

Parking Problems

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As a member of the board of directors of the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy and representative of that organization on the Technical Advisory Committee to the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park master plan, I have been considering options to balance access to the CHWP with consideration for the quality of life in adjacent neighborhoods. MIG consultants indicate that the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park (CHWP) is not being used at capacity. Visitors in the park are not a problem. CHWP is a desirable destination and until there are other equally desirable parks in the adjacent hillsides, people will come to the CHWP, especially the loop.

Visitors park their cars as close to the loop entrance as possible but there is not enough parking during peak hours of Saturday, Sunday and Holiday mornings which results in disruption to neighbors from visitors parking in front of or walking by their homes.

If we accept that people will continue to enjoy the CHWP and we want to relieve disruption to adjacent neighborhoods, then the logical solution is to provide sufficient, affordable parking close to the loop entrance. Sufficient parking will minimize unnecessary driving in search of or idling while waiting for spaces. Revenues from parking fees will support park amenities if the daily parking prices are affordable and annual parking passes easy to obtain at the park or on-line.

The draft master plan suggests that fees increase to \$10 during peak periods. This is likely to cause congestion as people wait for hours with lower rates or avoid fees by seeking to park in neighborhoods.

I encourage the city to aggressively investigate the use of overflow parking adjacent to existing parking lots. The solution to neighborhood disruption is not congestion pricing; it is sufficient overflow parking at affordable and consistent prices.

Terry Grill

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