

Naji, Leslie

From: Friedje vanGils <friedje5176@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Naji, Leslie
Cc: Dana McCabe
Subject: Tree Farm. CNP

External

Hello, Ms.Naji-

I would like to submit some comments for the EPC hearing regarding the Candelaria Nature Preserve Resource Management Plan. In particular, I have concerns about the property known as The Tree Farm.

My family lives at 2437 Cherokee rd. NW, directly N of the tree farm. As such, we are the property / neighbors most directly affected by plans to bridge the tree farm property to the Nature Preserve just to the West of us. Of particular concern are four items:

- 1) the "Bird / Wildlife Blinds" that are planned for public viewing of the wildlife in the fields directly W of our property. Our land adjoins the Duranes Lateral ditch. From initial sketches, it looks like these bird blinds will give viewers not only a great view west to the nature preserve, but potentially directly into our property if the viewer simply turns around to face East.
- 2) Parking: although the plan will call for NO parking on Cherokee Rd., it is the strip of dirt road that gives a visitor the closest access to the ditch and, from there, to the bird blinds, etc. As I am sure you know, it matters little how much parking is made available on the tree farm property, most people like to park as close as they can get to avoid having to take more steps to get to where they are going. Human nature, I guess. Even now, with no formal nature preserve to visit, our driveway gets blocked by self-centered parkers.
- 3) The general very large increase of traffic, whether foot or vehicle and just the sheer increase in numbers of people that will come to "our ditch" / the nature preserve.
- 4) Speaking of an increase in people in our area: We would like to have some voice regarding the EXIT from the tree farm (where people will park) to walk to the Bird Blinds. We want to be included in the design of that traffic pattern so that people will walk as far away from our front door / driveway as possible on their way to view the wildlife. The immediate and surrounding neighbors need and deserve input into the entire process from planning to design.

For item #1: We look forward to participating in the design process of the bird blinds in the hope that they will NOT be like the blinds currently in the Rio Grande Nature Center. That is, large cement walls with a few "windows" in them. You can imagine the horror of looking out our window to see grey walls ("bird blinds"?) instead of the current greenery, trees and fields we have the good fortune to call our view.

For item #2: We hope the City will put aside a size-able fund for the "No Parking" enforcement that will be needed for years to come on Cherokee Rd. This will be an effort that has no end; there must be a commitment to continual monitoring and enforcement.

For item #3: The huge increase that is anticipated on the entire South and West sides of our property, we ask that the City and/or the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy replace the currently falling down fence along the ditch and bordering the entire west side of our property. I believe it is some 300 ft. in length. A good sturdy tall fence (preferably coyote or a similar "natural" looking fence) will help keep crowds from peering into our yard as or after they visit the bird blinds.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests, for passing our concerns along to the EPC and for keeping us in the loop as these plans progress.

We hope we will be contacted and able to participate as much as possible although we are still working 8 - 5 each day (something that has made the earlier planning process inaccessible to us).

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