CHAPTER 2
PROPOSED PROJECT

PARK LOCATION

Coyote Lake–Harvey Bear Ranch County Park (Park) is located in the western foothills of the Mt. Hamilton Range (Figure 2-1). The Park lies east of the City of Gilroy, in southern Santa Clara County. The 4,448 acre site encompasses the entire western side of Coyote Lake, straddles the ridgeline that divides the upper Coyote Creek watershed and Coyote Lake from the Santa Clara Valley, and reaches to the valley floor near the community of San Martin.

GOALS AND NEED FOR THE MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan for Coyote Lake – Harvey Bear Ranch County Park establishes a direction for development of this significantly expanded Park. The Master Plan strives to balance a diversity of recreational needs of Santa Clara County Residents with goals for natural and cultural resource preservation and restoration, along with a desire to maintain the ranchland character that helped define much of the region. The following goals were established to guide the Master Plan process. These goals were compiled from a variety of sources, including the Task Force, County General Plan, Countywide Trails Master Plan, Strategic Plan documents, the previously prepared draft Coyote Lake Master Plan, and comments from the first community meeting. Master Plan goals include:

Recognize and plan for the regional context of Coyote Lake – Harvey Bear Ranch County Park.

- Where appropriate and feasible, provide regional trail connections to State, County, and other public parks and open spaces.
- Provide consistency with the goals and policies of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, Countywide Trails Master Plan, and County General Plan.

Provide a variety of sustainable recreational opportunities consistent with the needs of Santa Clara County residents and compatible with the environmental, cultural and historic resources of the land.

- Provide areas of high and low-intensity recreational use activities based on sound resource management principles.
Provide areas of land-based and water-based recreational activities.

- Recognize the needs of adjacent residents and property owners.
- Consider both environmental and financial aspects of sustainability.
- Incorporate opportunities for environmental, historic and cultural preservation, restoration, and interpretation.

Ensure public access to the Park for a wide range of users.

- Design recreational facilities, including trails, to be accessible to all people, regardless of physical abilities, consistent with the constraints of the natural landscape and physical resources of the site.
- Provide trails for a variety of users, including hikers, bicyclists and equestrians.
- Accommodate public transit access to the Park.
- Consider the concerns of adjacent residents and property owners when locating parking and staging areas.
- Consider public safety in remote and fire hazardous areas.

Preserve and enhance the natural, ranchland character of the Park.

- Park structures and recreational facilities should reflect and reinforce the distinct ranchland character of the Park. Consider the visual impact of Park facilities and structures.
- Facilities and infrastructure should be subordinate to the natural landscape setting. Indigenous plant material should be used where feasible.
- Management of the natural resources of the Park should enhance wildlife habitat, protect environmentally sensitive areas of the Park, reduce the threat of erosion and wildfire, restore native plant communities, and protect the water quality of Coyote Lake.
- Incorporate opportunities for interpretation of the Park’s natural and cultural history.
- Consider programs and facilities to educate the public, especially youth, about Santa Clara County’s ranching heritage.

Develop a plan that can be implemented over time, taking into account available resources, potential phasing, and long-term management implications.

- Consider the environmental resources of the land, as well as the existing and potential future human and financial resources of the County Parks and Recreation Department, as well as other agencies that will be responsible for the implementation and long-term management of the master plan.
- Consider opportunities for revenue generation that can off-set long-term management costs, consistent with other master plan goals.
• Continue to encourage interagency coordination and collaboration throughout the design process, as well as during implementation and long-term management.

• Coyote Lake and the surrounding watershed shall be managed to meet the mutually beneficial goals of the County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, for joint water supply and recreational use, meeting the needs of Santa Clara County residents.

• Encourage partnerships with other agencies and organizations that can assist in implementing and maintaining Park facilities and programs.

• A phased program of Park improvements should be based on plan priorities determined by natural resource implications, funding for development, recreational need, logical construction and sequencing, coordination with reservoir management, and maintenance implications.

• Incorporate regular monitoring, review and update of the Master Plan to assess natural resource impacts, changes in recreational need, and available management resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Park.

• Strive to open portions of the Park for public use as soon as possible, consistent with other goals and CEQA requirements.

THE PROPOSED MASTER PLAN

OVERVIEW

Selection of program elements was guided by recommendations of the Task Force and Technical Advisory Committee, and suggestions made by the public. A preliminary environmental analysis, incorporated into the Master Plan Program Document (BFSLA, 2002), examined opportunities and constraints and screened certain elements based on the location and sensitivity of resources present and the potential for impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed facilities and programs. Discussion of the proposed Master Plan is organized as follows:

• Recreational Program Elements
• Trails Plan
• Historic Preservation and Interpretation
• Natural Resource Management

RECREATIONAL PROGRAM ELEMENTS

For planning purposes, the Park has been divided into four distinct planning zones, each with its own character and suite of program elements. The following describes the four planning zones as well as recreational program elements proposed within each zone. The locations of the four planning zones, as well as the location of proposed program elements within each zone, are summarized in Table 2-1 and depicted on Figure 2-2.
### TABLE 2-1

**COYOTE LAKE-HARVEY BEAR RANCH COUNTY PARK
MASTER PLAN PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Element</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Phase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle Park</td>
<td>Fenced dirt area for practice jumping and riding (1-3 acres).</td>
<td>Locate to provide access from staging area and trails, and visibility for supervision, but screening from park entrance and adjacent properties. No night use or night lighting. Bike park may be operated through an agreement with bicycle organizations.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>Equestrian camping in overflow parking area.</td>
<td>Equestrian camping by permit in Phase 1, potential reservation in Phase 2. No facilities provided for equestrian camping.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Off-leash Area</td>
<td>Fenced dog off-leash area.</td>
<td>Locate to minimize conflict with equestrian center. Possible range of ground surfaces (turf, un-irrigated mowed grasses, compacted earth). Accommodate time and space for turf rest/renewal within operations schedule. Possible use for special events by permit.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Element</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Phase</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Equestrian/Agricultural Education Center | Use existing ranch structure (barns and corrals) to create equestrian/agricultural center that may include the following elements:  
  - historic/cultural interpretive displays and programs;  
  - multi-use arena that may be used for warm-up/cool-down associated with trail riding; equestrian events; agricultural education events; other special events; and  
  - use of existing barns for storage and maintenance, animal showing as a part of special events, and indoor interpretive displays. | Use existing structures to the greatest extent possible. The primary new structure would be the arena. The arena may be covered.  
If the arena is covered, consider lighting for potential extended use in winter and special events, taking into account park operational issues of extended use and the need to eliminate glare into the adjacent neighborhood.  
Design should maximize flexibility to accommodate a variety of uses and programs.  
Consider seasonal equestrian day camps for children.  
Maintain infrastructure for grazing operation.  
Possible operation by lease operator or non-profit organization.  
See park development issues noted below. | 2     |
| Events Pavilion                 | Indoor and outdoor spaces that could be rented for meetings, weddings, cultural and special events.  
Indoor space to accommodate up to 200 people per event.                                                                 | Consider a cluster of indoor and outdoor spaces that could be rented individually for smaller events or together for larger events.  
Pavilion may be placed adjacent to golf course clubhouse for efficiency of infrastructure and management.  
Possible lease operation.                                                                 | 2 or 3 |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Element</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course</td>
<td>18-hole golf course with clubhouse and support facilities.</td>
<td>See park development issues noted below. Possible lease or contract operation. Golf course design and operations to be consistent with County Golf Course Design Guidelines and County Integrated Pest Management Program.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Predominant use of native plants for habitat restoration between fairways and greens while maintaining functionality for golfers. Golf course to be regional model of environmentally sensitive design and operations.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide native grass buffer zone between golf course and adjacent streets.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing Pond</td>
<td>New fishing pond.</td>
<td>Fishing pond may be coordinated with golf course design so that one side of the pond faces the golf course while the other side is accessible for fishing and near the group picnic area. Naturalized design to complement park setting. Fishing pond should be incorporated into drainage design for West Flat Area. Focus of fishing programs should be children and youth. Develop stocking program.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic/Cultural</td>
<td>Protect and interpret site of Martin Murphy home. Provide interpretation of other cultural and historic sites.</td>
<td>Consider interpretive element for West Flat Area trails. Consider grant opportunities for interpretive development. Evaluate health of orchard for inclusion in historic area.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation/Interpretation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Facility</td>
<td>Maintenance facility for West Flat Area.</td>
<td>Provide adequate screening of maintenance area and equipment.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 2-1 (Continued)
COYOTE LAKE-HARVEY BEAR RANCH COUNTY PARK
MASTER PLAN PROGRAM ELEMENTS

<table>
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<th>Program Element</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Entrance</td>
<td>Park entrance off San Martin. Self-pay system and seasonal kiosk.</td>
<td>Interim entrance at existing location. Final entrance configuration to be determined based on traffic study and detailed golf course design. Entrance design to complement ranchland theme.</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>Individual picnic areas located along selected trails and near staging areas. Group picnic site and parking for up to 200 people.</td>
<td>Group picnic area parking may be separate from general staging area. Group and some individual picnic sites should be located adjacent to irrigated turf and open fields.</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger Office</td>
<td>Ranger office in association with historical area or equestrian/agricultural education area.</td>
<td>Ranger office will serve as park staff operations base for West Flat Area. It should be easily accessible to park users.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staging Areas</td>
<td>Designated staging area for 50 cars and 25 horse trailers. Staging area to include bike racks, seating areas, drinking water, portable restrooms (Phase 1), watering troughs, trails access and trails signage. Staging area may include bus stop for transit access. Unpaved overflow parking area to accommodate 125 vehicles.</td>
<td>Separate parking area for golf course, group picnic area and events pavilion. Portable restrooms may be replaced with permanent restrooms in Phases 2–3.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 2-1 (Continued)  
**COYOTE LAKE-HARVEY BEAR RANCH COUNTY PARK**  
**MASTER PLAN PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Flat, accessible multi-use trails, perimeter trail, and connections to other Park trails.</td>
<td>Some trails to be accessible to horse-driven carts by reservation.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Street-adjacent trails to controlled access points where feasible.</td>
<td>Consider interpretive element for some trails.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional trail connection to San Martin area trails.</td>
<td>While most West Flat Area trails will be open year round, access from the West Flat Area to Slope and Ridge Area trails may be limited or closed in winter.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf Area</td>
<td>Irrigated turf areas for informal recreational play.</td>
<td>Turf areas should be located adjacent to picnic areas and fishing pond.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>Development and uses to be consistent with Natural Resource Management Plan.</td>
<td>Maintain/improve grazing infrastructure for cattle loading/unloading at West Flat Area.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coordinate grazing infrastructure with staging area, trails and roadway layout.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Protect and enhance riparian corridors through West Flat Area.</td>
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**Development Issues for the West Flat Area**

- **Water Availability**: Multiple water sources and a water storage system integrated with the golf course design will be explored during subsequent design studies in order to minimize negative effects on groundwater supply. Consider hook-up to recycled water from Gilroy treatment plant.  
  - Incorporate drought-tolerant native planting to minimize supplemental water needs.
### TABLE 2-1 (Continued)
**COYOTE LAKE-HARVEY BEAR RANCH COUNTY PARK**
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development Issues for the West Flat Area</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>Surface and groundwater quality shall not be adversely impacted by West Flat Area uses. &quot;Best Management Practices&quot;, including County’s Integrated Pest Management Program, shall be followed for all uses to minimize the risk of negative effects on water quality. Golf course design shall incorporate surface water filtration though native grass drainage areas. Equestrian facilities and special events shall incorporate effective manure management practices.</td>
<td>Trails, staging areas, dog off-leash area, and bicycle park shall be designed and managed to minimize erosion and other potential impacts of water quality.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage</td>
<td>Park features shall be designed so that current freshwater resources and off-site drainage patterns are not negatively affected.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Habitat</td>
<td>Golf course &quot;rough&quot; areas, park peripheral areas, and transition areas between uses shall be designed to restore and enhance native habitat. Native trees and grasses that are indigenous to the area shall be used as the predominant species.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>West Flat Area uses shall not impede views from the valley floor to the hillside and ridges. Architectural design shall be consistent with the ranchland character theme and the San Martin Area Design Guidelines. Landscape design shall be consistent with the ranchland character and shall emulate indigenous natural landscapes. New structures shall complement the predominant character of the existing barns. The golf course should be located on the valley floor only. Fencing should be consistent with the ranchland character theme. Examples of appropriate fencing include split rail, corral, and wire with wood posts. If a driving range is included as a part of the golf course, it should be sited to minimize fencing.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feral Pigs</td>
<td>Feral pig control should be consistent with county parks policies and the Natural Resource Management Plan.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 2-1 (Continued)
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<tr>
<td>Hang Gliding/Paragliding</td>
<td>Consider advanced-skill launch-site along northern ridge accessible by trail. Consider emergency landing site on plateau above West Flat Area. Target landing to be in Mendoza area.</td>
<td>This launch site for advanced pilots only and with access only by multi-use trails. No public motorized vehicular access. Regular landing areas should be accessible to staff emergency response vehicles.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>Recreational development and use to be consistent with Natural Resource Management Plan.</td>
<td>Fencing, gates, and watering troughs shall be adjusted to be consistent with Natural Resource Management Plan grazing recommendations and to minimize conflicts between grazing and trails. Protect existing native habitats and provide incremental restoration to expand native vegetation areas.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Multi-use trails where feasible. (Some trails may not be multi-use due to topography, safety and/or environmental concerns.) Some trails may be seasonal. Mix of trails to provide loops of varying distance and park experience. Regional trail connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Trail connections to other park areas. Some interpretive trails/signage where feasible.</td>
<td>Use existing ranch roads where feasible as trails. Some portions of ranch roads will be re-routed due to steep grades and environmental concerns. See Park Trails Plan. Possible seasonal closures due to severe weather conditions, trail damage and adverse soil conditions. Development and maintenance per Natural Resource Management Plan guidelines.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
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**TABLE 2-1 (Continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lakeside Area</th>
<th>Program Element</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
<td>Small amphitheater close to existing campground.</td>
<td>Use of amphitheater to support park interpretive programs.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>Same as existing with self-launch areas with floating docks for kayaks and non-motorized small boats.</td>
<td>Access to self-launch areas via pedestrian trails from campgrounds, picnic areas and parking.</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>Reduce density of existing campground by 10-15 sites. Add native grass spaces and shade trees.</td>
<td>Some replacement sites may be designed to accommodate RV’s, but no RV disposal facility on-site.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Add showers. Replace lost camp sites at adjacent Lakeview Meadows area. Some of the replacement sites as part of expanded campground may be for group camping.</td>
<td>Consider RV size restrictions based on Roop Road and park entrance road safety conditions.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Provide new campground near existing boat launch if future demand dictates need for additional camp sites.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entrance Kiosk</td>
<td>Upgrade entrance and kiosk.</td>
<td>Improve customer service for park users. Upgrade kiosk to newer standard design.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entrance Road</td>
<td>Minor safety improvements to lakeside road where feasible.</td>
<td>Improvements may include expanded shoulder areas and bank stabilization.</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Consider increased stocking/habitat/shoreline improvements for fishing.</td>
<td>Designate controlled access areas coordinated with lakeside trail system to minimize impacts to shoreline.</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historic/Cultural Preservation/ Interpretation</td>
<td>Protect existing known resources.</td>
<td>Potential for expanded interpretation in conjunction with environmental education center.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance Facility</td>
<td>Remodel/expand with redesign of kiosk area.</td>
<td>Improve maintenance support and equipment storage. Screen facility from visitor areas.</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Element</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>Recreational development and use to be consistent with Natural Resource Management Plan. Protect sensitive shoreline environmental resources through trail and other improvements to control and focus shoreline access.</td>
<td>Lake water quality to be protected through coordination with SCVWD.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>Minor improvements of existing picnic sites, including new shade trees and/or shade structures. Relocate Lakeview Meadows picnic sites to other sites along lake and to Mendoza area. Provide group picnic site and parking to accommodate up to 50 people near boat launch and Sandy Beach.</td>
<td>Provide access and parking for new picnic areas</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger Offices / Visitor Center</td>
<td>Maintain existing offices / visitor center near kiosk and maintenance facility.</td>
<td>Consider upgrade/expansion of visitor center as part of entrance area improvements.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger Residence</td>
<td>No change. Existing ranger residence near campground to remain.</td>
<td>Maintain separation from visitor areas.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Pedestrian trail improvements to lakeside amenities. Separate multi-use trail west of Lakeside Road with buffer zone from the lake edge. Regional trail connection to Anza National Historic Trail and to Coe Park, other public lands. Regional and park trail connections to be multi-use where feasible.</td>
<td>Development and maintenance per Natural Resource Management Plan guidelines.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Play</td>
<td>Fenced and self-contained water play feature, such as sprayers, fountains, etc. for seasonal use.</td>
<td>Should be located in or within easy walking distance to campground. Subject to SCVWD approval.</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Element</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Phase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>Approximate 100-person youth campground associated with environmental education center. Equestrian camping by permit.</td>
<td>Imported food for equestrian camping to be limited to grain or pelleted food, or certified weed-free hay to minimize weed infestation. Also consider pasturage.</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Entrance</td>
<td>Park entrance at existing Mendoza Ranch. Entrance on Roop Road.</td>
<td>Kiosk may be needed in the future for access control to environmental education center/youth campground and trail system.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staging Area</td>
<td>Staging area to accommodate up to 10 horse trailers, 40 cars and parking for environmental education center/youth camping. Staging area to include bike racks, seating areas, drinking water, restrooms, watering trough and hitching posts, trails access and trails signage.</td>
<td>Mendoza staging and camping areas should be designed to park vehicles near Roop Road entrance and then enjoy property via non-motorized trail access. Possible overflow parking areas near Roop Road to accommodate special events at youth campground/environmental education center. Permanent water supply and restrooms may not be provided until later plan phases.</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education and Interpretation</td>
<td>Expansion/conversion of Mendoza House as Environmental Education Center, or creation of separate Environmental Education Center, possibly using barn area.</td>
<td>Possible non-profit lease to build and/or operate.</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang Gliding/Paragliding</td>
<td>Launch and landing sites as noted on plan. Northern Mendoza landing site is included in Phase 1 and may include gated access from Roop Road. Southern Mendoza landing site is included in Phase 2 or 3 and will require hiking out to main staging area. No Roop Road access from Southern landing site.</td>
<td>Access to launch site by multi-use trail with no motorized vehicular access.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Element</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Phase</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic/Cultural Preservation/</td>
<td>Protect existing known resources with interpretation.</td>
<td>Evaluate further historic significance of structures and barn complex.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>Recreational development and use to be consistent with Natural Resource</td>
<td>Protect existing native habitats and provide incremental restoration to</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Plan</td>
<td>Management Plan.</td>
<td>expand native vegetation areas.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas</td>
<td>Family picnic sites near staging area and along selected trails.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No group picnic facility.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Accessible multi-use trails where feasible and connections to other Park</td>
<td>Use existing ranch roads where feasible as trails.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>trails, including regional trials.</td>
<td>See Parks Trails Plan.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Street-adjacent trails to controlled access points where feasible.</td>
<td>Development and maintenance per Natural Resource Management Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>guidelines.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Fishing Pond</td>
<td>Stocking of existing Southern pond near Roop Road for youth-related</td>
<td>Use as stocked fish pond (for special events only) to be phased out with</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>special fishing events.</td>
<td>completion of fishing pond in Western Flat Area.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Restore pond to more natural condition following interim fishing use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: Bellinger Foster Steinmetz Landscape Architecture
2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LAKESIDE AREA

The Lakeside Area is the existing Park area currently open to the public. The recreational focus consists of activities on and near Coyote Lake, such as camping, boating, fishing, hiking and horseback riding. These activities are proposed to continue, with the addition of the following enhancements (Table 2-1):

- Campground improvements, including addition of showers, reduction in campground density, and the addition of replacement of camping spaces on an adjacent site;
- Water play area and amphitheater near the campground;
- Picnic area improvements and construction of a new group picnic area;
- Potential future addition of a new campground if demand dictates;
- Trail improvements;
- Self-launch area for kayaks and non-motorized boats; and,
- Improvements to the Park entrance area, kiosk, visitor center, and maintenance facility.

MENDOZA RANCH AREA

The Mendoza Ranch, located in the southern end of the Park off Roop Road is currently not open to the public, but is used for Park administration. The ranch contains some of the most beautiful and pristine areas of the Park, including some of the best stands of native grassland. With the exception of the areas around the existing ranch house and barn, the Mendoza Ranch area is proposed to remain essentially undeveloped, accessible only by trails. Proposed improvements for the Mendoza Ranch Area include (Table 2-1):

- Trail staging area;
- Environmental education center and youth campground;
- Family picnic sites;
- Hang gliding/paragliding launch and landing sites; and,
- Multi-use trails and regional trail connections.
- Equestrian campground by special use permit.

SLOPES AND RIDGE AREA

The slopes and ridges comprise the spine of the Park running from the northwest to the southeast. This area of the Park has spectacular vistas to the valley floor to the west and Coyote Lake and Palassou Ridge to the east. Some of the most sensitive habitat areas are located along the ridge line. The steepness of the terrain, recreational facilities are limited to trails and a hang gliding/paragliding launch site accessible only by multi-use trail. A portion of the ridge trail will become part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, but is being evaluated separately from the remainder of trails within the Park.

WEST FLAT AREA

The West Flat Area of the Park has the greatest potential for more active recreational facilities given its relatively level topography, history of cultivation, proximity to population centers, and easy access from San Martin Avenue. Most of the Park’s new development is proposed for this
area, including the gold course, events pavilion and agricultural/equestrian education center. All program elements proposed for the Western Flat Area are summarized in Table 2-1 and are illustrated in Figure 2-3. Most of the proposed new development is proposed for this area and includes:

- 18-hole golf course;
- Equestrian/agricultural education center;
- Events pavilion;
- Bicycle Park;
- Multi-use trails;
- Historic area centered on the Martin Murphy homsite and ranch era orchard;
- Fishing pond;
- Dog off-leash area;
- Family and group picnic area;
- Irrigated turf areas;
- Satellite ranger office and maintenance facility; and
- Equestrian camping by special use permit.

Development Issues for the West Flat Area

Water Availability
Multiple water sources and a water storage system integrated with the golf course design will be explored in order to minimize negative effects on groundwater supply. Consider hook-up to recycled water from Gilroy treatment plant.

Water Quality
Surface and groundwater quality shall not be adversely impacted by West Flat Area uses. “Best Management Practices,” including County’s Integrated Pest Management Program, shall be followed for all uses to minimize the risk of negative effects on water quality. Golf course design shall incorporate surface water filtration through native grass drainage areas. Equestrian facilities and special events shall incorporate effective manure management practices.

Drainage
Park features shall be designed so that current off-site drainage patterns are not negatively affected.

Native Habitat
Golf course “rough” areas, Park peripheral areas, and transition areas between uses shall be designed to restore and enhance native habitat. Native trees that are indigenous to the area shall be used.

Visual
West Flat area uses shall not impede views from the valley floor to the hillside and ridges. Architectural design shall be consistent with the ranchland character theme and the San Martin Area Design Guidelines. Landscape design shall be consistent with the ranchland character and
shall emulate indigenous natural landscapes. The existing barns should remain the most dominant visual structures. The golf course should be located on the valley floor only. Fencing should be consistent with the ranchland character theme. Examples of appropriate fencing include split rail, corral, and wire with wood posts. If a driving range is included as a part of the golf course, it should be sited to minimize fencing.

PARK TRAILS PLAN

REGIONAL TRAILS OVERVIEW

The Park Trails Plan is not only significant for access to diverse recreational experiences within the Park, Coyote Lake–Harvey Bear Ranch County Park, but is also integral to numerous regional trail alignments that either cross through, or are adjacent to the Park, as identified in the 1995 County Wide Trails Master Plan update, and as noted below and shown on Figure 2-4.

Regional Trail Alignments within or Adjacent to the Park

Bay Area Ridge Trail
(Regional Trail Route R5-B in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan) The Bay Area Ridge Trail system follows the ridges and mountains that circle San Francisco Bay, including the Diablo Range where the park is located.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Southern Expedition Route)
(Regional Trail Route R1-C in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan) This nationally recognized trail commemorates the route taken by Anza from Sonora, Mexico to the San Francisco Bay in 1775–1776.

Benito–Clara Trail
(Regional Trail Route R3 in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan) This is a loop trail linking recreational resources in Southern Santa Clara County and Northern San Benito County, including the cities of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister and San Juan Bautista.

San Martin Cross-Valley Trail
(Subregional Trail Route S-8 in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan) This is an east-west route connecting trails in southwest Santa Clara County (Hayes Valley and Uvas Reservoir areas), to the Anza Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail.

San Martin/South Valley Trail
(Connector Trail Route C-27 in the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan) This is a north-south trail connecting Morgan Hill with the Anza Trail and the Bay Area Ridge trail.
The Park Trails Plan provides links to existing and future regional trails within the vicinity of the park, and establishes segments for those regional trail alignments that cross through the Park, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

**INTERNAL PARK TRAILS**

The trails plan strives to provide as many multi-use trails as feasible, and also creates limited use trails where applicable. The trails are proposed to provide loops and access to varying locations and amenities of the Park, with varying experience and degree of difficulty. Existing ranch roads were used where feasible, but due to steep terrain, soil conditions, sensitive habitats, and safety and maintenance concerns, the trails outlined in this plan do not incorporate all existing routes. Some existing routes are proposed to be abandoned. Abandoned trails will be restored to adjacent natural conditions. In some instances, trails were re-routed or extended to provide access to amenities proposed in the Master Plan. Figures 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, and 2-7 illustrate existing trail and road segments, proposed trails alignments, and trail construction phases.

**Trail Use**

There are eleven multi-use trails proposed for the park. Additionally, there are two trails for bicycle and pedestrian use, five trails for pedestrian use only. Additional pathways to future camping, picnic and other proposed Master Plan amenities may be needed but are not identified as a part of the Park Trails Plan. These minor trails will be designed as a part of phased implementation.

There are a total of approximately 30 miles of trails proposed for the park: 21 miles of multiuse trails, 7.2 miles of pedestrian only trails, and 1.75 miles of bicycle/pedestrian trails.

**Access**

Equestrians are allowed on most trails in the park, and on trails leading to equestrian staging and/or equestrian camping as proposed in the Master Plan. A multi-use loop trail is proposed around the West Flat Area. This loop trail is proposed to combine a paved surface for year-round bicycle/pedestrian use with a soft-surface shoulder for equestrian use. Multi-use trails may be accessible to horse-drawn carts by permit. Since equestrians are not allowed to be near the lake shore due to water quality issues, no equestrians are allowed on the spur trails that provide access to the lake.

Bicycles are allowed on most trails in the park, and on the trail that runs parallel and to the west of the paved road in the existing County Park. This two-plus mile trail in the existing park links the proposed trail system and new amenities to existing camping facilities and the boat launch area. Equestrians are allowed on the northern portion of this trail, but not the southern portion, due to steep terrain and narrow trail width.
Figure 2-5

Ranch Road Network-
Segments to Retain and Abandon (Proposed)
There are five pedestrian-only trails to provide access to remote locations of the park or connections to other trail segments. These trails are proposed as single-track trails, due to steep terrain and potential impact to sensitive habitats.

Specific interpretive trail elements are not included in the Trails Plan but will be coordinated by the Parks Department Interpretive Program, as a part of phased implementation.

Subregional Trail Connection to be Abandoned

The Countywide Trails Master Plan shows a portion of the San Martin Cross Valley Trail (S-8) to connect to the park south of the Proposed West Flat Area entrance at San Martin Avenue. Since all park access is proposed at controlled entry points, and the intent of the trail connection will be fulfilled at the San Martin Avenue entrance, this proposed trail spur is recommended to be abandoned (see Figure 2-5).

Seasonal Closures

Some trails may need to be closed seasonally, due to soil conditions, severe weather, and potential impacts to sensitive habitats. Trails closures will be assessed seasonally as part of regular natural resources monitoring proposed in the Natural Resources Management Plan.

Grazing Coordination

Fences and water troughs for grazing cattle may be moved from the existing locations, according to the Natural Resources Management Plan. The location of new fencing, gates, and water troughs should not be near trail junctions, in order to minimize potential conflicts between public use and cattle grazing. This effort should be coordinated with the Natural Resources Management Plan.

Trail Phasing

There are three phases proposed for constructing trails in the park based on trail priorities and ease of implementation. Available funding will be a major consideration in determining when trails are implemented. The first phase focuses on implementing the Bay Area Ridge Trail within the park, providing basic public access from the valley floor to the ridgeline, and realigning ranch roads where needed to enhance public safety and protect sensitive environmental resources. Phase One trails also connect staging and camping areas with the trail system, and provide two loops (two at the northern portion of the park, one in the middle of the trail system, and one at the southern end). All of these trails are multi-use except two segments that connect the lake view trail alignment with the existing boat launch area and dam. These segments are for pedestrian and bicycle use. Some of the Phase One trails or portions of these trails will utilize existing ranch road alignments, which make them easier to implement. Trail segments that are proposed to be abandoned will be removed in Phase One.

Phase Two trails are those that may take longer to construct, as most of these trails are reroutes or new construction. Two of these trails are limited use, one for pedestrian use only and one for
pedestrians and bicyclists. Four Phase Two trails are multi-use. While Phase Two trails will enhance the park user’s experience, they are not essential to basic park operations and access.

Phase Three trails are limited-use trails—four pedestrian-only trails and one trail for bicycle and pedestrian use that connects to the proposed amphitheater. These trails are shorter, internal connector trails, and provide pedestrian-only (or pedestrian and bicyclist) connections to other trail segments. Phase Three trails are proposed as single-track trails.

Related site improvements will be developed concurrently with phased trail implementation, including signage, gates, fencing, staging areas, water (for people and horses), and restrooms (portable and/or permanent).

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

Restoration and/or protection of historic features is proposed for historic resources in all areas of the Park. Interpretation of historic sites is proposed for all areas where interpretation will not impede protection of the historic resource.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A separate Natural Resource Management Plan was prepared concurrent with the Master Plan. While the Master Plan proposes uses and facilities for the park, the Natural Resource Management Plan describes how the park’s natural resources should be protected and enhanced over time, in conjunction with proposed uses and improvements as noted in the Master Plan. As these plans were prepared concurrently, placement of recreational facilities is consistent with the Natural Resource Management Plan. When implemented in conjunction with each other, both plans will ensure that recreational and resource management activities are complementary, not conflicting.

The Natural Resource Management Plan provides management and monitoring guidelines for a wide range of applications, including the following:

Grazing

The objective of grazing is to manage and promote perennial grass seedlings and/or relict native grass stands of the Park. Grazing may be used to reduce yellow star thistle and other broadleaf weed infestations. Grazing may also be used to reduce the standing dead biomass at the end of each growing season so that wildfire risks are minimized.

Prescribed Fire

Some of the benefits of fire are that it can be timed to prevent seed maturation in annual exotic pest plants, can help achieve biomass management objectives, and can invigorate new growth in woody shrubs, thereby enhancing browse for deer and other foragers.
Careful consideration must be made before fire is used in a particular management area. The Natural Resource Management Plan does not recommend the use of fire until detailed planning has been conducted and reviewed, but guidelines for development of a prescribed fire plan and monitoring methods are presented.

**Grassland Restoration**

Guidelines for collecting grass seed, controlling weeds, and planting seed are presented in the Natural Resources Management Plan. Monitoring methods and success criteria are outlined for various grassland restoration and enhancement techniques (e.g. seeding, grazing, and burning).

**Oak Woodland Restoration**

Methods for collecting, processing, and planting acorns are provided. The Natural Resource Management Plan also outlines monitoring methods and success criteria and provides a timetable for restoration and monitoring activities.

**Protection and Enhancement of Freshwater Resources**

Planting native riparian and marsh vegetation around stock ponds will greatly increase habitat value for birds and amphibians. Methods for stock pond revegetation are provided including appropriate species, timing, and location. Water quality and riparian/wetland vegetation should be monitored regularly to: 1) assess habitat quality for aquatic organisms; and 2) assure that recreational use and management activities within the Park are not degrading freshwater resources.

**Erosion Control**

Erosion may lead to impaired water quality, destruction of native vegetation, and loss of valuable wildlife habitat. In addition, erosion may create safety hazards for Park staff and visitors. Erosion features should be repaired and restored, and proper management practices should be implemented to prevent future erosion. Several erosion control techniques as well as monitoring guidelines are provided.

**Exotic Species Control**

Invasive exotic plant species can be a major concern in managing relict native habitats. Basic precautions used to prevent introducing or spreading noxious weeds are discussed. Weed control methods, monitoring methods, and success criteria are also provided.

**Sensitive Species Management**

Specific management and monitoring actions are discussed to protect sensitive species and their habitat. Guidelines are provided for species known to occur in the Park as well as those with potential to occur in the Park. Avoidance and mitigation measures are provided for trail construction activities where appropriate.
Trails

Trail construction and maintenance guidelines associated with the Park Trails Plan are discussed, including restoration of abandoned roads. Methods for reducing conflicts between grazing and visitor use are also provided.

PROJECT PHASING

The Master Plan establishes the County’s vision for improvement and management of the Park for the next 20 years. Implementation of Phase 1 and on-going projects are expected to begin upon completion of the environmental review process. In particular, visitor access to the Bear Ranch portion of the Park using the existing system of ranch roads is considered the highest priority. Action would begin immediately to prepare access locations and basic staging facilities, basic trail signage and guide maps, and ranger supervision. Other Phase 1 projects requiring additional planning, funding and implementation are expected to occur over the next two years.

PHASE 1 PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Phase 1 includes those improvements needed to open the Park to public use and to provide basic improvements to the existing Coyote Lake Campground. Phase 1 should be completed within three years of Master Plan approval. The following improvements are included in Phase 1:

The following Phase 1 and on-going projects are reviewed at a project-level in this report:

- Interim Park entrance at West Flat area
- Picnic areas in Western Flat area
- Trail staging areas at West Flat area and Mendoza Ranch
- Overflow Parking/equestrian camping in West Flat Area
- Phase 1 trails, gates and fencing, and trails naming and signage, West Flat Area and Mendoza Ranch Area,
- Implementation of the Natural Resource Management Plan
- Hang-gliding launch and emergency landing site in northern ridge area, and landing area adjacent to Roop Road
- Campground improvements: addition of showers and reduction of campground density
- Lakeside pedestrian trail and fishing improvements
- Self-launch areas for kayaks/non-motorized boats
- Historical/Cultural Preservation/Interpretation
- Use of southern pond for annual Fishability Days event

Phase 2 and Phase 3 consists of longer-term projects, which are presented at a conceptual level in the Master Plan. These actions will require unspecified time to develop detailed plans and may require subsequent environmental analysis to satisfy CEQA or other environmental compliance requirements. Some of these projects are likely to occur begin within several years, but others may not be undertaken until later in the 20-year planning window.
PHASE 2 AND PHASE 3 PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Phase 2 focuses on some of the more active recreational facilities in the West Flat Area. Ideally, if funding permits, Phase 2 projects should be completed in one phase; however, the realities of funding may require that Phase 2 be divided into multiple phases. Completion on Phase 2 will be contingent on funding availability, but a goal should be established to completing Phase 2 within 5 years of Master Plan approval.

Phase 3 focuses on projects that may have a longer timeline due to funding availability or where implementation should be based on future demand that is not yet demonstrated. Some Phase 3 projects (such as the Environmental Education Center and youth campground) may become part of Phase 2 if funding becomes available. Completion of Phase 3 will be contingent on funding availability and/or demand. No timeline given, but implementation may take 10 years or more.

The following Phase 2 and Phase 3 actions are reviewed at a program-level in this report:

- Bicycle park
- Dog off-leash area
- Equestrian/agricultural events center
- Events pavilion
- Golf course
- Fishing pond
- Historic restoration and interpretation
- Maintenance facilities at west Flat and Lakeside areas
- Park Entrance (West Flat final configuration to replace interim plan; new entrance at Mendoza Ranch area)
- Ranger office
- Completion of staging areas
- Phase 2 and Phase 3 trails as described in the Trails Plan
- Informal lawn play area
- Implementation of the Natural Resource Management Plan
- Campground amphitheater
- New Lakeside campground (based on demand)
- Improvements to existing Lakeside entrance area, visitor center and maintenance yard
- Historical/Cultural Preservation/Interpretation
- Picnic area improvements and new group picnic area
- Water play area
- Youth campground
- Hang-gliding landing site Mendoza Ranch area
- Environmental education center
- Lakeside roadway safety improvements

MITIGATION MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT

To ensure that implementation of the Master Plan protects natural, cultural, and social resources, a consistent set of mitigation measures would be applied during implementation of specific projects and program elements to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts. Mitigation measures included in the Master Plan include those listed below, in addition to those presented in Chapter 3.
DESIGN GUIDELINES

Projects shall avoid or minimize impacts to natural, cultural, and social resources and shall be designed to work in harmony with the surroundings. Projects should be sustainable whenever practicable, by recycling or reusing materials, by minimizing materials, and by minimizing energy consumption.

ENTRANCES

Park entrances are limited to three locations: the existing Coyote Lake Park entrance off of Roop Road, a new entrance to the Mendoza Area also off of Roop Road, and a new entrance to the West Flat Area from San Martin Avenue. While street-adjacent trails will be provided in some areas, these trails should direct Park access to the major entrance points listed above. Other trail entrances are discouraged in order to minimize parking for trail access and Park use in adjacent residential areas.

The entrances to the West Flat Area from San Martin and to the Mendoza Area from Roop Road should be designed to enhance the ranchland theme. Traditional ranch posts and beams could be placed at these entrances. (If this type of entrance feature is used, it should have sufficient clearance for the large trucks required for grazing operations and emergency response.) The entrance road from San Martin Avenue should be re-aligned to be at right angles with San Martin Avenue and to provide safer sight lines at the entrance intersection. Final location of the entrance intersection should be coordinated with adjacent properties and driveways to maximize safety and minimize neighborhood impact.

Consider planting an allee of trees along the San Martin Avenue entrance, selecting tree species that would enhance the ranchland character theme.

Parks Department standard kiosks may be used at the entrances, although façade enhancements may be used (such as stone bases or wood siding) that is consistent with the ranchland theme.

ARCHITECTURE

In the West Flat and Mendoza areas, architecture of new facilities should enhance the existing rustic ranchland character. In the West Flat area, the existing barns should remain the dominant structures, with no other structure exceeding the barns in height. Appropriate materials for the clubhouse and events pavilion include wood, stone and plaster. New structures should include arbors, porches and patios to blend indoor and outdoor spaces. New architectural features in the Lakeside Area should blend with the existing architectural styles.

FENCING

Fencing should be consistent with the ranch character. Split rail, corral-style, and wood posts with barbed wire all are appropriate styles. Chain link fencing should not be used except in areas that are not readily visible to the public, such as maintenance areas. Pig fencing may be needed in
some areas. Typically, pig fencing is buried 12-18 inches in the ground to prevent burrowing under the fence. Wire fencing may be used and attached to split rail or corral style fence to blend with other fencing.

**ROADS**

Roads should be designed to be as narrow as possible while meeting established safety standards. Wherever feasible, follow existing roadway alignments. Roads with regular use (for example, entrance roads and roads leading to major attractions) should have asphalt paving, while spur or secondary roads may remain unpaved using compacted base material. Roads should have an unpaved shoulder where feasible, although some areas may require a curb, for example in an area where a trail runs parallel to a road. All ranch roads along the ridgeline will be closed to public motorized vehicular use and will be converted to trail use or abandoned as described in the Trails Plan. The roads in the West Flat Area should be designed to accommodate large trucks needed for grazing operations.

**STAGING AREAS**

Trail and access staging areas may be paved with asphalt or unpaved with road base material. The most heavily used staging areas should be paved. Staging areas will comply with ADA accessibility guidelines. Overflow paving areas should be grass that can be mowed seasonally. The West Flat Area should be designed to accommodate a future bus stop for public transit.

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

The County (and its contractors) shall implement the following best management practices, as appropriate, prior to, during, and/or after project implementation. These BMPs are adapted from the *California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbooks* (Stormwater Quality Task Force, 1993). Specific tasks would include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Inspect the project to ensure that impacts stay within the parameters of the project and do not escalate beyond the scope of the Environmental Impact Report, and conforms with other applicable permits or project conditions.

- Implement compliance monitoring to ensure the project remains within the parameters of California Environmental Quality Act and other applicable permits or project conditions. Compliance monitoring would ensure adherence to mitigation measures and would include reporting protocols.

- Implement natural resource protection measures. Standard measures include construction scheduling, biological monitoring, erosion and sediment control, use of fencing or other means to protect sensitive resources adjacent to the work area, and revegetation. The measures include specific monitoring by resource specialists as well as treatment and reporting procedures.

- Implement the necessary cultural and historic resource protection measures. Measures could include monitoring of construction in sensitive areas.
• Confine work areas and equipment to the smallest area necessary.

• Steam-clean heavy equipment prior to its entry into the Park to prevent importation of non-native plant species, and repair all petroleum leaks prior to work near the wetlands or waterways. Tighten hydraulic hoses and ensure they are in good condition.

• To minimize the possibility of hazardous materials seeping into soil or water, check equipment frequently to identify and repair any leaks, as directed in the spill prevention and countermeasure plan. Standard measures include hazardous materials storage and handling procedures; spill containment, cleanup, and reporting procedures; and limitation of refueling and other hazardous activities to upland/nonsensitive sites. Provide an adequate hydrocarbon spill containment system (e.g., floatable absorption boom, absorption materials, etc.) on site, in case of unexpected spills in the project area. Ensure equipment is equipped with a hazardous spill containment kit. Ensure that personnel trained in the use of hazardous spill containment kits are on site at all times during construction activities.

• Store all construction equipment within delineated work limits.

• Implement measures to reduce effects of construction on visitor safety and experience. Safeguard visitors, contractors, and Park personnel from construction activities. Implement a barrier plan indicating locations and types of barricades to protect public health and safety.

• Provide information about recreational closures and the location, timing, and duration of work activity to visitors as they enter the Park. Flag and/or fence off work areas to maintain visitor safety during both work and nonwork hours.

• Implement an interpretation and education program. Continue directional signs and education programs to promote understanding among Park visitors.

• Implement a traffic control plan, as warranted. Include strategies to maintain safe and efficient traffic flow during the project work period.

• Ensure an emergency notification program is in place. Standard measures include notification of utilities and emergency response units prior to demolition activities. Identify locations of existing utilities prior to removal activity to prevent damage to utilities within the project area. The Underground Services Alert and Park maintenance staff shall be informed 72 hours prior to any ground disturbance. Demolition shall not proceed until the process of locating existing utilities is completed (wastewater, electric, and telephone lines). An emergency response plan shall be required of the contractor, such as evacuation of personnel, equipment, and materials, etc.

• Avoid damage to natural surroundings in and around the work limits. Provide temporary barriers to protect existing trees, plants, and root zones, if necessary, as determined by vegetation management staff. Trees and other vegetation shall not be removed, injured, or destroyed without prior written approval. Ropes, cables, or fencing shall not be fastened to trees. All existing resource protection fencing (post and rope) shall be left in place and protected from heavy equipment.

• Remove all tools, equipment, barricades, signs, surplus materials, and rubbish from the project work limits upon project completion. Repair any asphalt surfaces that are damaged due to work on the project to original condition. Remove all debris from the project site, including all visible concrete, timber, and metal pieces. Grade disturbed areas and rake them smooth to eliminate tire tracks and tripping hazards.
• Locate, contain, and stabilize excavated and stored materials within the upland staging areas and prevent re-entry into wetland or water-associated habitats.

• Implement standard noise abatement measures during work. Standard noise abatement measures include the following elements: a schedule that minimizes impacts to adjacent noise-sensitive uses, use of the best available noise control techniques wherever feasible, use of hydraulically or electrically powered impact tools when feasible, and location of stationary noise sources as far from sensitive uses as possible (see Chapter 3). Ensure all construction equipment is equipped with mufflers kept in proper operating conditions, and, when possible, shut off equipment rather than allowing it to idle.

• If deemed necessary, demolition work on weekends or holidays may be authorized, with prior written approval of the County. To the extent possible, perform all on-site noisy work above 76 dBA (such as the operation of heavy equipment) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to minimize disruption to nearby Park users.

• Use silt fences, sedimentation basins, etc. in work areas to reduce erosion, surface scouring, and discharge to water bodies, as defined in the erosion control plan prepared for this project.

• Delineate wetlands and apply protection measures during construction. Wetlands shall be delineated by qualified staff or wetland specialists and clearly marked prior to work. Perform activities in a cautious manner to prevent damage caused by equipment, erosion, siltation, etc.

• Implement a dust abatement program. Contractors shall implement the following measures:
  – Water all active work areas, access roads and paths, parking areas, and staging areas at least twice daily (use of dust abatement products would not be allowed). Ensure that applied water does not enter park drainage ways.
  – Cover all trucks hauling dam debris and other loose materials that could spill onto paved surfaces, or require all trucks to maintain adequate freeboard.
  – All paved areas that are subject to vehicle and pedestrian traffic shall be kept clean of debris and soils. Sweeping of these areas shall be implemented as necessary.
  – Cover all stockpiles.
  – Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads and paths and around the project site.

• Implement vehicle emissions controls. Contractors shall implement the following measures:
  – To the extent possible, use California on-road diesel fuel for all diesel-powered equipment.
  – Use equipment that is properly tuned and maintained in accordance with manufacturers’ specifications.
  – Avoid unnecessary emissions. Engines of trucks and vehicles in loading and unloading areas shall be turned off when not in use.

• Implement a noxious weed abatement program. Standard measures include, as appropriate, the following elements: ensure that vehicles and equipment arrive onsite free of mud or seed-bearing material, certify all seeds and straw material as weed-free, identify areas of noxious weeds before dam removal, treat noxious weeds or noxious weed topsoil prior to work (e.g., topsoil segregation and removal), and revegetate with appropriate native species.
• Cover exposed soil with a combination of locally acquired native duff and forest litter from adjacent riparian sites to provide immediate groundcover and facilitate natural revegetation.

• Develop and implement a monitoring plan to ensure successful revegetation, maintain plantings, and replace unsuccessful plantings.

• Use native or seed-free mulch to minimize surface erosion and introduction of non-native plants.

• Confine all construction operations to specified project work limits. Install temporary barriers to protect natural surroundings (including trees, plants, and root zones) from damage. Avoid fastening ropes, cables, or fences to trees.

• As much as possible, removed plants and materials (cuttings) shall be salvaged and stored on site for revegetation.

• Educate workers on the dangers of intentional or unintentional feeding of Park wildlife, and on inadvertent harassment through observation or pursuit.

• To avoid conflicts with nesting birds, conduct activities outside the breeding season (typically from March to August).

• Remove trees or structures with unoccupied nests (stick nests or cavities) prior to March 1, or following the nesting season. Alternatively, if activities take place during the breeding season, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-work survey for individuals no more than two weeks prior to construction in March through August. If any special-status species is observed nesting, a determination shall be made as to whether or not the proposed action will impact the active nest or disrupt reproductive behavior. If it is determined that the action will not impact an active nest or disrupt breeding behavior, work shall proceed without any restriction or mitigation measure.

• Ensure excavation sites (trenches or pits) have suitable ramps to allow small mammals to exit these areas.

• A qualified biologist shall be available to inspect all excavations before refilling occurs, ensuring that special-status species are passively relocated to avoid incidental take.

• Erect exclusion fencing prior to activities to ensure that no special-status species are within the work area.