Parks Commission to hear Report Back on Draft Preferred Alternative

At their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, May 1st, the County Parks and Recreations Commission will hear a report back on the development of a Preferred Alternative for the park. This report is to provide the Commission with the status of the Master Plan Design Alternatives phase and to seek their input on the elements to be included in the design.

Varied Regional Recreation Proposed for the Park

Since November, three design options for the Master Plan have been developed. They were reviewed by the Task Force over the past months and presented in at a general community meeting on February 28th. In April, the Draft Preferred Alternative was presented to the Task Force. In it, the park will be divided into four areas; the Lakeside Area, Slopes and Ridges, the Mendoza Ranch Area, and the Western Flat Area. Highlights of the Draft Preferred Plan include:

Lakeside Area: Continuing emphasis is on boating, camping, and picnicking with new camping and picnic areas proposed, along with showers, water play area and small amphitheater for ranger talks.

Slopes and Ridges: Over 4000 acres of passive open space will preserve the slopes and the hillsides overlooking the valley and the lake. Multi-use trails will traverse the area but most of it will remain as natural habitat.

Mendoza Ranch Area: An environmental education center emphasizing natural history, education, and outdoor skills for both youth and the general public is proposed for this scenic backroads area. Staging areas will provide trail access to trails in this area and link up to the rest of the park.

Western Flat Area: Historically cultivated in crops, hay, and pasture, the 320 acres located off San Martin and Foothill Avenues offer the most potential for a mix of recreation for local and regional needs. A 35 acre equestrian center is proposed with the versatility to serve many types of equestrian related activities. Along with picnicking, trails, and a regional staging area, a 6 acre Historic Site is included at the location of the historic Martin Murphy Ranch site. A golf course is proposed for about 175 acres. Between 80 and 90 acres of open grassland will serve as a buffer and visual screen between the local community and the proposed uses.

While there is support for most of the plan, the Task Force is divided in their vision for the Western Flat Area. Many members are comfortable with a golf course while others would want other types of recreation offered at this location. Input and feedback from the Parks Commission is sought.

Special Announcement

Community Meeting Rescheduled to June

Please note that the Community Meeting, originally advertised for May 16, 2002, has been rescheduled to June. Further information on the exact date, time, and location will be announced in the next newsletter.
Next Steps
Following this report to the Parks Commission, the Task Force will reconvene on May 16th to review the comments and feedback offered by the Parks Commission and to discuss other possible alternatives. Following this meeting and a general community meeting to allow final comments, the Draft Preferred Plan will be presented to the Parks Commission again in July 2002. Information on the Alternatives and the Draft Preferred Plan is available on the Parks Department Website: www.parkhere.org.

Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
May 1, 2002
County Government Center, 70 West Hedding, San Jose
7:00 pm

If you need more information or would like to add a name to our mailing list, please contact:
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