

From: Sylvia van Royen
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Miller, John <jpmiller@co.humboldt.ca.us>
Subject: Pierson Parcel on Hiller

Hello,

My name is Sylvia and I am a McKinleyville resident. I drive past this semi-empty parcel for lease by Pierson on Hiller Road, by the Safeway Shopping Center, almost every day. This parcel is included in the Town Center plan as "Town Center Core and Mixed Use" however, I think it would make an excellent expansion to the current (and very limited) community garden in Pierson Park.

It would be a wonderful place to create a second community garden and communal nature space/park--the eucalyptus trees already onsite lend themselves to being a monarch butterfly overwintering site (see this [article](#)) which could be enhanced with native plants and create a pollinator garden. A pollinator garden would have lots of attractive flowers and would be an educational opportunity for local school children. A gazebo and covered benches would make great resting places for residents utilizing the adjacent shops, with the trees providing some shelter and buffer from the traffic of Hiller and Central Road--whereas the current 'open space' dedicated on the [current proposed zoning map](#) on the south side of Hiller Rd would expose pedestrians to traffic on Hiller and in the parking lot of associated shops. I can also imagine a small stage here for outdoor performances and community gatherings (two desires expressed by the community in some of the surveys for the Town Center Plan).

Utilizing this space as a green-space, i.e. replacing the east-most shops in the south side of Hiller Rd, as shown in the proposed zoning map, could also count as a climate change mitigation by preventing the use of more asphalt. Asphalt and cement in urban centers contributes to [Urban Heat Island phenomenon](#), which has health impacts that disproportionately affect the elderly and marginalized communities.

I know there is community interest in having more garden space, and know the gardener for Abbey of the Redwoods' SeaGoat FarmStand is also interested in using this space for agriculture--they could provide a garden manager if funded.

I am hoping to get some advice on how to proceed. The lot for lease by Pierson also includes the grazing field and warehouse behind the main Hiller parcel (see photo below), I am primarily interested in the 4.67 acre parcel that abuts Hiller Road. While it would be great to also get the piece of the larger parcel that connects Nursery Way to Hiller Road (which is currently a social-use trail), that is not my highest priority.

I reached out to the Parks and Rec Department of MCSD and was directed to contact Anne Pierson and yourself. I'd like to have more information and potential funding before going to Anne Pierson, as I've heard it can be a challenge to get land out of Pierson hands. Any advice you have on moving forwards would be welcome.

Thank you,
-Sylvia van Royen
B.S. Environmental Science & Management
HSU 2019

