

Katharine Defanti

From: Susan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:31 AM
To: Katharine Defanti
Subject: Agenda Item 2 - Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Nov. 15

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Hello Committee Members,

I do wish virtual meeting access was available for those of us who want to participate in your meetings, but are unable to physical attend.

I appreciate your accepting this comment.

As I look at the ongoing plans for tree planting at selected parks in Petaluma, I have the following input --

1. Observe the open space in some of these parks and retain much of it. Grassland and open space are components of Petaluma's environment and a balance of adding some trees and caring for them to provide canopy and sequester carbon is admirable - but please support planting less trees in numbers and retaining open space and grassland as important parts of what we have. Nocturnal species move through certain areas and we aren't even aware of this. Not every space needs to be transformed into an urban forest.

2. Buckeye trees generally want space for root expansion and growth. Redwood trees aren't shade trees and often need care and irrigation.

3. I understand there is a push for planting many trees, grant funds have been received, and a schedule is being created and maintained with community input. Also, there is the ask for an Urban Forestry Department.

If we are going to become more sensitive to and enhance our environment, we need to view areas in Petaluma holistically, become aware of species that may move through an area or raptors, for example, that have designated hunting areas and are seeking gophers - and are part of a larger ecosystem, etc.

4. The number of trees to be planted at Fox Hollow seems very high.

Thank you.

Susan Kirks
Petaluma