

Cataldi Park

Melissa Le [REDACTED]

Sun 8/4/2024 6:01 PM

To: Wong, Annie <Annie.Wong@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

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Hi there. This Friday when I went to Cataldi Park to skate as we usually have done in the past years, even through Covid, I was shocked to see that it has been turned into a pickle ball court and a basketball court. I feel that people do not know how important a community was formed through skating because all our Skating rinks have been closed like in Milpitas and San José Blossom Hill Road Aloha and we have no other means of skating for free anymore. We implore of you that we get to speak at the meeting to extend our voices in saving a part of that new development into a skating circle or or mini rink. See you at the City Hall meeting.

Warmest regards and stay safe please,
Ms. Melissa Le
TK Kindergarten teacher
Don Callejon School and relaxing skater

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." **Margaret Mead**

"Luck runs out but safety is good for life." 🧠
Author unknown

"Learn to enjoy every minute of your life. Be happy now. Don't wait for something outside of yourself to make you happy in the future. Think how really precious is the time you have to spend, whether it's at work or with your family. Every minute should be enjoyed and savored."

- **Earl Nightingale**

"I think being in love with life is a key to eternal youth."

- **Doug Hutchison**

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Please do not construct pickle ball courts at Cataldi Park

Brian Wang [REDACTED]

Sun 8/4/2024 8:31 PM

To: Wong, Annie <Annie.Wong@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

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Hello Annie,

I am writing to request that construction for pickleball courts currently planned for the outdoor space at Cataldi Park in San Jose be halted or at least delayed until further community discussion is solicited on the matter. For over a year now, a community of skaters has gathered there every Friday to seek joy in the art of skate dance and enjoy the free outdoor impromptu roller rink that we have setup there. Not only that, but throughout the week, children, pet owners, scooter riders, skateboarders, dance enthusiasts, and other interested parties have utilized that space as a free way to practice and enjoy time outside.

As a rollerblader myself, I and others often find it extremely difficult to find an outdoor flat space that is publicly available to practice skating. I drive all the way to Cataldi Park from Fremont, California because I have found it to be the best place for me to skate and enjoy free time with my friends in the area. Please do not take this vital outdoor space away from people who frequent it because that would force us to use basketball courts, tennis courts, and other spaces which are often crowded, or outright ban skaters, leading to conflicts between community members.

Instead, might I suggest that the city of SJ reconstruct a section of the tennis courts that are available at Cataldi Park? The courts there are often underutilized, and the surface there is even more ideal for pickleball players.

I hope that my words indicate the importance that skating at Cataldi Park has for me and many others in the skate community. Please help us preserve this space not only for us, but for other members of the broader community who also share it.

Sincerely,
Brian Wang

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SAFETY CONCERNS

Sun 8/4/2024 11:24 PM

To: Park Concerns <Park.Concerns@sanjoseca.gov>; Wong, Annie <Annie.Wong@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

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Dear Ms. Annie Wong and SJ Parks and Recreation Associates:

We need your support with keeping San Jose's children/ families safe while they are exercising and making friends outdoors!!! Please do not build pickleball courts at Cataldi Park.

Picture this scene....It's a typical evening at the Cataldi Park basketball court.

A father is teaching his 7 year old daughter how to rollerblade. He knows all of the best moves and she listens to his every word as they practice spinning and balancing on one foot. Not far away, another parent is teaching his 5 year old son how to roller skate. The boy is awkward and falls down again and again and his father catches him each time, patiently following behind him. A group of youngsters practicing for an upcoming quinceanera are also dancing on the asphalt. Some children are drawing the people at the park with sidewalk chalk and writing math problems underneath the drawings. There are community members spending time at Cataldi walking, playing hopscotch, playing basketball, riding scooters, training their dogs, practicing for upcoming dances, celebrating birthdays on their skates, and skateboarding/ longboarding. There's a group practicing their dragon dance. A guy playing basketball stops his game periodically to toss a tennis ball so that his chihuahua runs between the people across the cement floor and grass to fetch the ball. A class of children are racing around in their inline skates with instructors coaching them as they race about. The boy and his dad stop to ask the coach how they may join the class. After all, skating builds coordination, motor planning, endurance, agility, balance, and has demonstrated benefits of heart health and mental health.

I moved here 5 years ago to a town where I did not know a single soul. I have met almost all of my friends while skating at Cataldi. I know this is the same story for many of my friends. I met a 4 year old who had learned to skate at 3 years old. This neighborhood child met an 8 year old skater while skating at Cataldi and became best friends while skating together. I pointed them out to a friend, "They just met and are like best friends already."

"Skating will do that..." she said, referring to building bonds. She and I had met at Cataldi while skating and are now close friends. She met her boyfriend of 18 years also while skating.

According to https://thepickleballdinks.com/cities/san_jose_california, there are already 12 parks in San Jose with pickleball courts. Is it really necessary to destroy an already pre existing third space that community members clearly use and enjoy as it is by building more pickleball courts? I visit Cataldi at a minimum once per week and have only ever seen 2 pickleball players there. These two pickleball players are also fellow skaters so they skate and play pickleball on the area you have closed off to make into pickleball courts.

If there are other local pickleball players in the Cataldi Park neighborhood of whom I am unaware who have demanded the installation of the new pickleball courts, perhaps a compromise can be made so that everyone

can enjoy the same space on a rotational basis. Perhaps the area may be used for pickleball during school hours and for other purposes during after school hours. Or maybe both an open play area and pickleball courts can be included by paving some of the grass fields. Pickleball court lines could also be painted into the tennis courts as a shared space.

For the sake of our community, I implore you to reconsider your decision to replace the current Cataldi Park basketball and cement playground with pickleball courts. It is unsafe for skaters to be skating in the streets with traffic which may be exactly what may happen after the pickleball courts replace this open play space! Please allow skaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to continue to use this "third space" at Cataldi. Please keep the children of San Jose safe! Allow them to continue to build their motor planning and social skills in a safe environment. If any of these children are hurt because they are skating in the streets, do you want your blood on your hands??? The decision to make their playground pickleball courts is unwise.

Respectfully,
A Concerned San Jose Community Member

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