

### **Introduction:**

**One of the first tasks of the Master Plan process is to develop goals for the project. The purpose of these goals is to embody the overriding principles and values of the community that shape a project. These goals will aid in determining priorities, assist with evaluating needs, and provide a basis for subsequent decisions in the process.**

## **Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear Ranch County Park Draft Project Goals**

(Goals crafted by the Task Force on May 8, 2001 and reviewed for content on July 10, 2001)

- 1. *Recognize and plan for the regional context of Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear Ranch County Park.***
  - a. Where appropriate and feasible, provide regional trail connections to State, County, and other public parks and open spaces.
  - b. Provide consistency with the goals and policies of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, Countywide Trails Master Plan, and County General Plan.
  
- 2. *Provide a variety of sustainable recreational opportunities consistent with the needs of Santa Clara County residents and compatible with the environmental, cultural and historic resources of the land.***
  - a. Provide areas of high and low-intensity recreational use activities based on sound resource management principles.
  - b. Provide areas of land-based and water-based recreational activities.
  - c. Recognize the needs of adjacent residents and property owners.
  - d. Consider both environmental and financial aspects of sustainability.
  - e. Incorporate opportunities for environmental, historic and cultural preservation, restoration, and interpretation.
  
- 3. *Ensure public access to the park for a wide range of users.***
  - a. Design recreational facilities, including trails, to be accessible to all people, regardless of physical abilities, consistent with the constraints of the natural landscape and physical resources of the site.
  - b. Provide trails for a variety of users, including hikers, bicyclists and equestrians.
  - c. Accommodate public transit access to the park.
  - d. Consider the concerns of adjacent residents and property owners when locating parking and staging areas.
  - e. Consider public safety in remote and fire hazardous areas.

#### **4. *Preserve the natural, ranchland character of the park.***

- a. Park structures and recreational facilities should reflect and reinforce the distinct ranchland character of the park. Consider the visual impact of park facilities and structures.
- b. Facilities and infrastructure should be subordinate to the natural landscape setting. Indigenous plant material should be used where feasible.
- c. Management of the natural resources of the park should enhance wildlife habitat, protect environmentally sensitive areas of the park, reduce the threat of erosion and wildfire, revegetate native plant communities, and protect the water quality of Coyote Lake.
- d. Incorporate opportunities for interpretation of the park's natural and cultural history.
- e. Consider programs and facilities to educate the public, especially youth, about Santa Clara County's ranching heritage.

#### **5. *Develop a plan that can be implemented over time, taking into account available resources, potential phasing, and long-term management implications.***

- a. Consider the environmental resources of the land, as well as the existing and potential future human and financial resources of the County Parks and Recreation Department, as well as other agencies that will be responsible for the implementation and long-term management of the master plan.
- b. Consider opportunities for revenue generation that can offset long-term management costs, consistent with other master plan goals.
- c. Continue to encourage interagency coordination and collaboration throughout the design process, as well as during implementation and long-term management.
- d. Coyote Lake and the surrounding watershed shall be managed to meet the mutually beneficial goals of the County and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, for joint water supply and recreational use, meeting the needs of Santa Clara County residents.
- e. Encourage partnerships with other agencies and organizations that can assist in implementing and maintaining park facilities and programs.
- f. A phased program of park improvements should be based on plan priorities determined by natural resource implications, funding for development, recreational need, logical construction and sequencing, coordination with reservoir management, and maintenance implications.
- g. Incorporate regular monitoring, review and update of the Master Plan to assess natural resource impacts, changes in recreational need, and available management resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of the park.

**If you wish to comment on the draft goals presented here, please return to the home page for the Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch Master Plan, click on the [“Do you have a comment or suggestion?”](#) link and send us your comment.**