

From: Scott Fishman <scottgfishman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Hubbard, Kelsey <khubbard@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: English Hill Property

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Hi Ms. Hubbard-

Just wanted to drop a line regarding the English Hill property located between English and Dana Streets on the westside. Until recently this property was used for decades as open space by community members of all ages. That use became prohibited by the owner earlier this year. While this property is currently designated as Residential Very Low Density in the General Plan and in the current zoning ordinance it is designated as R1 **it should instead be designated as “Open Space” in the General Plan and be re-zoned to “Open Space Park”**. These designations are much more reflective as to how this property has been used for over 50 years. More importantly, there are several reasons the city should protect this unique and special property as open space going forward.

First, the English Hill property is ideal open space in a suburban environment and is exactly the type of property that the city should strive to protect. It is within walking distance of thousands of Petaluma residents and contributes to the community as a healthy activity for residents with an extremely minimal carbon footprint.

Second, English Hill is an exceptionally gorgeous space that serves as a working wildlife corridor and is home to many plants and animals that deserve protection.

Third, the reality is that the property is unfit for residential use. There are geological issues, steep slopes, slide issues, lack of access to city services and high costs that have made this property impractical to build on despite its current designation.

I’m asking the city look closely at these issues and consider redesignating this property to Open Space across the board.

With appreciation for your time,

Scott Fishman
