Busy November for the Master Plan

November was a busy month for our project as the study of plan alternatives draws to a close. The Task Force reviewed and endorsed the proposed Trails Plan for the park and heard a presentation from the biking community advocating for a bike park in the plan. (See back page for more information) The Board of Supervisors Land Use Subcommittee (HLUET) reviewed the three alternatives for the Master Plan on November 21st.

Upcoming Board of Supervisors Meeting: December 17th

Three alternatives for the Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, December 17th at 1:30 pm. All three plans are virtually identical for 95% of the park except that each has a different vision for the Western Flat Area (in the vicinity of San Martin Avenue and Foothill Avenue).

Alternative A: This alternative contains many regional park amenities including an equestrian center, youth fishing pond, off-leash dog area, group and family picnicking sites, and areas for both environmental education and historical interpretation. An eighteen hole golf course completes the plan for the 300 acres in this alternative and provides the major source of revenue for the park. This alternative was recommended to HLUET by the Parks Department, based on its ability to contribute to the long term cost recovery of the park.

Alternative B: Similar to Alternative A with the mix of amenities offered, this alternative substitutes a 500 person events pavilion and RV campground for a golf course. Also a positive contributor to the long term cost recovery of the park, this alternative found favor with the majority of the Task Force and the Parks Commission members.

Alternative C: Similar to Alternative A, the development of this alternative was requested by the Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee (HLUET) in August to study combining the key elements of Alternative A and B. The Alternative adds a 200 person event pavilion concept to the golf course complex, combining these two popular recreational elements into one plan. The size of the events pavilion is smaller than the one in Alternative B and the concept of RV camping was deleted.

The plans and financials were presented to the HLUET Subcommittee for comment November 21st. They recommended endorsement of Alternative C. They felt that its mix of uses served the widest range of recreational needs and it had the best potential for revenue and long term cost recovery of park development costs. Copies of all three alternatives and financial report are available on the Parks Department's Website: www.parkhere.org.
November Task Force Summary

Proposed Trails Plan
At their meeting on November 19th, the Task Force reviewed and endorsed the proposed Trails Plan that will be included in the Master Plan. The plan includes over 30 miles of new trails to be phased in over the next twenty years. Where possible, existing ranch roads are used but new trails will be added which are more suited to recreational use, allow for the creation of smaller loop routes, and avoid sensitive habitat zones in the park.

The plan also includes a 4 mile portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment along the ridge. The Ridge Trail will offer spectacular views of both the valley and Coyote Lake. Most of the trails will be multi-use and connect to the major entry points/activity zones of the park.

The Task Force recommended that the plan include more opportunities for pedestrian only trails, some trails retain an element of challenge for users, a trails rating system be developed, and that a comprehensive trail information and interpretation sign system be coordinated along with the trails themselves to add to the enjoyment of the overall park experience.

Proposed Bike Park Recommendations
Since May, there has been increasing interest from the community to add facilities that accommodate BMX bikes and a dual slalom course to the plan. At the request made in August by the Board of Supervisors Land Use (HLUET) Committee, a Feasibility Study was done and presented to the Task Force at their November meeting. As a result of the Study, the Parks Department has recommended that an area for BMX activities be available for organized events under a special use permit on a case-by-case basis. Representatives from the biking community made a presentation at the meeting and recommended that a permanent facility be included instead. The majority of the Task Force recommended that a temporary facility or no facility be included in the plan. At their November 21st meeting, the HLUET Committee recommended that this use be studied further. A copy of the Feasibility Study is available on the parks website: www.parkhere.org under information for this project.