

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-138

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA  
PROHIBITING HORSES IN HILLTOP PARK.

WHEREAS, Hilltop Park was initially planned and designed to allow horseback riding in the park. At the time, there were approximately 70 privately owned horses boarded at the Marina Equestrian Center which is approximately two blocks from the park. Horse owners often rode their horses down 9<sup>th</sup> street on the existing horse trail and therefore the park was designed to also support horse use; and

WHEREAS, landscape architects were directed to design the park for this intended use. Per the conditions of approval, “The equestrian trail/roadway crossings shall be designed using generally accepted engineering standards and methods to prevent horses from slipping on the asphalt. The crossings shall not use steps and ledges. Appropriate details shall be included on any affected improvement plans.”; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, private boarding was eliminated from the Marina Equestrian Center which has drastically changed the frequency and patterns of horseback riding in the area. Rarely do private horse owners ride on 9<sup>th</sup> street heading West, and no organized trail rides from the Marina Equestrian Center use this route; and

WHEREAS, during a Special Council Meeting on June 24, 2024, in which the public was invited to tour the site and provide feedback, some members of the public expressed concern about allowing horses in the park. The two primary concerns were safety of pedestrians sharing pathways with horses and the inability for horse owners to appropriately clean up horse excrement; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2024, the City Council accepted portions of Hilltop Park with the remainder subject to entering into an agreement with the developer that constructed the park. During that discussion, Council Members expressed similar concerns; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Marina that does hereby prohibit horses within Hilltop Park.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Marina at a regular meeting duly held on the 17th day of December 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: McAdams, McCarthy, Biala, Visscher, Delgado

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

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Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk

December 11, 2024

Item No. **10f(3)**

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the Marina City Council

City Council Meeting  
of December 17, 2024

**CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-,  
PROHIBITING HORSES IN HILLTOP PARK.**

**REQUEST:**

It is requested that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2024-, prohibiting horses in Hilltop Park.

**BACKGROUND:**

Hilltop Park was initially planned and designed to allow horseback riding in the park. At the time, there were approximately 70 privately owned horses boarded at the Marina Equestrian Center which is approximately two blocks from the park. Horse owners often rode their horses down 9<sup>th</sup> street on the existing horse trail and therefore the park was designed to also support horse use.

With this in mind, the landscape architects were directed to design the park for this intended use. Per the conditions of approval, “The equestrian trail/roadway crossings shall be designed using generally accepted engineering standards and methods to prevent horses from slipping on the asphalt. The crossings shall not use steps and ledges. Appropriate details shall be included on any affected improvement plans.” Additionally, three large “hitching posts” were installed at the top of the park for owners to secure their horses while not riding.

**ANALYSIS:**

In 2023, private boarding was eliminated from the Marina Equestrian Center which has drastically changed the frequency and patterns of horseback riding in the area. Rarely do private horse owners ride on 9<sup>th</sup> street heading West, and no organized trail rides from the Marina Equestrian Center use this route.

During a Special Council Meeting on June 24, 2024, in which the public was invited to tour the site and provide feedback, some members of the public expressed concern about allowing horses in the park. The two primary concerns were safety of pedestrians sharing pathways with horses and the inability for horse owners to appropriately clean up horse excrement.

On November 19, 2024 City Council accepted portions of Hilltop Park with the remainder subject to entering into an agreement with the developer that constructed the park. During that discussion, Council Members expressed similar concerns.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal implications at this time.

**CONCLUSION:**

This request is submitted to the City Council for consideration and direction.

Respectfully submitted,

**REVIEWED/CONCUR:**

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Andrea M. Willer, Ed.D.  
Recreation & Cultural Services Director  
City of Marina

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Layne P. Long  
City Manager  
City of Marina