

**From:** Wendy Springstead <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:32 PM  
**To:** Susan Andrade-Wax <[Susan.AndradeWax@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Susan.AndradeWax@cityofsanrafael.org)>  
**Subject:** Sun Valley Park

I would like to find out about the Sun Valley Park, the area where lots of people let their dogs run loose and not picking up after them. I've since stop walking my dogs through the park because of that. The loose dogs start fights as well. I've also heard that a couple of people have been bitten because of the loose dogs. There had been signs stating it's NOT a DOG PARK, which have been taken down. My thought – for the upper Gazebo area – fence it off and let the loose dogs go up there.

Thank you  
Wendy, Bella & Kisses

Sent from Mail for Windows

**From:** Phil Abey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:29 AM  
**To:** Susan Andrade-Wax <[Susan.AndradeWax@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Susan.AndradeWax@cityofsanrafael.org)>  
**Subject:** Sun Valley Park March 17, 2022 P&R agenda item

Hi Susan:

We were the Landscape Architects that designed and reviewed the installation of the play area at the Community Center. Today though I am reaching out as a resident of the Sun Valley Area. The rear of my house abuts Sun Valley Park on our downslope side, with views of the entire park from my deck.

### **History:**

Our firm worked with the Carlene McCart and Public Works in designing the upgrades to Sun Valley Park to increase accessibility as identified by the DOJ report on city facilities in relation to federal ADA guidelines. At the time, the main components that were improved were walkways through the park, group picnic area, restroom and accessible parking space. As with all rehabilitation projects, everyone wanted to do more but funds available restricted us to these components. The design process also included a number of neighborhood meetings early in the public outreach stage.

After the ADA project at the park, the City removed an old water storage structure, upslope from the park, after it became an attractive nuisance. I liked it as an historic element but people of all ages were breaking into it and climbing on top of it.

### **Concerns:**

The current gazebo is in a secluded location without a compelling reason to be there. During the neighborhood outreach phase for the ADA improvements, it was made clear that the neighbors adjacent to the park were upset with the people congregating at the wooden gazebo late at night. This often resulted in loud disruptive behavior at the gazebo and enroute to it resulting in frequent calls to police. Even though I am one of the adjacent neighbors to the park and have experienced the late night behavior, I tried to remain neutral during the ADA improvements project. But now is a good time to revisit this issue as a separate park management item, especially with the warm nights of summer forthcoming, making it more comfortable for late night use.

### **Possible Solutions:**

During the design of the ADA improvements phase, and based on neighborhood concerns, I recommended removing the existing gazebo and constructing a new, small picnic area at the brow of the hill, under a large existing tree ('nature's gazebo') overlooking the park. While removing the gazebo completely would make the issue mute, the City at the time wanted to keep a programable small covered picnic area, so moving it to a more prominent location would make security surveillance easier and may deter undesirable late night use. If you do not need the gazebo as a programable element though, removing it without replacement would still allow informal play and dog owners to access the area during the day.

I wanted to convey my thoughts to you and the Park and Recreation Commission via email prior to the upcoming meeting to allow more time for other neighbors to weigh in via Zoom on March 17th.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on the matter.

Phil Abey

abey arnold ASSOCIATES  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



**From:** doug gawoski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 6:26 PM  
**To:** Susan Andrade-Wax <[Susan.AndradeWax@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Susan.AndradeWax@cityofsanrafael.org)>  
**Subject:** Sun Valley Park Gazebo

Dear Susan-

As a resident of Sun Valley I object to removing an asset like the gazebo because of a lack of maintenance and enforcement of bad behavior. If someone sees prohibited behavior (whatever that is), they should call police, and police can respond appropriately.

The daily law breaking behavior at the park is dogs off leash in the grass area, and the leash rule is clearly posted at the entrance. My children have grown but my neighbors would rather have their children play in the street than in feces at the 'dog park'. If you want to improve to this park and playground for children, start by enforcing the leash law.

The gazebo should be better maintained for use by residents as a barbeque and picnic area. It's also possible the gazebo pre-dates the park and is a historic structure. My long passed and original subdivision neighbor said Charlie Chaplin visited the gazebo during San Rafael's silent film days.

Doug Gawoski  
[REDACTED]