The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors will review the Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park Master Plan and EIR at their regular session on January 27, 2004 at 1:30 pm. (For more information regarding the meeting time and location, see Meeting Announcement Sidebar, at right.)

Should the Board approve the Master Plan and EIR at the upcoming meeting, a three year public planning process to develop a long range plan for this park will finally draw to a close. Since November 2000, the Parks Department has conducted over 26 public meetings to solicit ideas and comments on the many different options for a new County Park in south county. The input from these meetings and resulting analysis has resulted in a blueprint for the park that will be implemented over the next twenty years.

While the primary focus of the Master Plan has been the preservation of open space and responsible trail development, future new facilities at this 4400 acre park will range from a bicycle park, historical interpretation area, youth fishing facility, events center, and equestrian center, to an environmental model golf course. Check the Parks Department website at www.parkhere.org or your local library to view the final text of the Master Plan.

In addition to meetings and workshops, the Parks Department has maintained a mailing list of over 400 interested individuals for the project’s periodic newsletter. Response to the meetings, newsletters and monthly updates on the Parks Department's website has generated hundreds of thoughtful and practical comments on the project. In this, our final newsletter, we wish to thank all those who have read the project information, came to the meetings, made comments, and participated in public parkland planning. You have made a valuable contribution.

Implementation of Phase I Projects scheduled

Implementation of Phase I of the Master Plan will begin in the spring of 2004. Trail access to the new areas of the park has been identified as the number one priority of the first phase. Construction is scheduled to begin shortly on 16 miles of new trails. Trail staging areas and public parking lots are planned in the vicinity of New and San Martin Avenue and off of Roop Road. The new trails are expected to be open for public use in the spring of 2005. Upgrades to the campgrounds and lakeside picnic areas will scheduled for construction through the fall and winter of 2004 and are to be completed by mid 2005. Development of future phases of the master plan such as the golf course and events center, will be contingent on favorable funding opportunities.