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City adds 20 acres for neighborhood hillside trails, open space

By Pippa Fisher



Google maps

needed to add 44 acres to the current 91 acres. The city's plan had identified this property as a priority dating back to the 1980s.

Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jonathan Katayanagi credited the hard work of the many volunteers who made this possible, including Linus Eukel, executive director of John Muir Land Trust, past and present city councils, and the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission.

Funding for the \$1.8 million price tag will come from the Parkland Acquisition Fund, fees that are collected when new development occurs, and from the city's remaining Measure WW local grant funds. This sum includes money for signage, installation of some stairs, trail development, some fencing and initial costs for maintenance.

"A healthy park system offers diverse opportunities for outdoor recreation," commented Eukel, explaining that this acquisition is part of a comprehensive strategy for the entire region. "In Lamorinda, John Muir Land Trust has protected 604-acre Carr Ranch, a pristine addition to a large wilderness refuge. We're raising funds to protect Painted Rock, the potential anchor of a centrally located 505-acre community park that would be enjoyed by hundreds of visitors daily. The 20-acre Batwing property is a wonderful example of a neighborhood park that gives people everyday access to the outdoors just steps from their homes."

Mayor Cam Burks described the actions as representing for him one of the most historic city council decisions in decades. "Generations of Lafayette residents and others will be able to enjoy this pristine, nature parkland for many years to come; an area that truly represents the special character of our community. I want to express my profound thanks to Jonathan for his leadership, and the entire Parks, Trails and Recreation Department; in addition to our PTR commission and many other members of the staff involved in this undertaking."

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