

Proposal

Rush Creek is a marshy area by Highway 101 that many animals call their home and people love to hike. Ticks are a concern for hikers because they are very prominent in the area. An entomologist from UC Berkeley said, "Lyme disease is locally an issue in some Bay area counties, such as in Sonoma and Marin."⁽¹⁾ This means that Novato citizens who hike along the marsh are at risk, along with the wildlife in the area.

Our policy change is to plant eucalyptus trees and add chickens to the Rush Creek open space. Based off of our research, we found that eucalyptus trees are very adaptable and deter ticks because of their odor. Not only will they discourage ticks, but they will provide shade for the extremely sunny parts of the Rush Creek trail. We have chosen to add barred rock chickens because they love to eat ticks. We are planning on implementing this change through government funding, bake sales, and donations, but more importantly through your support and sponsorship.

The goal of adding chickens and eucalyptus trees to Rush Creek is to create a safe area for hikers and the animals inhabiting the marsh. The chickens will keep ticks away with their odor and the chickens will eat the remaining ticks. The chicken population will be kept at a stable level because of the coyotes that currently occupy the area. The influx of chickens will cause an increase in coyotes, who will be consuming the chickens and controlling their population. If the chicken population still happens to get out of hand, then we will sell a certain amount to maintain the population. Our goal is to have the ticks be controlled by the chickens and the chickens controlled by the coyotes. You may worry that the increase of coyotes will prevent hikers, but The Human Society of The United States said, "Coyote attacks on people are very rare. More people are killed by errant golf balls and flying champagne corks each year than are bitten by coyotes."⁽³⁾ Coyotes are nocturnal when humans live nearby, so they will not be a worry for hikers.

The resources needed for our policy are eucalyptus trees, barred rock chickens, and volunteers. We will purchase five eucalyptus trees from Lowes for about \$15. The barred rock chickens will be purchased from My Pet Chicken⁽⁴⁾. We will purchase five males and fifty females for a total of \$140. The grand total is \$215. Volunteers will be needed to check the chicken population every few months to see if it is stable or not.

Through your sponsorship, Rush Creek can become a safer environment for everyone. By adding chickens and eucalyptus trees, the tick population will decrease, which will help prevent lyme disease for hikers and animals.

1) Laubach, Elizabeth. "Bay Area has ticks, and Lyme disease" *Bay Nature*, June 15, 2012

- a) <http://baynature.org/article/bay-area-has-ticks-and-lyme-disease/n>
- 2) "Coyotes and People: What to Know If You See or Encounter a Coyote" *The Human Society Of The United States*
http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/coyotes/tips/coyotes_people.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/
- 3) <http://www.mypetchicken.com/chicken-breeds/Plymouth-Rock-B85.aspx>