SANBORN COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY
Public Meeting #1: Preliminary Design Ideas
Joan Pisani Community & Senior Center | 19655 Allendale Ave. | Saratoga, CA 95070
November 7, 2017 | 6:00-8:00pm

EVENT OVERVIEW
Over 140 members of the public attended the first public meeting for the Sanborn County Park Master Plan. Attendees were invited to place a sticker on a regional map to show where they live in relation to Sanborn County Park (the Park). Based on this map, a majority of the attendees live in proximity to the southern area of the Park near the former Christmas Tree Farm site.

The public meeting began with a presentation of the project background and preliminary ideas for the development, improvement and/or use of the Park’s facilities. Presenters explained that the master plan was focused on four areas of the Park. These include the former Christmas Tree Farm located in the southern portion of the Park, and three areas in the northern portion of the Park: the Welch Hurst House, the Christensen Nursery site, and the Core Use Area (Dyer House).

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session that addressed a large number of questions and comments raised by attendees concerned about the proposed mountain bike park. The planned agenda was adjusted accordingly to accommodate the extended question and answer session. Following that, attendees were invited to participate in small group activities to review and provide input on design ideas for the Park’s four focus areas. Attendees were also invited to submit comments on provided comment cards at the meeting or afterward by emailing or calling County Parks staff.

Approximately 85 percent of attendees were there to express their concerns about the proposed mountain bike programming at the Christmas Tree Farm site. Many of these people chose to opt out of the small group activity in favor of participating in a focused discussion on mountain bike use.

The meeting concluded with representatives from the small groups and from the mountain bike-focused discussion summarizing use options for the larger group. Prior to adjourning, the following next steps for the planning process were presented, emphasizing additional opportunities for future public input:
- Refine Program Recommendations
- Prepare Draft Master Plan
- Public Meeting #2: Draft Plan
- Conduct Environmental Review
- Presentation to Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)/ Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET)/ Board of Supervisors (BOS)
- Master Plan Adoption (anticipated 2018)

 PARTICIPANT INPUT / DISCUSSION TOPICS

Participant input from the small group activity and focused mountain bike discussion are summarized below. Photographs of completed activity boards are included at the end of this summary. While the focused mountain bike discussion highlighted concerns related to a potential mountain bike park at the former Christmas Tree Farm Site, general support was expressed for potential uses identified for other Focus Areas.

Christmas Tree Farm Site / Mountain Bike Park

Mountain biking as a potential use at the former Christmas Tree Farm site was strongly opposed by a large portion of attendees. Concerns included, but are not limited to:

- Effects of increased traffic on Black Road, including emergency vehicle response times for existing schools and residences
- Physical conditions on Black Road (including landslides and poor geometrics) noted as not conducive to large vehicles
- Increased strain on the volunteer fire department with added injuries related to active recreation
- Active use intruding into a habitat corridor
- Increased nuisance and crime
- Reduced safety for walkers/hikers on trails and roads
- Lawsuits related to active recreation accidents
- Spreading Sudden Oak Death through mud on bike tires

Ideas for alternative potential uses at this site included:

- Preservation of open space/ leave as is for wildlife habitat/ restore former Christmas Tree Farm site to natural area
- Study area/educational programs
- Passive recreation such as hiking, etc.

Welch-Hurst Area

Participants were generally in support of the potential uses identified for the Welch-Hurst Area. Comments included but are not limited to:

- Support for non-profit partnering
- Support for special event use (corporate events, weddings, etc.)
- Support for outdoor educational use
- Suggestion to renovate structures for staff housing
- Suggestion to increase parking
- Suggestion to keep the BBQ that is located in redwood grove
- Opportunity for Ohlone and local history studies
- Comment that the northern-most proposed parking area is a leach field, and is not conducive to parking
Core Use Area (Dyer House)
Participants were generally in support of the potential uses identified for the Core Use Area. Comments included but are not limited to:

- Support for Saratoga-to-the-Sea trail and other trail connections
- Support for spaces for non-profit use
- Suggestion for larger picnic area by Peterson Grove
- Suggestion to keep camping rustic
- Comment that RV camping area is unappealing

Christensen Nursery Area
Participants were generally in support of the potential uses identified for the Christensen Nursery Area. Comments include, but are not limited to:

- General support for relocating camping (Walk-In and RV) from the Core Use Area to Christensen
- Comment noting preference for walk-in and tent camping over tent cabins and RVs
- Suggestion to prohibit campfires
- Suggestion to consider this site as an alternate location for a mountain bike park and/or trail system
- Suggestion for a partnership with Walden West for overnight educational programs
- Support for fishing and/or a fish hatchery

Other Comments
Other comments related to Parkwide uses and connections, management of existing user conflicts, and recommendations for the planning process include but are not limited to:

- Maintain the John Nicholas Trail as an available route for mountain bikes
- Consider adding a “flow trail” (downhill trail shaped specifically for mountain bikes with berms, jumps, etc.)
- Build out connecting trails in the Sanborn Trails Master Plan
- Preserve the Park’s rustic environment
- Protect flora and fauna
- Emphasize low-impact activities
- Consider a traffic light at Rt. 9 and Sanborn Rd.
- Develop a Technical Advisory Committee with representatives bridging Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties
- Utilize management solutions to address user conflicts including alternate days for biking and hiking on existing trails
GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS

In your groups, begin with activity one (1). For activities 2, 3, 4 and 5 discuss potential uses and record your comments in the space provided. Place a star next to programs that your group supports.

1. How would you describe Sanborn County Park today? How do you envision it in 20 years?

List the recreational amenities you would like to see improved, expanded, or added in the space below.

WELCH-HURST AREA

Potential Uses:
- Picnics
- Day use
- Trail connections
- School Group use

Sanborn County Park

CORE USE AREA (DYER HOUSE)

Potential Uses:
- Visitor Center
- Multi-Purpose Space
- Ranger Office
- Day use
- Special events

Potential Uses:
- Hiking/camping
- Trail connections
- Parking/Fishing

Potential Uses:
- RV camping
- Car camping
- Tent camping

Potential Uses:
- Picnics
- Day use
- Trail connections
- School Group use

Other comments:

CHRISTENSEN NURSERY AREA

Potential Uses:
- Picnics
- Day use
- Trail connections
- School Group use

Potential Uses:
- Picnics
- Day use
- Trail connections
- School Group use

Other comments:

FORMER CHRISTMAS TREE FARM SITE

Potential Uses:
- Picnics
- Day use
- Trail connections
- School Group use

Other comments:

Need parking area to expand
Keep site for this area

SANBORN COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN | PRELIMINARY DESIGN IDEAS

PLACEWORKS