COYOTE HIGHLANDS - COYOTE CANYON

PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE

County of Santa Clara
Parks & Recreation Commission
May 2018
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

01 Property Overview

02 Existing Conditions

03 Biological Resources

04 Public Access Alignment & Constraints

05 Next Steps
PROPERTY OVERVIEW

- County Parks acquired in 2016, including grant from OSA
- Properties link Anderson and Coyote Lake – Harvey Bear Ranch
- Countywide Trails Master Plan (1995) includes Bay Area Ridge Trail through the site
- Properties include 2,753 acres of land and miles of existing ranch roads
EXISTING CONDITIONS

1. History and Cultural Features
2. Geographic Features
3. Access and Circulation
HISTORY AND CULTURAL FEATURES
GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

1. Gently rolling uplands
2. Riparian lowlands
3. Steep slopes
4. Creek
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Resource Surveys Performed

▪ Vegetation Mapping
▪ Surveys / Habitat Assessments for plants, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals
▪ Restoration / Enhancement Needs and Opportunities

Upcoming Resource Surveys

Identification of Natural Resources Management Zones

▪ Using property lines, topography, dominant vegetation types and service road access
Grazing Management Plan

- Required by the Santa Clara County Parkland Range Management Policy
- Existing grazing and infrastructure throughout the property with ~131 pairs of cattle (cow & calf)
- Plan will provide prescriptions for grazing management to meet natural resource objectives
PUBLIC ACCESS ALLOCATION OPTIONS

Option 1: North / South Trail along creek from Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear County Park to East Dunne Avenue

Option 2: Loop Trail from Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear County Park into Coyote Highlands / Coyote Canyon and back to Coyote Lake

Option 3: Development of staging area at Ranch Complex at East Dunne Avenue, with access connecting south to Option Two
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OPTION 1 CONSTRAINTS

1. Trail through heavy vegetation
2. No parking at end of trail
3. Narrow bridge
4. Narrow road with cliff on east side
5. Access to parking ½ mile away
OPTION 2 CONSTRAINTS

1. Cattle Grazing / Public interaction
2. Trail Grading / Drainage
3. Ponds / Seasonal Wetlands
OPTION 3 CONSTRAINTS

1. Poor ingress / Egress visibility
2. Single lane entrance road
3. Limited water supply
4. Condition of existing buildings
5. Serpentine soils
The Goal of the Department is to complete the Plan by December 2018.