

From: [Charles Angle](#)
To: [Neal Toft](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Demand Local-Controlled Housing in Sausalito
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 1:17:08 PM

Dear Members of the Sausalito City Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed development plans for Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park and to advocate for the reinstatement of local building control through revisions to city ordinances, particularly Ordinance 1022.

1. Preserve MLK Park by Removing It from Opportunity Sites

MLK Park is a vital community asset, encompassing approximately 17 acres of public land at the north end of Sausalito. This space includes 10 acres of open playing fields, basketball and tennis courts, and facilities leased to schools, artists, and small businesses. The park serves as a central hub for recreation, education, and community gatherings.

The current proposal to develop 94 housing units within MLK Park raises significant concerns:

- **Loss of Recreational Space:** Developing residential units would permanently reduce the available open space, adversely affecting community activities and recreational opportunities.
- **Infrastructure Strain:** The existing sewer system in the area is already under significant strain. Adding a high-density residential development could exacerbate these issues, leading to potential overflows and environmental hazards.
- **Violation of Municipal Code:** Sausalito Municipal Code Section 10.20.020 mandates the protection of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed development contradicts this mandate by repurposing designated parkland for residential use.
- **Loss of Critical Parking:** The development would eliminate essential parking used by Lycée Français, the New Village School, and visitors to the recreational fields. The resulting overflow will inevitably clog the surrounding neighborhoods, creating traffic congestion and accessibility issues for both residents and visitors.
- **Alternative Housing Sites Exist:** Sausalito has numerous underutilized lots that are far better suited for housing development. In particular, Marinship has several open lots that could accommodate new housing without sacrificing vital public space. Focusing on development in this area would allow the city to meet housing goals while preserving the community assets at MLK Park.

Given these factors, I urge the City Council to remove MLK Park from the list of opportunity sites for residential development. Preserving this park is essential for maintaining the quality of life and well-being of our community.

2. Reinstate Local Building Control by Revising Ordinance 1022

Ordinance 1022, known as the Fair Traffic Initiative, was enacted to manage development in a manner consistent with Sausalito's unique character and infrastructure capabilities. However, recent state mandates have pressured the city into adopting plans that may not align with local needs and priorities.

To address this, I propose the following actions:

- **Amend Ordinance 1022:** Revise the ordinance to balance compliance with state housing requirements while preserving local authority over land use decisions. This amendment should ensure that development plans are transparent, community-driven, and reflective of Sausalito's values.
- **Engage the Community:** Initiate a series of public forums and workshops to gather input from residents, ensuring that any revisions to development plans or ordinances are made collaboratively and with broad community support.

By taking these steps, the City Council can reaffirm its commitment to preserving Sausalito's unique character, protecting vital community spaces like MLK Park, and ensuring that development is conducted thoughtfully and sustainably.

Thank you for considering these urgent requests. I look forward to your positive action on these matters.

Sincerely,

Charles Angle

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