

Agenda # 2
10.14.2013

Los Altos Environmental Commission

Quarterly Educational
Outreach Program

10/14/13

Attachment

EC Outreach Quarterly Program

- **Winter:** Waste, Disposal & Recycling– in partnership with Waste Management
 - Waste management
 - Composting
 - Recycling
 - Hazardous & chemical waste disposal
 - Reducing environmental harmful products
- **Spring:** Earth & Habitat / Healthy Living
 - Saving natural habitat & native birds
 - Organic and native plants gardening
 - Sustainability
 - Bicycling
- **Summer:** Air & Water
 - Air quality
 - Water conservation
 - Watershed stewardship
- **Fall:** Energy
 - Energy conservation
 - Solar installation
 - Greenhouse gas
 - Alternative transportation (bicycling, walking, mass transit)

EC Outreach Program

Location options:

- Los Altos Library
- Los Altos History Museum
- Youth Center
- Community Center
- Neutra House

Next Steps:

- Pick a date in February (Saturday 10am-12pm)
- Finalize the location
- Contact and confirm plans with Mission Trail Waste Management

10/10/2013 Suggestions for Environmental information on City website

Agenda # 3
10.14.2013

Below are comments and suggestions from the Environmental Commission members. Comments fall into three categories:

1. Content update
2. Organization – add environmental link(s) to existing pages or dropdowns
3. Hidden links take users to a non-Environmental page

1: CONTENT UPDATE

- “Hosting a Green Event” page
 - The page is written for city events. It should be written for anyone thinking of an event.
 - The Basic Checklist is really blah and doesn’t give any decent information
 - The Green Event Guidelines is 4 years old. It should be updated and targeted for anyone doing an event.
- “Alternatives in Transportation” page
 - The bicycling section should have a map of los altos bikeways
 - The section called “Hybrids, Plug-In Hybrids, Electric, and Alternative Fuel Vehicles” seems kind of vanilla and does not say much useful.
- Water usage in Los Altos
 - Should update data
- In the Green Landscaping, Local Creeks page
 - Discuss runoff prevention and storm drains
- Add a page about Birds, perhaps under the Green Landscaping page.
 - Use content from Commissioner Eyre’s paper on Bird Habitat.
- Is the Greenhouse Gas inventory still relevant now that we have that updated in the CAP?
- Commissioner Lei’s suggested updates to the Local Appointments Lists have been implemented. No further action is needed.

2: ORGANIZATION

Suggestion 1: Add a section specific to environmental issues in the city Resources section, not as a subset of the Environmental Commission page.

The screenshot shows the City of Los Altos website in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The page title is "Sustainable Eating | City of Los Altos California Official Website". The browser address bar shows the URL: www.losaltosca.gov/environmentalcommission/page/sustainable-eating. The website header features the "Los Altos" logo and navigation tabs for "COMMUNITY", "SERVICES", "BUSINESS", and "RESOURCES". The "RESOURCES" tab is active. The main content area is organized into columns. The left column includes links for "Contact the City", "Search the Website", "FAQ", "Employment Opportunities", "Event Calendar", and "Green Initiatives". The middle column lists "Municipal Code", "Bids & Requests for Proposals", "Utilities", and "Website Policy". The right column contains "Stay Connected" and "Financials and Budgets". A large image of a sign for the "LOS ALTOS CIVIC CENTER" is visible on the right. Below the main content, there is a section for "Commissions & Committees" with an image of strawberries and a logo featuring a magnifying glass and wings. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 4:02 AM.

Los Altos COMMUNITY SERVICES BUSINESS **RESOURCES**

Contact the City
Submit a Question or Comment
Staff Directory

Search the Website

FAQ

Employment Opportunities

Event Calendar
Meeting Agendas and Minutes

Green Initiatives

Municipal Code

Bids & Requests for Proposals

Utilities
California Water Service
Mission Trail Waste Systems
PG&E
Comcast Cable Service

Website Policy

Stay Connected
Email Subscriptions
Social Media Center
Government TV

Financials and Budgets
Adopted City Budget
Audited Financials
Capital Project Plans
Pension & Compensation
City Fees

Commissions & Committees

This is similar to how Parks and Library information have their own pages. Library content is in the Community section, and Parks information is in the Services section. These two items are not subsets of the Parks & Rec and Library Commission pages.

Specific comments:

- Don: Have “Environment” be a subject under “Resources” tab on main city site. Our goal here is to establish a designated place on the site for Environment-related information – not just information on the Environmental Commission. Just the same way that there are pages for Parks and Libraries that is separate from the Parks & Rec Commission or the Library Commission.

RESOURCES PAGE (screenshot above)

Contact the City
Submit a Question
Staff Directory

Search the Website

Environment
Climate Action Plan
Resource Dashboard

Employment Opportunities

etc.

- Clicking on Environment would take you to a new main landing page, Environment, that would have all the sub-tabs moved from the current ‘Environmental Commission’ page, except agendas and work plan – which would stay where they are today. For our high-priority attractions, like the CAP and (soon) the dashboard, we would have direct links from this ‘Resources’ page.
- Joe: Have “Environment” be a subject under the “Resources” tab on main city site.
 - Under this section, have the following topics:
 - Climate Action Plan
 - Ways to protect the local environment (link to the EC web page <http://www.losaltosca.gov/environmentalcommission>)
 - Under the Environmental Commission page, the Climate Action Plan (CAP) should go to its own landing page. That will have info on the CAP and Q&A. Zahra or Joe will provide that.

- At <http://www.losaltosca.gov/> the reference to the “Draft Climate Action Plan Released” should go to the above landing page.
 - Note: This may not be an issue now. As of 10/13/2013 the reference to the “Draft Climate Action Plan Released” is gone.
- Commissioner Hedden suggests there should be a spot specific to environmental issues:
 - For example, a place to find out what trees a resident should plant. One can’t find that. We used to have that information.
 - City response: * The info on what kind of trees to plant is under the Landscaping with Native Plants menu: <http://www.losaltosca.gov/environmentalcommission/page/landscaping-native-plants>
 - There should be a spot for energy and water efficiency tips.
 - City response: We don't see anything specifically discussing energy efficiency, but there is a page for Alternatives in Transportation: <http://www.losaltosca.gov/environmentalcommission/page/alternatives-transportation>
 - Information on water use efficiency can be found under the Water Conservation menu: <http://www.losaltosca.gov/environmentalcommission/page/water-conservation>
 - We are planning a lot of outreach with the Climate Action Plan. That could go on this new page.
 - City response: Link to the Climate Action plan is on the EC commission home page: <http://www.losaltosca.gov/envaironmentalcommission>
 - As the EC commission outreach activities ramp up, the EC page will become a summary page with more information and/or links. We could see the possibility of creating a link on the homepage under News & Announcements, but careful consideration will need to be put into creating an "Environmental Issues" link in the mega menu due to the other commissions and the vast content that may ensue.
- Commissioner Lei’s suggested updates to the Greener Lifestyle link on the Environmental Commission page have been implemented. No further action is needed.

3: LINKS

Here are a few hidden links that may direct users to an unintended page:

- The “Hosting a Green Event” page
 - If you click on the H or O in “Hosting”, it takes you to a History of Los Altos
- Alternatives in Transportation
 - If you click on the A or L it goes to the History
- Sustainable Eating
 - The S and U take you to the History
- Water usage in Los Altos
 - W goes to History

Protecting and Enhancing Bird Habitat in Los Altos

9/22/13 DRAFT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WEBSITE

(Note: the two pictures are free from google)

Birds are wonderful wildlife companions for many reasons. They are fun to watch, devour insects, pollinate flowers, and provide beautiful songs for those who take a few minutes to enjoy them. They are also a good indicator of the health of the environment.

You can do a number of things to protect birds and enhance their habitat in Los Altos. Some of these include:

- Join the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Bird Sanctuary program at http://scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=audubon_at_home
- Install Bird Nesting Boxes. See the section below called ***Bird Nesting Boxes***
- Use native plants and trees
- Consider the tradeoff that tall trees create: large conifers (redwoods, cedars, monterey pines and such) attract raptors to nest, but also crows. It may be better to not to plant conifers.
- Follow the Santa Clara Valley Water District's stream setback guidelines for properly protecting riparian ecosystems. Our streams are the last wild corridors in Los Altos.
- Follow tree trimming guidelines: <http://losangelesaudubon.org/index.php/tree-trimming-guidelines-mainmenu-155>
- Keep cats indoors and away from birds. See the section below called ***The Effect of Cats on Birds***
- Use Bird Safe Windows. See <http://www.sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=2506>
- Don't use rodenticides (rat killer). They cause secondary poisoning of wildlife and pollute the streams and watersheds. See <http://www.sfapproved.org/rodents>
- The chemicals from herbicides (weed killers) and pesticides also endanger birds, in addition to polluting the streams via irrigation runoff.
- Install trash containers in parks and schools that do not allow access to crows and gulls.
- Disallow feeding of wild and feral animals in parks and open space.
- Crows are a problem everywhere - they feed on trash - and on other bird nestlings too. Other than keep food out of reach (cover trash bins in schools etc), and keep food out of the landfills, there are no easy answers.



Bird Nesting Boxes

Before the suburbs, many birds nested in hollow or dead standing trees. However, nobody likes those in their yards anymore so native birds have a hard time finding good

places to nest. You can help these birds by purchasing or making bird houses that are appropriate for local birds. Here is some information on providing cavity nesting boxes.

SCVAS has an active cavity nesting box program
<http://www.scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=cbrp>

A good reference for building or buying bird boxes is
http://www.scvas.org/pdf/cbrp/BuildingNestBoxes_Groups.pdf

The type of birds most likely to inhabit boxes in the back yards of Los Altos homes include the Chickadee, Nuthatch, and Oak Titmouse. Boxes for these are on page 7 of the above guide. The nest boxes should not be placed in close proximity to each other, as the birds are territorial. Also, place the boxes so they are safe from cats. A ¼ acre yard could accommodate 1-2 of these boxes.

New nest boxes should try to be installed by early February, so the birds that are arriving in the area and/or looking for places to breed have time to find the boxes before they choose their preferred site.



If people just want to buy bird boxes instead of building them they can buy them at the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's shop at McClellan Ranch (see address below).

Bluebirds need meadows and grasslands - they do surprisingly well in places like cemeteries and ranch areas, but not so well in city parks (unless they're quite large). They don't actually do that well in/near groves of trees and/or lawns, and because they feed on insects on the ground, they generally don't do as well in heavily peopled areas (i.e. places where a lot of people would be walking through, playing games, etc.).

Places mostly characterized by Redwood or Oak Trees are much more likely to attract Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Oak Titmice, and possibly even White-breasted Nuthatches. But not Western Bluebirds.

The Effect of Cats on Birds

Keeping cats indoor is a worthy campaign (see "KittyCam Reveals High Levels of Wildlife Being Killed by Outdoor Cats":

<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120806.html> A new study of house cats allowed to roam outdoors finds that nearly one-third succeeded in capturing and killing animals. The cats, which wore special video cameras around their necks that recorded their outdoor activities, killed an average of 2.1 animals every week they were outside, but brought less than one of every four of their kills home. Of particular interest, bird kills constituted about 13 percent of the total wildlife kills. Based on these results,

American Bird Conservancy and The Wildlife Society estimate that house cats kill far more than the previous estimate of a billion birds and other animals each year.

The researcher says: “If we extrapolate the results of this study across the country and include feral cats, we find that cats are likely killing more than 4 billion animals per year, including at least 500 million birds. Cat predation is one of the reasons why one in three American bird species are in decline,” said Dr. George Fenwick, President of American Bird Conservancy, the only organization exclusively conserving birds throughout the Americas.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society has many programs and resources. For more details visit www.scvas.org or call [\(408\) 252-3740](tel:4082523740). Their shop has many different types of bird nesting boxes, bird feeders, and other bird-related products. The shop is at 2221 McClellan Rd. Cupertino, CA 95014

Agenda #9
10.14.2013

Food Service Facility		Address		EPS (Styrofoam) container-ware	
				YES	NO
1	A G FERRARI FOODS	295	MAIN STREET		
2	A GOOD MORNING	4546	EL CAMINO REAL, A-13		
3	AFC SUSHI AT DRAEGER'S #2	342	FIRST STREET		
4	AKANE JAPANESE RESTAURANT	250	THIRD STREET		
5	ALDO LOS ALTOS	388	MAIN STREET		
6	ALOTTA'S DELICATESSEN	2249	GRANT ROAD		
7	ANDRONICO'S COMMUNITY MARKET	690	FREMONT AVENUE (RANCHO SHOPPING CENTER)		
8	ARCO AM/PM #83187	988	SAN ANTONIO ROAD NORTH		
9	ARMADILLO WILLY'S	1031	SAN ANTONIO ROAD NORTH		
10	BADRY'S CATERING	982	DOLORES STREET		
11	BASKIN-ROBBINS ICE CREAM STORE #143	264	STATE STREET		
12	BELLA VITA	376	FIRST STREET		
13	BOARDWALK RESTAURANT, THE	4940	EL CAMINO REAL		
14	BRIAN'S RESTAURANT	680	FREMONT AVENUE (RANCHO SHOPPING CENTER)		
15	BUMBLE	145	FIRST STREET		
16	BURGER TOWN	448	SAN ANTONIO ROAD SOUTH		
17	CAFÉ NUR	280	MAIN STREET		
18	CAFÉ VITALE	987	FREMONT AVENUE	X	
19	CARL'S JR RESTAURANT #7033	5000	EL CAMINO REAL		
20	CARVEL ICE CREAM STORE #3147	2310	HOMESTEAD ROAD		
21	CASA LUPE	185	MAIN STREET		
22	CHEF CHU'S	1067	SAN ANTONIO ROAD NORTH		
23	COURTYARD AT MARRIOTT	4320	EL CAMINO REAL		

Attachment

49	LOS ALTOS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	1560	COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE		
50	LOS ALTOS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB-MOBILE KITCHEN	1560	COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE		
51	LOS ALTOS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB-SNACK	1560	COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE		
52	LOS ALTOS GRILL	233	THIRD STREET		
53	LOS ALTOS LIBRARY	13	SAN ANTONIO ROAD SOUTH		
54	LOS ALTOS SUB-ACUTE AND REHABILITATION CENTER	809	FREMONT AVENUE		
55	LOS ALTOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	655	MAGDALENA AVENUE		
56	LOYOLA LIQUORS	979	FREMONT AVENUE		
57	LUCKY #723-DELI/BAKERY	2175	GRANT ROAD		
58	LULU'S ON MAIN STREET	163	MAIN STREET		X
59	MAIN STREET BAGELS	666	FREMONT AVENUE		
60	MAIN STREET CAFÉ & BOOKS	134	MAIN STREET		
61	MALTBY'S RESTAURANT, INC.	101	PLAZA NORTH		
62	MIKADO	161	MAIN STREET		
63	MIYO YOGURT	270	MAIN STREET		
64	MORE FLAVOR!	991	SAN ANTONIO ROAD NORTH		
65	MURACCI'S JAPANESE RESTAURANT #2	244	STATE STREET		
66	OPA! LOS ALTOS	325	MAIN STREET		X
67	OREGANO'S WOOD-FRIED PIZZA	4546	EL CAMINO REAL A-6		
68	ORIGINAL PANCAKE HOUSE, THE	420	SAN ANTONIO ROAD SOUTH		
69	PASTA MARKET, THE	4546	EL CAMINO REAL		
70	PEET'S COFFEE & TEA	367	STATE STREET		
71	PEET'S COFFEE & TEA	4598	EL CAMINO REAL		
72	PHO VI HOA RESTAURANT	4546	EL CAMINO REAL A-12		
73	PINEAPPLE GRILL AND BAR	4926	EL CAMINO REAL		

106	WILDBERRY YOGURT	656	FREMONT AVENUE A		
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EPS (Styrofoam) container-ware survey at restaurants in Los Altos

1. Divide the total number of restaurants among the volunteers.
2. Please ask the restaurants if they are using EPS container-ware products and place a check mark under the “yes” or “no” column on the survey form.
3. If the restaurant is using EPS products:
 - a) Please inform them that the City of Los Altos City Council will be considering the adoption of an ordinance to phase out expanded polystyrene (EPS) container-ware in December to reduce litter and improve water quality.
 - b) Please mention that the City of Los Altos had sent out a letter to all of the food service establishments in Los Altos last July regarding a Food-Ware Vendor Open House that took place in the Sunnyvale Senior Center on August 6, 2013 to help the food service establishments learn about alternative products. The event was coordinated between the Cities of Los Altos, Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Mountain View, but that none of the Los Altos restaurants attended the event.
 - c) However, there will be another opportunity to attend a vendor fair in San Jose on November 4, 2013. The information is below.

Vendor Open House
Monday, November 4th
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Roosevelt Community Center
901 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95116

4. If the restaurant is NOT using EPS products:
 - a) Please thank them for being an early adopter of alternative products.
5. Please turn in the survey results to Aida Fairman (afairman@losaltosca.gov) at the Public Works Department in City Hall no later than December 1, 2013.

Thanks in advance for your help!