

# *Saving Sherwood Forest:*

## **Eight Essential Facts You Need to Know Right Now**

Despite the continuing public outcry, the City and County of Honolulu announced they will resume destruction of Sherwood Forest to build a sports field. This plan includes a parking lot and sizeable water infrastructure for irrigation and future development in addition to a football/soccer field. More than 35,000 people have signed a petition to stop this project. The community clearly *does not want* this “development”. The way the City and County have operated sets a dangerous precedent for East Oahu and beyond. There are countless good reasons to oppose the City’s plan, but here are eight of the most important:

### **The City’s Plan Raises Urgent Issues of Public Health and Safety, and Could Endanger Our Keiki.**

According to the FEMA map, the City has not followed federal requirements for a Flood Zone. The map shows that the main park entrance/exit, as well as the City’s designated Emergency Exit, would NOT be accessible during emergencies that involve flooding. If children were using the planned sports field during a flash flood or other emergency flooding situation, they could be trapped in the area, unable to escape. The City and County Department of Design and Construction lied in their Master Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Permit. The City omitted the 14-foot floodway from their maps as if it does not exist. *Help us stop them from getting away with it!*

**The Mayor Is Making Additional Alarming False Claims.** The City’s Department of Design and Construction lied on the Special Management Area Permit (SMA) and said this area is NOT on the National Registry of Historic Places. It took a community member one phone call to find out that it IS on the Registry. The public has rightly seen that this process has been deceptive from the start. *Help us stop them from getting away with it!*

**The Plan Desecrates an Area with Native Hawaiian Burial Sites.** Excavations in 1967 by the University of Hawaii, reported in *Archaeology & Physical Anthropology in Oceania*, found artifacts and remains “dating from AD 600” in the Bellows area. The site is described as “a permanent habitation,” occupied by a “domestic group relying on the sea and agricultural areas in Waimanalo Valley” for subsistence, and “representative of an incipient stage in the development of Hawaiian culture.” The authors cite the presence of human skeletons, and state that burial sites include “locations removed by several hundred meters from the shore of Waimanalo Bay... while the locus near the shore appeared to be a village site.” The report details an excavation covering “approximately 10% of the site” within a relatively small (12 by 20 meter) location in the Bellows area. It found 89 cultural artifacts, later given to the Bishop Museum, and documented “seven burials” in great detail. One burial “was left intact in an unexcavated portion (of the site) ... for future excavation.” The vast majority of the National Historic Registry area has never been excavated. The report describes the general area as “rich in archaeological materials” and containing other burial sites. This extremely sensitive archeological area deserves to be treated with far more cultural respect than to be paved over for parking stalls and a sports complex.

**The City’s Announcement to Resume Work on Phase One Is Wrong.** Mayor Caldwell fails to listen to the public. He gives two reasons for the work continuing: (1) because the work has already been given as an “award” to a private contractor, and (2) because stopping it would cost taxpayers “as much as \$300,000”—yet he contradicts his own rationale by pushing forward an *unwanted* project that will cost taxpayers from \$1.5 million to possibly as much as \$2.6 million for Phase One (according to the City Department of Design and Construction). The entire project is estimated to cost \$32 million.

**The Plan Intentionally Destroys Endangered Species Habitat.** Both endangered hoary bats and shearwaters (among others) nest in Sherwood Forest. Since the permit prohibits cutting trees taller than 15 feet during hoary bat nesting season (which begins each June 1st), Ikaika Anderson openly admitted that the intent was to remove as many trees as possible prior to June 1st. This essentially means racing to destroy the habitat of an endangered species. Endangered shearwaters, confused by the project's lights, will be lost and killed. The City claims it will meet all lighting requirements, but is it wise to install more lights in a Coastal Zone Management Area when we already know the disastrous effects it will have on endangered species?

**The Impacts on Windward and East Oahu Traffic Haven't Been Adequately Addressed.** On May 14, 2019, the Mayor admitted in writing that "it is not possible to conduct a current traffic analysis and apply it to the 2012 (assessment for the project)." He was conceding that a traffic assessment from 2012 does *not* reflect current traffic. In fact, traffic assessments in the City's Master Plan are from 2007! The number of registered vehicles in Waimanalo has doubled just since 2012. Current plans for paved parking in the Phase One area include tour bus parking and bus turnouts. The athletic complex and expanded, large-group camping facilities envisioned for the Master Plan would drastically increase vehicular traffic coming into Waimanalo for sports and camping events. The many other traffic concerns include the fact that the beach park and a section of the highway are in a tsunami evacuation zone, which could be disastrous in such an event.

**Those Pushing the Plan Deny that It Took Us All by Surprise.** The small planning group claimed that the public had a fair chance to weigh in on the plan. But only a handful of handpicked (unelected) "planning committee" members decided on it 10-plus years ago, and most of them have since withdrawn their support for the plan. Those pushing it fulfilled the minimum paperwork requirements (technically allowing them to now claim that we had all been invited to voice our opinions all along), and then the plan "went dark" until the bulldozers arrived in 2019. Even as bulldozers were ripping down trees, *not one* of the following organizations had heard anything about the plan starting up: Sea Life Park, the Sierra Club, Earth Justice, Envirowatch, Life of The Land, Na Kua Aina o Waimanalo, Hawaii's Thousand Friends, the Surfrider Foundation, Holo Kino, KAHEA, and more. Although an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in 2012, the agency that checks the EA to see if it needs an Environmental Impact Statement *is same agency that introduced the plan in the first place*, so (of course) *they* said it did not need an EIS. So much for healthy checks and balances. The bottom line: no matter what they claim now, we all know that the plan was slipped in under the radar.

**The Plan Is Unnecessary and Redundant.** Waimanalo already has multiple ball fields in disrepair, ignored by the city. Why should we believe they could manage new ones, if they can't maintain the existing ones? There is not a single dollar in the Master Plan dedicated to maintenance of the sports fields. When asked about it, the City said that they are hoping the community will maintain the fields themselves!

**For more information, go to**  
**[www.SaveSherwoodForest.org](http://www.SaveSherwoodForest.org)**

**To support our legal efforts to stop this travesty, please go to**  
**[our GoFundMe page.](#)**