

## 5/19/22 General Plan Meeting Followup

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To: General Plan Update <planpetaluma@cityofpetaluma.org>

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Hi General Plan Team,

Just wanted to thank you for the meeting and the hard work thus far. There is a cohesive vision emerging that is really exciting that includes nurturing and distributing open spaces through city limits, creating 15 minute neighborhoods and reducing negative impacts on environment from human activity.

I advocate for the idea that the General Plan should include the establishment of a committee or even department within the city for "natural resources and open space". Alongside the focus on carbon modeling and human impacts on climate, there needs to be assessment of baseline environmental quality and how to cultivate ecosystem restoration.

As a pillar of that regenerative focus should be soil health and the critical role of fungi to our ecosystems. Understanding the rhizosphere and soil health is the cutting edge of ecological science. I think Petaluma has the chance to be on the frontiers of regenerative planning if all of our decision frameworks included robust consideration of Flora, fauna and **funga**. Ideally, that would mean a natural resources and Open Space Committee that informed Planning Department decisions and even city ordinances that required EIRs and project assessments to include impacts on fungal species and soil biomes.

Again, thank you for your hard work and I hope these thoughts are implemented into Petaluma's updated General plan.

Sincerely,

Darren Racusen