

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



Photo provided

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

## By Pippa Fisher

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](mailto:ace@lovelafayette.org)

# Public art coming to Lafayette

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Loria also updated the council on the Town Center/BART pathway project by Kinematics Lab known as the Dandelion project, now on hold awaiting a decision on funding from the County Transportation Authority, delayed due to COVID.

Loria went on to mention an upcoming project that is in fact not public art since it will be on private property on the wall just below Uncle Yu's restaurant – a diversity, equity and inclusion mural by local artist Lara Dutto, proposed by a local nonprofit, to be done in conjunction with young artists from Lamorinda. Loria said there had been considerable excitement and interest about the mural featuring flowers, monarch butterflies, a panther and a dragon, but notes it is prompting the committee to consider guidelines for art on private property that is publicly visible.

Recognizing the need to update and expand its list of preferred artists through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion, as explained in the

staff report, the PAC noted interest from residents in community-based artistic expression in response to current events, including the movement toward social justice and racial equality, as well as the experience of the COVID pandemic. An example of such an installation is the BIPOC rock garden created by Stanley Middle School student Adam Dolberg, currently on loan to the city until September 2022 at the Lafayette Community Center.

Noting that two of the development projects requested a waiver of the public art requirement under the state density bonus application process (with one of those since rescinded), Loria said that waivers do raise some concerns for the PAC, "that as more projects come along and more waivers are taken, it will diminish our ability to bring more art to the city of Lafayette." However the committee welcomes and supports the \$2 million donated from the developers of Lafayette Lane in lieu of public art to the restoration of the Park Theater. "We will only benefit from that," said Loria.

An interactive map on the PAC website can be found at [www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/public-art-committee/public-art-map/-fsiteid-1](http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/public-art-committee/public-art-map/-fsiteid-1)



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

### City Council

Regular Meeting  
Monday, March 22, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

### Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, April 5, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

### Design Review

Wednesday, March 24, 7 p.m. Zoom  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

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