Draft Program Document
Accepted by Parks and Recreation Commission

The Program Document for the Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch Master Plan, containing the proposed Project Goals, Program Elements, Existing Site Conditions and possible Project Opportunities and Constraints was accepted by the Parks and Recreation Commission on November 7, 2001. This document is the result of almost a year of work and represents input from two general community meetings and six task force meetings. Valuable comment was also provided by the Technical Advisory Committee, whose members represent various oversight agencies like the Department of Fish and Game and the California Division of Forestry and Fire.

While the Parks Commission was generally pleased with the content and focus of the Program Document, they asked that additional work be done to locate the project in context with other regional parklands, trail alignments, and connections. They also advised that when program elements are evaluated for impacts during future steps in the project, that special attention is paid to traffic, sensitive habitats, cultural resources, water quality, and growth inducing impacts.

Next Project Phase: Proposed Alternatives

At our last Task Force meeting held on Thursday, December 6, 2001, the Task Force began the next phase of the master plan, namely developing a series of design alternatives for the park. The project consultant, Lee Steinmetz, presented the team with three potential alternative plans where many of the program elements were included in varying levels of intensity.

Considerable debate resulted when the Task Force discussed the number and extent of uses proposed for the 300 acres of flat area off of New and San Martin A venue. Recognizing that this area has the most potential for various types of recreational development, it also has the greatest potential to change. These extensive fields have a long history of human settlement by local Indian tribes, the rancho period of California, and modern day ranching operations.

The Task Force has directed the project consultant to continue work on developing three possible plan alternatives. However, the Task Force felt that only one alternative should be explored for a golf course in the hayfields. The other alternatives for the western flat areas and the hayfields to be explored include ideas such as pasture lands or a more traditional regional park in that area. The project consultants are also to refine criteria with which to evaluate the alternatives for financial, environmental, and natural resource management impacts.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Task Force Meeting No. 8
Date: Thursday, Feb. 7, 2002
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Gilroy Senior Center
7371 Hanna Street
Gilroy
(See location map below)

For more information, contact:
Elish Ryan, Park Planner
(408)358-3741, ext. 147
or visit our website at
www.parkhere.org
Did you miss a meeting or need to review work to date?!

At our website for the Master Plan, you will find information on the history of the park, past meeting notes, an outline of the master plan process, other project information, and much more. We hope all our readers will visit it at [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org). Click on “Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch Master Plan” on the Parks Department’s home page to enter the site. If you don’t have internet access, please contact the project manager, Elish Ryan, to request transcripts.