

**APPENDIX C**

**Coyote Creek Parkway County Park  
Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Master Plan**  
**SUMMARY: PUBLIC WORKSHOPS – VERBAL COMMENTS**  
February 17, 2005 – Morgan Hill  
February 23, 2005 – County Government Center

## APPENDIX C

### Coyote Creek Parkway County Park Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Master Plan SUMMARY: PUBLIC WORKSHOPS – VERBAL COMMENTS February 17, 2005 – Morgan Hill February 23, 2005 – County Government Center

The following listing includes a summary of verbal questions, comments, and responses made at two public workshops for the Integrated Master Plan. A total of 72 people attended the meetings.

#### **General Level of Parkway Use**

**Question:** How will overpopulation of the improvements be considered?

**Response:** One of challenges of the integrated Parkway Plan is projecting an appropriate level of use. Some will want to increase use, but 'not too much'.... so sizing parking areas and controlling public access will be important.

**Comment:** Talked about standards for trail width from other agencies. Questions whether the Coyote Creek Trail is wide enough in certain places.

#### **Noxious Weed Management**

**Comment:** Star thistle and Arundo choking the Creek. Management of these species could be assisted with the use of volunteers.

#### **Wildlife Corridor**

**Question:** How wide will wildlife corridor be and will it really be continuous?

**Response:** Different standards will be evaluated including those of the City of San Jose's riparian policies as well as others around the state. The San Joaquin River Parkway, with a 200' wide corridor was referenced.

#### **Swimming**

**Question:** How does the proposal for a regional swimming facility in a natural setting fit into the Parkway Plans. Could such a facility also be used for flood control or groundwater recharge? Where would such funds for capital improvement come from?

**Response:** The sites identified in the Swimming Feasibility Study recently completed for the County were reviewed. The general criteria for siting a swimming facility as well as projected costs for building and operating such a facility were outlined. However, all the identified sites are complicated in terms of their potential for development and have some serious constraints.

**Comment:** Uvas Reservoir should be considered rather than the Coyote Creek Parkway.

**Comment:** Representative of dog tracking club requested a pond or pool area for dog use.

**Response:** One aspect of the swimming area is that it might include an area for dogs. A feasibility study was completed last year that identified four potential swimming areas; some of them could include opportunities for dogs to train in water.

#### **Disc Golf**

**Comment:** Disc golf is a family activity. The existing 9-hole facility is operating at capacity with users coming from all over the County. People of all sizes, ages, and skill levels are welcomed. It is the only such facility in the County.

**Comment:** The disc golf course was developed and is operated/maintained with private funds. There is no charge for use. It would be desirable to expand the operation to an 18-hole course by constructing a footbridge over the creek and expanding to the Parque de la Raza de Paz.

**Comment:** A footbridge would also be useful for residents to access the trail who live on the west side of the creek.

## **Water Skiing**

**Comment:** Water skiing was started in the Parkway in 1973. The Santa Clara County Water Ski Club has provided some improvements to the area (porta-potties and other facilities), do occasional creek clean-ups, and sponsor programs with the City of San Jose to instruct children how to water ski.

## **Fishing**

**Question:** Could the plan eventually open the creek and other areas for fishing for steelhead salmon?

**Response:** There have been some preliminary discussions with the resource agencies about fishing once steelhead are re-introduced to the creek.

**Question:** Who controls the creek?

**Response:** The County Parks Department owns most of the creek, but the Santa Clara County Water District controls flows. Also the Water Quality Control Board and various regulatory agencies require permits for most activities along the creek.

**Question:** Would money from the County be used to make changes supporting steelhead?

**Response:** The Santa Clara County Water District is working under a settlement agreement. Though they have a significant budget allocated to that agreement, it remains a cooperative project.

## **Trails - Trail Connections**

**Comment:** Keep in the vision that the Parkway trail, which is already long, will ultimately be extended to San Jose and to the San Francisco Bay Trail. East-west connections need to go through the Parkway and how these connect through the Coyote Valley Specific Plan area are critical to identify.

**Comment:** East of the Parkway is the Coyote Ridge, an outstanding example of serpentine soil which is expected to eventually be publicly-managed (or owned). More development is occurring on east side of Parkway and the City of San Jose is considering plans to extend the eastside trail. This offers opportunities to connect the Parkway trail with other trails/parks.

**Comment:** There was a time that a trail was being considered south of Coyote Creek Parkway to Gilroy. Some of the land is owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, some is private. The Water District said portions that it could allow people to use needed an agency to manage those areas, and haven't been able to get County to do so.

**Response:** Consultant stated this trail route is shown in the Countywide Trails Master Plan and connection to it should be included in the Parkway Plan.

## **Trails - Equestrian**

**Comment:** Representative of six equestrian organizations comprising approximately 700,000 members emphasized their strong desire to ride horses along the Parkway. They were upset to hear a rumor that such use would be discontinued and are glad to hear otherwise tonight.

**Response:** Consultant acknowledged that the horse trail is becoming quite overgrown, and asked that equestrians in the audience sketch a proposed trail on the maps displayed on the walls this evening.

**Comment:** Just want to ensure the horse trail is there and that it is maintained. It was previously washed out and isn't maintained much currently.

**Comment:** Would also like to see accommodations for horse buggies.

**Comment:** An equestrian trail should remain in the plans. The historic route was paved and is now the bicycle trail.

**Comment:** Equestrian use is not really compatible with bicycle use. Resource management should provide bridge crossings sufficiently wide enough so horses do not cross the creek and impact water quality. A "trample" trail of natural materials is desirable. One of resource goals is to get all of those uses out of creek.

**Comment:** Participated in a master plan for the Parkway 20 years ago. Lots of things planned were never completed, e.g. horse trail didn't even get finished north to Metcalf. In the meantime trail has been washed out and not been fixed.

### **Dog Park**

**Comment:** The 38-acre parcel at end of Malaguera adjacent to Coyote Estates has been discussed locally as potentially including a dog park, possibly operated by the City of Morgan Hill.

### **Use / Facilities: Other**

**Comment:** Mile markers would be appreciated.

**Comment:** More emergency telephones.

**Comment:** No lights.

### **Neighbor Relations**

**Comment:** There are worries about all the planning process now going on and that property owners, who were in a similar situation 30 years ago, will not be consulted. There is not a lot of private land left. It would be nice to have the County give respect back that equals what property owners give them. There have been trespass problems that will likely increase with more use. The County should work closely with landowners on this project.

**Response:** The management plan really needs to address issues of boundary control. The should be considered in the Vision Statement for the Parkway and as plans are prepared.

**Comment:** Traffic impacts to neighborhood streets should be avoided if there are any proposals such as swimming facilities or expanded use areas / maintenance facilities near Malaguera.

### **Other Land Uses**

**Question:** Is the Parkway being considered for relocating all or a portion of the County Fairgrounds?

**Response:** No.

**Question:** Is the Boys Ranch within the scope of the Parkway plans?

**Response:** No.

**Coyote Creek Parkway County Park**  
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**SUMMARY: PUBLIC WORKSHOPS – WRITTEN COMMENTS**  
**February 17, 2005 – Morgan Hill**

The following listing includes all the written comments collected at the February 17, 2005 Public Workshop for the Integrated Master Plan. 51 people attended the meeting. Except for the general organization, these comments are un-edited.

**Parkway Character**

- Want to keep all park areas as natural as possible. Consider wild animals & birds. Don't want to see it turn into a tourist attraction.
- Keep as natural as possible.
- Bobcat friendly (see them often).
- I would like to comment on the repeated use of the word "human" in the plan. I believe the parks should represent the animal spirit as well (not just the frogs & butterfly).

**Resource / Environmental**

- Concerned with Ranger Station and possible visitor center. I live across from it and concerned with traffic if it is expanded.
- Do not want a lot of activities near the trail that will create traffic / congestion problems.
- Minimize effects of freeway noise & new industrial development.
- Curious - effects of new overpass at Bailey and changes (reports?) pre – post – 101 construction from Monterey Road. Also, resident of Morgan Hill near Anderson.
- Star thistle must be eradicated!
- Remove the star thistle – that will improve the current park and make it immediately enjoyable to hikers, dog walkers and equestrians.
- We need to deal with the bamboo choking the creeks.

**Use / Facilities: Disc Golf**

- Expansion of disc golf course @ Hellyer / Parque del la Raza de Paz.
- I am interested in developing a disc golf park at La Raza. I have played the sport for 5 years and it is extremely crowded at the Hellyer course with many new participants now discovering our 9-hole course. I played the temporary course at La Raza and it was a fun & challenging day! I'm 43 and I'm a senior mechanical engineer manager for Integrated Flow Systems. This course should bring in additional city revenues (stores, etc...) by bringing people to the park. Thanks!
- I believe improving the disc golf course and surrounding areas will create a better and safer environment for family use.
- I've been using Hellyer disc golf course for about 4 years. Was told of it by my doctor as a way of dealing with stress of work and a way of rehabilitating my back. It's getting to the point where it is way too packed on the 9-hole course to get a game in within a 2-hour timeframe. We would like to use La Raza for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 holes. As of now I have to drive over 1 1/2 hours to travel to another course and spend tax dollars in those counties.
- Expansion of Frisbee golf course to Parque de la Raza de Paz.

**Use / Facilities: Other**

- Camping opportunities?

**Trails - General**

- Continue shared use by hikers, bikes, equestrian
- No lights please – keep it dark.
- Provide toilet facilities along trail.
- It would be helpful if some portions of the trail could be multi-use.

- Avid biker who enjoys the trail weekly.
- Mile markers on paved bike trail.
- More emergency telephones.
- A few new restrooms, picnic areas.
- I understand from rangers that they hope to mark the trails better.

### **Trails - Equestrian**

- Coyote Creek is the only park I know of where I can ride my horse while my family rides their bikes along with me. Thank you for keeping this park equestrian friendly!
- I enjoy the trails riding my horse at Coyote Creek. Family and friends all gather to enjoy the beautiful area. Watching biking and of course equestrians use is important to leisure time for our sometime stressful times. Thank you for keeping equestrian trails available to us
- I'm excited about some much-needed improvements (trail signs) for equestrian use.
- We are a family of 8 adults and 5 children (3 generations). Our first use of the Coyote Creek trails dates back 14 years, with our first acquisition of horses. For 2 years we lived at the base of Santa Teresa Park (which we used extensively) but boarded the horses on Piercy Road. During that 2 years we moved 5 miles south on Santa Teresa / Hale??? Roughly, we are at Live Oak and Hale??? Since moving to our own horse property we do use the Coyote trails less frequently. I think our use of it is more important, however. We still use the trails about once a week (more of us using it though). We especially in the winter (rainy times). We also use it for hiking / dog-walking – bicycling – roller-blading – and meditation. Sometimes on the same day we use it several ways. We think it is imperative to keep this resource multi-use. We also think it important to keep access at multiple easy-to-access locations – frequently I will drop off grandpa to ride his horse, the grandkids to roller-blade or bike, and then pick them up at pre-arranged points along the way. Sometimes the more skilled will actually make their way home from the trails, and less able-bodied do their loop then drive home. We are will to continue to volunteer on projects associated with this and other county parks. (current ages of our users: 55, 52, 30, 30, 28, 25, 24, 24, 3 @ 10, 8.)
- Our own trails away from the bikes would please us both.
- Have been riding the Coyote trails on horse for 14 years. They are unique for their flatness in the Park system. They are especially needed for equestrians for working younger and older horses that should stay off the hills. The Coyote trails also dry out in the rainy season faster than most of the hilly trails in other parks, so allow horse and rider to get out in the winter safely. In addition to horse riding my grandkids and I enjoy biking and hiking on the Coyote trails. Please continue to maintain and improve the trails for the community and equestrian use.
- I am an equestrian right advocate representing 6 (six) equestrian organizations. We wish to let it be known that we use & ride Santa Clara and Bay Area trails – the groups I represent are California State Horseman's Association, Backcountry Horseman's Association, America Back County Horseman's California, Los Gatos Horseman's Association, Quicksilver Endurance Riders Inc., California Equestrian Trails & Lands Coalition.
- It's important to maintain the equestrian trails that currently exist and to develop new ones that extend the entire 15 miles of the park.
- I'm concerned that the creek will be so protected that it will inhibit the ability to create single track trails for equestrian use and off-track use. As stated there are areas of the trail that are so narrow that everyone will be forced to use the paved trail.
- I am very excited that there is no intention of removing horses from the use of the park.
- Are there any plans to offer mountain bike trails? If not, I recommend separate trails so as to not interfere with hikers & equestrians.
- Connect the northern equestrian (Silver Creek) staging area through to the trail (NOT via a hard paved track) to the southern equestrian area.
- Horse trails and bike trails should be separate where possible but not necessary.
- I would like to see equestrian use preserved with a continuous equestrian trail from Malaguerra to Hellyer Park. The current staging areas are adequate but the trail needs improvement to allow access to the full

length of the park without using the paved trail intended for bicycles. A simple dirt path, free of star thistle, is all that is required.

- I use this park for horseback riding, for bicycle riding, walking, and training and exercising our dog. The horse trails are not well-marked or maintained. What we enjoy about his park is its naturalness, the wildlife and waterfowl. My family has used this parkway for over 30 years.
- The trail does not need to be elaborate but should connect from the south end all the way to the north end – with staging areas at both locations.
- As an equestrian user of the park, I would like to see 1) better trail markings for all users; 2) to see the equestrian trail restored to facilitate the use of the entire park for horse/riders; 3) possible overnight parking (similar to Grant Ranch).
- I ride my horse in the park a few times each month. I'm interested in the County maintaining and expanding the equestrian trails. A bathroom (outhouse) is needed at the Burnett staging areas. It would be nice if horses could be allowed to walk in the creek to take a drink and cool off. Designated swimming areas would be great for families.
- Equestrians need a place to ride that is flat as an alternative to other parks in the area.

#### **Burnett Equestrian Use Area**

- Please leave the Burnett parking area large and open enough for horse trailers.
- A bathroom is needed at the Burnett parking area. Also a creek crossing for our horses would be nice, they could drink from and cool off during a long summer ride.
- Also please keep ample parking for trailers for equestrian use.
  - equestrian trailer parking
  - bathrooms available
  - possible creek crossing for horses
  - continuity of equestrian trails

#### **Funding**

- Support MP, perhaps opportunity to work together on acquisition or funding program.

#### **Outdoor Education / Interpretation**

- I would like to keep informed of ongoing work / projects. I have been working with high school students conducting surveys on Coyote Creek (Los Gatos H.S.): stream flow / channel / water quality; vegetation; remote sensing. Also working with Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout (STEP) education program – history of fish in Coyote Creek, etc.

#### **Malaguerra Avenue Use Area**

- No pay phones please.
- We are very interested to see the plans for this areas – our property is directly impacted by what will be done. We are at the end of Donna Court, our backyard has access to the trails (out our back gate). We would like to see minimal build up and more like it is now. We watch people enjoy walking with their dogs and family, ride horses & bikes. I'm sure they enjoy the rural area as it is. Also there is a concern with the Boys Ranch and what type of recreation would be planned with that in mind. There has been much said and written about the escapes from the Boys Ranch. About 16 or 17 years ago there was talk of the City of Morgan Hill building a youth sports complex in the area behind our house. I think that has finally been shelved.

#### **Use / Facilities: Dogs**

- Dog friendly!
- Dog park / swimming pond for dogs only.
- There should be off-leash dog area other than the retriever ?? area.
- I would also like to see paths available to dogs and off-leash areas(s) for them.
- A dog park like the City of Los Gatos is building (& to open this summer or fall) might be a good idea somewhere in this plan (see Mercury News 2/17/05).

### **Coyote Valley Specific Plan**

- My concerns are about the water flow changes per Coyote Valley expansion plans, and the proposed visitor center / motor park / office improvements at the park office / Coyote trail staging areas and its impact to traffic, etc. to the neighborhoods there.

### **Land Acquisition**

- I am a landowner. I do not wish to lose any more land to the County for public recreation purposes. Thank you.

### **Other**

- The river is very important. It is first, the trails should be for all not for money! Or special interest! Horses, bikers, hikers all have the same space. I think that a horse and a bike do not get along very well. People and horses do, "speed kills". Frisbees are good, safe and important. Be careful with is decision???
- When my kids were little, I used to take them down to the creek, but over the last few years, especially during the summer months, homeless people live down there and even started a fire a couple of years ago from a makeshift campfire. It's not a safe place to enjoy anymore. Crime rate is up possibly because of this problem.
- What is the present discussion about the extension of Burnett? Is it likely a bridge will be constructed crossing Coyote Creek?

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**February 23, 2005 – County Government Center**

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**Resource / Environmental**

- I am concerned that this integrated parkway plan pay special attention to the preservation of the historic Coyote Creek riparian corridor – This old creek canopy is threatened by the alteration of flows away from the historic channel – in some reaches – and by inundation of these old trees by high water percolation dams of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. I believe these high levels are drowning these trees and there is questionable increase in percolation potential.

**Use / Facilities: Disc Golf**

- *Expand Disc Golf course to La Raza*
- We are the only major metropolitan city in the nation that does not have an 18-hole Disc Golf course. We only have a 9-hole course as of now. We would like to use La Raza Park for the other 9 holes needed to complete an 18-hole course. This is a great sport for every age group. The time I get to spend with my family I will cherish for a lifetime. It is the only sport that brings my daughter and I to spend quality time together. It is also a great way to rehabilitate my back as recommended by my doctor.
- I have been a Santa Clara County resident for over 25 years and have enjoyed the parks to a great extent. I have recently started playing Disc Golf @ Hellyer Park and would like to see the Disc Golf course expanded to 18 holes at La Raza Park.
- I'd like to support using La Raza Park as additional 9-hole Disc Golf course. The disc golf course has been a very nice feature of the park system, and increasing this to an 18-hole course would be appreciated by many people.

**Use / Facilities: Other**

- No swimming
- Interested in the plans for improvements along the park. I represent the Santa Clara County Water Ski Club at Metcalf Rd.

**Trails – Equestrian**

- Representative of:
  - Back Country Horsemen's Association
  - Los Gatos Horsemen's Association
  - California Equestrian Trails & Land
  - Quicksilver Endurance Riders
  - California State Horseman's Association
- 700,000+ members.
- Non-paved equestrian trails

**Other**

- We are developing homes in three separate projects (Coyote Estates, Mission Road and Aliconti ??) near the trail head at Malaguera Rd. in Morgan Hill. We would like to be kept informed of any developments.