

PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
Frances Albrier Community Center - auditorium
2800 Park Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

Minutes - Approved

The Commissions may discuss any items listed on the agenda, but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. **Call to Order** (Chair): 7:10pm
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary): Present: Abshez; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Lee (arr. 7:36pm).
Absent: Hurtado; Ranuzzi.
3. **Land Acknowledgement:** Read by Diehm.
4. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Chair): M/S/C (Cox/Abshez/U) to add Diehm as a presenter for item 10 along with the chair and to approve the rest of the agenda. Ayes: Abshez; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska. Noes: None. Absent: Hurtado; Lee; Ranuzzi.
5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for July 10, 2024 (Chair).*: M/S/C (Kawczynska/Abshez/U) to list Lee as absent in roll call and to approve the July minutes. Ayes: Abshez; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Lee. Noes: None. Absent: Hurtado; Ranuzzi.
6. **Public Comment:** a) Steve Morros, North Bowling Green; b) Linda Currie, North Bowling Green; c) Sylvia Soriano, North Bowling Green; d) Kimberly Schroder, North Bowling Green; e) Ben Rosenthal, North Bowling Green; f) Bonnie Borucki, North Bowling Green; g) Kelly Hammargren, Land Acknowledgement; h) Naomi Friedman, Cesar Chavez Park; i) Ted Steen, Tom Bates and Gabes Catalfo Fields.
7. **Chair's Report.** (Kawczynska): Started dredging in Waterfront; D & E Dock replacement will start in two weeks (Kawczynska).
8. **Director's Report:** Special events, community engagement, Recreation summer program recap.** (Chu)
9. **Discussion/Action:** Ohlone Greenway safety improvements (Chair/Diehm).* Item was discussed. No action taken. Public Comment: a) Naomi Friedman; b) Linda Currie; c) Community Member (name unknown).
10. **Discussion/Action:** Update on Stormwater Master Plan (Chair/Diehm). Item was discussed. No action taken.
11. **Discussion/Action:** Update on Measure Y, Parks Tax Ballot Measure (Chair). Item was discussed. No action taken.
12. **Discussion/Action:** Update on Testing at Cesar Chavez Park (Chair). Item was discussed. No action taken.
13. **Action:** Commission meeting minutes from June 2024 (Chair).*: M/S/C (Kawczynska/Diehm/U) to update June minutes to reflect: a) Diehm was present for the meeting and voted Aye on all Action taken; b) change verbiage in item 7 from "for four years" to "for review every four years"; reflect that Lee was absent (excused) in roll call and change to absent for all votes. Ayes: Abshez; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Lee. Noes: None. Absent: Hurtado; Ranuzzi.
14. **Action:** Potential October Meeting Date Change or Special Meeting (Chair). M/S/C (Abshez/Kawczynska/U) to move 10/9/24 meeting to 10/16/24 so the commission can review the Waterfront Specific Plan. Ayes: Abshez; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Lee. Noes: None. Absent: Hurtado; Ranuzzi
15. **Information Reports*:** Recent PRW Council Reports; Waterfront Story Map.
16. **Future Agenda Items:** Public Art in Aquatic Park (Lavvorn); PRW Commission Workplan 2024; Citywide Accessibility Plan; Locations for Dog Parks.
17. **Communications.*** Letter re: Berkeley Marina BCDC Permit & Violation History.

18. Next PRW Commission meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

19. Adjournment. 8:43pm

* document is attached to agenda packet and on the commission website.

** document will be provided at the meeting.

- Commissioners in attendance: 5 of 7 appointed.
- Public in attendance: 11
- Public speakers: 9

PRW September- December**Special Events**

Date	Day	Time	Event	Site
9/13	Friday	7:30pm	Movie in the Park: <i>A Million Miles Away</i>	Grove Park
9/13-15	Friday – Sunday		Tuolumne Camp Closing Weekend	Tuolumne Camp
9/14	Sat	10am	Adeline/ Alcatraz Planter Dedication	Adeline/Alcatraz
9/14	Sat	11:30-3:30pm	T-Mack Skate Jam	Berkeley Skate Park
9/19	Thurs	6pm	Poppin Thursdays Roller Skate Party	Grove Park
9/20	Fri	6-8pm	Silent Disco: Teen Turned Up	MLK-YAP
9/21	Sat	9-12 Noon	California Coastal Cleanup Day	Shorebird Park
9/21	Sat	9am	Monterey- Posen Pollinator Garden Volunteer Day	Monterey and Posen
9/25	Wed	5:30pm	Tom Bates Sports Complex; JPA	Virtual
9/27	Friday	7:15pm	Movie in the Park: <i>Kung Fu Panda 4</i>	Codornices Park
9/28	Sat	7:15pm	Movie in the Park: <i>Disneynature Bears</i>	Shorebird Park
10/4	Fri	6-8pm	Outdoor Bingo Night	Frances Albrier Courtyard
10/5	Sat	9-Noon	Tree Planting: Volunteer Day	Shorebird Park
10/5	Sat	9am	John Hinkle Park - Pollinator Garden Volunteer Day	John Hinkle Park
10/12	Sat	9am	Dog Park All Crew/Volunteer Day	Ohlone Dog Pak
10/19	Sat	11am-4pm	Harvest Festival	Cedar Rose Park
10/23	Wed	9-Noon	Tree Planting Volunteer Day	Indian Rock Park
10/24	Thurs	6-8pm	Halloween Boogie Woogie Skate Night	Grove Park
10/25	Fri	7-9:30pm	Halloween Skate Jam	Berkeley Skate Park
10/26	Sat	9am	Native Pollinator Garden Volunteer Day	Grove Park
10/26	Sat	10-12 noon	Halloween Howl Dog Parade and Costume Contest	James Kenney
10/26	Sat	10- 6pm	Floating Pumpkin Patch	West Campus Pool
10/31	Thurs	4-6pm	Halloween Parade	San Pablo Park
10/31	Thurs	6-9:30pm	Haunted House	MLK- YAP
11/2	Sat	10am	Bolivar Project Ribbon Cutting/Tree Planting	Aquatic Park
11/2	Sat	9am-3pm	Fall Berkeley Project Day w/ Cal Students	Sites TBA
12/7	Sat	10-1pm	Winter Tots Carnival	Frances Albrier
12/13	Fri	6-8pm	Ginger Bread House Decoration Party	Live Oak Community Center
12/14	Sat	8:30-10:45am	Santa and Friends Pancake Breakfast	Live Oak Center

PRW September- December**Public Meetings/ Community Outreach**

9/11	Wed	7pm	Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Commission	Frances Albrier
9/13	Fri	11am-12:30pm	Waterfront Walk & Talk with Ali Endress	Meet @ S. Cove/Roaming Bean
9/18	Wed	11am	Berkeley Marina Lien Sale	201 University/ Marina Office
9/19	Thurs	6-7pm	Frances Albrier Community Center Open House	Frances Albrier
9/22	Sun	3:30-4:30pm	Marina Mixer	Marina Dockside Patio
9/25	Wed	5:30pm	Tom Bates Sports Complex; JPA	Virtual
9/26	Thurs	6pm-7pm	MLK/Yap Community Center Open House	MLK/ YAP
9/28	Sat	5-7pm	Nature Center Open House	Shorebird Park
9/30	Mon	6:30-8pm	Waterfront Specific Plan, Public Meeting	Virtual

10/2	Wed	5:30pm	Aquatic Park Stakeholders Meeting	Virtual
10/3	Thurs	6-7pm	Live Oak Community Center Open House	Live Oak
10/3	Wed	11am	Berkeley Marina Lien Sale	201 University/ Marina Office
10/5	Sat	2:30-4:30	Aquatics Open House	West Campus Pool
10/8	Tues	6pm	Sports Field User Scheduling Meeting	Virtual
10/8	Tues	6pm	Aquatic Park Dreamland Area Project Meeting	Virtual
10/9	Wed	7pm	Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Commission	Frances Albrier
10/10	Thurs	6-7pm	South Adeline Landscaping Improvements Meeting #1	Virtual
10/10	Thurs	6-7pm	James Kenney Community Center Open House	James Kenney
10/15	Tues	6:30pm	Youth Commission Meeting	Frances Albrier
10/17	Thurs	3-4pm	Community Garden Meet and Greet	Peralta Garden
10/18	Fri	11am-12:30pm	Waterfront Walk & Talk with Ali Endress	Meet at Doubletree Patio
10/19	Sat	4:00pm	Tom Bates Tour with Nelson Lam	Meet Tom Bates Complex
10/20	Sun	3:30-4:30pm	Marina Mixer	Marina Dockside Patio
10/21	Mon	5:30pm	Ohlone Play Structure/Restroom/Lighting Meeting	Virtual
10/23	Wed	6:00pm	Aquatic Park with Tour with Nelson Lam	Meet at Aquatic Park
10/25	Fri	11am-12:30pm	Waterfront Walk & Talk with Ali Endress	Meet at S. Cove/ Roaming Bean
10/30	Wed	6pm	Cesar Chavez Projects (Restroom/Pathway) Meeting #2	Virtual
11/6	Thurs	6pm	South Cove Projects (Seawall/Dredging) Meeting #2	Virtual
11/9	Sat	10-12noon	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Meet and Greet	James Kenney Picnic Area
11/7	Thurs	6pm-8pm	Cedar Rose Park Playground Project Community Mtg	Virtual
11/12	Tues	6:30pm	Youth Commission Meeting	MLK-YAP
11/13	Wed	7:00pm	Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Commission	Frances Albrier
12/9	Mon	6:30pm	Youth Commission Meeting	MLK YAP

César Chávez Park - Closed Landfill State Water Board Survey

September 10, 2024



· WAHID AMIRI PE, DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
· RON NEVELS PE, MANAGER OF ENGINEERING
· DANIEL AKAGI PE, SUPERVISING CIVIL ENGINEER
· MARY SKRAMSTAD, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST



- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Ground Rules
- ▶ Background
- ▶ Purpose and Objectives
- ▶ Scope of Survey
- ▶ Timeline
- ▶ Impact to Park Users
- ▶ Closing
- ▶ Questions

AGENDA



What and Where is the Former Berkeley Landfill?

- ▶ The former Landfill was closed in 1983 and sealed with a clay cap before it became a public park.
- ▶ Location Boundaries
 - West, North, and East: San Francisco Bay
 - South: Berkeley Marina



Former Landfill (1961-1983)

- ▶ The former Landfill was designated as a Class II sanitary landfill.
- ▶ Permitted for disposal of non-hazardous **municipal** solid waste.
- ▶ It began receiving waste in 1961, continuing operations until 1983.



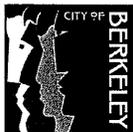
Objectives of the Survey

1. Identify areas above naturally occurring radioactive levels.
2. Assess potential impacts
3. Partnership with State regulators

The goal is to identify areas above naturally occurring radioactive levels. The survey will be conducted in partnership with the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Department of Public Health.



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD



Scope of the Survey

The Work Plan approved by the Water Board will survey the former landfill in the following sequence:

- ▶ Water Testing (In progress)
- ▶ Surface Survey
- ▶ Follow-up Soil Testing (TBD)



Surface Survey

The Gamma Drone Survey (GDS)

Equipment:

The Theiss Valiclus Hex drone

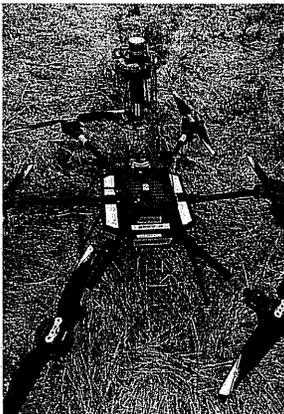
- ▶ battery-operated
- ▶ able to carry up to 18 lbs

will carry the advanced radiation detection system.

Surface Survey (continued)

Instrumentation

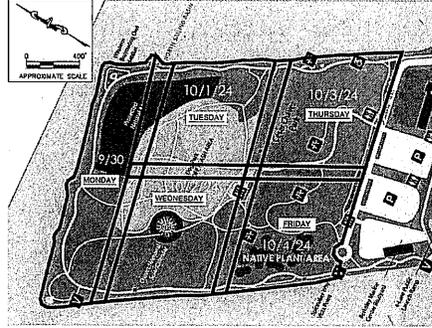
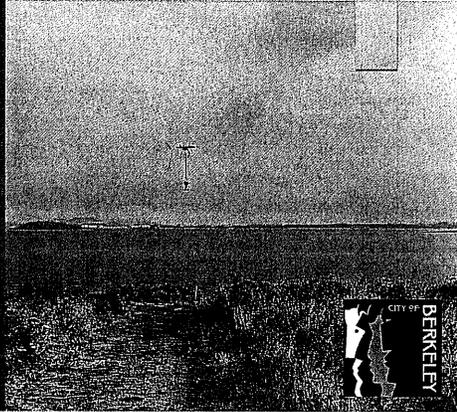
- ▶ The system features a 3 x 3 inch sodium iodide (NaI) spectrometer integrated with a GPS for sub-meter accuracy.
- ▶ Additionally, ground surface surveying with a SAM 945 Handheld Radiation Isotope Identifier (RIID) will be performed to validate drone data.



Expected Park Closures

- ▶ Duration:
 - ▶ Approximately 5 days
 - ▶ 2-3 hour per day
- ▶ Time:
 - ▶ Start at first light

SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH OCTOBER 4

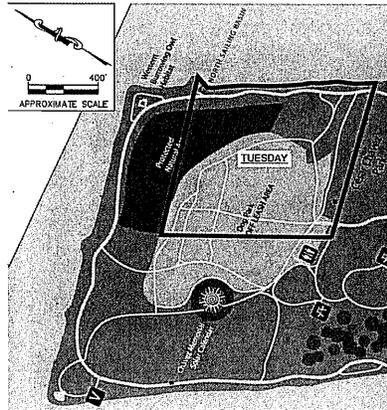
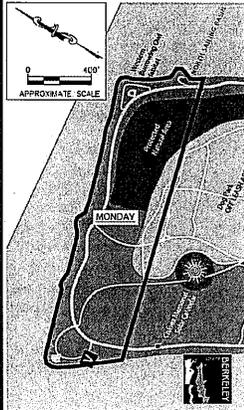


Park Closure Plan



Monday – 9/30/24

- ▶ Detour signs will be posted at all entry points.
- ▶ Staff will be positioned at intervals to ensure the survey proceeds without interruption.
- Reminder: Dogs must be under verbal control at all times
- Follow park signage to know where to leash and unleash



Tuesday – 10/01/2024

DOG PARK OFF LEASH AREA WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY DURING THE 3 HOURS WINDOW, STARTING AT SUNRISE.

PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY

ALTERNATIVE OFF-LEASH LOCATIONS:

- ▶ OHLONE PARK
- ▶ CLAREMONT CANYON PRESERVE
- ▶ TILDEN REGIONAL PARK
- ▶ ALBANY BULB



Q&A

Mary E. Skramstad

▶ maryskramstad@fish.wa.gov

Additional Resources:

▶ Capital Improvement
Webpage

▶ <https://bit.ly/StateWaterBoardSurvey>



Photo Credit: Michael Layelsky

9/11/24 Non-Agenda

SAVE BERKELEYS LARGEST PUBLIC HABITAT GARDEN
OVER 70 SPECIES OF CA NATIVE PLANTS
ESTABLISHED 1998
MAINTAINED BY VOLUNTEERS
PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER FREE
HOME TO ENDANGERED INSECTS BIRDS BUTTERFLIES AND BEES
A COMMUNITY BUILDING ENTERPRIZE
PRIME EXAMPLE OF LOW WATER USE GARDENING
A RAINBOW OF COLOR THRU THE SEASONS
A SOURCE OF SEEDS TO SHARE WITH RESIDENTS
FREE EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY OF NATIVE CA PLANTS
CONNECTING US TO THE INDIGENOUS PLANTS AND PEOPLE OF THIS AREA

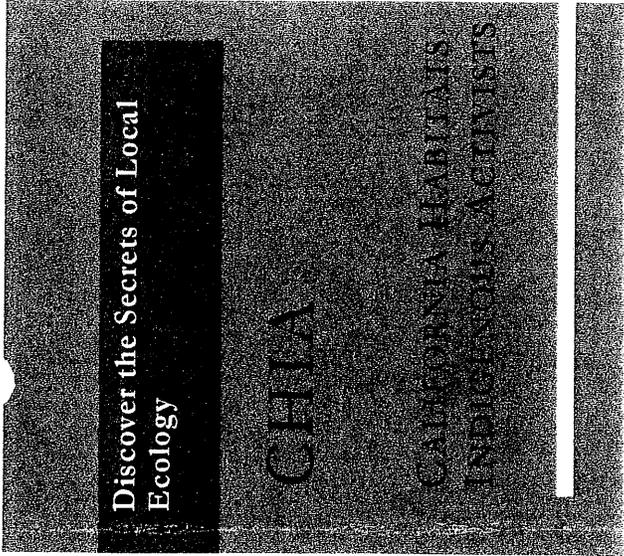
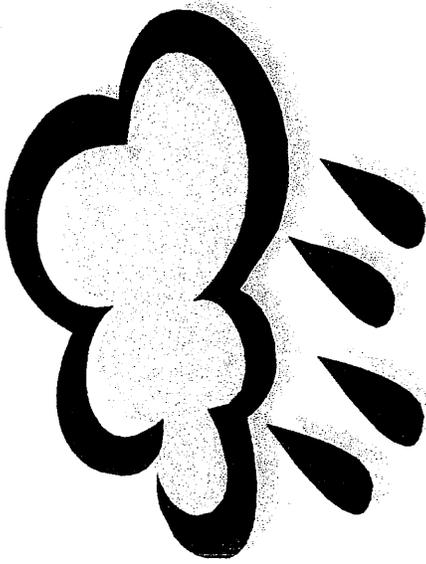
A Place Called Home

Study the history of your watershed

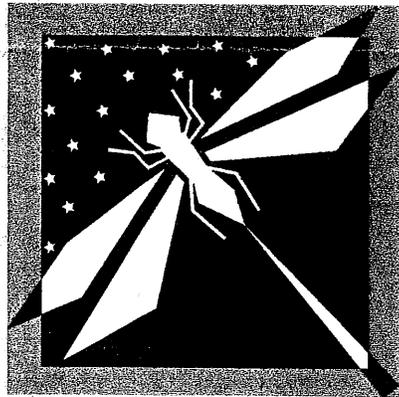
Be amazed by the abundance of life

Restore habitat today

Regain your birthright to be one with nature



Creating Habitats and a Place called Home



Discover the Secrets of Local Ecology

Peralta Community Garden, near the corner of Peralta and Hopkins in Berkeley, California

For information about CHHA, contact Mike Manning at (510) 559-9421 or Carole Bennett-Simmons at (510) 527-6708



Peralta Community Garden
Berkeley, California

9/11/24



Bringing community together to build a more equitable, regenerative, and self-reliant future for Berkeley. www.transitionberkeley.org

September 6, 2024

Mr. Scott Ferris, Director
and Commissioners of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront
City of Berkeley, CA

Re: Support for New Community Garden ("North Green" lot) on former Berkeley Lawn Bowling site (1340 Allston Way)

Dear Mr. Ferris & Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Commissioners,

We are writing to urge you to support the proposed conversion of the unused portion of the land at the Berkeley Lawn Bowling site (1340 Allston Way) into a community garden.

Transition Berkeley has been a long supporter of growing organic food locally and stands by the Berkeley's Climate Action Plan (CAP) passed in 2009, envisioning that by 2050, "...the majority of food consumed in Berkeley is produced locally i.e. within a few hundred miles..."

In 2012, after passing the CAP, our organization served on the **Board of Berkeley's Climate Action Coalition**, a collaboration between the Office of Energy & Sustainability, the Ecology Center, citizens and local organizations. We participated in the Working Groups, set up to implement the plan, including the **Land Use and Community Gardening Group**. While on that committee we helped identify potential sites for new community gardens. At that time, the former Lawn Bowling site at 1340 Allston was identified as one of the potential garden sites on this map.

Since 2011, with projects like the "**Crop Swap & Share**" event in Ohlone Park, we've seen first hand how growing and sharing food brings people together and promotes personal and environmental health! (see this Berkeley's Ohlone Park Crop Swap builds community through food)

Growing food locally has deep roots in Berkeley thanks to pioneers like Alice Waters, Founder of Chez Panisse and the Edible Schoolyard Project, the wonderful Ecology Center Farmers Markets, the Berkeley Community Garden Collaborative, Berkeley's Urban Agriculture Ordinance (2018), and so many other efforts. Interest in local food growing gained even more popularity during the pandemic, when people found that gardening relieves stress and can save money. Growing food can help offset the high cost of living in the bay area for low-income people and families, while providing health benefits and reducing food miles traveled.

A few lucky members of our group grow their bounty in existing community garden plots (e.g. Peralta, Bancroft, Ohlone). Those without space to grow at home, end up on long waiting lists (of several years or more). The Bancroft Community Garden waiting list of 185 nearby neighbors could create an "instant" garden if one were available.

But, as it stands now, there just aren't enough community garden spaces for everyone.

Petition to Support New Community Garden On Former Lawn Bowling "North Green" Site

I am a community member in support of creating a new community garden on the former lawn bowling lot (1340 Allston Way) as outlined in the letter (attached). I am sharing my reasons for supporting this effort below.

1) Sylvia Soriano	<i>I think it would be very useful and beneficial to have more spaces for people to grow their own produce given the long waiting lists for the existing community gardens.</i>
2) Linda Currie	<i>There is a large demand for community garden spaces and just not enough plots to serve everyone. I was on the Peralta Garden waitlist for many years and finally gave up hoping of having a plot there. We have a chance to create the former lawn bowling lot ("North Green") at 1340 Allston Way into a useful and beautiful space where people can come together to grow food and native plants.</i>
3) Ben Gardella	<i>There are enough people in the neighborhood that are passionate about community gardening that I'm confident this would be an enormous success. This land is unused. What's the problem?</i>
4) Julie Ashworth	<i>We benefit from outdoor community space and there is a community need for gardens</i>
5) Jason Hirshton	
6) Japhet Weeks	<i>The more community garden spaces the better! We love our Bancroft community garden spot. It's good for our family and for the neighborhood.</i>
7) Jane Franch	<i>We live in the neighborhood, and our property is too small to garden. Accessing community gardens allows our family to share the joy of growing food with our children, and provided a sense of community and belonging in the urban landscape. We are very much in support!</i>
8) Quin Reuss	<i>There is so much need for local, sustainable food sources as well as green outdoor space</i>
9) Frako Loden	<i>It's a shame that a neighborhood spot like this should lie unused, when we have food deserts and most Berkeleyites don't have backyards for gardening. I think everyone prefers garden-grown fruits and vegetables, and a new garden is another opportunity for neighbors to get acquainted and politically empowered. Let's start the (probably complex) process of turning this into a neighborhood asset!</i>
10) Joe Loree	<i>I grow food but have very little space to do so. I think neighborhoods benefit from having community gardens in addition to other green spaces. That piece of property is currently underutilized.</i>
11) Nushin Sarkarati	<i>A community garden beautifies our city while helping to address climate change. I hope we see more initiatives like this.</i>
12) Heather Clague	<i>The garden is a fabulous place for multi-generational gatherings. Our community is so much stronger for having a wholesome place for people to gather!</i>
13) Adam Franch	<i>Love the idea. can we fence off one side for a long skinny mini dog park too? It wouldn't take very much space!</i>

32) David Morin	<i>I don't garden but I own a home in the neighborhood. I can't think of a better use of a vacant lot. I wish all vacant lots in the city were turned into community gardens. There are numerous benefits--outdoor space for the neighborhood, a way to build a stronger community, creation of social ties, green space improves air quality, increased food security, access to fresh fruits and vegetables, educational opportunities for students, etc. I'm sure I'm missing a hundred other benefits.</i>
33) Chelsea Hirshton	<i>We've been in the neighborhood for a decade and are always sad to see this empty lot. It's an amazing and important idea to both foster and support community.</i>
34) Linda Karr	<i>A community garden would be a great addition to this neighborhood, and help bring the community together!</i>
35) Nina Parker	<i>I have been a member of the Bancroft Community Garden for a year and a half. I was on the waiting list for more than 5 years. I always show off my garden space to any visitors I have. I live in an apartment 3 blocks away with no "yard" for relaxing outside. I'm a senior on a fixed income. My garden space is a source of much joy.</i>
36) Erin Branagan	<i>I'm currently a member of the Bancroft Community Garden and know how much interest there is for more community gardening space since the current waiting list has more than 150 people. Increasing access to open space and a garden space should be a goal for the city and will enrich the neighborhood and our community in many ways.</i>
37) Sally Nelson	<i>So many people in Berkeley love working in the garden, yet the waiting list for a spot in a community garden is very long. Yes, we need more land dedicated to growing plants, including plants that nourish us. While gardening, we connect with the life-giving energies of the Earth and the interplay of soil, water, air, and sunlight that together, generate growth. In addition, birds and insects will come to feed and pollinate the plants, and help to build a more complex and better balanced ecosystem.</i>
38) Rick Ohren	<i>We need more community garden spaces in our area, and this would be a very good use for this property</i>
39) Svea Lin Soll	
40) Katy Love	<i>All of the above!!</i>
41) Liz Welton	<i>We have such a demand for community garden space among local residents, and it brings folks together in such beneficial ways!!</i>
42) Tania Carlone	<i>I moved back to Berkeley less than a year ago after having been away for 7 years and have been trying to get a community garden plot. I'm on the waiting list for all of them. In one case, I was told I'm #39 on the list. It appears that there's far more demand for Berkeley residents to grow their own food in a community setting than available plots.</i>
43) Madelyn Dugas	<i>I love to grow food and I firmly believe the city needs more community garden spaces. There are numerous benefits for creating a garden space on the unused lot. It's important for everyone to have access to fresh, local, organic produce. It brings the community together while providing a space to share knowledge and produce. It educates others on the importance of food security. Community gardens are a necessity. Thank you so much.</i>
44) Devon Curry	
45) Maria Hurwitz	<i>Growing food is an essential part of what it is to be human. The more space and opportunity for people to connect with the land, seasons, themselves and one another, the better!</i>
46) Adam Buderl	<i>I like to grow gardens! I live in a multi unit building and there isn't much space for me to do this, let alone build community around gardening. This space would be perfect for that.</i>

62) Beatriz Motta	<i>Berkeley is growing with denser housing being build. Community gardens and parks allow for residences to share green spaces and build community. I have been on a waiting list for a plot for more than two years, and still not close to have access.</i>
63) Priscilla Johnson	<i>It simply seems like a wonderful addition to the community- and for the earth!</i>
64) Jessica Ellis	<i>People need to know, No matter what my family can eat. I eat 1 out of 4 time I feed my child. Whenever I have a place to grow for my family and Community life Is different. The vitamin D for all People get especially black people from gardening improves mental health. I COULD GO ON BUT GOD says to stop Amen</i>
65) Laurence, Rand	<i>It would be an excellent use of that space, once it is cleaned up.</i>
66) Averill	<i>I have volunteered at a community garden since the beginning of COVID. I have seen people's appreciation of fresh produces from the garden, which should be more of it to serve the common good.</i>
67) David Philhower	<i>We need more community gardens in Berkeley! I am 70th on a waiting list for a spot.</i>
68) Jonathan Ruchlis	<i>I grew up around the corner from here and I'd love to see it finally used for something! Growing food is a great way to create useful and fun green spaces! Love urban farming/gardening! Id love to see this be a place where everyone in the community can come for food!</i>
69) Ofra Fisher	<i>I have had a garden plot at the Bancroft Community Garden for many years. Building more community garden in spaces in Berkeley benefits individuals living in the area and beautifies our neighborhoods. It would be worth the effort and cost to prepare this empty site for a community garden. We have a very long waiting list of over 150 people so our neighbors can turn this in to a vibrant and functional space once the initial work is done to get the land ready to use in such a way.</i>
70) Kelsey Shogren	<i>community gardening is essential to the charm and beauty of Berkeley. Given that many of us have limited space at our homes, this is a great resource to learn how to grow food and be self-sustainable. I've been on the waitlist at every single community garden in Berkeley for many years.</i>
71) Adeline Goss	<i>The city needs fewer closed-off, abandoned lots and more green space for children and adults to feel connected to the land and the food it can produce for us.</i>
72) Hanne Williams-Baron	<i>We need more community garden spaces, both for community-building and food access during a time of climate threat!</i>
73) John Beaulaurier	<i>The nearby community garden is overwhelmingly popular, but the wait list for getting a plot to grow on is prohibitively long. More space is desperately needed.</i>
74) Ariana Thompson-Lastad	<i>As a health researcher, a parent and a home gardener, I know that community gardens have important benefits for individual, family, environmental and community health. Establishing more community gardens will be good for the people and the land in Berkeley</i>
75) Lubna Takruri	<i>I like to grow food and contribute to beautiful plants and flowers that support pollinators. Currently the community gardens have years-long waiting lists and spaces like these bring together neighbors and community with spaces to enjoy that produce food to be shared.</i>
76) Jennifer Rose	<i>I live in Berkeley and definitely agree we need more community gardens! It would be worth it to figure out how to remediate the soil here and allow folks to garden.</i>
77) Theresa E Smith	<i>I appreciate the opportunity to participate in a community garden. I live on the third floor without a balcony, and long for the opportunity to grow fresh herbs and vegetables, as well as contribute to the well-being and thrivability of my community.</i>
78) Greg M. McCrea	<i>It would be nice to have this land for the benefit of our local community.</i>

84) Shauna Haines	<p><i>I love growing food in my own backyard, now that I'm a homeowner. But in previous locations I've lived in I had to garden elsewhere. Also, I frequently pass by other community gardens near me, much enjoying the gardens themselves as well as the interactions with people gardening there. We share tips and info of many kinds. I very much agree that community gardens provide an essential benefit for anyone, especially those in "food deserts", to have the opportunity to grow, harvest, and share produce they've grown themselves. Now that so much multi-story housing is going up it's even more important!</i></p> <p><i>Another benefit of having a community garden on this otherwise barren lot is that it creates more open green space to attract local pollinators and other wildlife, and to nurture a lifelong understanding and interest in nature and sustainable living within our ecosystem.</i></p>
85) Janet Byron	<p><i>I've owned a home on Allston Way below Sacramento Street since the 1997 and have often thought that it was a shame that the community could not access this area for some useful or recreational purpose. Community garden is a terrific idea. Please go for it!</i></p>
86) Barbara Edwards	<p><i>Many Berkeley residents are waiting and have waiting years for space in existing gardens. We need more space for growing food and helping to create community for neighbors.</i></p>
87) Steve Aultman	<p><i>Growing local organic food right in the neighborhood is a wonderful way to build health and community, and it contributes to local resilience.</i></p>
88) Cate Leger	<p><i>To quote transition berkeley, I "strongly believe that in the face of climate change, increasing density, diminishing resources and economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever to create as many community gardens in the city as possible to increase our economic, physical, mental and environmental health."</i></p>
89) Debbie Tenenbaum	
90) Virginia Browning	<p><i>Petition says it</i></p>
91) Rebecca Taggart	<p><i>Gardening and more green space is great for Berkeley. And gathering space for people to come together.</i></p>
92) Moni T. Law	<p><i>It is critically needed - spaces to grow healthy food. I have a small plot in my apartment complex - but most do not. And there's a waiting list. Gathering place to meet neighbors is a positive benefit</i></p>
93) Bonnie Borucki	<p><i>As we build more housing with no space for yards in our city, and there are waiting lists of hundreds of people to get plots in existing community gardens, they are needed more than ever especially in high density areas in west and central Berkeley.</i></p>
94) Denisia Wash	<p><i>I think creating a community garden space would be great, especially if it is run like the one on Bancroft across from the Strawberry Creek Park tennis courts. And I would hope that one would consider offering plots to a diverse group of growers.</i></p>
95) Csilla Kenny	<p><i>As Berkeley becomes more dense, we need spaces like this to grow food and commune with nature.</i></p>
96) Lori Hines	

105) Adam Buderl	<i>I really enjoy gardening. I believe Community gardens who play significant role and tying members of community together. They provide a space for interaction, collaboration, and mutual aid; as well as a space for learning about agriculture for those who are interested in it and may not have the resources to do it on their own space. additional garden space would be huge for the city's ability to support this In light of the increase in population density that's Needed to support the Growing population of the East Bay.</i>
106) Tobias Damm-Luhr	<i>I like to grow food, want to teach and be taught by others about this important life skill, and would like Berkeley to have more community gathering spaces and sources of fresh and low-cost/free organic produce.</i>
107) Shoshana Uribe	<i>Yes!</i>
108) Marcia Edelen	<i>I'm moving from a large home with a well-planted and cared-for garden into a small apartment with no yard. I would be excited to participate in this proposed community garden!</i>
109) M.E. Lawrence	<i>The more urban gardens, the better for us all.</i>
110) Wendy Yeh	<i>I grow food in my backyard, but after putting an ADU in, my growing space has been cut by 3/4. Our cities are getting denser, and the need to balance that with open spaces of green and activity are important. I walk by Ohlone gardens regularly and it's a joy to see, and recently I walked through Bancroft gardens for the first time and wow, what an absolute gem to the community. I got the healthiest tomato seedlings ever (thank you Steve) and am nurturing them in my own backyard. Having this space turned into a garden for growing food would be an excellent use of the property, and I am especially appreciative that the need to mitigate current pesticide and toxin load would be part of the efforts. Isn't it better to make the land safer and useful for people's mental and physical wellness, rather than build something on top that doesn't address environmental safety as thoroughly?</i>
111) Amanda Bloom	<i>Growing food is important for our physical and emotional health. We need many more community garden spaces.</i>
112) Virginia Hanger	<i>I'm fortunate to have a yard to grow vegetables and food. Community gardens allow some without yards to grow and share fresh food. It's a great use of land and good for our community.</i>
113) Maya Wolf	<i>I live around the corner and would love to visit.</i>
114) Lisa Ferguson	<i>We need more community garden spaces and it is important for our food security to grow as much local food as possible. This is a win for the community, for food, for resilience, and for mental health.</i>
115) Robannie Smidebush	<i>Community gardens create a peaceful, beautiful gathering place where families, neighbors, and community members can come together and get to know each other. Gardens create and support communities. I support creating a new community garden at 1340 Allston way!</i>
116) Lucinda Young	<i>Our city needs more community garden spaces especially for people who live in apts & have no yard to grow food in. To address climate change & increasing food costs, it is important that more food be grown locally.</i>
117) Blake Underhill	<i>I love gardens and greenery and this would be great for the community!</i>
118) Lenore Sheridan	
119) Kimberley D.C. Schroder	<i>More community green space is vital! Both for food growing and restoring native ecosystems</i>
120) Mike Roberts	<i>We need more community spaces where we can connect with the land and with one another. Growing our own food = security, independence, and resilience.</i>

140) Jessica Brown	<i>Green spaces and local food sources are key to livable and nice communities.</i>
141) María de Colombia	<i>An Oasis for Elders, Kids, all creating Community, Tranquility, Caring, Sharing Beautiful Free Fresh , Flavorful food, good for body, mind soul spirit... a Paradise.</i>
142) Elayne Ryder	<i>Yes!</i>
143) Charlene M. Woodcock	<i>I think everyone should have the opportunity and be encouraged to grow and share food.</i>
144) Nancy Schimmel	<i>I'm not growing food any more (at 89 it's hard for me physically) but I had been growing food off and on since I was a kid and my parents had a "victory garden" when we lived on Grant Street during World War II. I think community gardens are great, especially for people who live in apartments and don't have food garden space of their own. But for everyone, it builds community, and we need that.</i>
145) Larisa Cummings	<i>Berkeley needs many more community garden spaces, especially in these extra food insecure times! Bring this on, please!</i>
146) Laura Galligan	<i>It is vital for us in this changing climate to build in community spaces to grow food, green spaces, and beauty. This is only the beginning of our need to build in resilience as food insecurity is sure to be a danger in the coming period of heating.</i>
147) Susan McKearnan	<i>Let's keep Berkeley a desirable and livable city and a model for other urban renewal projects.</i>
148) Morgan Maxwell	<i>I am a Berkeley resident that regularly visits the Bancroft community garden to walk through, enjoy, and learn techniques that can be applied to my home garden. I love the community that is cultivated there. I also deeply believe in the importance of green spaces in Berkeley.</i>
149) Viva Freedman	<i>We need garden spaces to nourish our community, promote pollination and support insect populations!</i>
150) Joy Hollenback	
151) Kate Harrison	<i>More nature!</i>
152) Sepha Schiffman	<i>As Berkeley builds greatly needed housing and we move to increased urban density, there is much more need for community gardens (vs. private gardens) - to grow food, for children to learn and play outdoors, and for communities to meet across divisions. I strongly support this initiative.</i>
153) Franziska Marks	<i>We desperately need more green spaces that bring the community together and contribute to food security and nature stewardship!</i>
154) Sally Norman	<i>I like growing food, especially in community, I live making local produce available to people who have difficulty accessing it, and I think it is super important to invest in these public resources with climate change looming and social resilience more necessary than ever.</i>
155) Debbie Tenenbaum	
156) Dan Leaverton	
157) Carla Waters	<i>Yes we need more community garden space. There are lots of benefits besides providing food. Growing native plants supports the native insect and bird populations, which maintains a more robust ecosystem. Humans depend on our ecosystems to provide life support services. Having quiet green space to spend time in boosts mental and emotional health. Working with soil and nature promotes respect for living things.</i>
158) Arie Dallas	<i>I'm interested in Berkeley putting together as many pieces as possible around the food systems crisis.</i> <i>I also like growing food and feel that my mental health is supported through this act.</i>

181) Christina Tuccillo	<i>We love growing food at my house and would like others to be able to. Community gardens are great, and more are better! Reconnect people to the source of their food.</i>
182) Cheri Pierce	<i>It's good for the community's souls, and health, and provides food and a home for the many bugs, birds, and wildlife which abounds. At the Peralta Community Garden there is a lengthy wait list, as so many seek the community of a garden and a place to grow produce.</i>
183) Nan Colleen Noonan	
184) Rebecca Dahlberg	<i>Yes yes yes. !!!</i>
185) Dale anania	<i>Gardens are important features of a living city</i>
186) Shawnim Kashani	<i>This would be another wonderful addition to our neighborhood. Currently the lot is sitting unused and overgrown with grass. We should be actively contributing to solutions for our climate crisis. Growing food locally, encouraging the community to engage in sustainable practices, and expanding green space in Berkeley are all assets to this city and neighborhood.</i>
187) Emilie Malinovsky	<i>Knowing how to grow food and even just learning about where food comes from is so important! I have learned to love the garden and I support this 100%! Also what a fun way to bring the community together, puts a smile on my face thinking about the possibility of it :)</i>
188) Mark Wieder	
189) Shauna Haines	<i>I do like growing food, and I want others to have the chance to do so as well. I have gardened in whatever space is available and know what an important resource community gardens are. Let's convert this abandoned site to a safe, healthful and productive garden that more Berkeleyans will enjoy. In addition to helping children and adults learn where our food comes from and how to grow it sustainably, gardens are good for the environment and will help keep our city green.</i>
190) Lara	
191) Vrashabh	<i>Love other community gardens. Would love to see one more!</i>
192) Paul Miller Gamble	<i>I love this idea! I walk my dog by this site every day and it has so much potential to be a great community garden.</i>
193) Juana	<i>I'm on the waiting list.</i>
194) Jennie Dorman	<i>I'm a long time community gardener, and I've also run a garden at my kids' elementary school. I'd like to highlight a couple of benefits that community gardens offer, in addition to their critical role in mitigating climate change. Children love to learn about how food grows and to help in the growing of it. Community gardens also knit neighbors together in a way that brings benefits for emergency preparedness and keeping the peace within neighborhoods. Community gardens also help alleviate poverty and inequity. They boost health, reduce illness, and stress, and contribute to the overall health of community members.</i>
195) Vilma Sakalauskaite	<i>More gardens is better</i>
196) Ryan Chugani	<i>Access to healthy food is a basic human right.</i>
197) Juliet Wayne	<i>We always need more gardens and community centers! I'm so excited for this</i>
198) Wes Holtermann	<i>The city needs more community garden spaces and green spaces to increase food security and promote mental and physical health, support pollinators and wildlife, and sequester carbon.</i>
199) Alexis Espinosa	<i>More community gardens and education!!!</i>