Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area Site Plan
Design Program

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes drive the overall design of the project site:

- "Timeline" – visitors will experience three distinct time periods of American history as they move through the Santa Teresa Historic Site. The periods of significance are:
    - Prehistoric – 1826 Ohlone Native Americans
    - 1776-1826 Settlement Period – Anza Expedition
    - 1826-1850 Californio Rancho
    - 1850-1910 Early American Farm (already existing)

      Note: Dates are approximate and will be refined
- "It's the water" – visitors will learn about and experience the role water played in the settlement and use of the project site and interpreted time periods
- "Cultural diversity" – visitors will learn about the many culturally diverse people that moved through and settled in the area

Site Circulation

- Staging Area/Parking Lot:
    - for approximately 40 cars and possibly 2 buses.
    - Due to high parking demands along San Ignacio Ave, the entry/exit points to the staging/parking area should occur of off Curie Drive.
    - If [school] buses use the staging area then adequate parking space and turning radii for 2 buses is needed.
    - Consider permeable surfacing materials or bio-swales for surface run-off remediation
- Bus Drop-off Zone: for a minimum of 2 large school buses
- Overflow parking: Additional parking for special weekend events is needed, but may not be accommodated on site. However, needs can be met with curb-side parking along park adjacent neighborhood streets and with the use of the adjacent middle school parking lot (feasibility of school parking lot use needs to be verified with applicable school district)
- Formalize (pedestrian) trail connection between Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch Site and future project site:
    - Currently the dg path is an unpaved trail designated as a hiking only trail with no dog, equestrian or bicycle access. Recommend County standard signage be posted to reflect designation/limitations.
    - Action item to PRC to formally adopt "Santa Teresa Spring Trail" name. Recommend County standard trail signage be posted to reflect trail name.
- Connection to Norred Trail:
    - via Mine Trail trail-head at mounted Ranger Unit site, within approximately ¼ mile of project site
    - via the Joice trail-head at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch site, within approximately ¼ mile of the project site.
- Directional and regulatory signage: same treatment as shown above under "formalize (pedestrian) hiking trail …"

- Expand Pedestrian-only sidewalk system:
    - Along west side of San Ignacio Avenue between Pedro Bernal house and existing residences south of Pedro Bernal house. Even though approximately 300' of this expansion is outside the project area, completion of sidewalk expansion is recommended under the project site plan.
- Possible connection to Norred Trail south of Pedro Bernal House. This is a tentative investigation only. Sensitive habitat and park operations concerns might preclude implementation.
- Control/restrict access to the Coyote-Alamitos Canal service road at entry points. It is recommended that access be controlled by use of gated fencing and regulatory signage. Any modifications will require coordination with and approval by the SCVWD. Enforcement would be carried out by Park Ranger patrols. Existing unauthorized canal entry points:
    - East of Santa Teresa Springs
    - At canal bridge south of Pedro Bernal House
    - South of Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch Site
- Pedestrian/hiking-only trails connecting functional and interpretive areas within project site. All trails will comply with Whole Access (ADA) requirements. Anticipated connections include:
    - Staging Area/Parking Lot
    - Bus Drop-off Zone
    - Potential Visitor Center
    - Group Activity Areas
    - Historic Display Sites
    - Existing park trails
    - Neighborhood

Signage

The Site Plan will reinforce interpretive themes, but will not include a detailed sign or interpretive plan. All signage designs will be consistent/compatible with the facility ID, regulatory, directional and interpretive signage that currently exists at the Bernal Ranch site.

- General :
    - Should be clear but subtle and designed as a unified package
    - should be ground mounted adjacent to subject
    - should comply with Department policy on affixing signage to existing structures
    - should include kiosk style displays at site entry points/nodes
- Wayfinding
- Interpretive
- Traffic
- Whole Access (ADA)
- Regulatory (Park rules, hours etc.)

Event/Display Areas

Events/displays that are representative of Ohlone, Settlement and Californio Rancho time periods

- One large covered/shaded event area or smaller grouped covered/shaded events areas. These areas will allow for interpretive demonstrations, larger events, outdoor classroom areas, etc. These areas will be designed to represent the Californio Rancho or Ohlone theme/time periods
- Ohlone activity
- Interpretive wayside for Settlement Period and Anza Trail
- Californio Rancho activity
- Water based activities with water supplied from Santa Teresa Springs or City of San Jose's municipal water system
- Picnic Area for 60-70 people (mostly school children). With expanded historic area the number is likely to increase, however, users would likely be spread out through the site. Tables can be spread out or clumped in smaller groupings.
- Event area associated with Visitor Center for 50-60 school children (typical) and up-to 200 attendants for special events like Fandango
- If archeology is required or requested consider incorporation into interpretive program
- Incorporate planting representative of Rancho period

Structures

Should be themed to be representative of Ohlone and Californio Rancho time periods.

- Restroom
- Visitor Center: should include a classroom or multi-purpose room for 30-40 people. Same room could be used for exhibits/displays. Should include staff offices for interpretive staff and material storage if the Jacoba Bernal house is used as a staff residence. If the Jacoba Bernal house is not used as a staff residence, then staff offices and storage needs could be met there. For office needs, could combine office space, storage and meeting/work room in one large room. Visitor center should include public restrooms with access from the interior as well as from the exterior.
- Staff Office should include – restrooms, office space for staff (4)/volunteers – min.16x16; small meeting area which could double as a work area – approx 12x12; storage space for interpretive materials and supplies – min. 10x10
- Overhead shade structures at picnic areas and main interpretive areas (see event areas above)
- lnterpretive kiosks
- Pedro Bernal House (historic resource): to remain in the Park residence program for Ranger/employee housing
- Pedro Bernal Site Outbuildings (no historic significance). The buildings are in an advanced state of deterioration and should probably be demolished. Structures should be documented before demolition.

- Jacoba Bernal Fisher House (historic resource): Future uses could include staff/employee housing or staff offices and storage.
- Jacoba Bernal Fisher L-shaped Barn (historic resource). Future uses could include historic equipment displays, storage, or using the facility as a shelter.
- Jacoba Bernal Fisher U-shaped Barn (no historic significance): Future uses could include site maintenance storage or equipment displays. It could possibly be relocated (might be too expensive), or it could be demolished. If this building is older than 50 years at time of demolition it should be documented prior to being demolished.
- Maintenance/Operations Staff or Ranger facility is not needed. Both operate out of different hubs.
- Designated area for portable restroom facilities (for special events only).

- ***Amenities***
- Bicycle Racks
- Trash Receptacles
- Picnic Tables for 60-70 people (not reservable)
- Benches
- Shade structures with interpretive character (see structures above)
- Drinking fountains

Historic (Bear) Tree

The tree is a historic resource that warrants interpretation. However, the tree shows structural damage which poses a potential threat to its continued survival as well as future site users. The tree should be evaluated by a certified, qualified arborist and treated in accordance with evaluation as soon as possible (pre development of site).

Operations/Maintenance

- Structure for Storage/Equipment needs. Existing structures would be suitable for small equipment and hand tool storage. Storage space could also be incorporated into a new restroom structure.
- Harmful materials stored on site need to comply with the County's Integrated Pest Management ordinance.
- Large corporation yard needs should be met elsewhere.
- Ranger/Employee Housing needs could be met by existing on site structures, namely the Pedro Bernal House and the Jacoba Bernal Fisher House.
- Operations: Santa Teresa Park does not have a ranger office but is operated out of the Hellyer County Park Ranger Office.
- Water infrastructure will be shown on site plan.