acorns locally and growing them on site, then planting them out to renew the forest, as I have done with Tom Sawyer Camps (unfortunately not all that successfully yet), could be developed into a very powerful paradigm for the City as a whole.

Marietta Kruells (mariettaemail@aol.com): Much of this confuses me.

- Focus on pre-school- 2nd grade, high school education, and college level - I just spoke with a PCC student who told me PCC is planning an on campus, I think, garden. It was his belief that the Annex no longer had room for PCC and that a plant nursery was taking their place.
- ♦ Dormitory facilities provide a rare opportunity for indoor overnight stays
 - ♦ Physical facilities should include an auditorium, kitchen, outdoor pavilion - seems to me this will create a need for a great deal of exterior lights. And, I think this will increase the need for parking which is not sufficiently available.
- ♦ Develop partnerships with community organizations to accomplish these goals - good idea but see first bullet point.

Ninarose Meyer (lifelongwalker@dslextreme.com): It looks like some excellent ideas came from your May meeting. Where JPL is directly in the Arroyo Seco "flood plain" area, and a major employer of people with wide diversity of expertise, involving JPL is very important and beneficial to all of us.

What is evident in the major points listed in email is that these are long-term goals. And that's important to have. Not just a "quick fix". Building the personal relationships/partnerships takes time & effort. Then progress goes on from there.

The idea (if I interpret the points made, correctly) is to have another nature center in that region. And that's well-worth considering; La Canada HS is there; there's a private school nearby just up Foothill Blvd. from Oak Grove Park. And Catholic Church that (I think) has a church school. But not knowledgeable on this. All of the foregoing have young people that could turn into terrific sources for "docents" or activists/helpers in projects for the Watershed at a future date.

The Arroyo Seco is an on-again/off again flood plain as many of us know from living here. But it offers tremendous opportunities for environmental education in all its various forms. So well worth involving as many partnerships as feasible.

Anyway, these are my thoughts for whatever they're worth.

Charles McKenney (kickermckenney@mac.com): My concern is that we not fill the area with so many activities that we lose the natural habitat. After all, many of those who testified are in the business of operating nature centers We need to understand where they are coming from. No criticism intended

John O'Kane (joklaw@yahoo.com): consider adding environmental history of toxic dumping by jpl and efforts to clean soil and aquifer

Jean Owen (msmudbath@aol.com): I would think partnerships with agencies like Hillside, Rosemarys Cottage, Five Acres, might be considered

Sharon Scull (s.scull@att.net): Why not expand Eaton Canyon's program to include pre-school through 2nd grade and focus Hahamonga's activities on 7th grade through college/adult? Eaton is already set up for younger children. PCC and GCC both had/have educational partnerships with JPL, with classes offered at the Lab. Community colleges are eager to establish partnerships, and four-year colleges require tenured staff to do community outreach, so Caltech and Oxy might want to get involved. The more big names you can list as participants, the better chance of getting the grant(s). Even Occidental Petroleum might be willing to donate (to rehabilitate the oil companies' reputations).

Set up the program to develop a model that can be repeated by other cities. Repeatability is a major factor in determining grant funding. Develop a formula that can be shared with other entities. Be sure to include funding for attending or holding a conference (maybe the Chamber of Commerce would donate use of facilities at the Civic for this) to "get the word out" once the project is under way and/or completed. Many grants require matching or in-kind funds, and the value of any promised donations could be used for this requirement. Clever, careful budget development is very important.

A unique, intensive, in-depth educational program could be established with the colleges by using the residential facilities to involve junior high school students in the natural and earth sciences. Studies show that students whose academic interests are engaged in interdisciplinary humanities education around 7th grade are much more likely to work toward college degrees; I would assume this concept would apply to the sciences, as well. Science courses that require field trips might work Hahamonga into the curriculum. The Hahamonga educational program could then be expanded (using the pilot group) to high school level.

Community service is now required in many colleges and universities, so part of the educational program could include students working with the disabled equestrian group.

Possibly PCC's construction program could build some of the facilities. Community colleges are always looking for activities that will sustain or enhance trade programs, which are always at risk and constantly changing. (As an example, GCC worked with Warner Bros. to develop an animation program in the art department, and WB hires students often before they complete their studies.) Trade unions might also be willing to contribute to the

construction effort. Funds should be budgeted to pay for materials and instructors. Maybe the Recreation Department could supply some staff members to run the facility (an in-kind expense). Work/Study programs (students get credits for participating) might provide some help.

Caltech probably has a grant writer in the Development Office that could offer help (an in-kind donation). As you all probably know, there is a definite knack to writing a successful grant. The Hahamonga project may be so large that it will have to be done in stages, so prioritizing the various elements is important. If the project can qualify for Federal funds under one of the Titles, sometimes an initial grant is given with the possibility of applying for continuing funding in subsequent years. The budget is really important. Some form of recognition for donors should be established.

Why not identify and meet with organizations or institutions that might offer resources (human or monetary), then gather potential participants for a participative meeting to try to organize the various priorities for grant development? To make this work effectively, a management consultant would have to be involved; otherwise, people would just continue to contribute random ideas. The grant developers could have participants do preliminary "surveys" and then, at the meeting, focus on the ideas with the most potential. The Claremont Colleges offer MBAs, so maybe faculty from the program would be willing to offer up a day for a good cause and a little publicity.

DATE: June 14, 2010
TO: MAYOR BOGAARD AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT COMMITTEE
RE: HAHAMONGNA WATERSHED PARK PLAYING FIELDS

The Pasadena Open Space/Conservation Element Committee respectfully asks the City Council to reevaluate the 2003 Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan with regard to creating more playing fields in a natural area in Hahamongna.

We make this request for two reasons: the extensive public outreach we have conducted and the presentations we have seen about watershed and habitat in Hahamongna. At the public outreach events, the public has repeatedly asked us to do all we can to preserve Hahamongna as a natural space. The experts who have presented on watershed and wildlife have raised several concerns about the consequences of building any more athletic fields in Hahamongna.

The proposed Sycamore Grove Field would be constructed between the current Oak Grove Field and the Arroyo Seco streambed, on approximately 10 feet of compacted fill to raise it above flood level behind Devils Gate Dam. A 100-space parking lot and new restroom would also be built.

The Master Plan also includes yet another proposed playfield north of the projected Sycamore Grove Field.

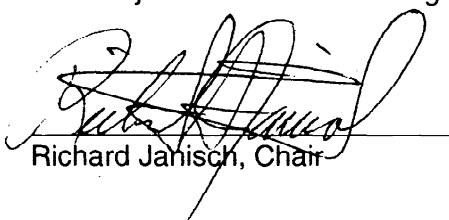
These playfields would take precious open space and wildlife habitat in a unique setting at a time when Pasadena is in the midst of a two-year effort to identify, prioritize and preserve open space in the city.

We join others in supporting the development of more athletic fields for young people and other residents. The city has increased playfield capacity in recent years, and these additions emphasize the need to reconsider whether to place more playfields and a parking lot in an environmentally sensitive area such as Hahamongna.

Conditions and attitudes have changed since the Hahamongna Master Plan was adopted in 2003. Pasadena has adopted "green" goals and gained a reputation for environmental excellence. The establishment of the Open Space/Conservation Element Committee reflects the public desire to preserve as much of the natural environment as possible.

We believe this is the time to reevaluate the master plan and the proper balance between natural open space and playfields in our community. We think it would be appropriate to solicit the views of interested parties and the public on the value of Hahamongna, and to ask city staff to make a concerted search for alternative locations for playfields.

One goal of this committee is to raise awareness of and respect for open space and the natural environment. A genuine reevaluation of the Master Plan and playfields, with full public discussion, would be a major contribution to that goal.



Richard Janisch, Chair

Jomsky, Mark

From: Fuller, Margo
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 11:56 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Cc: Flores, Silvia
Subject: FW: Save Hahamongna

For public record

Margo Morales-Fuller
District 2 Field Representative
(626) 744-4742
(626) 744-3814 fax

-----Original Message-----

From: Ayesha Lindsey Randall [mailto:esha_bell@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 4:57 PM
To: lindsey@post.harvard.edu; Fuller, Margo
Cc: McAustin, Margaret
Subject: RE: Save Hahamongna

Dear Ms. Morales-Fuller,

Thank you for your response. My address is 1548 N. Arroyo Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91103.

Regards,
Ayesha Randall

--- On Thu, 6/24/10, Fuller, Margo <mfuller@cityofpasadena.net> wrote:

> From: Fuller, Margo <mfuller@cityofpasadena.net>
> Subject: RE: Save Hahamongna
> To: lindsey@post.harvard.edu
> Cc: "McAustin, Margaret" <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>
> Date: Thursday, June 24, 2010, 4:12 PM Thank you for your e-mail. I
> will make sure Council Member McAustin receives it.
> Please provide us with your street address.
>
> Margo Morales-Fuller
> District 2 Field Representative
> (626) 744-4742
> (626) 744-3814 fax
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ayesha Lindsey Randall [mailto:esha_bell@yahoo.com]

>

> Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2010 4:32 PM

> To: gaard@cityofpasadena.net

> Cc: district1; Fuller, Margo; McIntyre, Jacqueline; Stone, Rhonda; De

> La Cuba, Vannia; dison@cityofpasadena.net; Tornek, Terry

> Subject: Save Hahamongna

>

> Dear Mayor Bill Bogaard,

>

> Please do not support the destruction of the natural habitat and home
> to wildlife for a concrete mass plopped right in the middle of the
> Arroyo Seco. I was just at the casting pond this past Father's Day
> with my dad, sister, 3-year old daughter, and uncle. The calmness,
> quiet, and relaxing atmosphere makes you think that you are thousands
> of miles away from Los Angeles. That's what make Pasadena different
> from everywhere else. This is an urban oasis that embraces hikers,
> horseback riders, dog walkers, and thelikes. Aren't there soccer
> fields all over Pasadena? Why do we have to sacrifice the Hahamonga
> Watershed and the beauty of the Arroyo Seco for a parking lot and
> soccer fields? There will be an increase in traffic, noise, polution,
> liter, and everything else. Why is there such a push to destroy this
> land?

>

> I look forward to hearing from you.

>

> Thank you,

> Ayesha Randall

>

>

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Pasadena Group
CITY CLERK
PASADENA


June 26, 2010

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Council Members:

After discussing the proposed soccer fields in Hahamongna Watershed Park, the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club-Pasadena Group adopted the following resolution:

“The Pasadena Group Executive Committee strongly believes that the Hahamongna area should be protected and restored as natural habitat.”

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Pomeroy, Chair

P.O. Box 94086

Pasadena, CA 91109-4086

Jomsky, Mark

From: Suzuki, Takako
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2010 12:13 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: Soccer Fields at Hahamongna Watershed Park

From: Petrea Burchard [mailto:pb@petreaburchard.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2010 11:28 AM
To: Madison, Steve
Subject: Soccer Fields at Hahamongna Watershed Park

Dear Mr. Madison,

I'm one of the many Pasadena citizens who is adamantly against the building of soccer fields at Hahamongna Watershed Park.

We have alternatives: vacant lots and unused playing fields all over town, waiting to be repurposed. There's no need to spend millions to fill in a lake in a flood plain when we have access to other, better land, especially when the City Council has just approved millions in budget cuts during a historical recession.

Soccer fields in a flood plain are unsustainable. Yet in the Green City Action Plan, Pasadena declared to the United Nations that we will "Protect critical habitat corridors...from unsustainable development." The proposed location of the fields is the habitat of coyotes, bobcats, ducks, swallows, rabbits, ground squirrels, egrets and herons. There may be more; these are the creatures I've seen there.

The Action Plan also states: "Pasadena is proactively seeking funding for habitat restoration projects, which are planned in the Arroyo Seco master plans." To Hahamongna, soccer fields are not restoration but destruction. But to a vacant lot, soccer fields are revitalization.

In almost every issue of *Pasadena In Focus*, citizens are urged to "reuse and recycle."

Repurposing unused lots is recycling on a grand scale. Let's use the resources we already have to save money, save Hahamongna and build soccer fields for our kids.

Sincerely,

Petrea Burchard

District 3 resident

writer, actor

Pasadena Daily Photo blogger

<http://petreaburchard.com/>

<http://pasadenadailyphoto.blogspot.com/>

7/7/2010

Jomsky, Mark

From: meb787@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 11:49 AM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Gordo, Victor; Robinson, Jacque; Tornek, Terry; Haderlein, Steve; Madison, Steve; McAustin, Margaret; Holden, Chris

Cc: Jomsky, Mark; meb787@aol.com

Subject: Reconsideration of sports fields in Hahamongna

Mayor Bogaard and City Council,

The Friends of Hahamongna urge the City Council to reconsider the building of additional sports fields in Hahamongna Watershed Park. We agree with the Arroyo Seco Foundation, the Pasadena Audubon Society, the Hahamongna Watch Group and the over 1280 concerned citizens who have signed the Save Hahamongna petition, all of whom have asked that this issue be revisited.

As you know from our many appearances before the Council, Friends believes that Hahamongna is an irreplaceable environmental treasure, a remnant of wild California in the heart of our densely settled urban region which should be preserved for future generations. With some creativity and persistence, sports fields can be built anywhere - even atop a parking garage as is the Maranatha High School sports field in Pasadena. The rare habitats, the trails, the equestrian recreation, the very serenity of Hahamongna cannot be moved elsewhere. Once it is gone, it is gone for good.

And therein lies the heart of what we are asking you, the City Council, to do. We ask you to make the politically difficult choice and take the long view of what will be best for the future rather than continuing on with this ill-advised compromise. Building sports fields in Hahamongna with the attendant noise, lights, car traffic and pollution may help to alleviate the sports field shortage for a few years but at what a cost?

We ask that, with your leadership, the City of Pasadena live up to its own Green City Action Plan which states that "Pasadena values the beautiful Arroyo Seco... and protection of the native animals who live in these habitats." Building sports fields in Hahamongna is the very antithesis of the protection of natural habitats as promised in the Action Plan. The residents of Pasadena and surrounding communities have overwhelmingly demonstrated their support for keeping Hahamongna natural by attending hundreds of meetings over two decades. They have written hundreds, if not thousands, of letters and emails, over 600 during the Arroyo Seco master planning process alone. They have not only signed the Save Hahamongna petition but many have contributed eloquent, thoughtful comments as to why they believe this special place must be preserved.

The time has come to hear these voices, to plan the additional sports fields elsewhere, and to save Hahamongna!

Sincerely,
Mary E. Barrie
Friends of Hahamongna

7/7/2010