

From: scott macdonald
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 10:58 AM
To: Town PPW <ppw@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Item #4 -- April 1, 2024

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

To the members of the Los Gatos Parks and Sustainability Commission,

I'm writing to express support for the work of the Trail Connectivity Ad-Hoc Committee.

I am a frequent user of Los Gatos parks and open spaces as a hiker and cyclist, as well as many of the town's surrounding open spaces. Navigating between them can be impossible as a hiker and dangerous as a cyclist, and any improvement of connections would not only greatly enhance the recreational value of the existing open spaces, but also result in improved safety for all users.

I imagine as this work moves forward, the commission will hear from voices opposed to the idea of more people accessing recreational connections, painting dire scenarios of hordes of hikers & cyclists overrunning natural spaces and changing the character of neighborhoods. I'm here to say that any of the proposed connections in the committee's report will almost certainly see reasonable usage levels, mainly by people who want to take a longer hike or ride, passing quickly and safely from one area to another. Most folks will continue to park at a favorite trailhead and enjoy a short hike -- but having the option to safely and sustainably connect our wonderful open spaces to allow the option for longer outings is a very real benefit that should be viewed favorably and pursued vigorously by the commission.

Sincerely,
-Scott MacDonald
San Jose, CA