

From: K Silva
To: Peters, Lindy; Albin-Smith, Tess
Cc: Arellano Sandy
Subject: Fwd: All Around Bainbridge Park
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 10:44:17 AM

Please include this in the record for the 9 September 2021 Public Works Committee meeting. Thank you.
Dear Public Works Committee members Peters and Albin-Smith~

I sent the attached email on July 25 but have not received a reply and the problem has worsened with trash becoming entangled in the weeds. To keep this message from being too large to send, I am not forwarding the photos that were attached to my original email but I am including some photos I took yesterday, 8th of September, so you can see some of the objects. If you would also like the other photos just let me know.

With the plethora of weeds and the neglected trees, the park does not look welcoming or like a place that is well-maintained. The dandelions send their seeds all along both sides of the street creating more work for nearby homeowners as they grow in new spots. The trees have more dead branches. And most importantly, the tall dry grass behind the shed is a fire hazard. At least the furniture has been removed. I don't know if the Public Works Department is understaffed or why things have been allowed to come to such a state but we need to be able to take care of what we already have before expanding responsibilities to more areas. The Bainbridge Park surroundings look badly neglected and that leads to visitors not caring about the state in which they leave it either, compounding the problem. The clean-up job keeps getting bigger as time goes on.

I would love to be able to take "before and after" photos that look markedly different. Here is my request:

Will you be kind enough to address the problem and make a commitment that the City will set the standards for the requests that it makes of its residents, in this case to keep the sidewalks, curbs and gutters weed-free? Along with showing that the City cares about our public spaces, practicing what one preaches is the right thing to do. Thank you.

~Kathy Silva









From: K Silva <hiksilva@mcn.org>
Date: July 25, 2021 at 1:04:10 PM PDT
To: coneal@fortbragg.com, jsmith@fortbragg.com
Subject: All Around Bainbridge Park

Dear John Smith and Chantel O'Neal~

I'm not sure to whom this request should go and hope that it will be forwarded to the person/persons who can make it happen. We live on Whipple Street across from Bainbridge Park. Cheerful yellow dandelions, along with other weeds, have completely filled the gutter along the east side of the park. The bright yellow flowers may give off a happy glow, but when seed heads develop it's not happiness felt here as those seeds blow across the street and take up root in front of our homes. The weeds are natural collection spots for the trash that tumbles along the street, too. I am combatting more and more dandelions in our sidewalk and gutter, removing them by hand. I have not seen the gutter along the park allowed to look this bad in the past.

If it was physically possible, I would "adopt" your side of the street and remove those weeds but I can't so I am asking for you to do your part in keeping the area weeded. I have attached some photos I took this morning. You might want to consult with the Botanical Gardens about more permanent weed

removal methods. I hope that the City of Fort Bragg wants to set a good example since your flyer asks citizens to weed their sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Will someone be kind enough to please remove the weeds from the sidewalks and gutters around the park and clean out the storm drain openings at the corners (it will, hopefully, rain again)? As the flyer says, "Your neighbors and community appreciate it." And we neighbors will certainly and sincerely appreciate it.

Also looking woefully neglected are the young trees on the west side of the park. You can see the dead branches and distorted shapes of the arbutus due to lack of maintenance needed in their windy location. The ginkgo trees are unhealthy and lichens are taking over them because they're not thriving as they should. They have old brown leaves and young/new leaves turning brown. Will someone please try to save these trees? If the the browning is from bacterial leaf scorch it might be too late but if it's from lack of water perhaps you can find a source of water for their survival. The trees would be lovely if cared for but they just look sad and neglected and that detracts from the ambiance of the park. The dead branches on the trees in Wiggly Giggly need to be removed, too. Maybe you could start an "adopt a tree" program. Visitors to the park will take better care of it if it looks like the City is caring for it, too.

I sent a photo of the piece of furniture to the police department today so it might be taken care of before you read this. The weeds by the utility shed also need to be removed. The person sleeping there might be a smoker and the shed is a popular spot to lean against while puffing away. It will be nice if the park looks respected and well-maintained for the residents who stop by for the National Night Out event on August 3rd.

Thank you for reading my email and I hope that I will soon be saying a great big Thank You for taking care of the weeds and the trees at Bainbridge Park.

Sincerely~
Kathy Silva