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Hamlin Nature Park, self-guided audio tours to get public weigh-in

By Pippa Fisher



Members of the Hamlin Nature Park Subcommittee walk the area March 7 in preparation for creating self-guided audio tours for the public. Photo provided

Lafayette is looking for input on the future park development of a hillside, tree-studded open space, for trails and walking, tucked away right next to homes, alongside St. Mary's Road.

In preparation for creating guidelines that will shape the master plan for the parkland - Hamlin Nature Park - the Parks, Trails and Recreation Department is seeking the public's feedback.

It's been over two years now since the city, with the help of the John Muir Land Trust, acquired the hilly, 19-acre swathe of land that sits between St. Mary's Road and Sweet Drive. The area was formerly known as the "Batwing" property because of its shape, which when mapped out, resembles a flying bat. Its location puts nature trails just steps from neighborhoods.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, The Hamlin Nature Park Subcommittee is working to set up self-guided audio tours of the property. Members of the committee together with staff toured the site March 7, mapping out the guided tour and preparing walking areas. Currently PT&R Commissioner Lauren Herpich is working with staff to produce audio, waivers and signage for the self-guided tours, with the expectation that the audio tours will be made available to the public March 20 until April 4.

During that timeframe participants will be able to email or mail in their comments for review by the subcommittee in early April.

Lafayette PT&R Director Jonathan Katayanagi says that socially distant guided tours of the Hamlin property by subcommittee members might be conducted if requested. Details on how to request a tour will be sent out with promotion for the self guided property tour.

To be added to an email list to receive notifications about the Hamlin Nature Park residents should email ace@lovelafayette.org

Reach the reporter at: pippa@lamorindaweekly.com

[back](#)

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