

**Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group
Public Comments and PAWG Communications Summary**
Hawthorns Area Plan

District staff received 153 written public comments regarding the Hawthorns Area Plan during the Public Access Working Group (PAWG) process from July 2023 to June 2024, including feedback from PAWG members. This input informed the PAWG’s final recommendations made during their June 13, 2024 meeting. These recommendations will be forwarded to Midpen’s Planning and Natural Resources (PNR) Committee for consideration and subsequently to the Board for final policy decisions.

The following table summarizes repeated themes of public interest, arranged by Midpen staff in a manner that corresponds with the Board-approved project vision and goals. Main concerns relate to traffic safety, natural resources protection, aesthetics, and regional trail connections.

Please note that individual comments often address multiple themes, and therefore the total number of comments outlined in the following table exceeds the total number of written public comments received. To review individual public comments and communications from the PAWG, please refer to **Attachment 1 – Written Public Comments**.

Theme	# of Comments	# of Comment Letters from Groups or Neighborhoods
<i>Natural Resources Protection</i>		
Support for restoration and habitat enhancement	3	
Concern about wildlife in the preserve	5	
Concern about fire safety and questions about disced fire breaks	4	
Concern about degradation of flora and fauna	5	
<i>Driveway Access Point, Traffic Safety and Parking (Public Access)</i>		
Overall support for parking	17	(Total)
<i>Support for parking option #4 (by historic driveway entry)</i>	1	(Subtotal)
<i>Support for parking option #7 (in Hawthorns meadow)</i>	4	“
<i>Support for parking option #8 (by eastern boundary of the preserve)</i>	2	“
<i>Support for parking option #9 (by existing driveway entry)</i>	1	“
<i>Support for parking option #10 (by Alpine/Portola intersection)</i>	1	“
Overall concern about parking	16	(Total)
<i>Opposition to parking option #4 (by historic driveway entry)</i>	6	(Subtotal)

Attachment 6

<i>Opposition to parking option #8 (by eastern boundary of the preserve)</i>	8	(Subtotal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One petition from residents of Nathhorst Ave, Applewood Lane, Veronica Place and Alpine Rd.
<i>Opposition to parking option #9 (by existing driveway entry)</i>	1	(Subtotal)
<i>Opposition to parking option #10 (by Alpine/Portola intersection)</i>	1	(Subtotal)
Concern about safety (cars and bikes)	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee One petition from residents of Nathhorst Ave, Applewood Lane, Veronica Place and Alpine Rd
Concern about increased traffic and visitation	4	
Concern about overflow parking	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One petition from residents of Nathhorst Ave, Applewood Lane, Veronica Place and Alpine Rd. One petition from residents in Portola Valley Ranch
Desire to reduce the amount of proposed parking	6	
Desire and suggestions for parking by existing driveway	5	
Desire for parking by commercial area, closes to Alpine/Portola intersection	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One petition from residents of Nathhorst Ave, Applewood Lane, Veronica Place and Alpine Rd.
Desire for equestrian parking	4	
Support for phased parking	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee
Desire for Los Trancos Road driveway access for the public	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two comments from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee One petition from residents of Nathhorst Ave, Applewood Lane, Veronica Place and Alpine Rd
Opposition to Los Trancos Road driveway access for the public	1	
Request for more traffic, visitation and design data	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three comments from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee
Suggestion for use staff residence area for parking	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee

Attachment 6

Visitor Experience in The Preserve (Public Access)		
Support for add more trails	2	
Concern about trail segment being too close to each other	1	
Support for multi-use trails (hikers, equestrians and bicycles)	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One comment from Portola Valley Trails & Paths Committee
Support for ADA and easy-access trails	3	
Concern about user conflict	2	
Suggestion for separating user groups	3	
Support for hiking uses	1	
Support for dogs on-leash uses	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One comment from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee
Desire for a dog park	15	
Opposition to dog park	2	
	1	
Support for bicycle uses, especially for children	12	
Opposition to bicycle uses	3	
Suggestion for other recreational uses	1	
Local and Regional Connectivity		
Desire for Alpine Trail realignment, connection and considerations	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two comments from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee
Desire for connections to Alpine Trail	2	
Desire for connections to Sweet Springs Trail	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two comments from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee One comment from Portola Valley Trails & Paths Committee
Opposition to connections to Sweet Springs Trail	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One petition from residents in Portola Valley Ranch
Desire for connection though historic complex - Los Trancos Trail to Vally Oak Street	10	
Desire for regional connections (to Arastradero and Foothill Nature Preserves)	2	
Opposition to connections to Valley Oak Street	2	
Desire for connection though olive grove	1	
Aesthetics		
Suggestion to comply with Alpine Road Scenic Corridor and General Plan	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two comments from Portola Valley Town Ad Hoc Committee
Concern about proposed parking being visible from Alpine Road and homes	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One petition from residents of Nathhorst Ave, Applewood Lane, Veronica Place and Alpine Rd.

Attachment 6

Desire to protect viewsheds of neighboring homes	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One petition from residents in Portola Valley Ranch
Operations and Maintenance		
Suggestion to consider parking reservation and fees	1	
Concern about drainage issues	1	
Other Considerations		
General inquiry/updates	17	
Process and schedule	4	
Suggestion to include Historic Complex in Area Plan planning	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two comments from Portola Valley Ranch
Appreciation for the process	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One comment from Portola Valley Trails & Paths Committee
Town Ad Hoc Committee involvement	6	
Public involvement / public comment process	4	
Town's housing element	3	
Comment questioning the weight of Portola Valley Ranch petition	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One comment from Portola Valley Trails & Paths Committee