



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
INTERIM DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, February 11, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
- II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS
- III. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes from November 19, 2012 (Approve)Page 1
 - B. Information and Reports (Accept and File)
 - 1. Maintenance Section – Status ReportPage 2-3
 - 2. Facilities Section – Status ReportPage 4
 - 3. Planning Section – Status Report.....Page 5-6
 - 4. Recreation Section – Status ReportPage 7-12

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today’s agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

IV. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

V. REGULAR AGENDA

A. ACTION ITEMS (Page 13)

- 1. Consider nomination to the non-profit Supporters & Helper of Arts, Recreation, and Parks (SHARP).

B. INFORMATION ITEMS (Pages 14-140)

- 1. Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park Report Regarding Disc Golf Course at Pinto Lake Park.

VII. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING (Page 141)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of November 19, 2012, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17th Avenue, Room B Santa Cruz, California

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Jim Lang, Katharine Minott, Steven Bennett, Dave Mercer

Staff: Betsey Lynberg, Bob Olson, Gretchen Iliff, Melissa Henderson

Excused Absence: Unexcused Absence: Michael Rosenberg

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS: None

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approved Minutes from June 18, 2012, meeting.

Motion/Second: Lang/Minott

AYES: 4
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approved 2013 Parks Commission meeting schedule.
2. Considered nominations for the non-profit Supporters & Helpers of Arts, Recreation, and Parks (SHARP).

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Presentation and discussion of existing facilities and General Plan and Zoning Designations for parks and open space.
2. Report on status of State park closures.

Motion/Second: Bennett/Lang

AYES: 4
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

County of Santa Cruz



JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
INTERIM DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2013

TO: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: GRETCHEN ILIFF, MAINTENANCE DIVISION

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT PROJECTS

PARKS, BUILDING, AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

NORTH COUNTY PARKS (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

A new roof was installed at the Greyhound Rock restroom.

A large Ponderosa Pine was removed at the Probation Center

Worn horse fencing was replaced at Quail Hollow Ranch.

MID-COUNTY PARKS (Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Mid-County beach access areas)

The lawn at Felt Street Park was renovated this month.

Volunteers installed two benches and two picnic tables at the Chanticleer Park site. A local neighborhood group received grants to purchase the items.

SOUTH COUNTY PARKS (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex)

Staff installed a new weather based irrigation control system at the Anna Jean Cummings Park. The new system allows greater oversight of leak detection and water conservation.

Plumbing repairs were made to the Scott Park Restroom..

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER

Several chlorine pumps were rebuilt this month

Staff training in Defensive Driving this month.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: February 7, 2013
TO: Arts Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission
FROM: Gretchen Iliff, Facilities Management Division
RE: Status Report on Current Projects

Summary for reservations in the Parks for the months of November 2012 through January 2013 (excluding SFSC):

Rental revenue \$32,815.00

Attendance at Reserved Facilities:

November through January continues the typical off season use of parks with a few weddings, parties and memorial services. Staff estimates that approximately 25,000 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities at County Parks.

Center and Meeting Room Rentals in November through January

There were 18 weddings and receptions held at our various Park Centers and 48 meetings. Center and meeting room rental revenues totaled \$10,940.00.

The office has been very busy with inquiries and bookings for weddings and receptions for 2013 events. The summer schedule is quickly filling up.

Athletic Fields:

Athletic fields, both baseball and soccer, closed mid-November for the winter season and annual renovations. They are slated to open in mid-March. Baseball and soccer programs have filled the schedules throughout County Parks' fields. Athletic field reservations continue to be a major source of revenue each year. We look forward to a successful season and continue to work with ongoing leagues, which enjoy the park's facilities.

Facilities Office: The Facilities Office has been very busy this off season. While typical off season work includes various projects that include closing out the previous year's paperwork and preparing for the upcoming season, this year the division continues to balance an ongoing large workload with reduced staffing. The Program Coordinator position has maintained full oversight of the Facilities division while extra-help office staff hours have been reduced during the off season. As the office gears up for another busy year, the return of extra-help office staff in January will facilitate in maintaining the high caliber of work and customer service of the division.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN PRESLEIGH
INTERIM DIRECTOR

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2013
TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, ARTS COMMISSION
FROM: BOB OLSON, PARK PLANNER
SUBJECT: PARK PLANNING DIVISION STATUS REPORT

ANNA JEAN CUMMINGS PARK

On February 5, 2013, Supervisor John Leopold and Parks hosted a community meeting at the Congregational Church of Soquel to discuss proposals for the use of the undeveloped areas of the park. The two proposals under review include the dedication of open space and enhancement of trails; and the installation of a seasonal nine-hole disc golf course. The meeting was very well attended, standing room only. Parks will be evaluating the information gathered at this meeting for further consideration.

BERT SCOTT ESTATE ROOF REPLACEMENT

Wald Ruhnke & Dost has prepared draft plans and specifications for replacing the roofs on the main house and on the caretaker's house. Staff is currently reviewing the draft construction documents.

CHANTICLEER PARK

On December 5, 2012 Supervisor John Leopold and Parks hosted a community meeting at the Live Oak Grange to discuss the project status, interim development and phasing plan for Chanticleer Park. The meeting was well attended and the community discussions were positive and upbeat. Staff is working with the Consultant, County Planning and community members on the approvals and implementation of the interim plan. Plans have been revised to include the community input and Planning's concerns.

FELT STREET PARK

The Contractor will be completing a warranty issue having to do with the quality of the asphalt paving in the parking lot later this spring. The warmer weather will allow for a better application of the slurry seal and striping.

THE FARM PARK

Parks staff continued with efforts to implement the Prop 84 Urban Greening Grant for stream and oak woodland habitat restoration and a community garden. Fish and Game permits for stream bed restoration have been secured and fall seed collection is being planned.

FELTON COVERED BRIDGE ROOF RESTORATION

Caltrans has completed the Preliminary Environmental Study for the replacement of the roof for the Felton Covered Bridge. To comply with the preliminary findings, the County has obtained a proposal from Environmental Science Associates to perform a Historic Properties Survey Report and establish the Area of Potential Effect. The results of this work will be sent to Caltrans.

MCGREGOR PARK SITE

A project status update for the Seacliff community was held on November 28, 2012 at the Seacliff Highlands Community Room. The meeting was well attended with many new faces interested in what was happening with the park. Parks has been meeting with other County Departments to determine the project's development constraints. The Consultant has synthesized the communities input along with the developmental constraints and has developed a draft first phase plan. Upon staff review of the draft plan, the Consultant will move forward with a permit submittal package.

EAST CLIFF PARKWAY PROJECT

The Contractor is gearing up to complete punch list items along with additional change order requests. The majority of the project has been completed. However due to neighborhood concerns over dust and the long term durability of the decomposed granite, the material will be replaced with a more durable Granite Crete Product. This work is scheduled for later this spring.

Other items if interest include additional signage and striping; fencing; installation of a bronze World Surfing Plaque to a boulder; installation of a drinking fountain in pleasure point park; and other miscellaneous improvements.

PROPOSITION 40 UNALLOCATED FUNDING

In July 2011, Parks received notification that the enacted State Budget provided additional time for Proposition 40 grant recipients to complete their projects under the Per Capita and RZH Block Contracts. To date, Parks has utilized all but \$131,119 of the original grant amounts. Parks staff has submitted three new grant applications to the State. The projects include: additional picnic tables at Ben Lomond Park; new poured in place surfacing and tot structure at Willowbrook Park; and a new group picnic area and shelter at Pinto Lake Park. New Contracts with the State have been approved. Parks staff will proceed with the projects as soon as deed restriction can be recorded for each project.

SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE (VFD)

Installation of the variable frequency drives for the 50 meter and recreation pool have been completed. Staff and the Contractor are currently working on close-out documents for the project. The VFD's are performing within the expected range.

HEART OF SOQUEL

Development permit application for creek side trail; gathering area; and parking & circulation improvements has been submitted and a hearing is anticipated for 2013. The County was recently awarded a State Water Board Grant over \$500,000 for low impact development features at Heart of Soquel.



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

JOHN PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

DATE: January 28, 2013
TO: Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator
RE: Recreation and Cultural Services Division Status Report – Dec. 2012-Feb. 2013

AQUATIC PROGRAMS

Winter Schedule starts December 1, 2012 and runs through March 1, 2013

Winter Schedule runs through December 1 - March 1, 2012 (This years winter schedule is five weeks shorter than last year, changes were made to the pool schedule to increase public satisfaction and maximize the warmer months for revenue generating programs)

The winter pool schedule is as follows:

Lap Swimming - The lap pool is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays it is open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will be closed on Sundays & Mondays until March 1, 2013.

Warm-water Pool - The warm-water pool is available for general use on:

Tuesday and Thursday 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Shared w/swim lessons 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

Wednesdays 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Shared with swim lessons 4:00-7:00 p.m.)

Fridays 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (all ages)

Recreation Swim – We will continue Recreation Swim again in our 2013 Spring Schedule.

Swim Lessons - Swim lessons are being held again through the winter months this year. Lessons are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Registration for Spring Swim Lessons will begin on February 9 at 9:00 a.m. *New this spring! Starting March 1, the pool will be open on Mondays and we will be offering M/W/F and T/Th evening swim lessons!

Spring Junior Guard Camp - Last year we held a very successful Spring Swim Sport Camp serving over 20 children and this year we have organized a Junior Guard Spring Camp which will be held April 1-6.

Adult Fitness Swimming - Adult Fitness Swimming is very popular at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The most well attended workouts are Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Up to 49 swimmers fill the 50-meter pool at these times. Fitness swimmers may choose from among three different times each day to work out mid-week. Workouts are held at 6:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Fridays at 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

Water Aerobics & Exercise - The Water exercise classes this year reached their highest capacity so far. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability including, healthy, pre-natal, seniors, arthritic, and rehabilitating or cross training fitness enthusiasts. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times and instructors names. Previous swimming or water exercise experience is not required to participate in the water exercise classes.

Saturday Water Polo - With the pools closed on Sundays the drop in water polo has moved to Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. One must be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program. A fee of \$6.00 will be collected or patrons may use a swim pass.

Pool Rentals - The Santa Cruz County Aquatics and the Cabrillo Threshers swim teams continue to rent lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Lifeguard Training Classes – Parks will be offering four Lifeguard Training Classes at the Simpkins Family Swim Center starting in February 2013. Two classes will be held during spring breaks and other two will be held on Friday evenings and Saturdays and the fees are \$290 for residents and \$319 for non-residents. Interested candidates can find more information on our website at www.scparks.com. All course materials are included in the course fees.

ARTS AND CULTURAL

Public Art Projects - Phase 2 of the Outside the Box Program is nearly complete, and Phase 3 will begin in February, with a Call to Artists. The selection panel for Hidden Beach Pump Station public art project met on January 17, and selected two artists to continue in the process. The panel will conduct interviews in early March.

Art Exhibitions - Artists have been selected and scheduled for the 2013 exhibitions at both the County Government Center and the Simpkins Family Swim Center/Parks office

QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Recent interpretive programs:

1. The first of this season's Broom Bashes was led by Linda Brodman from CNPS Habitat Restoration on Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A total of 8 people worked up in the Bonetti drainage where seedling return was greatest of all the maintenance sites.
2. A Mad Scientist birthday party was scheduled for Sunday, December 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Due to the poor weather, only 7 kids and 7 adults attended the party.
3. Both of the programs scheduled for Sunday, December 2 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. were cancelled due to stormy conditions. Paul Haskins leading In Search of Herps and Bonny Pond leading Holiday Wreath Making were unable to make it because of heavy rains and road blockages. Paul came out the following Sunday, December 9 to do a species survey although there was no public attendance.
4. Lee Summers led a public Mad Scientist Experiments on Sunday, December 9 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
5. A second Broom Bash took place on Sunday, December 15 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. with Chuck Baughman in the lead. We returned to the Bonetti drainage.
6. A Creepy Crawly birthday party scheduled for Sunday, December 16 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. was changed to one on Animal Senses in order to accommodate a need to remain indoors due to poor weather. Lee Summers and Aly Benton led the games.
7. Paul Haskins was be back for another In Search of Herps on Sunday, January 6 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. A total of 14 kids and adults signed up for the hike despite cool and wet conditions.
8. Ponderosa High School volunteered at the park for three consecutive Fridays, January 11, 18, and 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lee Summers led them in removal of eucalyptus sprouts at the trail head, broom removal in the Bonetti drainage, and trail maintenance along the Chaparral Loop.
9. Two more Broom Bashes were held on Saturday, January 12 and 26 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Both Linda Brodman and chuck Baughman led these work parties.
10. Historic Crafts for Kids was offered by Lee Summers on Sunday, January 13 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Participants had the chance to learn about the different cultures that lived in the area and make craft projects from each.
11. A Creepy Crawly birthday party was held Saturday, January 19 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Lee Summers led the activities.
12. On Sunday, January 20 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lee Summers led "It's a Small World – Microscope Viewing" program.
13. The Fungus Federation was back for another of their popular Fungus Forays on Saturday, January 26 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
14. A Running with the Wildcats birthday party took place on Sunday, January 27 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lee Summers led a collection of predator/prey games for a 10-year-old's party.
15. Acorn Preparation the Ohlone Way was offered by Lee Summers on Sunday, January 27 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming interpretive programs:

1. Another In Search of Herps with Paul Haskins will take place on Sunday, February 3 from 1:0 – 3:00 p.m.
2. Two more Broom Bashes have been scheduled for Saturday, February 9 and 23 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Both Linda Brodman from CNPS habitat Restoration and Chuck Baughman, Quail Hollow volunteer will lead the work parties.
3. Lee Summers and volunteers will staff an information booth at the Migration Festival at natural Bridges State Park on Saturday, February 9 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Visitors to the booth will learn about the local birds of the park and why some migrate while others do not.
4. On Sunday, February 10 from 1-3 p.m. Lee Summers will host a Child's Victorian Tea Party in which kids will play parlor games and have tea in the Victorian tradition.
5. Mad Scientist Experiments will take place on Sunday, February 17 from 2-4 p.m. with Lee Summers leading activities.
6. Also leading Life as a Pioneer, Lee Summers, will help children understand the life of American homesteaders on Sunday, February 24 from 2-4 p.m.
7. First graders from Lindscott Charter School will visit the park on Thursday, February 28 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon for a Running with the Wildcats program with Lee Summers.

This year's volunteer recognition party will take place on Saturday, February 16 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in honor of Valentine's Day. Volunteers will receive their hours pins in recognition for the number of hours that they donated in 2012.

ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS

December was bustling with activity. Mall Walkers wove themselves through holiday crowds and wore down their soles as they attempted to finish the year in higher mileage categories for the 2013 Mall Walk Awards Ceremony. Many Mall Walkers also met for the 19th Annual Mall Walker Holiday Party, held Friday, December 7. Together we sang carols, played Bingo and celebrated good health, great food (from tasty salads to delectable desserts) and excellent company. On December 11, trip-goers enjoyed an excursion to San Francisco's Union Square for shopping, lunch and fantastic people watching. This year we started out later in the day and stopped at Vasona Park to meander through the Festival of Lights upon nightfall. The trip was so popular, one woman waited at the last pick-up location hoping to fill the place of any no-shows and was lucky enough to register with staff on-site and join us!

January brings tabulation of mileage in preparation for the 24th Annual Mall Walk Awards Ceremony later in the year. We've also registered some new Mall Walk members who have resolved to focus on better health in 2013! San Francisco Giants tickets also went on sale for the season and we recently grabbed up tickets for two games in 2013.

In February, we have a trip planned to visit the Cantor Arts Center and Stanford Shopping Center in Palo Alto. Many eager trip-goers have also recently registered for March's Napa Valley Wine Train trip. Stay tuned for information regarding many new trips in 2013!

YOUTH PROGRAMS

In the spotlight this time around – Mar Vista ACE Program and Winter Camp

Mar Vista ACE - December was a wonderful month at ACE. Staff and children alike enjoyed the festivities of the holiday season. During Winter in the Woods Week, children participated in unique staff-created games such as Stoking the Fireplace Relays, Fishing Treasure Hunt Relays, Cabin Fever Scavenger Hunt, and Winter Storm in the Woods Obstacle Course (obstacles included swatting a giant mosquito with an oversized fly swatter, building a small shelter out of cardboard bricks, “fishing” for food, and fending off a bear attack). One of the favorite projects of the week was an almost-too-cute-to-eat edible moose. We also embraced the early sunset with a game of Flashlight Tag. The kids loved it so much, they’ve begged to do it a number of times since. Participants also thoroughly enjoyed a field trip to Pump’D Inflatable Fun Center. Next was Happy Holidays week, during which participants made edible snow-people to enjoy. We played games such as Grinch Tag, Capture the Penguin, All Snowballs Over and kickball. The week before winter break was also packed with fun. We played games such as hockey, Pass the Penguin, Everyone Who, Candy Cane Limbo and more. The highlight of the week was a visit from special guest Freesia Raine, who conducted a music workshop with the kids, complete with singing and musical instruments.

Programming began again in the middle of January with a flurry of activity. New Beginnings Week featured several new and well-received activities such as Hound and Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Right and Airlite Pyramid fun. The children also enjoyed making miniature food with clay, savory English muffin concoctions, snow-people on a stick and “stained-glass” bookmarks. We also had a movie day and the children chose to watch the newest version of *The Lorax*. During Monster Week (which the kids helped plan for during a brainstorming session), we played games such as Monster Mayhem, Hot Lava Monster, Mummy Wrap and Guard the Monster. Among a variety of art and craft projects was a chance for participants to use their creativity to generate fantastic creatures out of recycled materials and a number of craft supplies. What great imaginations they have! During Pets Week, children got an opportunity to share about their pets and what they mean to them. We played games like Doggy, Doggy Where’s Your Bone, Snake in the Grass, Hamster Relays and more. Participants also made pillows for their pets and created and shaped their own dog bones to take home to Fido. The highlight of the week was a potluck party, preceded by a presentation from a staff person at the SPCA on dog safety. Children learned how to avoid situations that might result in a dog bite and practiced safe introduction techniques with a working dog.

Staff are hoping that February brings warmer temps, although the cold winter we’ve experienced has hardly fazed the kids’ enthusiasm for outside play! We will begin February with Mardi Gras Week and take a field trip to the Santa Cruz Roller Palladium. During Love-N-Pandas Week we will have an ice cream sundae party and special guest Gina Garcia will conduct the first of a three-week series of dance workshops at ACE, featured Afro-Haitian, Brazilian, Maculelé, Afro-Modern (modern with African movement), Creative Movement, Capoeira, Zumba for Kids and/or Hip Hop. Next will be Fun With Science Week, during which we will feature (much-requested) egg drop experiments and be joined by special guest Steve Heuer (otherwise known as Steve the Science Guy). Steve has a number of hands-on experiments and demonstrations prepared for the kids, not the least of which is an individual-sized hovercraft that kids can stand on. The kids can hardly wait to give it a test run!

Winter Camp - This year a number of circumstances fell into place perfectly in order for County Parks to offer a two-week winter day camp this year at Aptos Village Park. Staff were unsure of the turnout we'd receive for the first week because we typically offer just one week later in the winter break, but we were pleased with the results! The theme for both weeks was Winter Wonderland. In the first week we played games like Raid the Snow Fort, hockey, Minute to Win It, Balloon Fortunes and Wax Museum. Participants made reindeer-shaped cookies, New Year's resolution magnets and water bracelets. They also crafted snowmen out of clay to be placed in their own snow globes, made with Ball jars, baby oil (to keep "snow" suspended longer), tiny eggshell pieces and glitter. They were very pleased with their work and delighted in flipping them upside down and watching the "blizzard" that ensued. We also took a field trip to Pump'D Inflatable Fun Center and played at Ramsay Park before returning to Aptos. During the second week of camp participants played games such as Toboggan Races, Snowball, Avalanche Tag, Northern Lights and Penguins vs. Sea Leopards. They also made CD snowmen puppets, fairies, mashed potato creations and hand-knotted pillows. We also took a field trip to the Boardwalk Bowl and the new Monterey Bay Sanctuary Exploration Center. The kids had a really great time exploring the exhibits and hands-on learning devices, while learning about the Bay! Staff are already conjuring up ideas for a cruise-ship-themed spring camp to be offered in early April. Ship ahoy!



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

February 11, 2013

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO THE NON-PROFIT
SUPPORTERS AND HELPERS OF ARTS, PARKS AND RECREATION
(SHARP)

Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission:

As your Commission may recall, Supporters and Helpers of Arts, Parks and Recreation (SHARP) is a non-profit organization which helps to further park and recreation services by linking community donors and County Parks. For example, throughout 2012 SHARP provided 36 different scholarships to local area youth for swimming lessons, summer camps, renaissance camp, and pool junior guards.

Article III of the SHARP by-laws states that the board of directors shall consist of at least five (5) but no more than fifteen (15) directors, and that directors shall be appointed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. On November 19, 2012 your Board approved the appointment of two new members to the SHARP board of directors increasing the number of board members to five. Evelyn Bernstein, a member of the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission, has also volunteered to serve on the SHARP board.

It is recommended that Commissioners present nominations for members of the SHARP board of directors and approve appointments of nominees.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
Director of Public Works

By:


Betsey Lynberg
Assistant Public Works Director-Parks Division

BAL:mh

SHARP nom.doc



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA: FEBRUARY 11, 2013

February 6, 2013

Parks and Recreation Commission
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: FRIENDS OF ANNA JEAN CUMMINGS PARK REPORT REGARDING DISC GOLF AT PINTO LAKE COUNTY PARK

Dear Members of the Commission:

In June 2012 members of the Parks Commission, County Park staff, and other organizations received a report from Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park (AJC) expressing concerns regarding the planning, installation and maintenance of the disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park. That report, as well as the October 2012, response from Parks staff, are attached for your information.

Shortly after the November 19, 2012, Parks Commission meeting, Parks staff plus Commissioners Lang and Minott met with Lisa Sheridan and Katherine Sweet, members of Friends of AJC, to discuss their report and concerns. Email correspondence from Friends of AJC and a response from staff are also attached.

Background

Pinto Lake Park is 183 acres in size and serves the community with a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities including hiking, bird watching, soccer, baseball, children play areas, off-leash dog area, picnicking and an 18-hole disc golf course. A master plan for the park was prepared 2001 (attached).

In 2007, a group of disc golf players approached the Parks Department and the Parks Commission with the suggestion that a disc golf course be installed at Pinto Lake County Park. The Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Supervisors approved installation of two phases as an interim use. For both phases Parks submitted all documentation and studies required by the Planning Department to obtain CEQA determinations and permits as necessary.

The disc golf course at Pinto Lake Park was installed in two phases with work completed in 2010. The course begins and ends at the parking lot and was designed to follow existing gravel and dirt roads, and trails. Holes 5 through 11 are located on a large open portion of the park site that was farmed as recently as 2003. Some of the areas where the course now exists

had become increasingly used for inappropriate activities and many in the public shied away from venturing into those portions of the park.

Installation of each phase was accomplished with a combination of volunteer labor, Parks staff, and the California Conservation Corps. Tee pads, baskets, and course signage were installed. Fairway markers were installed for some holes located in the open areas. Some trees were planted. Some Round Up herbicide was used by Parks staff as part of general park maintenance and installation. Twelve acres were **not** sprayed at Pinto Lake Park as erroneously concluded in the report by Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park. The reported acreage refers to the total acreage for an entire year throughout all County parks. No other permanent infrastructure was installed.

Current Use and Management

The course is used on a regular basis during weekdays and weekends year round. Parks staff has observed individuals of all ages and genders, including families using the course. Various tournaments have been held at the park. Tournament organizers worked with the Parks facilities and event staff to obtain required event permits. With installation of the course, staff has observed more people walking and enjoying portions of the park previously considered undesirable because of inappropriate activities.

Course maintenance is provided by County Park staff with the exception of weed whipping within 15 feet of tee pads and baskets which is done by volunteers. Maintenance requirements are moderate compared to other recreational uses and primarily include mowing.

There are some on-going management issues at Pinto Lake Park, some are directly related to disc golf and others are not. The hard plastic discs used in disc golf can bruise and cut tree bark. In most cases, this is unsightly but will not kill the tree. Staff is exploring options to reduce this occurrence. County Planning has also now determined that one tee pad and one basket is within the 100 foot riparian setback to Pinto Lake. The pad and basket are located along the existing road used by parks maintenance vehicles and for walking. Planning staff has advised that the pad and basket can be moved or considered for a riparian exception due to the location along the existing road. Parks is considering the two options with regards to course layout and experience as well as general park use and long term management and will either move the tee pad and basket or submit an application for a riparian exception.

Pinto Lake Park was established on agricultural property acquired by the County. As such there were and remain, pre-existing gravel and dirt roads and drainages. Some areas of the park are experiencing erosion. For example, erosion can be observed adjacent to the course between holes 1 and 2. Sedimentation observed in this area is originating off-site on adjacent private property. County staff is working with the County Planning Department to improve these conditions.

There are other heavily used areas of the park including the athletic fields, the area around the "Virgin Mary" tree and areas good for viewing the bald eagles nesting in the eucalyptus trees on adjacent property. Overall, weekend use of the entire park is very heavy. Parks staff continues to adjust limited resources to maintain public use of this popular park.

Conclusion

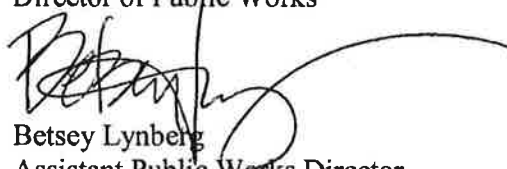
Installation of a disc golf course at Pinto Lake Park has added a new recreational element to the park. The County's investment of resources to add a course for this emerging sport was minimal compared to other uses such as athletic fields which require grading and the installation of other infrastructure such as irrigation and drainage. As with any recreational use, disc golf does create on-going management requirements which staff continue to work to address.

Staff recommends that your Commission permit the Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park to share their report regarding Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course concerns and consider public comment from others who may be attendance.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
Director of Public Works

By:


Betsey Lynberg
Assistant Public Works Director
Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services
Division

BAL:mh

Attachments:

- Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Report June 2012
- Letter of October 2012
- Email Correspondence of December 23, 2012
- Email Correspondence of February 7, 2013
- Pinto Lake Park Master Plan
- Pinto Lake Park Disc Golf Course Layout

Pinto Lake Disc Golf

**Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course Concerns:
Process for Approval, Environmental Impacts, and Current Management
June 30, 2012**

This document is submitted on behalf of Santa Cruz County residents concerned about the approval, installation and management of a disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park in Watsonville.

Our interest in Pinto Lake came about after a disc golf course proposal was presented to the Santa Cruz County Parks Commission for Anna Jean Cummings (AJC) Park in early 2012. Parks staff explained that the process for a course at AJC would be similar to the one that occurred for Pinto Lake County Park. Because of this information, we examined what happened at Pinto Lake, the only County public park with a disc golf course.

After months of research, we have concluded that the approval of the Pinto Lake course had serious procedural flaws, ignoring the Pinto Lake Park Master Plan and Pinto Lake Environmental Impact Report as well as a number of Santa Cruz County ordinances and sections of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We question the legality of the processes that resulted in the approvals of the course. Our investigation has revealed strong evidence of current and ongoing adverse effects on the environment at Pinto Lake as a result of the disc golf course.

Disc golf is an emerging sport and most courses in the U.S. are in public parks. Because of the newness of this recreational activity, its potential negative impacts are just now becoming apparent. Across the country, disc golf courses, existing and proposed, are being re-evaluated, opposed or closed because of concerns about environmental damage to landscape and physical danger to people on or near a course.

We have observed and photographed trees with severe bark damage from discs, seasonal creeks trampled by players, and acres of vegetation that have been entirely removed from sloped hillsides, sending sediment and agricultural run-off into the lake. Areas of the lakeshore marked as out-of-bounds are continually being disturbed by players looking for and retrieving misthrown discs.

This raises troubling questions as to whether current county ordinances and procedures did what they were intended to do - protecting the natural resources of our public lands.

This document is a reconstruction of the process, as we understand it, which culminated in the installation of the Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course. We received some documents from the County Planning Department and County Parks Department through the California Public Records Act. We obtained additional information from other sources. We made a number of personal visits to the site and spoke with members of several bird clubs and other interested parties. We feel this is an accurate portrayal of events and decisions made which took place from March 2007 to the present.

**Submitted On Behalf of Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park
Contact Us at FriendsofAJC@gmail.com**

**Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course Concerns:
Process for Approval, Environmental Impacts and Current Management**

Part 1:
County Government's Stated Process for Addition of Disc Golf at AJC Park..... 2

Part 2:
Timeline for Approval Process of the Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course..... 4

Part 3:
Missing Documentation..... 9

Part 4:
Unsubstantiated Claims by Disc Golf Proponents..... 10

Part 5:
Critical elements not mentioned in the proposal, Parks Commission minutes
Or other County documents we have seen.....18

Conclusions.....24

Appendix A: Additional pictures and video links of the Pinto Lake course,
past and present..... 27

Appendix B: Disc golf courses across the U.S. embroiled in controversy..... 32

Appendix C: Additional Reports and Information..... 33

References.....After Page 33 of Main Document

Part 1: County Government's Stated Process for Addition of Disc Golf at AJC Park

Santa Cruz County Park's staff gave the following information to the Parks Commission on March 13, 2012 about the required process to add disc golf at AJC.

"Typically the addition of new recreational uses at an existing county park includes consideration of a proposal or project at public meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Then, once the project has been defined, a determination is made by the Planning Department as to the level of review required to amend existing permits.

Parks staff has consulted with the Planning Director, who has responded that expanded use at the park would likely trigger the need to amend the Master Plan Development Permit. The level of review (administrative, Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission) would be determined by Planning Department staff after review of the specifics of the proposed expanded use. Any impacts of the proposed expanded use would also be evaluated per California Environmental Quality Act requirements. Depending upon the impacts of the specific elements of the proposal, if any, mitigation measures would be identified."

Our examination of the approval and installation of the Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course demonstrates that it did not go through the process outlined above.

We are apprehensive that this lack of diligence will also happen with the AJC proposal and, potentially, proposals at other County parks.

Our concerns about what we view as questionable processes at Pinto Lake lead us to some basic questions and concerns:

1. Both phases of the Pinto Lake disc golf course received little significant or critical administrative or environmental review, giving a strong impression that the course was fast-tracked by both Parks and Planning staff.
2. We have not found anything in the Pinto Lake process that the "expanded use at the park" triggered an amendment of the Master Plan Development Permit. We have seen no reference of any review by the Zoning Administrator or Planning Commission.
3. We have seen no documentation, check list, accurate mapping, communication with other county departments or government agencies, wide-spread public notification or environmental analysis showing that project impacts of Phase 1 of the proposed new use were comprehensively evaluated. Phase 2 received marginally more analysis but the process continued to be deficient in many aspects.
4. The only evidence we have of any environmental evaluation for Phase 1 is a statement in an e-mail² that "Site visits by County Planning staff occurred and County Planning determined that the first phase of the course would have no impact on the environment as no changes would be made to existing grades and no significant trees would be removed."

¹ References, Page 1-2: Department of Public Works to Parks Commission, March 13, 2012

² References, Page 3: June 2, 2009 e-mail from Park planner, Christine James

This e-mail was sent over a year after the initial course installation but does not specify what procedures were used to make the "no-impact" determination.

5. Why weren't relevant planning documents (such as the Pinto Lake Park Master Plan and Pinto Lake EIR) cited or even acknowledged during this decision-making process?
6. How did a majority vote of five appointed Parks Commissioners and a singular County planner override a major intent of the existing Pinto Lake Park Master Plan?
7. Is there a resource management plan for the Pinto Lake disc golf course?
8. Decisions about how to manage, alter or use the open space resources where this course was installed seems to be left up to a private organization. What other County parks are managed in this manner by a concessionaire? What level of oversight or supervision does Parks staff have over the Pinto Lake disc golf concessionaire?

Part 2: Timeline for Approval Process of the Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course

Phase 1

Summary of Phase 1:

- First proposed in May 2007
- Approved by Parks Commission, July 2007
- Construction started in Spring 2008

May 2007

Tom Schot presented a proposal³ for a disc golf course at Pinto County Lake Park to the Parks Commission on May 14, 2007.⁴ County Parks Director Barry Samuels outlined the steps necessary for possible approval - including determining a funding source, which environmental reviews would be required and how this would fit with the Pinto Lake Master Plan.⁵ Commissioners asked about community outreach. This was placed as an action item at the next Commission meeting.

On **July 9, 2007**, Staff reported on the proposal⁶, noting that the Parks Department planned to enter into an agreement with Schot's group to have them operate and manage a disc golf program. Schot showed a course layout that he said would not disrupt the riparian area.

The Commissioners approved the project that night. A staff member stated there were no endangered species in the identified area, that no trees were scheduled to be removed and that they had met with the Planning Department to "determine the steps necessary to implement the program." These included modifying the existing development permit with a possible minor variation, staking and mapping, and a "potential" riparian exception.

The disc golf group asked that the County pay half of the \$45,000 cost⁷. Staff said that, if the Supervisors approved the concept, funding would need to be identified before a variance would be issued.

On **December 5, 2007**, in his first e-mail⁸ response to an inquiry from Parks staff, Matt Johnston, the County's Deputy Environmental Coordinator wrote "Sounds like a great project, and one that should not be to (sic) cumbersome to permit, depending on the layout...I have a brother who plays who lives on Pinto Lake, and a nephew who is in the pro circuit." He added "The main negative impact of a disc golf course is erosion, generally from the area around the tee and the path through the vegetation to the common target area. I've played on a half dozen different courses and most battle erosion problems."

We are concerned that Johnston felt that this course could be easily approved even though he clearly knew environmental problems were common at other courses and, at this point, he had absolutely no information about this particular proposal. We would have expected that, as the County's main Environmental Planner, he would have been aware of the special circumstances at Pinto Lake County Park. These include several areas of the park designated for environmental conservation and a number of identified sensitive species, avian, amphibian and mammalian. The 2001 Pinto Lake Park Master

³ References, Page 4-7: Pinto Lake disc golf proposal by Tom Schot Sports, Inc.

⁴ References, Page 8: Excerpt from Parks Commission Minutes for 05/14/2007, Discussion Item 1

⁵ Ibid: This is the only mention we have found that references the Pinto Lake Park Master Plan

⁶ References, Page 9-10: Excerpt from Parks Commission Minutes for 07/09/2007, Action Item 1

⁷ Ibid: along with "additional planning fees"

⁸ References, Page 11: Matt Johnston e-mail, 12/05/2008

Plan divides the park into three distinct Zones. The disc golf course (Phase 1) was proposed for Zone B which is described in the Master Plan as "intended to be ultimately used in a passive manner that will minimize impact to the environment and emphasize the park's flora and fauna."⁹

On November 11, 2006 Robert Ketley, a water quality specialist from the City of Watsonville, sent an inter-department memo¹⁰ to the County Environmental Health Department discussing concerns about the toxicity of Pinto Lake.

It has long been known that Pinto Lake has a problem with scum and blue/green algae. This algal produces the toxin Microcystin that has been linked to sea otter deaths in Monterey Bay.¹¹ It is also considered a human health risk and has been widely noted scientifically by a number of local governmental agencies and private environmental groups. All of the causes of the blue-green algae are unknown but several investigators feel that sedimentation and run-off into the lake may be contributing factors.

We expected that the County Planning Department should have known that Pinto Lake has these issues and that any activity that potentially affected this lake would have been carefully scrutinized. *(In 2009, the Central Coast Regional Water Board added Pinto Lake to California's list of "impaired waters."¹²)*

Despite his role as the County's environmental overseer, Johnston's later actions in response to this proposal reflected his first reaction to the concept of a disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park. He easily approved the disc golf course while ignoring major issues of which he should have been aware and should have brought to the attention of the Parks Department, Parks Commissioners, and other governmental agencies.

Spring 2008

We do not know when construction of the course actually began. We have seen no official documentation (no copy of variances or staff reports or even a course layout) of the details of the installation of the first nine holes.

The only document we've seen that shows any regard for the park's environment or follows up on possible issues presented at the Commission meetings is a January 10, 2008 letter¹³ from John Gilchrist, an environmental consultant, to Gretchen Iliff. The letter is not specific and seemingly responding to general questions. He said that removing non-native plants is generally a **beneficial thing to do and that birds don't nest** from September to March. Mr. Gilchrist does not mention any type of site visit or review of materials such as a map of the proposed course. We know from an on-line video¹⁴ that construction of the course started before May 2008 with a grand opening planned for March 2009.

In **June 2008**, during the installation of the first 9 holes, herbicides were sprayed along park trails, killing wide swaths of poison oak, wild blackberries, asters and other plants.¹⁵ Records¹⁶ we obtained from the County Agriculture Department show that Round-Up Pro and Garlan Ultra were sprayed on approximately four acres each (8 acres total).

⁹ References, Page 12-13: Pinto Lake Park Master Plan, Pages 26-27

¹⁰ References, Page 14, Ketley memo

¹¹ References, Page 15: February 2012 Science Now, Sea Otter article

¹² References, Page 16 Excerpt from 07/10/2009 Minutes, Central Coast Regional Water Board

¹³ References, Page 17: Gilchrist letter

¹⁴ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hb2uUAUTGao&feature=related>

Developing the Course at Pinto Lake with Tom Schot

¹⁵ See Appendix A: Page 26: Comments from anonymous park users

¹⁶ References, Page 18: Pesticide Use Summary 06/2008

There was additional spraying of Round-Up in February 2010 on an additional four acres.¹⁷ As far as we can determine, approximately 12 acres were sprayed.

We found no mention of the disc golf course in Parks Commission minutes in 2008 – no progress reports, no process suggested or devised for a review of the course being installed at that time, no direction to staff about expanding the course as Mr. Schot originally wanted. We were given no documents for this entire year except the three-paragraph Gilchrist letter sent to Parks staff in January 2008.

Phase 2

Summary of Phase 2:

- **Prior to formal application and approval, expansion of the course (Phase 2) has already begun, Spring and Summer 2009**
- **Phase 2 proposal presented to and approved by Parks Commission at October 2009 meeting.**
- **November Staff Report states there are no environmental concerns. This was before Gilchrist's field surveys and report.**
- **Staff was satisfied that all necessary legal processes were completed between November 2009 and February 2010**
- **Legal exemption and permit granted in March 2010**

June 2009

Bernadette and Bob Ramer, long-time bird watchers, e-mailed¹⁸ Christina James, a County park planner. They expressed concerns about the disc golf course, noting that **much of the park's underbrush had been removed on paths** - eliminating habitat for the many bird species. They also expressed worries that there could be conflicts between disc golfers and other park users (as the Ramer's had observed at DeLaveaga Park) and noted that the course was being expanded into the back area of the park. They asked for the environmental impact report "that may have been done."

The response¹⁹ from James states that Parks and Planning staff had determined that the course "would have no significant impact on the environment as no changes would be made to existing grades and no significant trees would be removed." James referenced the January 2008 Gilchrist letter, calling it a review by an environmental consultant. She also wrote that the process for the "back 9" would "likely be longer and more involved" and there will be opportunity for public comment during this environmental review period. (We have found no evidence of any public notification other than Park Commission agendas prior to either the Phase 1 or Phase 2 installations)

After being sent the Gilchrist letter, the Ramer's responded with a number of clear, cogent objections to actions taken at the park that were based on that brief letter and inquiring if there had been was "any peer review of the avian impact section."

They asked specifically that "a thorough investigation of the plant and animal communities inhabiting this area should be done prior to any other vegetative removal and expansion of the disc golf course." They also requested "widely publicized announcements to notify interested communities (families, walkers, runners, bird-watchers, etc.) who use this park."

¹⁷ References, Page 19: Pesticide Use Summary 02/2010

¹⁸ References, Page 20-24: Ramer/James e-mail exchange

¹⁹ Ibid

We have located no response to their last e-mail to James. None of the things they asked for ever happened.

(We later discovered in a January 2012 e-mail²⁰ from Matt Johnston to Kathy Previsich, County Planning Director, that Mr. Johnston had made the determination that there was no necessity for any environmental review for Phase 1 of the disc golf course because there would be no environmental damage. It is unclear from the documents we have what data he used to make his decision.)

October 5, 2009 Parks Commission Meeting

Four things happened at this meeting²¹:

- An update was given on the first 9 holes
- A presentation was made for the course to be expanded to 18 holes.
- The Board approved the 9-hole expansion.
- Permission was granted to install temporary baskets to hold a tournament the weekend before Thanksgiving 2009.

November 9, 2009

A staff report²² at the meeting states that Matt Johnston, County Environmental Planner, Tom Schot, the project developer and John Gilchrist, a paid environmental consultant chosen by the Parks Department had met on November 3 and determined that they "didn't see any environmental concerns with the project."

Gilchrist would write a report and Johnston would then issue a Notice of Exemption from any additional environmental review. Staff noted some minor mitigation measures. We are unclear as to what parameters Gilchrist was given to include in his report.

December 2009 - Gilchrist Report

The 1974 EIR noted that Pinto Lake and its adjacent areas were home or transient areas for 133 species of birds, 19 types of mammals, 11 different reptiles plus assorted salamanders, frogs and toads. Conserving this incredible concentration of diverse wildlife was one of the major reasons Santa Cruz County bought this land and established Pinto Lake County Park.

The December 2, 2009 Gilchrist report²³ is titled "Pinto Lake County Park Disc Golf Course: Special-Status Species Site Assessment." His report focuses on five species identified as either California Species of Special Concern (CSC) or State Fully Protected (FP) that are potential habitats either within or immediately adjacent to the project site. These are the Western Pond Turtle, White-tailed Kite, Bryant's Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and San Francisco Dusky-footed Wood Rat.

He mentioned thirteen other species - two amphibians, three bats, and eight birds - but dismissed them from his report for several reasons, including his opinion that these "*species may occur or are known to inhabit Pinto Lake, but the proposed project is not likely to result in negative impacts to those species.*" Since he provides no data to support this argument we are unclear how he arrived at his conclusion.

We could not determine if Gilchrist did any independent investigation (such as visiting other local courses) as to what physically happens to the environment at many disc golf courses prior to reaching his conclusions that there would be minimal habitat

²⁰ References, Page 25-26: Matt Johnston e-mail

²¹ References: Page 27: Excerpt from Parks Commission Minutes for 10/05/2009, Action Item 1

²² References, Page 28: Phase 2 Project Update, 11/06/2009

²³ References, Page 29-40: Gilchrist biotic report

disturbance, damage or destruction at Pinto Lake. It is apparent he gave little or no consideration to the Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan which states²⁴ "Previous analyses of the park site have identified several elements which are vulnerable to degradation with development of the Park" and "Wildlife species and sensitive areas are susceptible to negative impacts from erosion and lake sedimentation."

Gilchrist noted that the grassland and oak woodlands where the disc golf course was to be situated was critical habitat used by a wide variety of wildlife species. He assessed the values of these particular Pinto Lake areas as high because they had been relatively isolated from human disturbances. He engaged in no discussion on how an active human recreation (disc golf) might impact these areas in the near or distant future.

Gilchrist did only two field surveys, both in early winter 2009. He was unable to determine the CSC or FP species' presence or absence (except for the Wood Rat) in the grassland and oak woodlands although he identified these areas as potential habitat for nesting, denning, or foraging for all of them.

This inability to determine these species' presence was a likely outcome because of Gilchrist's timing. For example, the Western Pond Turtle generally hibernates or "over-winters" from mid-October until March. It was unlikely that he would have found even one of these shy and endangered creatures on his reconnaissance visit on November 5 and his longer visit on November 19. His report notes that he did no focused survey for any species.

After acknowledging that the project area contained both critical habitat and special status species, Gilchrist states there is "uncertainty regarding how these land uses may affect nesting habitat." He noted a number of possible significant impacts including the possible capture of turtles by golfers and that golfers searching for errant discs could disrupt nest sites of both birds and turtles or trample woodland areas. At no time did we discover that any information about either the habitat or wildlife at Pinto Lake was brought to the Parks Commission as a discussion point.

His response to potentially negative impacts to the ecology of the park was sparse with the only recommended mitigation limited to interpretive signs, controlled mowing and slightly moving a few fairways. This lack of thoroughness underscores our concerns that this disc golf project was never critically analyzed, but, instead, expedited through an ill-defined and very short process

The Gilchrist report does not give critical answers to obvious questions. We believe this was a result of a combination of factors - an inadequate scope of work, key data either missed or ignored, and the clear intention of some County officials to approve the project. His surveys were made and his report written after the November 3 staff report to the Parks Commission stated there "no environmental concerns" with the project.

The construction of the expanded course had actually begun before June 2009. This report became the final paperwork linchpin for what had been already decided months before - having the Planning Department issue an environmental exemption and permit for Phase 2 of the disc golf course.

²⁴ References, Page 41: Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan, Page 13

January-February 2010

A status report made at the January 11, 2010 Parks Commission states that the back 9-holes would be physically mapped at the end of the month within the guidelines of the expected Exemption from Environmental Planning.

An aerial photo map was part of the Gilchrist report presented at the February 8 meeting. We believe that this map is inaccurate in describing the actual boundaries of Pinto Lake. Green scum typically floats next to the shoreline in the back areas of the lake. When photographed from above this appears to be land and not lake. This problem is exacerbated in a black and white photo. We do not know if the Commissioners were shown a color or black and white image.

This finger of the lake is actually much larger than that depicted in the submitted map. The impression given is that course fairways, holes and tee pads are further from the lake than they actually are. An actual visit to the course clearly shows that a number of course components are situated within protected riparian areas.

Matt Johnston, the County's Deputy Environmental Coordinator, wrote to Parks staff on February 12, 2010 outlining the proposed mitigation which was posting interpretive signage about nesting birds, pond turtles and dusky-footed wood rats and forbidding disking or mowing outside of the existing fire control lines from March through August.

March 19, 2010

Phase 2 of the Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course had a completed approval process when Matt Johnston issued a CEQA Categorical Exemption. He determined that the course fell under Class 4: *minor alterations to land*. After reading the examples given in CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15300.2 and 15304), we believe that this special exemption was incorrectly applied and that the project should have been subjected to a more extensive and thorough environmental review.

Additionally, the exemption states that construction will be done by hand labor, that soft rubber tire vehicles will be used to haul material, and that no large construction equipment will be used. These requirements were not followed (*see Part 5, Item 10*)

Part 3: Missing Documentation

This is a partial list of items referenced in the Commission's minutes²⁵ or other planning documents for both phases of the course for which we have no documentation:

1. Copy of any contract or agreement between Tom Schot Sports, Inc. or other disc golf group and the County of Santa Cruz Parks Department
2. Any map or diagram of course layout of the Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course. (Phase 1)
3. A copy of the existing development permit for Pinto Lake County Park
4. Any modification to the development permit or variance granted from it
5. Any diagram, map, or description of areas that will be cleared of undergrowth. (Phases 1 and 2)

²⁵ See References, Page 8: Parks Commission minutes for 05/14/2007, Discussion Item 1 and References, Page 9-10: Minutes 07/09/2007 Parks Commission Minutes, Action Item 1

6. Any evidence of public outreach about this change in usage prior to the approval and installation of the Pinto Lake disc golf course other than Parks Commission meeting agendas. (Phase 1 and 2)
7. Any Notice of Exemption for CEQA review for the course, including any worksheets or checklists (Phase 1) and any checklists or worksheets completed for the CEQA exemption granted for Phase 2.
8. Any evidence of a site visit and consultation with a biologist or botanist in making the determination there were no endangered species identified in the area that would be cleared (Phase 1)
9. Any Riparian Exception granted for Phase 1
10. Any funding source for the County's "share" of the cost. In fact, we have no information as to what the County actually contributed to this project.
11. Copy of the July 2007 staff report recommending adding disc golf at Pinto Lake

There was seemingly no serious consideration or discussion by Parks staff, Planning staff or Parks Commissioners of the copious amount of information already developed about this park, including the 1974 Pinto Lake EIR, the 1976 Pinto Lake County Park Long-Range Master Plan, the Pinto Lake Measure Plan (revised 1991), and the adopted 2002 Pinto Lakes County Park Master Plan.

All of these above-mentioned documents are lengthy. We do not reproduce them here but have them available for copy by any interested parties.

Part 4: Unsubstantiated Claims by Disc Golf Proponents

These are some statements and claims made by the disc golf developers in their presentations to the Parks Commission.²⁶ We are concerned that these were relied upon as factual by Park Commissioners and staff. We have found no supporting documentation for many of these assertions and feel strongly that some are patently false.

1. *"A disc golf course requires very little if any alteration of the existing landscape."*

Although there is generally, no massive grading, cutting, or filling in constructing a disc golf course, it is well documented that building a course alters existing landscapes in many ways - from the construction to the playing. Land is cleared for fairways, concrete pads are constructed for tees, vegetation is cleared in a large area around a basket, meadows are mowed, and new paths are created between the various elements. Trees are frequently either removed or have limbs and branches cut off. Vegetative underbrush is commonly removed.

During play, trails and paths become wide swaths of bare soil without definition, caused by the random movement of players moving between holes. Retrieval of wayward discs takes golfers into the fringes and out-of-bounds areas of the course, causing even more damage. Injuries to tree bark and limbs from disc strikes are evident on every disc golf course.

Depending on how these various things are done, an existing terrain can be, at best, somewhat altered, and at worst, essentially destroyed.

²⁶ See References, Page 4-7: Pinto Lake disc golf proposal

2. ***“Foot traffic, a by-product of humans in the park, is the only potential environmental impact.”***

Across the county many disc golf courses have a number of environmental problems including erosion, soil compaction, elimination of all or almost all undergrowth, and serious damage to shrubs and trees.

3. ***“At Pinto Lake the course would have minimal, if any, impacts on the wetland areas.”***

Five “holes” are within 100’ of Pinto Lake, a violation of the County **Riparian Corridor and Wetlands Protection** ordinance. One hole was placed approximately 10’ to 12’ from the lakeshore and about 15 to 25 small trees (Most likely oaks with trunk diameters from 1” to 3”) were cut off at the soil line to make room around the chain basket. This basket was in place at this location during our walk in early March. It was moved to another location about 25’ to 30’ from the lake at some point after that. The concrete footing remains in the basket’s original location.

Along the fairway of another hole, discs regularly fly into the lake where both disc golfers and other park users use a variety of techniques to fish them out. These include putting salvaged planks and boards from the lake’s edge into the water to walk on, to wading into the water, to using jury-rigged pulling devices.

Part of the course is located on top of a seasonal stream which originates from an area of agricultural fields. Players walking over it and around it have caused significant erosion, sending sediment into the streambed that drains into Pinto Lake. See following pages for examples of the actual impacts on wetland areas.

4. ***“Only acacia trees would be removed (with approval) and other trees may require some branch trimming.”***

The acacias were referenced as non-native as if that were the sole determining factor for their removal. Several acacias are California natives. Both native and non-native trees can serve important biologic functions in a riparian area. As far as we know there was no field survey by a qualified biologist, botanist, or arborist to determine which, if any, trees, should have been removed from this designated riparian zone.

We were provided no documentation as to how many and what type of trees were removed, what trees were limbed or how much they were trimmed or altered and how approval was granted. A number of on-line videos point to the possibility that decisions about either removing or trimming limbs from trees was left entirely to the disc golf group.

5. ***“Poison oak and blackberry bushes will be cleared back from the trail.”***

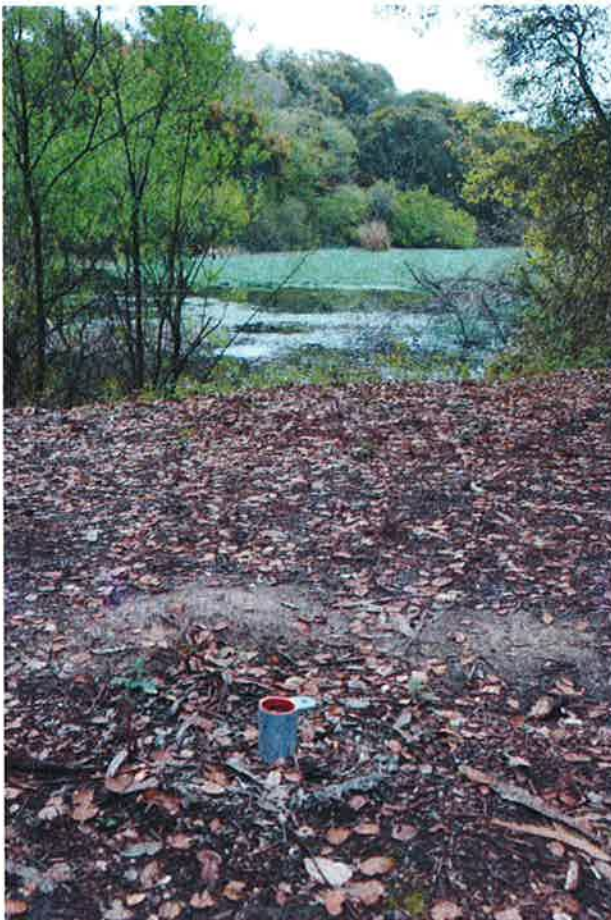
There is no delineation of what trails would be cleared, how far back this vegetation would be cleared or that herbicides would be used to do this. What parameters were discussed before the decision was made to use herbicides? Who actually did the spraying? We believe that the disc course developers made their own decisions about what to clear from our review of a number of the videos posted on the internet.

6. ***“Although not used much at the present, the proposed area has other occasional recreational users, such as dog-walker or joggers.”***

This claim is not substantiated by anything and, apparently, was taken at face value by the Parks staff and Commission. For example, bird clubs are extremely active at Pinto Lake yet none were mentioned. Was any sort of survey made of park users?



This tee pad and basket receptacle are both immediately adjacent to Pinto Lake. Disc golf websites brag about this hole's proximity to the lake.



The smaller photo below shows the cut trunks of two of the small trees eliminated around the basket.





**Fishing discs out of Pinto Lake near Hole 15 - May 2012
(Note: discs do not float)**

Upper right – Salvaged planks and boards floating in lake after golfers use them in their attempts to retrieve wayward discs.

Barbed wire fence above basket #1 is the border between the park and an agricultural field. This seasonal streambed runs through the first phase of the course. Because most or all of the vegetation has now been removed and the area is continually trampled by disc golfers, more sediment and agricultural runoff now runs directly into Pinto Lake.



7. ***"The course will be installed on a 12 month provisional basis, after which time there will be a review to determine whether it will become a permanent facility, expanded, relocated or removed."***

We have no information if such a review took place, who would make the review or what would be evaluated. We have no information if this became part of the contract and/or management agreement. If this provision was removed or changed from Tom Schot Sports, Inc.'s original proposal, we were provided no documentation about who removed this section or why that would have happened.

8. ***"Clearing out of overgrown bushes and dead branches will improve the look of the area and also reduce fire danger."***

Improving the look of an area is subjective. What a disc golfer views as a potential fairway is what a bird or animal or insect (such as a butterfly or bee) would view as home and what a bird-watcher, walker, or nature lover would view as habitat and beautiful in its natural state.

Phase 2 of the disc golf course, in large part, used existing mown firebreaks in the upper Pinto meadow area as fairways. Mowing firebreaks is a common and prudent safety practice at a number of our parks – not a unique contribution from the disc golf group for fire safety. The disc golf group has actually increased the risk of fire in the upper portion of the park by creating enormous piles of deadwood and dried brush now heaped in woodland areas such as this one near Hole #12



9. ***There would be no "liability factor" regarding disc golf for the county.***

County staff and commissioners relied on the testimony of the private citizen who first proposed this course. A simple internet search reveals that other cities and counties have been sued because of injuries sustained on or near disc golf courses in public parks. The Santa Cruz County Counsel's office confirmed that they were never asked about this issue and said that the county can be sued for anything that happens on a county property.

Additionally, the disc golf course is maintained by non-county employees using such things as ride-on mowers, chainsaws, and weed-whackers. Some of these volunteers are minors. What is the potential County liability for allowing volunteers to work on public property without direct supervision by County employees? Does the County's agreement/contract have any sort of provision that indemnifies the County from lawsuits if a volunteer worker is injured on the course?

10. ***“Under the proper supervision of Parks and Rec staff, mostly volunteers will install the equipment ...”***

We have no indication that Parks Staff supervised anything. In fact, videos²⁷ suggest that only volunteers worked on the course. We have no idea if there is any oversight by Parks staff over the activities of the volunteer disc golf group when baskets are adjusted and moved or additional brush and trees are cleared.

11. ***“Care has been taken in the design of the course to eliminate user conflicts, minimize potential damage to foliage, and reduce the chances for erosion.”***

The design of the course has fairways and holes that run parallel to existing trails so golfers and other users are in close proximity to each other. The only “care” taken to alert other park visitors is a single sign. Prior to the disc golf course, walkers and runners did not have to be warned about each other. The sign is only in English despite the large number of mono-lingual Spanish-speaking park users.



We saw no mitigation for the erosion we observed after the rainstorms of March 2012. It is readily apparent to any observer that foliage and trees throughout the course have been damaged by impacts from discs. Bare ground now surrounds many of the concrete tee pads, golf trails are showing serious wear and undergrowth is being trampled by golfers retrieving discs. (See photos below and following pages)



This is the common damage one sees throughout the Pinto Lake disc golf course.

²⁷ References, Page 43: This is a list of links to relevant Pinto Lake disc golf videos posted on the web



The two upper photos show denuded areas around both tee and basket areas. The one on the left is when it is dry; the one on the right, after it rains.

The two bottom photos are in the Phase 2 area. This is what has happened in the park after much of the underbrush was removed and after the rains come.

Part 5: Critical elements not mentioned in the proposal, Parks Commission minutes or other County documents we have seen:

1. Any discussion about the safety of people either on or near the course.

We have no indication that safety for park users was ever discussed – despite numerous reports available on the internet that people and animals have been seriously injured while at or near disc golf courses. It is absolutely incredible to us that NO ONE ever even asked about the safety of people in proximity to disc golf courses. Disc golf involves throwing hard plastic discs (not Frisbees) weighing 3 to 4 times as much as a golf ball through the air at 40 to 80 miles per hour. (See following page)

The Santa Cruz County Code that regulates park activities contains the following section: **10.04.230 Harmful objects.** A person shall not place, throw, leave, keep or maintain any fixed or portable object or weapon in such a manner or in such a place that any person or animal may be injured or any structure or vehicle may be damaged thereby. (Prior code § 8.60.040(b): Ord. 2954, 7/15/80)

The Parks Department uses this rule to forbid activities such as regular (ball) golf or remote-controlled airplanes and rockets in our County Parks. **Why was this rule not applied to disc golf?**

2. Any evidence of consultation with other agencies/groups such as Fish and Game, Watsonville Wetlands Watch or City of Watsonville who are also stakeholders in Pinto Lake.

Other groups and agencies are stakeholders in Pinto Lake besides the County of Santa Cruz. Watsonville's city park on the south end of the lake includes boating and fishing. The Department of Fish and Game holds jurisdiction over lake activities that involve fish and wildlife. The Santa Cruz County and Pajaro Resource Conservation District developed the Pinto Lake Water-Based Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Development RC & D Measure Plan in 1977, revising it in 1991. Why was none of these agencies or organizations notified of this major change of usage?

3. The use of herbicides in riparian area and other areas.

Who authorized the use of Round-up Pro and Garlan Ultra in the riparian and woodland areas of Pinto Lake County Park? Documents²⁸ obtained from the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commission state that approximately two four (4) acre sections of "weeds" and "woody weeds" was sprayed in June 2008. In February 2010, another four (4) acres were sprayed.

We have information from a disc golfer on a disc golf website²⁹ who claimed that about 14 acres were sprayed. This golfer has mischaracterized many facts about the park – including its usage before disc golf arrived. We disagree with his statement that his sport somehow "saved" the park. Our view is that disc golf is destroying much of what was once special about Pinto Lake.

We have seen no map or diagram of the actual areas sprayed. In Appendix A of this report, we include both pictures furnished to us by other park users and their observations and independent accounts of the spraying.

²⁸ See References, Page 18-19: Pesticide Use Summaries

²⁹ References, Page 44-45: On-line description of Pinto Lake Course by a disc golfer.



Left, a red "driver" disc

Right, an ordinary white Frisbee

Excerpted from **AN INTRODUCTION TO DISC GOLF AND DISC GOLF TECHNIQUES**
 Prepared by: *Stuart Hicks*

The weight and model of discs thrown varied from player to player. This factor also contributed to how fast a disc was thrown, and how far it glided. The most popular weights of disc used by the professionals in this study were 165 grams (11%), 172 grams (10%), 174 grams (14%), and 175 grams (17%). The disc models that flew the farthest were the Discraft Xtra, Innova, Teebird, Discraft XL, and Innova Eagle.

Additional speed and distance measurements were taken using amateur players. Table 1 gives the disc golfer an idea about the level of expertise needed to play in a particular division.

DIVISION	ENTRANTS	THROWS	MAX DIST	AVG DIST.	MAX SPEED	AVG SPEED
Open	49	266	630	425	82	63
Masters	6	15	396	294	63	54
Pro Women	4	15	345	270	54	47
Adv Men	33	104	507	299	75	55
Adv Masters	3	6	324	245	56	52
Adv Women	1	3	240	222	44	41
Int Men	15	41	360	289	63	51
Int Women	1	2	156	155	41	40
Novice Men	1	1	210	210	46	46
Junior < 16	6	18	300	206	57	45
Junior < 12	3	7	306	238	52	43
Total	122	478				

Table 1: Distance based on division rating

The slowest average speed on this chart is 40 MP.
The three most junior golfers listed here had a maximum speed of 52 MPH and averaged 43 MPH.
175 grams is more than 6 ounces or the weight of about 3½ golf balls

4. ***Was any plan formulated for storm water management or has there been any evaluation of changes in drainage patterns after acres of undergrowth were removed?***

The removal of vegetation on steep slopes leading to the lake is evident throughout the course. Now rain sheets off the hillside carrying sediment toward the lake. This type of environmental condition is exactly what some reports say contribute to the Pinto Lake blue-green algal blooms.

5. ***Is there any documented evidence of the purported "under-utilization" at Pinto Lake County Park as alleged by course proponents?***

How does the Parks Department determine either usage or under-utilization of any of its parks and their various elements? What process determined, in this instance, that the new proposed usage (disc golf) was superior to or more important than the existing uses?

6. ***Who owns the chain baskets?***

The disc golf group we believe is managing this course is also involved with the DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course. That group has stated on its Facebook page that, while the City of Santa Cruz purchased the course baskets, the club controls the course and the padlocks that keep the baskets in place. This is a public park. Who owns and who controls the baskets at Pinto Lake?

7. ***Where are the "quarterly reports" promised from Tom Schot Sports, Inc. regarding status of the disc golf course?***

These reports were part of the original proposal made to the Parks Commission.

8. ***What funding source was located for the disc golf course?***

The Parks Department was facing serious budget reductions starting in 2006. What other park activities were denied funding so this particular sport could be funded? How much was actually spent?

How was it decided to spend scarce money for this project when other community park needs, identified long before this proposal, remained unfunded? This disc golf project made its way to the top of the priority list with very little input from anyone other than the small group who benefited from it.

9. ***How many county residents petitioned the park board for this new recreational activity?***

The 2001 community meetings that resulted in Pinto Lake Park Master Plan recorded that the highest number of votes were for a skateboard park, yet that was never built. The next four choices were for an amphitheater, baseball, trails, and wildlife. In April 2001, after Public Outreach Meeting #4, soccer was added to the master plan as a high priority.³⁰ No one ever indicated a desire for disc golf.

Apparently, there was no community meeting or even community notification to see if the needs determined in the extensive 2001 public process had changed in 2007.

³⁰ References, Page 46: Community choices of activities, Pinto Lake Park Master Plan, page 17,

10. **Several on-line videos show that the installation of Phase 2 did not comply with the requirements of the granted CEQA Exemption.**

This video³¹ shows the use of heavy full-sized pick-up trucks, a grader, and a commercial-sized wood chipper. The narrator of another video speaks of getting the “diskers going” to clear out a riparian ravine for a fairway. These acts were in violation of the CEQA Notice of Exemption issued which specified “that construction will be done by hand labor, that soft rubber tire vehicles will be used to haul material, and that no large construction equipment will be used.”

The upper meadow wasn't to be mowed outside of the existing firebreaks between March and August 31 of each year. This picture of that area from the May 16, 2009 Watsonville Pajaronian shows the firebreaks were mainly cut around the open field.



The photo below was taken before the PDGA 2011 World Championship (August 8-14, 2011) and shows that the area had been recently and extensively mowed.



It is obvious that much of the grassy area of the upper meadow was cut and existing firebreaks greatly enlarged from their original sizes, eliminating critical habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife. The course also encompasses all of the area (Zone C) designated in the Pinto Lake County Park Master plan³² to be “restored to wildlife habitat with the re-vegetation of prairie and oak woodland areas.”

³¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ViCbuitPws&feature=channel&list=UL>

³² References, Page 47: Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001, Page 28

12. Why did the Parks Commission approve an 18-hole professional, world-championship course designed to attract users and professional players from well outside of Santa Cruz County?

The disc golf community is proud that the Pinto Lake course is technically challenging and envisions this as a place that people will come to from all over the county and beyond. There have already been several professional tournaments – one with a \$100,000 purse, with television coverage, vendor booths, and follow-up DVD sales.

Why would a small county like Santa Cruz need another professional and difficult disc golf course? The DeLaveaga course is **already classified as a “world class”** disc golf destination. Pinto Lake is a public park. A smaller recreational course for local residents and less experienced players could have possibly been installed without the environmental damage that has occurred with the larger course.

11. How is the County compensated for the amateur and professional tournaments held at the Pinto Lake course?

We know that a major source of revenue for our Parks department is by facility rental, whether renting fields to soccer or baseball leagues, venues for private parties or weddings or larger events such as the Santa Cruz Blues Festival held at Aptos Park each year. These are some of our concerns about the private management of a recreational course located on public property.

A long (over 1200') fairway was mowed and spray-painted with large white letters that spelled out PDGA WORLDS 2011. This message was followed by a sprayed-on corporate logo for a shoe company – KEEN. A helicopter³³ was hired to fly over this well-known bird sanctuary and take pictures. Who authorized the fly-over and what did the Parks Department receive as compensation for the PDGA and KEEN logos and the disc golf videos sold later on-line?



³³ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0aFbqKmMKI>

The cost for the exclusive use of Pinto Lake Park for six days (and Anna Jean Cummings Park for one day) for this tournament should have been about \$8,000.³⁴ We have one page of a contract³⁵ that shows the Professional Disc Golf Association received a fee waiver for its use of two of our parks. The agreement allowing this waiver is referenced in the contract but not attached. What is that agreement and what was the final rental, if any; that was paid? We would also like to see the remainder of the contract.

We were informed they received the waiver because of the volunteer hours of the Pinto Lake Disc Golf Association (PLDGA). We do not know how many "volunteer" hours were documented for this group or who kept track of the hours. We have seen nothing documenting or describing the work done to earn these waivers. Why was a local group's hours allowed to offset the rental of major portions of two of our parks to a national organization based in Colorado.

We have learned that the PLDGA retains fee-waivers for future events. How much free rent has this group received since August 2011 and how much the group is still eligible to collect?

After a web search for this name (PLDGA), we have not found any actual association by this name, except for a single Facebook page and this link to a single page.³⁶ We do not know if this is the group that currently manages the disc golf course. We do not know if this group is connected to Tom Schot Sports, Inc, the California corporation (currently suspended) that first proposed the Pinto Lake course.

The August 2011 PDGA tournament had 432 contenders who each paid approximately a \$150 entrance fee, 56 sponsors who paid varying amounts, a number of booths rented to vendors, special tournament merchandise for sale, and a \$108,000 purse for winners. How did these groups who gained private financial benefit compensate the County Parks Department?

Disc golf tournaments continue to be held at Pinto Lake disc golf course. Most have cash purses. We have no information about how the Parks Department handles the activities of this private organization and its use of public property. We assume the profit from these tournaments accrues to the private group that manages the course. What are they paying for the use of public property?

One immediate concern is for the well-being of the nesting bald eagles and other protected raptors known to be at Pinto Lake if helicopters and low-flying aircraft continue to be allowed as part of a sport activity.

³⁴ <http://sccounty04.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/UFS/ufsviiew.aspx> (Select Parks Department)

³⁵ References: Page 48: Contract with County Parks

³⁶ <http://pintolakediscgolf.com/>

Conclusions

In the four years since the disc golf course was installed the character of Pinto Lake County Park has changed to an almost unrecognizable environment. What was once a thriving, diverse habitat is now, in large part, a denuded recreational zone.

We find it indefensible for disc golf proponents to claim that the sport is "environmentally friendly" when hundreds of trees are damaged, riparian corridors have been trampled, and steep hillsides no longer have vegetation or undergrowth. Records do not show any discussions by staff or parks commissioners about how fairways would be created or the course prepared. We have no records that show any dialogue about the number of acres likely to be cleared, that herbicides would be used or who would supervise any work on the course.

After visiting the course, reviewing photos and internet postings and hearing from long-time visitors to Pinto Lake County Park we have learned many things. Acres of vegetation were removed during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 construction of the disc golf course. The original proposal stated that there were no plans to remove trees yet, in fact, an unknown number of trees were removed and other trees were extensively trimmed.

The significance of the following photos is to show these open spaces as they were only four years ago, with healthy trees, covered with underbrush, furnishing habitat for plants, animals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and acting as a natural filtration system for the water that moves from the hilly shores into the lake.

The surrounding community was not clamoring for disc golf. Yet a disc golf course was installed on land set aside as a protected riparian habitat and expanded into an area supposed to be "restored to wildlife habitat with the re-vegetation of prairie and oak woodland areas."

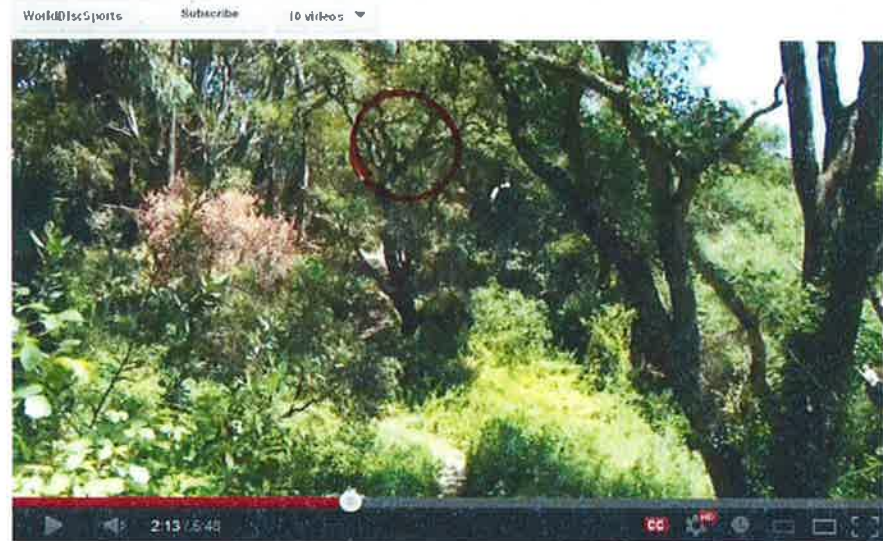
It is apparent that the current impacts of the Pinto Lake disc golf course were not anticipated by either County staff or Parks Commissioners. This happened as a result of poor planning, without a complete environmental evaluation, with little knowledge by the greater public and, apparently, with no concern for how these changes would impact other uses of the park.

We ask for the following:

- 1) A review of the appropriateness and legality of the processes involved in the approval, installation and ongoing management of the disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park.**
- 2) Immediate suspension of use of the Pinto Lake disc golf course until the issues addressed in this report can be publicly aired, discussed, and addressed.**
- 3) An acknowledgment that disc golf is an activity which needs fact-based analysis of its environmental impacts and potential for physical danger to park users before its consideration at any Santa Cruz County park.**

This and the following page are before-and-after photos of what has happened at Pinto Lake County Park as a result of disc golf.

WDG Pinto Lake - Developing the Course



1,058

Uploaded by WorldDiscSports on Mar 11, 2008
Early stages of creating the Pinto Lake Championship Disc Golf course in Watsonville, California



Same place four years apart – upper picture is from video taken in Spring 2008, bottom picture, Spring 2012. Note circles identifying the same tree.

NDG Pinto Lake - Developing the Course

WorldJocSports Subscribe 18 videos ▾



This is a screen capture from the same YouTube video. This large oak tree is to the right of where the course developers placed Basket #1 in the Spring of 2008.

This is how that area looked in March 2012 (It was green because it had rained two weeks before)



Appendix A: Additional pictures and video links of the Pinto Lake course, past and present.

The *italicized* comments were made by people who have been walkers and bird-watchers here for many years. While they wish to remain anonymous, their words still resonate. Their accounts of what the park looked like before the disc golf course was installed are substantiated by videos posted on the internet by the course developers.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hB2uUAUTGao&feature=related>

Developing the Course - Pinto Lake with Tom Schot

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx7GFZRGtVE&feature=related>

Working towards the World Championship

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ViCbuitPws&feature=channel&list=UL>

Pinto Lake (sneak peak)

Below, looking towards Basket #3. *That area was dense growth, no access. That is one of the drainage/headwaters areas of the lake and it was always grown over and thick before they started the course*



The picture below is of a row of scarred (by disc strikes) young oak trees by the out building, just below the old barn. **The lake is about 20' to the right of the person in the red shirt.** Note the golfer to the left retrieving his disc from the out-of-bounds area after a bad throw from the tee.



This area was at one time entirely covered in dense growth. It was walkable using deer trails and wild mushrooms were abundant in this area.

All of the photos you sent me are of areas that were all dense undergrowth, a mix of nettle, wild blackberry, poison oak, hemlock, willow trees and other water-loving plants and grasses.

The western slope near the water was also completely dense growth with only a few trails to the water's edge from persistent fisher persons as well as the deer who would come down to the water. It is now completely cleared of all undergrowth with clear views and complete access to the water's edge.

I see a lot of new scars on the oak trunks looking up the hill/road. I can only imagine they were caused by cutting tools or disc impacts. This area was a previously protected habitat (Note: according to official documents, it still is a protected area) for owls and there are remain of owl nesting boxes in the old barn above the out building.

(Note: The barn collapsed at some point between late April and early May 2012)

They (disc golf course developers) took out quite a bit of the lower hanging branches of the oaks. I used to have to crawl on my hands and knees via the game trails between the berry vines and the poison oak just to get under the oaks to search for mushrooms.



Young trees damaged by flying discs



Older trees with intense disc damage

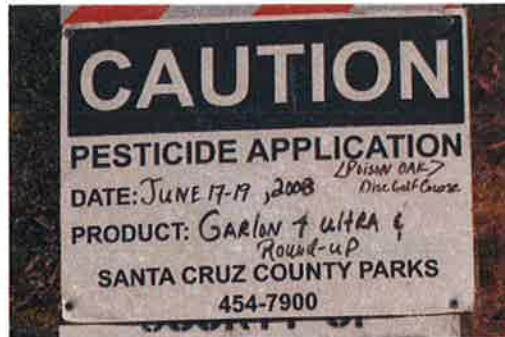


**This mature oak tree (bottom left) has disc damage on both trunk and high limbs.
The younger tree (lower right) is damaged on side facing Hole #3 tee area.**

46

The day that I photographed the pesticide sign there were 4 to 5 white tailed kites actively hunting the big field. I saw four of them in the air at once and heard one calling from the trees while the other four were in the air. It took possibly a year, if not two, before I saw the white tailed kite returning after the disturbance for the disc golf course "championships."

I remember the chemical spraying warnings were only in English and in this area visitors are mostly Spanish-speaking. At the time I informed the park groundskeeper and others that the signs for the Garland and Round-up needed to be posted in Spanish as well as English.



They sprayed a large area for "poison oak" but also netted a large patch of nettle, wild blackberry and common aster flowers that were all good habitat on the "nature trail"



Wild aster and native grasses after herbicide spraying

When I asked about it I was only offered the "information" that parks had free rein to develop the park area and spray or abate as they saw fit. Their reasons were that they were going to attract a different crowd instead of the hikers/bikers and "taggers"

All of a sudden POOF! No blackberry vines on the bike/walk path between the CCC house and main fire road. It went from one day being a great nature trail to being a sprayed and wilted and dying environment and then it was cleared of all underbrush and some trees.

I also have photos of white crab spiders catching flying insects on the common aster before the spraying of Garland and Roundup and a photo or two of the aftermath - wilted aster flowers with a white crab spider clinging to wilted/poisoned bloom the day after the spraying. Then the "crew" came in with hardware to knock down the wilted and dead underbrush.



Now there's quite a bit of erosion going at the trail between the barn and Hole 16. It all goes downhill and into the lake.

They cut a lot of trees down and trimmed a bunch more of the underbrush.

I mentioned the clear cutting and run-off/silt to the grounds keeper as well as the crew that was cutting down the brush. Seemed like they started "mulching" with all the stuff they cut down and may have planted grass seeds but I am not certain about the seeds.

I did see wood chips and mulch being placed in areas that were bare dirt, but not in all areas that were cut down to dirt.

They put in some straw tubes and hay bales in a couple high flow areas during the rainy seasons in the last couple years, mostly in the front of the course, in the drainage leading into the lake, and more mulch being placed in the drainage area. There is a lot of "leave it where it was cut mulch" on the lake edges near some of the other disc golf holes between the CCC house and the back field.

I have seen disc's go into the lake and also a lady that does active birding as well as gathering discs from the water from her canoe.

I've seen disc golfers lay boards out into the lake when the water was lower, placing the boards between the shore line and on top of the mud and floating plants, then walking out onto the boards to retrieve discs with a makeshift rake on an extension pole, even saw one of the disc golfers nearly fall in while trying to retrieve a disc from the water.

Appendix B: Disc golf courses across the U.S. embroiled in controversy

Course closures and community concerns generally revolve around issues such as erosion, damage to trees, impacts to wildlife and their habitat, drugs, trash, increased traffic and/or parking needs, alcohol consumption, smoking on courses, access to bathrooms, potential for danger to people on or near a course, and conflicts between disc golfers and other park users.

Locally, there are increasing concerns over the Black Mouse disc golf course behind San Lorenzo Valley High School with major issues being individual golfers' alcohol use, smoking, trash and conflicts with neighbors.

This is a continuing battle over a public park in San Francisco.

<http://savemclarenpark.org/>

Chico, California disc golf course was closed because of environmental damage

<http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/dgp1.html>

Leddy Park, Burlington, Vermont

www.leddypark.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/mayor_kiss_memo_no_disc_golf.pdf

<http://www.leddypark.org/>

Please note that the proposed disc golf park (Leddy) in Burlington, Virginia was never approved by the Mayor and Department of Park and Recreation.

Peace Park in Austin, Texas closes due to environmental damage

<http://www.statesman.com/news/local/city-plans-to-close-pease-park-disc-golf-726286.html>

www.myfoxaustin.com/dpp/top_stories/Disc-Golf-at-Pease

Clallam Park, Port Angeles, Washington

www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20100126/news/301269989

Pioneer Park, Billings, Montana

billingsgazette.com/news/local/government-and-politics/

Holmes Park, Medford Oregon

www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110128/

Anchorage Alaska closing temporarily to mitigate damage from users and safety issues.

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/PressReleases/Pages/WestchesterLagoonDiscGolfParkClosure.aspx>

Alimagnet Park, MN-Community conflicts

<http://www.thisweek-online.com/2006/october/20tribdiskgolf.html>

Parks Department allowed course without consulting City council:

<http://www.pegasusnews.com/news/2010/feb/17/corinth-disc-golf-course-causes-controversy/>

Wisconsin State disc golf park closes

http://dnr.wi.gov/news/BreakingNews_Print.asp?id=1478

Port Angeles Washington - closed due to problems

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20100126/news/301269989>

Disc Golf at Windlestrae Park, Montgomery Township Pennsylvania

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevoia4/parkweb/id6.html>

Appendix C: Additional Reports and Information

The following are studies and professional reports either about disc golf courses or blue-green algae.

Arborist report – Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California

http://www.savemclarenpark.org/SMP_docs/GG_arborist_report_2005.pdf

Bidwell Park, Chico California

BLUE OAK ASSESSMENT: DISC GOLF COURSE DESIGN REVIEW AND

BLUE OAK MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

<http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/discgolfarborist.pdf><http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/discgolfarborist.pdf>

The Cyber Journal of Applied Leisure and Recreation Research: The Illustrative Case of Disc Golf -

This study attempts to glean insight into the subculture of disc golfers and to assess how the knowledge about this particular subculture could be utilized for the management of environmental problems in recreation. *(This is an extract from a submitted doctoral thesis)*

<http://larnet.org/2011-03.pdf>

or

http://www.ijsmart.eu/onlinepic/vol8_c%20Trendafilova.pdf

Environmental Protection Agency

Algal and Microbial Communities as Indicators of Prairie Wetland Integrity

http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/assessment/pph2_2.cfm

Researchers Study Roundup as Possible Cause of Harmful Algal Blooms

<http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/news/?article=161>

How the Pinto Lake habitat is being destroyed - disc golfer tramps into out-of-bounds area retrieving badly thrown disc and then, in his next throw, nails a tree trunk

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AibRV25k-s&feature=youtu.be>

As a group, we assembled a lot of information about this recreational activity. Our report encompasses only the information we thought necessary to make our points.

The disc golf course at DeLaveaga Park also has serious on-going problems with erosion and serious damage to trees similar to that seen at Pinto Lake. The environmental issues at DeLaveaga demonstrate the necessity of a comprehensive management plan for any disc golf course to be deemed successful as a long-term recreational site.

We encourage readers to do their own research. We expect public agencies to provide more thorough data so that any decisions on disc golf courses in our County's public parks are based on factual information.

References



JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
INTERIM DIRECTOR

County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

March 13, 2012

SUBJECT: PROCESS TO ADD DISC GOLF AT ANNA JEAN CUMMINGS PARK

Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission:

As you will recall, a group of students and supporters for the installation of a disc golf course at Anna Jean Cummings Park addressed your Commission during Oral Communications at the November 14, 2011, and January 23, 2012, Commission meetings. As of the date of this letter, staff has not received a proposed course layout from this group. Commissioner Lang previously requested that staff return with a process for adding disc golf at the park. Additionally, staff has received a written request to post directional and informational signage along existing trails in the park (Attachment 1). The purpose of this report is to respond to Commissioner Lang's request to outline steps that may need to be taken to add recreational elements not included in the original master plan.

There is a long history of proposals, community input, environmental review, and permits related to the development of Anna Jean Cummings Park. It is not the intent of this report to document that long history but instead to share the process for review and approval of the original park improvements and outline a likely process for review and approval of new park features.

It is important to distinguish the process of developing a Park Master Plan from the permit review and approval process. The County Redevelopment Agency worked in conjunction with the Parks Department to prepare a Park Master Plan for the development of Anna Jean Cummings Park. In 1998, after a series of community meetings and a hearing before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Board of Supervisors approved the Park Master Plan. The Anna Jean Cummings Park Recreational Master Plan is included as Attachment 2. That plan identifies areas to be developed for recreational uses, areas to be preserved as open space, and an area reserved for "future park uses."

Based upon that plan, proposed improvement plans and reports necessary for development permits and review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) were finalized. Those documents were submitted to the County Planning Department. Then in March 2000, after a public hearing, the Planning Commission approved a Master Plan Development Permit for the development of recreational uses at Anna Jean Cummings Park.


Parks and Recreation Commission
March 13, 2012
Page 2

Typically the addition of new recreational uses at an existing County park includes consideration of a proposal or project at public meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Then, once the project has been defined, a determination is made by the Planning Department as to the level of review required to amend existing permits. Parks staff has consulted with the Planning Director, who has responded that expanded use at the park would likely trigger the need to amend the Master Plan Development Permit. The level of review (administrative, Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission) would be determined by Planning Department staff after review of the specifics of the proposed expanded use. Any impacts of the proposed expanded use would also be evaluated per California Environmental Quality Act requirements. Depending upon the impacts of the specific elements of the proposal, if any, mitigation measures would be identified.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
Interim Director

By:



Betsy Lynberg
Assistant Director of Public Works
Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

BAL:mh

Attachments

> On Jun 2, 2009, at 1:32 PM, Cristina James wrote:

>
>> Bernadette,
>>
>>
>> The County Parks Department was approached by a Disc Golf group to
>> install the course at Pinto Lake Park. Originally an 18-hole course
>> was requested. Upon review by the Parks Commission and the County
>> Board of
>> Supervisors a 9-hole course was approved for north-central portion of
>> the Park. The Parks Department worked with Resource Planner, Matt
>> Johnston on the installation of the 9-hole course at Pinto Lake.
>> County
>> Park. Site visits by County Planning staff occurred and County
>> Planning
>> determined that the first phase of this course would have no
>> significant
>> impact on the environment as no changes would be made to existing
>> grades
>> and no significant trees would be removed. County Planning staff
>> required a review by an environmental consultant to determine any
>> possible impacts to nesting birds from vegetation removal. The
>> consultant determined that if work occurred between September 1 and
>> March 1 that impacts would be avoided. The consultant also thought
>> the
>> removal of non-native vegetation was strongly encouraged.
>>
>> Parks staff has again been approached by the Disc Golf Group, to
>> install another nine holes in an area to the north and west of the
>> existing course. Because this area has steeper topography,
>> significant vegetation, and is in a less developed area of the park,
>> the review process will likely be longer and more involved. There
>> will be opportunity for public comment during this environmental
>> review period.
>> In the meantime, I have forwarded your concerns and e-mail to
>> Resource
>> Planner Matt Johnston and to Parks Director, Joe Schultz.
>>
>> If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to
>> contact me at 454-7963.
>>
>> Thank you,

Course Design:

The principal course designer is Tom Schot, who has over 25 years of experience designing permanent and temporary courses throughout California, including the world-famous DeLaveaga Disc Golf Course. He will be assisted by 2005 PDGS World Champion, Nathan Doss of Capitola. The 18-hole course will be designed with the utmost safety of both players and non-players in mind. Although not used much at the present, the proposed area does have occasional other recreational users, such as dog-walkers and joggers. Care has been taken in the design of the course to eliminate user conflicts, minimize potential damage to foliage and reduce the chances for erosion. The course has also been designed with the potential for multiple configurations to serve not only beginners but players with more advanced skills.

Recreational Programming:

Once a month, the Course will hold a free clinic for school-aged children to teach them the rules, etiquette and techniques of the game. A youth league can be organized which the Parks Department will funnel students into.

Once a month, the Course will also organize a free clinic for new players of any age to introduce them to the concepts and techniques of the game.

The Course pro will also be available to hold free clinics and events for individual schools and community organizations on a request basis.

Additional Responsibilities:

18 temporary baskets can be brought in so that Park staff can have a chance to see what the proposed course would look like.

Provide a liaison to the Department on maintenance and recreational program issues.

All physical changes to the facility shall be requested in writing and approved in advance by the Recreation and Parks Department.

Provide the Department with a quarterly report on the installation, operation and maintenance issues.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Parks Department will:

Designate Department personnel to work with Tom Schot Sports in coordinating the approval process for course layout and development, and coordinating any and all permits necessary for installation of the disc golf course;

Provide three waste receptacles for the course and agree to empty them on a regular basis;

Provide wood-chips for distribution on the course;

Notify Tom Schot Sports, in writing, of any grievances communicated to the Department about the appearance or operation of the course;

Provide advance notice of park closures for maintenance or special events that would limit the use of the disc golf course; and

Notify Tom Schot Sports, in writing, of any plans for changes in park use, facility development, or additions to the park (or adjacent park land) that may impact the disc golf course so that the Club may have some input into the process.

Other Issues:

Emergency Vehicle Access: there are known problems for access to the meadow, or "farm" area, of the course. If approved, Tom Schot Sports can arrange to have the access road through the park widened and improved for emergency vehicle, and county vehicle, access.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mach III Deluxe Disc Pole Hole ¹	18	\$399.00	\$7,182.00
Additional Anchor Assemblies	18	\$24.00	\$432.00
Concrete for Installation of Baskets, Tee Signs, & additional anchors	54	\$10.00	\$540.00
Tee Signs	18	\$70.00	\$1260.00
Master Locks	18	\$11.00	\$198.00
Rules and Information Sign	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
Concrete Tee Pads	18	\$515	\$9,270.00
Refurbish lower bathrooms	1	\$3,500	\$3,500.00
Excavation Work (pathways, widen road)			\$15,000.00
Clearing underbrush (if no time from CCCs or CYA)			\$2,000.00
Course Design	\$3,500 (Discount \$1,000)		\$2,500.00
TOTAL			\$42,382.00

¹ Price for pole holes includes 8% sales tax and 10% sales commission deduction.

Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course
Proposed 18 Hole Layout

- Hole #1: (340 feet) Alongside the parking lot, throwing right to left.
- Hole #2: (300 feet) From green area near end of parking lot, downhill through a wooded area to north property line.
- Hole #3: (300 feet) West from wooded area near #2 basket to open area east of the CCC building. Likely need a fence between CCC and fairway.
- Hole #4: (440 feet) West across ravine to redwood grove below the meadow.
- Hole #5: (330 feet) Southeast along wooded corridor below meadow.
- Hole #6: (450 feet) Continue southeast along path uphill to big oak trees.
- Hole #7: (1200 feet) The "signature hole." Very long hole across the southeast portion of the meadow.
- Hole #8: (420 feet) Down to end of peninsula near lake's edge. (Remove gang markings.)
- Hole #9: (500 feet) Wooded, northwest returning hole along east side of meadow.
- Hole #10: (500 feet) Wooded hillside continuing north back to road.
- Hole #11: (290 feet) Short hole towards lake and bathrooms.
- Hole #12: (280 feet) Short uphill hole towards the old barn.
- Hole #13: (600 feet) Long open hole towards the burn area. (Clean up concrete and clear brush and debris)
- Hole #14: (300 feet) Between the lake and hole #13, north direction, curving right to left.
- Hole #15: (400 feet) Close to lake, north direction, with some throwing a big right to left curve over the water.
- Hole #16: (340 feet) East across wooded valley.

6

Proposed 18 Hole Layout - Pinto Lake

Hole #17: (400 feet) West, back across wooded valley.

Hole #18: (500 feet) North, northeast back towards bathrooms and parking lot.

- * Alternate basket positions will be added to many holes to reduce impact on some areas, and to adjust the course for professional level competition play.
- * Other users of the park are expected to still use the area occupied by the disc golf course. Unlike a traditional golf course, disc golfers are accustomed to waiting for walkers, joggers, etc. to pass through their courses.

7

7

58

VI. REGULAR AGENDA (DISCUSSION ITEMS)

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Disc Golf @ Pinto Lake



Tom Schott gave a presentation on the sport of disc golf and the possibilities he envisions for Pinto Lake County Park. He believes that Pinto Lake lends itself to a disc golf course and he proposes the installation of a championship disc golf course. The Disc Golf Association has agreed to provide the necessary baskets, which are made in Watsonville, for the course. The course will begin with nine holes and then in the future, increase to 18. The benefits of disc golf are the joy of nature, exercise, being with friends, achievement, involving all ages and provides escape from the daily routine. It is a low impact activity that requires a low cost to create and maintain. It will be a good project for Watsonville. The budget for the project is \$45,000 with half the money received from the Disc Golf Association and the other half received from the County. Bob Brox from the Disc Golf Association spoke on behalf of this project. Tom Schott designed a disc golf course at De La Viega that is world class.

Dr. Steve Longhart explained that Pinto Lake is an incredible, underutilized area that would be beautiful for disc golf. The Association would clear the underbrush that is mostly poison oak. Disc golf utilizes mother nature to provide the obstacles on the course. The club members provide maintenance at the De La Viega disc golf course and would do the same at Pinto Lake. Other users can enjoy the area that was previously underused. A championship level course can potentially bring in revenue from visitors and two courses would enable Santa Cruz County to potentially host the world championships. On weekends, 1,500 to 2,000 users participate in disc golf at De La Viega with an average of 200 on a nice week day.

Commissioner Serna asked about outreach toward the community in Watsonville learning and playing disc golf. The disc golf group has plans for educating the community about the sport.

Director Samuel explained the next steps of this project. Funding and possible environmental reviews need to be explored. The fit with the master plan of Pinto Lake and the environmental review will be discussed with Planning Department with a report back to the Commission at the July meeting. The community outreach could be achieved by placing a basket at the school playgrounds and providing a couple of discs and introducing the sport in that way. Maria can report back at the next meeting about the environmental review implications. The initial installation will involve nine holes. The existing entrances to the park will be utilized. None of the holes will be installed in the open field at this time. The restrooms used are by the parking lot and the club has plans to reopen the lower restroom. No new structures, plumbing or electrical are necessary. Tom Schott visited the site and has designed a nine hole course. Paths will be created and cleared out. The Board of Supervisors, probably in September, will need to approve the project. This item will be placed on the next Parks Commission agenda as an action item. A discussion of what type of environmental review is necessary, funding and the next steps necessary will take place.

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Disc Golf

Gretchen 111ff recapped the May 14th Commission meeting where Tom Schott and other representatives of the Disc Golf group presented their request to install a disc golf course at Pinto Lake Park. The group manages a very successful disc golf program at De La Viega Golf Course and would like to install the program at Pinto. The group proposed to install the disc golf course at Pinto Lake and enter into an agreement with the Parks Department to operate and manage the program. Gretchen met with the Planning Department to determine the steps necessary to implement the program. The existing development permit would need to be modified, with a possible minor variation. Staking and mapping would be required, and potentially a riparian exception, if necessary. Gretchen asked Mr. Schott to provide further information about the pathways for the course to determine the affected areas. The disc golf group requested 18 holes for the course initially, however have agreed to begin with a nine hole course. The trails will also be available for walking, strolling with dogs, etc. The area now contains a lot of dense brush along with poison oak that would be cleared. Planning Department agreed that using the area for the disc golf course would be consistent with the goals of the Parks Department. The fiscal impact would be \$45,000 along with some additional planning fees. Funds for the project have not been identified in the operating budget. The disc golf group asked that the County pay for half the cost. The next steps needed to proceed are that the Parks Commission approve in concept the idea of installing a disc golf course at Pinto Lake and forward the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (if the Board of Supervisors approves the concept, funding would need to be identified before the Planning Department issues a variance to the existing development permit? Construction would follow issuing a permit. Chair Rosenberg asked if the nine 1 hole course would achieve the groups objectives. Tom Schott explained that yes, the nine holes could be played twice by players for 18 holes and the course layout he displayed indicated that the path anticipated for the course wouldn't disrupt the riparian path. A nine hole course at Pinto would be user friendly and close

the parking lot for easy access. Mr. Schott explained that the forest service will provide a crew and supervisor to clear the land for a charge of \$200 per day. No trees are scheduled to be removed. Gretchen responded to Commissioner Minott's question that there are no endangered species identified in the area that would be affected by clearing the area. Chair Rosenberg suggested that the Commission move the concept forward by making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in support of a nine hole disc golf course at Pinto Lake. Commissioner Doten suggested that this is a different sport and a change from skate boarding and BMX bike tracks and would provide an interesting new sport to kids. Commissioners agreed that it would be a good use of the area. Tom Schott has taken into consideration the liability factor of disc golf in this area and determined that there is none. Dave Mercer made a motion to approve the disc golf program concept and inform the Board of Supervisors that the Commission approves the disc golf project at Pinto Lake Park with a second from Janet Doten (5/0).

12-5-2007

From: Matt Johnston
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2007 11:18 AM
To: Gretchen IMF
Subject: RE: disc golf course at Pinto Lake Park

Sounds like a great project, and one that should not be too cumbersome to permit, depending on the layout. Who are the volunteer members? I have a brother who plays who lives on Pinto Lake, and a nephew who is in the pro circuit...

A statement that grading will be less than 100 cyds is not sufficient. What we need in order to make the determinations necessary is a map of the park and the proposed layout of the course. It does not need to be surveyed, but topo lines should be included, as well as the lake and any riparian features/areas. A USGS topo should be sufficient, with the course drawn on and staked in the field. The County GIS also has a topo layer that can be printed up over the aerial photos. The main negative impact of a disc golf course is erosion, generally from the areas around the tees and the paths through the vegetation to the common target areas, and then around the baskets. I've played on a half dozen different courses and most battle erosion problems. The volunteer group should be able to produce a proposed layout of the course, and erosion control areas, if they're players. We are happy to meet with them in house and in the field to help facilitate. As to the vegetation removal, you can remove what is needed to stake out the course, although if you are near the lake, you should really minimize any vet removal.

11

11
62

Design Elements

Zone B: Pinto Lake Central

The heavily forested central area of Zone "B" in the park is intended to be ultimately used in a passive manner that will minimize impact to the environment and emphasize the park's flora and fauna. Providing opportunities for outdoor education bridges the need for organized youth activities and the valuable natural resources available at Pinto Lake County Park. Organized youth group camping, a nature center, wildlife viewing, fishing, and hiking are types of suggested uses in this area of the park.

Youth Group Camping - A group campground, intended exclusively for use by organized youth groups, is sited adjacent to the existing Victorian style house currently in use as a California Conservation Corps (hereafter CCC) headquarters. During interim phases of park construction this area may also serve as a temporary youth soccer field. This relatively level site is surrounded by woodland and is in close proximity to vehicular access and restrooms. Centrally located on the site, it is linked to the other park areas by trails and gravel roads.

Nature/Interpretive Center - The Victorian home currently in use as the CCC headquarters is envisioned as a facility which can house a registration office for camping groups, plus display natural resource/history/interpretive exhibits. This center may feature a library, displays showing habits and life cycles of Pinto Lake wildlife and vegetation, and can offer outreach opportunities by providing positions for volunteers and docents. Downslope from the center, adjacent to the lake edge and existing restroom building, an outdoor nature study area can be established. This area may



Zone B: Pinto Lake Central

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

Design Elements

include picnic tables, lab tables, short trails, overlooks, boardwalks, interpretive signage and other facilities to assist in outdoor education. Woodland trails connect this area to two other outdoor learning areas at the southern ends of the peninsulas

Peninsulas - An Outdoor Group Interpretive Area, sited to take advantage of lake views, is accessible by trail on the middle peninsula and can be designed as an amphitheater for campfire talks, outdoor lectures or non-amplified public performances.

A nature study area is located upslope from an existing fishing pier on the easternmost peninsula and connects to the more heavily used active park core. This area currently features structures for bird watching, a use that can be encouraged with interpretive displays and additional observation sites. The pier will continue to be used for fishing and low impact access to the marsh. This resource can be highlighted with informational signage about the wildlife inhabiting the marsh and lake.

Hiking trails

A trail system of newly designed and/or existing trails and dirt roads would highlight the different natural and developed amenities that exist within the park. Existing trails may be improved and additional trails developed to enhance this system.

From Robert Ketley <RKETLEt@ci.watsonville.ca.us>

To Gail Louis/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
10/11/2006 08:34

cc Steve Peters <ENVO32@co.santa—cruz.ca.us>

Subject BG Algae in Pinto Lake, Watsonville CA

Dear Gail:

I left you a voice mail a few minutes back. Pinto lake is an 8,000 Year old sag lake located just outside of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.

Due to many years of unchecked farm runoff and septic tanks discharges, it gets the most delightful algal blooms each summer. Knowing that these blooms are caused by BG algae C mainly Anabaena, Microcystis and Apahnizomenon) we decided to check for possible BC toxicity. Our first test in September of this year (using an ELISA kit) showed around 1 ppb of microcystin toxin. The latest bloom has produced a toxin level of about 36 ppb.

Now that we are aware that the algae in this lake are producing the toxin, we are having trouble determining if we should be posting warnings or not. No one down here seems to know when the magical number or conditions have been reached.

There are two parks on the lake. The City park has a launch ramp, fishing docks and a kiddies playground right next to the water. We get about 25,000 visitors per year. The County has a park at the opposite end of the lake. They have less water access, but probably more visitors.

So should we be posting warnings, just keep an eye on things, or not worrying about it at all? Any sage advice is most welcome,

Thanks,

Rob

ScienceShot: Case Closed for Sea Otter Deaths

by Michael Price on 18 February 2012, 9:04 PM



Credit: Matt Kinoh / Wikimedia Commons

VANCOUVER, CANADA—When several sea otters began showing up dead in April 2007 along the coast of California's Monterey Bay, wildlife officials called otter expert Melissa Miller to investigate. The animals' insides, she found, were bright yellow—a sure sign of liver damage. Over the next few years, Miller, a veterinary biologist at the Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center in Santa Cruz, California, and colleagues explored the possible culprits. They quickly ruled out the scourge's most likely source: a bacterium known to cause jaundice, as it wasn't found in any of the dead otters. As for other possibilities, "Sea otters don't take drugs, they don't eat toxic mushrooms or plants because they're marine mammals, and California weather isn't so crazy that we'd see 15 sea otters struck by lightning," Miller said here today at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (which publishes *ScienceNOW*). In 2009, one of her colleagues noticed a report that nearby Pinto Lake harbored a particularly nasty blue-green algae called microcystin. Tests confirmed it was indeed the killer. At the meeting, Miller laid out the scenario: After heavy rainfalls, Pinto Lake overflowed, emptying its deadly contents into rivers that flowed into Monterey Bay. Filter feeders such as mussels and clams absorbed the microcystin and concentrated it over time. The otters ate them, their livers failed, and they beached ashore. Since the discovery, California officials have taken measures to control the outbreak at Pinto Lake, but the discovery illustrates how marine mammals like sea otters act as warning signals for near-shore ecosystems, Miller said. "The kinds of things that sea otters eat in California are some of the same things we like to eat, too."

ScienceNOW. ISSN 1947-8062

See more [Science Shots](#).

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Friday, July 10, 2009

Central Coast Regional Water Board

Vice-Chair Russell Jefferies called the meeting of the Central Coast Water Board to order at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 10, 2009, at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Watsonville, California.

12. Consideration of a resolution approving the 2008 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies of the Central Coast Region..... Board Approval

Water Board Environmental Scientist Mary Adams presented the changes to the 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies. Staff compared all available data to all criteria relevant to Beneficial Use protection. Staff evaluated data for 347 waterbodies including beaches, streams, harbors and lakes. Staff recommended increasing the total number of waterbody pollutants on the List to 704 (from 222) and removal of a total of 49 waterbody pollutant combination from the List. Staff presented a summary of the pollutants causing impairment to Beneficial Uses including the following: 198 recommended listings for pathogen indicators (i.e. fecal coliform and *E. coli*), 213 listings for toxicants (i.e. toxicity, pesticides and nutrients), 261 listings for conventionals including dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH and salts, 32 listings for sediment and 2 unique listings in Pinto lake (one for scum/foam and one for Microcystin, a toxin produced by blue green algae). Forty-six of the listings are already being addressed by USEPA TMDLs.

In the presentation to the Board, staff also described the spatial distribution of the water quality impairments in the Region. Beneficial Uses in all waters of the lower Salinas, Santa Maria and Pajaro watershed are impaired by multiple pollutants, primarily pathogen indicators and toxicants. There are also several waterbodies with one or more Beneficial Use impairment in the South Coast watershed area (Santa Barbara County between Rincon Creek and Jalama Creek). The majority of the impairments in this area are due to pathogen indicators and conventional pollutants. Staff prioritized the 705 listings, considering the magnitude of the problem, the number of Beneficial Uses affected and TMDL projects already in progress. As a result, staff has given high priority to Lower Salinas and Santa Maria watersheds as well as pathogen indicator listings in Santa Cruz, Pajaro List update.

.....

Public Comments:

Robert Ketley, City of Watsonville. Thanks staff for the productive working environment. Asks the Board to change Pinto Lake from a low priority to a high priority for TMDL development because it is a recreation area for boating, fishing etc and is listed for Blue Green Algal Toxins. Mr. Ketley showed two pictures of the algal bloom and some data of the concentration of the Microcystin toxin at more than 2 million ppb and the WorldHealth Organization guideline for recreation is 20 ppb. Please change the priority to high for this lake.

After request from Roger Briggs to clarify the low priority for Pinto. Mary Adams stated that the lake is currently recommended to be added to the List of Impaired Waters for the blue green algal toxin as well as scum, chlorophyll a, dissolved oxygen and pH. The toxin is a human health risk. Dr. Hunter asked if the City is posting the lake for health warnings. Mr. Ketley confirmed that they are.

MOTION: Monica Hunter moved to approve Resolution No. R3-2009-0053 with two changes;1) do not de-list San Vicente Creek because this decision was not made prior to the 45 day public comment period and 2) give high priority to Pinto Lake listings as the Microcystin toxin is a human health risk.

SECOND: Gary Shallcross

CARRIED: Three votes in favor of the motion and 2 opposed.

16



January 10, 2008

Ms. Gretchen Iliff
Santa Cruz County Parks Department
979- 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

RE: Vegetation Clearance at Pinto Lake County Park

Dear Gretchen:

From our recent conversation, it is my understanding that the Parks Department is proposing to remove selected vegetation at Pinto Lake Park for a disc golf course. The vegetation would include common natives such as *Baccharis pilularis* and non-natives such as acacia and broom. Clearing invasive non-native vegetation is strongly encouraged as these species will rapidly invade natural areas and out-compete native vegetation.

You have inquired about possible impacts to bird nesting from vegetation removal. If vegetation is cut and removed between September 1 and March 1, surveys for nesting birds would not be required as birds do not nest during this time period. As we discussed, if vegetation clearance occurs between March and the end of August, a nesting survey should be conducted prior to vegetation removal to avoid impacts to nesting bird species.

I believe this responds to your concerns. Feel free to forward this correspondence to County Planning staff or any other individuals that may be involved with your project.

Sincerely,


John Gilchrist

831.429.4355
FAX 831.425.2305
226 Spring Street
Santa Cruz CA 95060
jga@cruzio.com

17

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM ARE INDICATED BELOW AND ON THE REVERSE SIDE

OPERATOR (FIRM NAME) Santa Cruz County
 ADDRESS 979 17th Ave
 CITY Santa Cruz
 COUNTY Santa Cruz
 LICENSE NUMBER AA 04083
 COUNTY (WHERE APPLIED) Santa Cruz
 OPERATOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
 ZIP CODE 95062
 MONTH/YEAR OF USE June 2008
 PHONE NUMBER 831 457-7908
 TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS 4

- Complete Columns A, B, C, and D for All Users
- Complete Column E by Using One of the Following Codes
 - Code 10 - Structural Pest Control
 - Code 30 - Landscape Maintenance Pest Control
 - Code 40 - Right-of-Way Pest Control
 - Code 50 - Public Health Pest Control
 - Code 80 - Vertebrate Pest Control
 - Code 91 - Commodity Fumigation (Nonfood/Nonfeed)
 - Code 100 - Regulatory Pest Control
- Complete Columns F and G, if Use Does not Fit one of the Above Codes

A MANUFACTURER AND NAME OF PRODUCT APPLIED	B EPA/CALIFORNIA REGISTRATION NUMBER FROM LABEL INCLUDE ALPHA CODE	C TOTAL PRODUCT USED (Check One Unit of Measure)			D NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	E CODE	F COMMODITY OR SITE TREATED	G ACRES/UNITS TREATED
		LB	PT	QT				
Fumotexin	72959-1-AA-5857 20859-73-8	24			2	80 Gophers	4 ±	
Round-up Pro	524-475	89			1	30 Weeds	4 ±	
Garden	62719-40	2			1	30 woody weeds	4 ±	

REPORT PREPARED BY Matt Duff DATE 1/13/09

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MONTHLY SUMMARY PESTICIDE USE REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE ENFORCEMENT
 DE REGULATION
 CEMENT BRANCH

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM ARE INDICATED BELOW AND ON THE REVERSE SIDE

OPERATOR (FIRM NAME) Santa Cruz County Parks ADDRESS 979 17th Ave. CITY Santa Cruz ZIP CODE 95062 PHONE NUMBER 454-7908
 OPERATOR IDENTIFICATION/PERMIT NUMBER 44-04-440396 A LICENSE NUMBER 73075 COUNTY (WHERE APPLIED) Santa Cruz COUNTY NUMBER 44 MONTH/YEAR OF USE 2/2010 TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS 2

1. Complete Columns A, B, C, and D for All Users
2. Complete Column E by Using One of the Following Codes
 - Code 10 - Structural Pest Control
 - Code 30 - Landscape Maintenance Pest Control
 - Code 40 - Right-of-Way Pest Control
 - Code 50 - Public Health Pest Control
 - Code 80 - Vertebrate Pest Control
 - Code 91 - Commodity Fumigation (Nonfood/Nonfeed)
 - Code 100 - Regulatory Pest Control
3. Complete Columns F and G, if Use Does not Fit one of the Above Codes

A MANUFACTURER AND NAME OF PRODUCT APPLIED	B EP/CALIFORNIA REGISTRATION NUMBER FROM LABEL INCLUDE ALPHA CODE	C TOTAL PRODUCT USED (Circle One Unit of Measure)	D NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	E CODE	F COMMODITY OR SITE TREATED	G ACRES/UNITS TREATED
Round-up Pro	584 308 AA	81 LB OZ PT QT GA	2	30	Weeds	+ 4
F		LB OZ PT QT GA			9571358	- 4
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				
		LB OZ PT QT GA				

19

REPORT PREPARED BY Margaret Gill

DATE JAN 24 2011

>> From: Bernadette Ramer [mailto:]
>> Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 12:34 PM
>> To: Cristina James
>> Cc: Bob Ramer
>> Subject: Re: Freedom Lake Restoration Project letter of support
>> Importance: High
>>
>> Dear Cristina,
>>
>> I was hoping you could help me with some questions I have about Pinto
>> Lake County Park. Bob and I noticed that there is a frisbee golf
>> course being built in the county park. We have some concerns about
>> how
>> it will affect the bird population there and would like some
>> information on the Environmental Impact Report that may have been
>> done
>> for this project.
>>
>> What we have noticed upon walking in the cleared area is that most
>> of
>> the underbrush has been removed, while this underbrush in many cases
>> is poison oak and berry bushes (as well as some other species), it is
>> also habitat for many bird species who use it for cover, nesting and
>> food.
>>
>> It also seems like they are in the process of extending the current
>> frisbee course to include additional areas that extend more to the
>> back of the park. I think that this would have a negative impact on
>> the accessibility of the area for walkers, joggers and bird watchers.
>> It is my experience in Delaveaga Disc Golf area that it is very
>> difficult to combine frisbee golf with these other activities.
>>
>> Bob has been birding this area his whole life and I for 25 years and
>> we have a great desire to maintain the health of the bird populations
>> at this site and the ability to enjoy it.
>>
>> I would appreciate any help in getting information pertaining to this
>> project.
>>
>> Thank you,
>> Bernadette Ramer
>>
>>
>> <011008GilchristLetter.pdf>

> On Jun 2, 2009, at 1:32 PM, Cristina James wrote:

>> Bernadette.

>> The County Parks Department was approached by a Disc Golf group to
>> install the course at Pinto Lake Park. Originally an 18-hole course
>> was requested. Upon review by the Parks Commission and the County
>> Board of
>> Supervisors a 9-hole course was approved for north-central portion of
>> the Park. The Parks Department worked with Resource Planner, Matt
>> Johnston on the installation of the 9-hole course at Pinto Lake.

>> County
>> Park. Site visits by County Planning staff occurred and County
>> Planning
>> determined that the first phase of this course would have no
>> significant
>> impact on the environment as no changes would be made to existing
>> grades
>> and no significant trees would be removed. County Planning staff
>> required a review by an environmental consultant to determine any
>> possible impacts to nesting birds from vegetation removal. The
>> consultant determined that if work occurred between September 1 and
>> March 1 that impacts would be avoided. The consultant also thought
>> the
>> removal of non-native vegetation was strongly encouraged.

>> Parks staff has again been approached by the Disc Golf Group, to
>> install another nine holes in an area to the north and west of the
>> existing course. Because this area has steeper topography,
>> significant vegetation, and is in a less developed area of the park,
>> the review process will likely be longer and more involved. There
>> will be opportunity for public comment during this environmental
>> review period.

>> In the meantime, I have forwarded your concerns and e-mail to
>> Resource
>> Planner Matt Johnston and to Parks Director, Joe Schultz.

>> If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to
>> contact me at 454-7963.

>> Thank you;

> From: Bernadette Ramer (mailto: [REDACTED])
> Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2009 3:21 PM
> To: Cristina James
> Subject: Re: Freedom Lake Restoration Project letter of support
>
> Is there a written environmental report? If so, I would like to read
> it.
> Was there any peer review of the avian impact section?
> Thanks for the information.
> Bernadette

- > I am attaching a letter from the environmental consultant that was
 - > retained to perform the avian impact analysis for the project for your
 - > information.
 - >
 - > Please give me or Planner Matt Johnston (831)454-3114 a call if you
 - > have
 - > any other questions.
 - >
 - > Thank you again for your support of the Freedom Lake project, Cristina
 - > James County of Santa Cruz
 - > Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services
 - > Office Phone: (831) 454-7963
 - > Cell Phone: (831) 566-6505
 - >
 - > -----Original Message-----
-

6-7-2009

Cristina James

From: Bernadette Ramer [mailto:bramer@pinto.com]
 Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2009 11:38 AM
 To: Cristina James; Matt Johnson
 Cc: Joe Schultz; Gretchen Hill; Bob Olson; David Suddjian; Matthew Strusis-Timmer; Steve Gerow
 Subject: Re: Pinto Lake Disc Golf Inquiry

Dear Cristina James and Matt Johnson,

Bob and I have read the letter from John Gilchrist, and it states that if vegetation removal were done between September 1 and March 1 that a bird survey would not be necessary because birds are not nesting at that time but if vegetation were removed during the nesting season, a prior survey would be necessary.

Given that rationale, it appears that no surveys were done. Similarly, it appears there was no attempt to inventory which plant communities were being impacted and which animal communities depended upon those plant communities for shelter, foraging areas, or breeding habitat. Besides the many bird species that utilize this area, the heavily vegetated hillsides are also home to amphibians, reptiles, and mammals (from shrews, to rabbits, to deer).

Yes, most birds nest between March 1 and September 1; and, by avoiding these months, no nests should be destroyed. But, by removing the vegetation during the fall and winter, this means that when animals wanted to use this area for breeding in the following spring and summer, their habitat was gone. Hence, we believe a survey prior to the vegetation removal should have been done. Now, after the vegetation removal, it will be difficult to document which birds and other animals were using this habitat.

We therefore believe that a thorough investigation of the plant and animal communities inhabiting this area should be done prior to any further vegetation removal and the expansion of the disc golf course. And an attempt should be made to gather data on resident birds (and other animals) using this area year-round, as well as those species that breed here and those that use it as a wintering ground.

There should also be widely publicized announcements to notify interested communities (families, walkers, runners, bird watchers, etc.) who use the park to let them know what is being planned for the park and how it will impact them. This may have been done, but I cannot find any announcement except for an agenda item on May 14, 2007 when Tom Schott proposed the disc golf project.

There seems to be a lot of assumptions about the value of this habitat and its utilization. The best way to validate these assumptions would be a series of scientific surveys that inventory the species present in this area and how they interact with one another.

Respectfully,
 Bernadette Ramer
 On Jun 3, 2009, at 8:35 AM, Cristina James wrote:

24

75

Bernice Romero

From: Matt Johnston
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 9:50 AM
To: Bernice Romero
Subject: FW: Pinto Lake Golf Course

From: Paia Levine
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 11:20 AM
To: Matt Johnston; Kathy Previsich
Subject: RE: Pinto Lake Golf Course

Seems like there is a good argument that the Master Plan, while it did not specifically envision a disc course, did anticipate a wide variety of uses, even including camping. Further, it looks like there was a thorough process for avoiding impacts even though there was no amendment required.

Separate from that, we will give Anna Jean the same consideration once there is a request from Parks for consultation or an application is made for biotic or other review. Part of that will be determining what level of amendment, if any, is required.

Thanks for the research Matt.

p

From: Matt Johnston
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 4:56 PM
To: Kathy Previsich; Paia Levine
Subject: Pinto Lake Golf Course

Here is the breakdown of how we approved the Disc Golf Course at Pinto Lake.

1. As stated in the 1974 EIR, the purpose of the park is to provide such uses as boating, fishing, swimming, soccer, soft ball, kite flying, archery, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, picnicking and camping. The 1976 Master Plan lists various forms of Recreational Development, including laying out a cross country jogging course, providing opportunities for unstructured activities of all types, developing meadows for informal field activities, and developing a hiking trail system connecting all portions of the County Park.
2. In 1982 the Phase II use permit was issued that allowed improvements to include "additional roads and paths, restrooms, picnic areas, observation kiosks and platforms, fishing platforms, pile-supported walkways, camping areas, and other similar recreational activities." 81-0735
3. In 1995 a minor variation was issued (95-0472) to allow the construction of a play area. That play area was upgraded in 2009.
4. The Master Plan was undergoing an update in 2001, but that process appears to have been discontinued. That revision included converting the western meadow to soccer fields, but the cost involved in installing a road for access was found to be prohibitive.
5. In 2004 the Master Plan was amended through a minor variation (03-0507) to allow the installation of a dog park. This differs from the disc golf course in that the Master Plan specifically stated that dogs were not allowed at the park.
6. At the May 14th 2007 P&R Commission Tom Schott presented his proposal for the course. The minutes show support for the project and note that an amendment to the Master Plan would probably be necessary.

7. Between December 2007 and January 2008 Parks requested my help on the permitting of the golf course. I consulted with Claudia and we determined that the project did not meet the definition of development, so long as the tees and pads were not in a riparian area, and the grading did not rise to the level of requiring a grading permit. The proposed course would follow existing trails and a maintenance agreement with the Disc Golf organization was established. All work was done with hand tools. We also determined that the proposed course was consistent with the goals of the Parks Department.
8. March 1 2009 first 9 holes opened. Prior to that I walked the proposed 9 hole course with the course designer and Parks Staff. During the course of that walk, a few of the holes were adjusted to avoid riparian issues and potential erosion.
9. January 29, 2010 site meeting for second 9 holes with myself, John Gilchrist, Parks Staff and course designer. John Gilchrist provided a biotic assessment for the back 9 holes. At that time, temporary pins were in place. After some adjustment of a few holes, those pins were replaced with permanent baskets. 8 of those 9 holes are located around the western meadow that was until recently in agricultural production. The tenant violated the terms of the lease and was not allowed to continue use of the meadow. The meadow was required by the Fire Department to have broad swaths regularly mowed around and through the meadow to break up the fuel load. These swaths were used as the fairways for the course.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA (DISCUSSION ITEMS)

A. ACTION ITEMS



1. Pinto Lake Disc Golf Course Back 9

Tom Schott provided Commissioners with a packet of information as well as a verbal update on the "Front 9" portion of the course and the improved environment at the park because of the increased use and physical presence of more park visitors. He has met with Supervisor Pirie and she supports the additional 9 holes he proposes to add. He has a tournament tentatively scheduled for the weekend before Thanksgiving and hopes to at least get a temporary course set up on the back 9 by then. Mr. Schott stated that he is very aware of the environmental aspects of the park, and wants to protect both plants and animal species that live there.

Director Schultz suggested that the Commission "endorse the concept" and then the Planning staff will need to evaluate environmental impacts, and determine if the course is possible at that location, especially in time for the tournament. Commissioner Rosenberg made a motion to endorse the concept of the back 9 disc golf course and Commission Mercer made the second (4/0). Commissioner Rosenberg made a motion to support the temporary course with no permanent features installed for the November tournament and Commissioner Gomez made the second (4/0).

Parks staff will provide an update of the outcome at the November Commission meeting.



11-6-09
County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOE SCHULTZ, DIRECTOR

DATE: November 6, 2009 AGENDA DATE: November 9, 2009
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Cristina James
SUBJECT: PINTO LAKE DISC GOLF PHASE TWO PROJECT UPDATE

On Monday October 5, 2009 Disc Golf Advocate Tom Schott presented Park Commissioners with a packet of information as well as a verbal update on the existing nine hole disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park. At this meeting, the Parks Commission endorsed the concept of an additional nine holes for the Pinto Lake County Disc Golf Course. The Commissioners also endorsed the concept of installing a temporary course (with no permanent features) for a disc golf tournament to be held on November 20th-22nd. Parks staff was directed to return to the Commission in November with an update on the project progress.

On Tuesday November 3, 2009 Parks staff met with County Planner, Matt Johnston, Ecologist, John Gilchrist, and Tom Schott to walk the site proposed for the additional permanent nine holes and discussed the environmental considerations for this project. At this stage County Planning and the Ecologist do not foresee major environmental concerns for this project (a CEQA exemption is anticipated). The holes will be located on what used to be leased farm land and there are few trees or shrubs in the area. Planning may require certain mitigation measures for the project such as bird boxes, native tree plantings, and/or invasive acacia removal. John Gilchrist is currently preparing a letter with his recommendations for County Planning to make a project determination.

The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community

28

12-2-2009

December 2, 2009

Cristina James
Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Department
979-17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**RE: PINTO LAKE COUNTY PARK DISC GOLF COURSE: SPECIAL-STATUS
SPECIES SITE ASSESSMENT**

Dear Cristina:

The purpose of this letter-report is to provide the County of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department biologic information intended to guide the planning process for installation of an additional 9 holes to the existing disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park. Pinto Lake Park is located about 3 miles north of the City of Watsonville (downtown) with access off Green Valley Road. This assessment focused on the following plant and animal species: Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpa macradenia*), western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata pallida*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), Bryant's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) and San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*).

In summary, other than the woodrat, no focal species were observed during the site assessment, but a definitive statement regarding other species' presence or absence from the project area could not be made at this time due to field survey timing. The project site grassland supports potential nesting habitat for western pond turtle, savannah sparrow and grasshopper sparrow and the adjacent oak woodlands offer possible nesting habitat for white-tailed kite and supports denning woodrats. The site has habitat characteristics that could support Santa Cruz tarplant although due to previous site disturbance none would be expected. Recommendations to avoid/minimize negative impacts to species have been included in this report.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will result in construction of nine additional holes of a disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park. An existing 9-hole course is located within grass landscaping and an oak woodland in the park east of the proposed new course. The two areas will be integrated into an 18-hole course with trail connections. The new disc golf course will use existing mowed fire trails as fairways, with small concrete tee pads and baskets supported on metal posts constructed at each end of the respective fairway. Hand labor and small rubber-tired vehicles to haul materials will be used for tee and basket construction, avoiding use of any large construction equipment. A timber stairway located on a relatively steep slope within the oak woodland will connect the new 9-hole course to the existing course.

METHODS

John Gilchrist conducted a reconnaissance-level survey to evaluate the project site for existing vegetation and special-status plant and animal species on November 5, 2009. Bryan Mori and John Gilchrist conducted a similar survey on November 19, but focused in that survey on potential for special status breeding birds. The entire length of the project site was walked, with

Pinto Lake County Park Disc Golf Phase 2 Biotic Assessment

1

29

80

special attention paid to proposed fairways, tees and basket locations (Figure 1). Habitat conditions observed were recorded in a field notebook and the project site photographed. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was accessed and other biologists were consulted for records of special-status species in the project area.

EXISTING CONDITIONS—Vegetation and Wildlife

The project site encompasses a moderately large tract of grassland along the top of a northwest-southeast oriented terrace with slopes extending into Pinto Lake. The surrounding habitat is predominantly oak woodland, with freshwater marsh and aquatic habitat on lower slopes at the south, east and west base of the terrace. For the purposes of this study, the assessment focused on the grassland and oak woodland habitats that are present in the project area.

Annual Grassland

Annual grassland covers almost the entire area of the proposed disc golf expansion site. Because the site was farmed within the last 6-10 years, a large number of plant species are non-native. (Non-native species are shown with an asterisk). Herbaceous species within this grassland include poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)*, wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*)*, Italian thistle (*Carduus* sp.)*, little hop clover (*Trifolium dubium*)*, filaree (*Erodium botrys*)*, California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Grassland species include common rush (*Juncus patens*), rattail fescue (*Vulpia myuros*)*, soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*)*, quaking grass (*Brisa minor*)*, wild oat (*Avena fatua*)* and others that couldn't be identified due to the timing of field survey. Larger shrub species, including coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) are also present in the meadow and may indicate a natural succession toward a coastal scrub/ oak woodland community.

Grasslands are used by a wide variety of wildlife species. The habitat support rodents, rabbits and hares, and ground foraging and nesting birds. In turn, these species form the prey base for large predators, such as foxes and coyotes, as well as raptors. The grassland habitat values on the project site has been compromised somewhat due to past agricultural uses and current mowing practices for fire control. The predominance of non-native weeds (e.g., hemlock, thistle, radish, etc.) also may lessen the quality of the habitat for species that prefer native grasses. Despite these disturbances, the largely undeveloped nature of the surrounding area and the relatively large grassland size may moderate these disturbances, helping to maintain its habitat values.

Oak Woodland

Oak Woodland exists along the periphery of the grassland and along slopes leading to Pinto Lake wetlands. Dominate plant species include coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*)*, green wattle acacia (*Acacia decurrens*)*, coffeeberry, coyote brush, California blackberry and California wild rose (*Rosa californica*).

In general, oak woodlands are considered critical habitats for the conservation of many bird and mammal species; over 300 vertebrate species are known to use oak trees. Noteworthy features of oak habitats include acorns, snags and cavity-bearing trees. As a seasonal food, acorns play an important role in the survival of many species of wildlife in fall, since a mature oak can produce thousands of acorns during a favorable year. Mature oak trees frequently bear snag limbs and natural cavities as a result of limb scars. Snags are important resources for such uses as nesting, roosting, foraging, caching and wintering, but especially critical to primary cavity-nesters such as

woodpeckers, which prefer dead trees and limbs for excavation of roost and nest sites. Snags and branches bearing natural cavities also are critical for secondary cavity-nesting birds (e.g., chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, etc.), and as den or roost sites for small mammals. Due to the inherent high wildlife value of oaks, oak habitats are protected resources of the State.

The oak woodlands surrounding the project site is largely intact except for small areas where management activities have thinned/cleared understory vegetation. The woodland consists of large, mature live oaks, with multiple cavities and snag limbs. And where understory vegetation is untouched, the habitat structure is diverse and complex. Overall, the habitat values of the oak woodlands appear to be high, especially given its isolated nature within the surrounding agricultural and suburban landscape.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Special-status species are species with state or federal endangered/threatened status, federal proposed or candidate species for listing, California species of special concern, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) listed, or locally significant species which could be protected under CEQA Section 15380(d).

The federal threatened and state endangered Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpa macradenia*) has the potential to be present at this site due to habitat similarities to south county locations where tarplant is found. However remnant (senescent) tarplants probably would have visible during field surveys and none were found. In addition, recent discing of the site for agricultural activities would undoubtedly have eliminated this species if it had been present historically. No new surveys for Santa Cruz tarplant are recommended.

Several other sensitive plant species are listed in California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) and CNPS records but would not be present at the site due to habitat affinities and prior disturbance.

Based on a review of the CNDDDB Watsonville West and Watsonville East quadrangles, knowledge of the geographic range and habitat affinities of special-status wildlife expected to occur in the project region, and habitat conditions observed in the project area, five special-status wildlife species were identified as potential inhabitants within or immediately adjacent to the project site and that could be negatively impacted by the project - western pond turtle, white-tailed kite, Bryant's savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow and SF dusky-footed woodrat. Descriptions of the protection status, natural history and records of local occurrence for these species are presented, below, and summarized below in Table 1.

31

82

Table 1. Special-Status Wildlife - Pinto Lake County Park Disc Golf Project

Species	Status	Occurrence on Site
Western Pond Turtle	CSC	Potential nesting habitat (grasslands) for pond turtles is present on the site. Pond turtles are known to inhabit Pinto Lake.
White-tailed Kite	FP	Potential nesting habitat (trees in oak woodland) for kites is present immediately adjacent to the project site; grasslands could provide foraging habitat.
Bryant's Savannah Sparrow	CSC	Potential nesting habitat (grasslands) for savannah sparrows is present on the site. Savannah sparrows nest in the Pajaro Valley.
Grasshopper Sparrow	CSC	Potential nesting habitat (grasslands) for grasshopper sparrows is present on the site. Grasshopper sparrows nest in the Pajaro Valley.
S. F. Dusky-footed Woodrat	CSC	Woodrat nests are present in the oak woodlands surrounding the project site, some nests immediately adjacent to the site.

Status Codes: CSC = California Species of Special Concern; FP = State Fully Protected.

Several other special-status species also were considered, but are not discussed further for one or more of the following reasons: 1) the species is believed to be extirpated from the area; 2) the species is expected to occur on the study site only as a transient; 3) wintering individuals may be present, however, only the breeding population of the species is protected and the study site does not provide nesting habitat; 4) species may occur or are known to inhabit Pinto Lake, but the proposed project is not likely to result in negative impacts to those species; and 5) the current level of management and recreational uses likely create unsuitable breeding conditions. They include California newt (*Taricha torosa*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytoni*), American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), merlin (*F. columbarius*), olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperii*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallida*) and western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*).

Western Pond Turtle

The western pond turtle is a State species of special concern (CDFG 2009). The western pond turtle has been separated into two subspecies *Actinemys m. marmorata* is the northern subspecies and *Actinemys m. pallida* is the southern subspecies. In California, the pond turtle is distributed mostly along the Pacific slope drainages from Oregon to Mexico (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Pond turtles primarily occur in permanent freshwater ponds, lakes, marshes and quiet waters of streams (Bury and Holland 1993). Pond turtles favor sites with the largest and deepest pools and with an abundance of basking sites (e.g., partially submerged logs or rocks, matted emergent vegetation, exposed shorelines) and where undercut banks, root masses and boulders provide underwater escape cover (Bury and Holland 1993). Pond turtles are highly sensitive and will seek cover when approached within 100 meters (Bury and Holland 1993). Although aquatic, pond turtles leave the water to reproduce, aestivate and overwinter (Jennings and Hayes 1994). During dispersal, pond turtles can move up to two kilometers in search of suitable habitat and can tolerate a minimum of seven days without water (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Studies on central

coast drainages show that turtles use upland habitat within 50 meters of a creek in times of drought or to avoid winter floods (Rathbun *et al* 2002) and up to 500 meters in other studies (Reese and Welsh 1997). From May through August, females dig nests and deposit eggs along the shoreline or in a variety of open, sparsely vegetated upland habitats, usually within 200 meters of water, but as much as 500 meters, and mostly on south-facing slopes with well-drained clay soils (Rathbun *et al* 1992; Jennings and Hayes 1994). Nests must remain dry for proper incubation. The young hatch and may overwinter in the nest, before emerging in the spring (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Hatchlings require shallow water habitat with dense emergent vegetation and abundant zooplankton (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Pond turtles reach sexual maturity between seven and fourteen years of age (Bury and Holland 1993) and live to be over 42 years (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Pond turtles are threatened by habitat alteration and loss due to water development, agricultural practices and non-native predators (Jennings and Hayes 1994).

Local Occurrence: According to the CNDDDB, western pond turtles have been recorded at Pinto Lake, where 23 turtles were observed in the northern portion of the lake in 1988.

Site Assessment: The project site grassland provides potential nesting habitat for western pond turtles. Presently, the perimeter of the project site and mowed paths through the center of the site are distributed for purposes of fire control. This activity likely does not directly impact potential nesting habitat since mowing rather than discing is used to remove vegetation.

White-tailed Kite

The white-tailed kite is designated a State "fully protected" species (CDFG 2009). Once considered extirpated throughout much of California in the early 1900s (Faanes and Howard 1987) due to habitat loss and indiscriminate shootings (Palmer 1988), kite populations have increased significantly since the 1960's (Faanes and Howard 1987; Palmer 1988). Presently, kites are distributed throughout the coastal foothills and valleys along the entire length of the state, throughout the Central Valley, and into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada (Dunk 1995). White-tailed kites inhabit grassland, oak savannah, agricultural and wetlands habitats, as well as riparian corridors adjacent to open fields (CDFG 1990; Dunk 1995). Kites nest in isolated trees or trees located in dense stands near foraging habitat (Palmer 1988; Dunk 1995). Small mammals, especially voles, constitute a major portion of their diet (CDFG 1990; Dunk 1995). In fact, the increase in California vole (*Microtus californicus*) populations has contributed to this species' comeback in California (Faanes and Howard 1987; Palmer 1988). Nests are built in the upper third of trees with tree heights ranging from three to five meters; nests are generally not reused (Dunk 1995). Up to two broods are produced in a season, even if the first nesting is successful (Palmer 1988; Dunk 1995). Incubation lasts 30 - 32 days with fledging occurring four to five weeks after hatching (Dunk 1995). During winter, kites usually spend the night at communal roosts that may support >100 individuals (Dunk 1995). Recent breeding bird surveys from the 1980s to 1990s suggest a declining trend. The decline may be due to a combination of factors such as habitat conversion of grasslands and agricultural fields to urban development, and long-term drought (Dunk 1995).

Local Occurrence: In Santa Cruz County, white-tailed kites are uncommon during the breeding season and fairly common in fall and winter (Suddjian 2006). Locally, kites are most common in the lower Pajaro Valley, with records from nearby College Lake (Suddjian 1990; Roberson and Tenney 1993). The local breeding season spans March through July.

Site Assessment: Potential nest sites are present in the oak woodlands and eucalyptus grove adjacent to the project site, while the grasslands offer potential foraging habitat. Presently, the

perimeter of the project site is mowed and irregular mowing paths are distributed across the center of site for the purposes of fire control. The site is used for hiking, walking dogs and a high school cross country course. There is uncertainty regarding how these land uses may affect nesting habitat potential. No kites were observed on-site during the course of this study; however focused surveys for this species were not performed.

Bryant's Savannah Sparrow

The Bryant's savannah sparrow is a State species of special concern (breeding population) (CDFG 2009). This subspecies is endemic to California and distributed within the coastal zone from Humboldt County south to northern Monterey County (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Savannah sparrows inhabit low tidally influenced wetlands, adjacent moist grasslands and drier grasslands just above the fog-belt (Shuford and Gardali 2008). They appear to prefer habitat characterized by bare ground patches interspersed in tall herbaceous vegetation, but vegetation height is variable throughout their range (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Savannah sparrows forage mostly on seeds and fruit in winter but mostly insects and other invertebrates during spring and summer (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Nests are built by females on the ground in dense ground cover, so that the nest can only be approached by a tunnel from one side (Kaufman 1996); occasionally nests are perched several inches off the ground in wetland situations (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Incubation is between 10- 13 days, with fledging occurring 8 - 11 days after hatching (Kaufman 1996). Savannah sparrows produce 1 - 2 broods. Loss of wetland habitat is believed to be the primary threat to this subspecies (Shuford and Gardali 2008).

Local Occurrence: Savannah sparrows are uncommon, localized residents in Santa Cruz County, with numbers supplemented in the winter by migrants (Suddjian 2006). The nesting season spans late March to late July (Suddjian 1990). Local nesting locations include the Pajaro Valley (Suddjian 1990).

Site Assessment: The project site may provide potential nesting habitat for savannah sparrows. Presently, the perimeter of the project site is mowed and irregular mowing lines are distributed across the site for purposes of fire control. The site is used for hiking, walking dogs and by high school cross country runners. There is uncertainty regarding how these land uses may affect nesting habitat potential. No savannah sparrows were observed on-site during the course of this study; however focused surveys for this species were not performed.

Grasshopper Sparrow

The grasshopper sparrow is a State species of special concern (breeding population) (CDFG 2009). This species is distributed along the Coast Ranges from Mendocino County south to San Diego County, the Central Valley and west of the Sierra Nevada crest (Shuford and Gardali 2008). In general, grasshopper sparrows inhabit grasslands of low to moderate height vegetation, with occasional shrubs, but habitat characteristics are variable throughout their range (Shuford and Gardali 2008). They appear to prefer large tracts of habitat over small patches (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Grasshopper sparrows forage largely on insects (especially grasshoppers) but supplement their diet with seeds from a variety of herbs (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Birds may nest in small colonies. Nests are built by females on the ground in dense ground cover, so that the nest rim is level with the ground and the cup is partially concealed by a dome and accessed from one side (Kaufman 1996; Shuford and Gardali 2008). Incubation is by the female only and lasts from 11- 12 days, with fledging occurring about 9 days after hatching (Kaufman 1996). Grasshopper sparrows produce 1 - 2 broods. Urbanization is believed to be the primary threat to this subspecies (Shuford and Gardali 2008).

34

85

Local Occurrence: Savannah sparrows are fairly common in the breeding season and rare in fall and winter (Suddjian 2006). Nesting locations in South County include the lower Pajaro Valley and Soda Lake (Suddjian 1990).

Site Assessment: The project site may provide potential nesting habitat for grasshopper sparrows. Presently, the perimeter of the project site is mowed and irregular mowing lines are distributed across the center of the site for the purposes of fire control. The site is used for hiking, walking dogs and cross country teams. There is uncertainty regarding how these land uses may affect nesting habitat potential. No grasshopper sparrows were observed on-site during the course of this study; however focused surveys for this species were not performed.

San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat

The San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*) is a state species of special concern (CDFG 2009). This subspecies is distributed through the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range from the Pajaro River north to the San Francisco Bay (Hall 1981). The dusky-footed woodrat is most common in riparian, oak woodland and scrub habitats, but is able to persist in rural areas in proximity to houses, when patches of native habitat are present. A study of a similar subspecies *N. f. luciana* on Camp Roberts found that densities increased significantly if dense under-story was present; densities reached 46.7 animals per hectare in plots of dense vegetation (Tietje 1995). Woodrats typically build nests of sticks and other debris on the ground, in the lower branches of trees and occasionally in human-made structures. Nests are often reused by successive generations and some can become six feet or more in height. Other atypical dens, including tree cavities, rock crevices and ground holes, are well-hidden and easily overlooked. Dens are used for rearing young, protection from predators, resting, food storage, thermal protection and social interaction (Carraway and Verts 1991). Individual woodrats can use and maintain more than one den and, occasionally, more than one woodrat can occupy a den (Fargo and Laudenslayer 1999). Woodrat dens are also used by a wide variety of native amphibians, small mammals, reptiles and insects (Ingles 1965; Carraway and Verts 1991). Woodrats feed on a variety of plant material, including seeds, nuts, berries and leaves, oftentimes foraging above the forest floor (Jameson and Peeters 2004). Woodrat home ranges may cover 46.2 acres, but activity may also be limited to a single tree over an individual's lifetime (CDFG 1990). They are mostly nocturnal in habit and active throughout the year. Dusky-footed woodrats breed year-round and may produce up to five litters per year, with litters containing one to four young (CDFG 1990). Development of oak woodlands and clearing of brushy under-story are possible threats to this species.

Local Occurrence: Woodrat nests are fairly common in the oak woodlands surrounding Pinto Lake (pers. obs.), and several were observed within the oak woodland margins adjacent to the perimeter of the project site.

Site Assessment: The project site does not provide denning habitat for woodrats, due to the absence of dense woody vegetation, although the immediate adjacent woodland areas do provide denning habitat and have visible nests.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The County Parks and Recreation Department is proposing to add nine holes to the current disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park. The following discussion evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed disc golf course on special-status species, and provides recommendations to offset potential impacts.

Western Pond Turtle

The western pond turtle is presumed to be present at Pinto Lake, based on observations in 1988. The grasslands on the project site may provide upland nesting habitat for pond turtles. Since no ground disturbance is proposed as part of the project (e.g., grading), direct impacts to nests are unlikely. Indirect impacts of trampling are not expected to be significant, given that much of the foot traffic would be along the fairways, which represent a small fraction of available habitat. Also, successful nesting has been reported from active horse corrals, suggesting that some level of trampling is tolerable. The capture of turtles on walkabouts, however, is a possible significant impact and the following measure is recommended.

Recommendation 1: Post pond turtle interpretive signs around the periphery of the golf course. The signs should include language indicating the importance of pond turtle nesting habitat and prohibiting the capture or harassment of turtles.

White-tailed Kite

Potential nesting habitat is present in the woodlands surrounding the project site. Although direct impacts to nesting habitat are unlikely, the additional presence of park users could disturb nesting activity, if trees adjacent to the project site are used as nest sites. The following measure is recommended.

Recommendation 2: Situate the fairways, tees and baskets to direct the flight of discs away from the woodland areas. Specifically the tees and baskets for holes 3 and 7 should be moved about 20-25 feet into the meadow to reduce the chances of errant discs affecting nest sites.

Bryant's Savannah Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow

Potential nesting habitat is present in the grasslands on the project site. The suitability of the grassland as nesting habitat, however, is uncertain, given current and past land uses and without additional focused surveys. As designed, the new fairways are located within mowed strips maintained for fire control. As they exist, the strips do not provide nesting habitat for these birds, as they lack suitable cover for concealment of nest sites; therefore, the additional use as fairways likely would not directly impact nesting habitat. Mowing outside of these fire control strips, however, could directly destroy nests, depending on the timing of mowing. In addition, golfers searching for wayward discs in the grassland habitat outside of the fairway could lead to disruption of nesting activities, if nests are present. The following measures are recommended.

Recommendation 3: Maintain signing indicating the possible presence of ground-nesting birds and importance of keeping discs on existing mowed fairways insofar as possible.

Recommendation 4: No discing or mowing outside of the present fire control lines should be permitted during the breeding season (1 March through 31 August).

S. F. Dusky-footed Woodrat

No direct impacts to dusky-footed woodrats are expected as a result of the project, as the grasslands are not considered woodrat habitat. However, indirect impacts to woodrat nests, such as trampling, could occur if golfers enter into the woodlands to retrieve wayward discs. The following measure is intended to avoid inadvertent damage to woodrat nests.

Recommendation 5: Post woodrat interpretive signs around the periphery of the golf course. The signs should emphasize that golfers take steps to avoid directly disturbing the nests, while searching for wayward discs. Recommendation #2 is also applicable to this species.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any comments or questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

John Gilchrist

Attachments: References

37

88

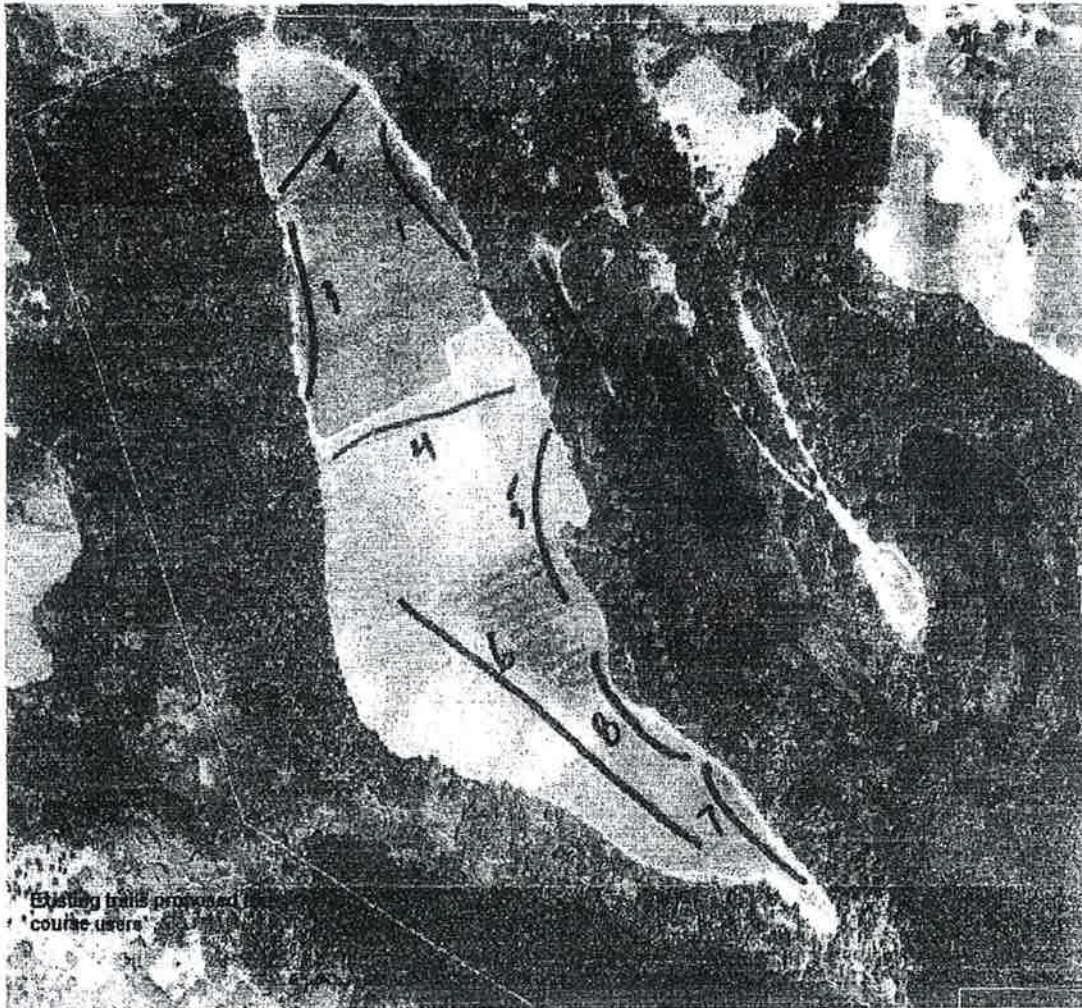
REFERENCES\PERSONS CONTACTED

- Bury, R. B. and D.C. Holland. 1993. (Draft) *Clemmys marmorata* (Baird and Girard 1852), Western Pond Turtle. In Pritchard, P. C. H. and A. G. J. Rhodin (Eds.) *Conservation Biology of Freshwater Turtles*. IUCN Special Publication.
- Bury, R. B. and J. H. Wolfheim. 1973. *Aggression in Free-Living Pond Turtles (Clemmys marmorata)*. BioScience Vol. 23, No. 11.
- California Department of Fish and Game. 2009. Special Animals. List of special status animals (dated July 2009). Sacramento, California.
- _____. 1990. California's Wildlife. Volume I Amphibians and Reptiles, Volume II Birds, Volume III Mammals. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2009. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. Online edition, v7-09c, 7-14-09. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA. <http://cnps.web.aplus.net/cgi-bin/inv/inventory.cgi>.
- California Natural Diversity Data Base. 2009. Watsonville West and Watsonville East Quadrangles.
- Carraway, L.N. and B.J. Verts. 1991. *Neotoma fuscipes*. Mammalian Species 386:1-10.
- Dunk, J. R. 1995. White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*). In Birds of North America, No. 178 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- Faanes, C. A. and R. J. Howard. 1987. Habitat Suitability Index Models: Black-shouldered Kite. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Biological Report 82(10.130).
- Fargo, R. And W. F. Laudenslayer. 1999. *Are House Counts Reliable Estimators of Dusky-footed Woodrat Population Size?* In Transactions of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society 31:53-57.
- Hall, E. R. 1981. *The Mammals of North America*. John Wiley and Sons, New York.
- Hickman, J.C. (Ed.). 1993. *The Jepson Manual; Higher Plants of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. 1400 pp.
- Ingles, L.G. 1965. *Mammals of the Pacific States*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 506 pp.
- Jameson, E. W. and H. J. Peeters. 1988. *California Mammals*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Jennings, M. R. and M. P. Hayes. 1994. *Amphibian and Reptile Species of Concern in California*. California Department of Fish and Game. Sacramento, CA.
- Kaufman, K. 1996. *Lives of North American Birds*. Houghton Mifflin Company.

- Palmer, R. S. (ed.). 1988. Handbook of North American Birds, Diurnal Raptors Vols. 4 & 5. Yale University Press.
- Rathbun, G.B., N. Siepel, and D. Holland. 1992. *Nesting Behavior and Movements of Western Pond Turtles* (*Clemmys marmorata*). The Southwestern Naturalist, Vol. 37, No. 3, September.
- Rathbun, G. B., Scott, N. J. and T. G. Murphey. 2002. *Terrestrial Habitat use by Pacific Pond Turtles in a Mediterranean Climate*. Southwestern Naturalist, Vol. 47, No. 2.
- Reese D. A. and H. H. Welsh. 1997. *Use of Terrestrial Habitat by Western Pond Turtles, Clemmys marmorata: Implications for Management*. Proceedings: Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Tortoises and Turtles, pp 352-357.
- Roberson, D. and C. Tenney (eds.). 1993. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Monterey County California. Monterey Peninsula Audubon's Society. Ryan Ranch Printers, Monterey, CA.
- Shuford, W. D. and T. Gardali, Eds. 2008. *California Bird Species of Special Concern*. Studies of Western Birds No. 1, published jointly by the Western Field Ornithologists and California Department of Fish and Game.
- Suddjian, D. L. 1990. *Atlaser's Assistant*. Santa Cruz County Breeding Birds Atlas Project sponsored by the Santa Cruz Bird Club.
- Suddjian, D. L. 2006. *Checklist of Birds of Santa Cruz County*. Santa Cruz Bird Club.
- Tietje, W. 1995. *Woodrat Abundance and Habitat Measurements in Oak Woodland at Camp Roberts, California: Preliminary Results*. In: Transactions of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society 31:53-57.

Personal Communications:

David Suddjian, Suddjian Biological Consulting Services, Capitola.



INTO LAKE COUNTY PARK DISC GOLF PHASE TWO--COURSE MAP

Figure 1. Project Site Layout

40.

91

Site Analysis

Sensitive Areas

Previous analyses of the park site have identified several elements which are vulnerable to degradation with development of the park. (Harvey, Hartesveldt, Heath and Stanley, Inc.) The current plan is intended to avoid and minimize impact to the following elements in an effort to protect their integrity:

- Wetland/marshland areas
- Lake water quality
- Steep forested slopes bordering the lake
- Riparian drainage courses tributary to the lake
- Lake shoreline
- Wildlife species which depend upon the lake

Wildlife species and sensitive areas are susceptible to negative impacts from erosion and lake sedimentation, introductions of exotic and invasive species, as well as other habitat disturbances. The preparation and utilization of Environmental Feasibility Reports on larger projects, the mandatory environmental reviews conducted during the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process, combined with strategic and sequential development in appropriate areas will help ensure that sensitive elements within the park are maintained in a healthy state into the future.



Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Assessor Parcel Number: **050-141-02, 11**

Project Location: **Pinto Lake County Park, 679 Green Valley Rd., in the Watsonville area**

Project Description:

The Pinto Lake County Park Disc Golf Phase Two Project shall expand the current 9-hole disc golf course to 18 holes. The course shall be constructed primarily within an area of Pinto Lake County Park that was previously leased as agricultural land and is currently fallow (pictured above). The proposed course will connect to the existing 9-hole disc golf course via two existing trails (see attached Disc Golf Course Map). The disc golf will be constructed using hand labor and soft rubber tire vehicles to haul material. No large construction equipment shall be used. Materials include concrete for tee pads, metal posts and baskets for holes, lumber and concrete for a bench at each tee. A stairway to connect one of the trails to the upper meadow will be constructed with timber stairs. The course has been designed so that it avoids stands of native vegetation. All effort has been made in the design to arrest potential erosion by visitor traffic. Signage will help guide visitors to tees via established pathways.

Person or Agency Proposing Project: Cristina James, Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services

Staff Contact and Phone Number: 831-454-7963

- A. The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
- B. The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
- C. **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
- D. **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).
- E. **Categorical Exemption**

Specify type:

Class 4: Minor alterations to land

F. Reasons why the project is exempt:

All work to be done by hand, including installation of 9, 4-foot by 8-foot concrete pads and 9 poles for baskets. No grading is involved.

In addition, none of the conditions described in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

Staff Planner: _____

Date: February 17, 2010

42

93

Various videos posted by disc golfers

Some of these show portions of Pinto Lake Park before or just after the course was installed. Some videos also demonstrate how the area around the concrete tees end up eroded (golfers' throwing techniques), how golfers frequently go into out-of-bounds areas and how trees are damaged by disc strikes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hB2uUAUTGao&feature=related>

Developing the Course - Pinto Lake with Tom Schot

You see portions of Pinto Lake as it was before the disc golf course was installed.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHXNcO-hRnM>

Preview 2011 Pro Worlds at AJC – check out actions/dialogue at 1:14 – his “fun” throw is directly into a public parking area with no conscious regard to anyone or anything below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsnjY3qGak&feature=related>

2011 Pro Worlds Field Events at AJC

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ93xZrZ1ZY>

Distance throwing event at 2011 Pro World at AJC. These professional competitors are throwing directly towards a children's playground at speeds more than 70 mph. Longest throw is at 2:27

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZMTTrKjbQ>

Death from above – video from DeLaveaga. Discs frequently do not go in the direction the thrower wishes. This wayward disc goes into the parking lot with little notice to people there.

<http://www.pdga.com/videos/wdg-pinto-lake-opening>

Pinto Lake Opening

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx7GFZRGtVE&feature=related>

Working towards the World Championship

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68e0YsbCuX0>

Faultline Classic at Pinto Lake and DeLaveaga

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMb8BCeFvbK>

Pinto Lake December 2010 Go Ducks Tour

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0aFbgKmMKI>

2011 Pro Worlds, helicopter from the fairway view + more

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ViCbuitPws&feature=channel&list=UL>

Pinto Lake (sneak peak) The permit required only hand tools, soft rubber tired vehicles and no large construction equipment. At 0:37, you see a large truck towing a commercial-sized shredder; at 1:00, you see a front-loader or grader.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AibRV25k-s&feature=youtu.be>

This video that shows how golfers retrieve misthrown discs from out-of-bounds areas and how disc strikes damage trees.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpkWB6-mDNQ&feature=related>

An 8-min Round at Pinto Lake - Pro Worlds 2011 Layout

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rPf5rq2QV4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sipkJUvsluA&feature=related>

These are commercial promos for the Pinto Lake 2011 Pro Worlds Tournament

Review By: JHern 

Played: 73 Reviewed: 47 Exp: 4.8 Years

[4 Helpful / 1 Not](#)

Pros: Pinto Lake Championship Disc Golf Course is another of those stories of an amazing property that had been left idle and neglected for decades, until a crew of dedicated hard-working locals came in and carved a gorgeous course out of the mess...one that is certainly worthy of hosting a World Championship. I first played Pinto Lake in October 2010, which is long after this major project had begun (several years earlier). In just the time I've known Pinto Lake, it has been transformed into one of the most special places for disc golf I've ever experienced. I just can't believe how stunningly gorgeous it is now. In just the past few months the crew has cleared dozens of acres of the most dense and brutal poison oak. They've also established trails, which local residents also come out to enjoy. The stuff was so thick that nobody ever knew there were all these beautiful oak trees hidden in all that mess, which have been excavated, pruned, sculpted, and are now surrounded by green grass and the occasional flower patch. Simply marvelous.

The original 9 holes (1-4, 14-18) play through variably dense forested land with big oaks and eucalyptus on finger like peninsulas sticking out into Pinto Lake. Long tight fairways (1, 2, 3, 14, 18), lots of elevation, epic par 4 tunnels (hole 2!), and even irresistible ace runs (holes 15, 17) are awesome by themselves. The virtual elimination of poison oak from the fairways, the establishment of grassy landing areas, and clearly marked OB along the sides are typical of every hole in this part of the course.

The back 9, including the meadow, have undergone a similar transformation. Don't believe earlier reviews that said these holes are just open bombers...with the variable winds, elevation, and deceptively narrow fairways, it is always a challenge to throw long and not go OB. There is a very good risk/reward trade-off on all these holes, and even the most skilled players go OB quite often if their disc stalls and doesn't turnover, or flips over too long and gets carried off on an air current. Anyone who says it's easy out there probably went OB dozens of times without knowing it is OB. The fairways in the meadow are also well-manicured, kept green by watering, and have clear edges with posts and rope installed along the edges of the fairways. They also play fast and skipky when your disc lands, which increases the challenge. Rollers are difficult to use, as the disc always starts curling up and usually runs off OB. I've shot under par on these holes several times, but it required very accurate long upshots and hitting big putts to do so.

There is no question that hole 12 is soon going to be considered one of the most beautiful disc golf holes in the world. It's the one that I dream most about aching. It starts off in the meadow and plays down a gradual slope (357') that begins as a wide fairway, but becomes more and more narrow as you get further down onto a peninsula that is surrounded by Pinto Lake on all sides. Pruned oak trees and manicured grass along the sides get closer together and converge at several larger oaks. To pass further you have to get your disc under the arches, and behind them is a cluster of small/young oaks, with the basket on the other side. As you walk out onto the green, you can enjoy views of the lake and surrounding countryside in all directions through the oaks. Now that the poison oak and other undergrowth are cleared out, the view is spectacular. You might even decide to spend the rest of your day down there...bring a picnic, relax a little while, get into the Pinto Lake vibe.

I love challenge, and hole 14 is probably the most challenging on the course. The goal is to try and play safely up the trail in 2 throws and try to find a window to run at the basket for birdie (par 4). If you stay on the right side of the path, you'll eventually find open sky to the right and an opportunity for a spike hyzer over the top...a really fun shot, but of course, watch out for getting caught by the oak trees if you miss the open window around the basket. If you end up on the left side of the path, you'll be looking at tight routes through the oak trees to the basket.

There are relatively well-kept bathrooms near the parking lot. Also near the parking lot you can find water, picnic areas, BBQ pits, soccer fields, baseball fields, etc.. It's a very nice park, with many of the amenities you'd expect to find in the most popular of all Santa Cruz County Parks.

44

95

What else?

- Great tee pads
- Nice benches
- New Mach 3 baskets
- Fantastic locals
- Etc.

Cons: Stay on the fairway. The rough is really rough in places. The fairways are in superb condition, but OB is different: there is lots of poison oak, stinging nettles, water, and other nasties if you go OB. This isn't a beginner course. Stay on the fairway, and you'll be very happy. If you can't keep it on the fairway, you'll probably not enjoy this course very much. Also, watch out for pedestrians on holes 2, 4, 13, and 14. The manicured course is attracting more people who want to come out and see the beautiful new parkland created for disc golf. The regular part of the park (not the disc golf course) gets really busy on weekends, and parking can sometimes be tough to find. Be sure to plan accordingly.

Other Thoughts: I highly recommend that you play safe the first round, or do a walk-through before playing, and get a feel for the dangers down the fairway before trying anything risky. Check out the map, if you can get online.

The OB areas in the meadow are being left alone to grow up into continuous tree stands. Planting of redwoods, oaks, and other trees is going to help accelerate this process. When you come back in 10 years, this will no longer be called a "meadow" because you won't be able to see across it. Instead, every fairway will be a narrow tunnel playing between juvenile forest on all sides. You won't even be able to see the other holes. If you could come back in 50 years, you'd see large redwood stands lining long narrow shady fairways of emerald green grass. This place is going to be even more epic!

If you're looking for an extra special experience, go to the lower Pinto Lake Park entrance (a mile back on Green Valley Rd), and rent a paddle boat. From there, you can paddle directly across the lake to hole 12.

4 of 5 people found this review helpful.

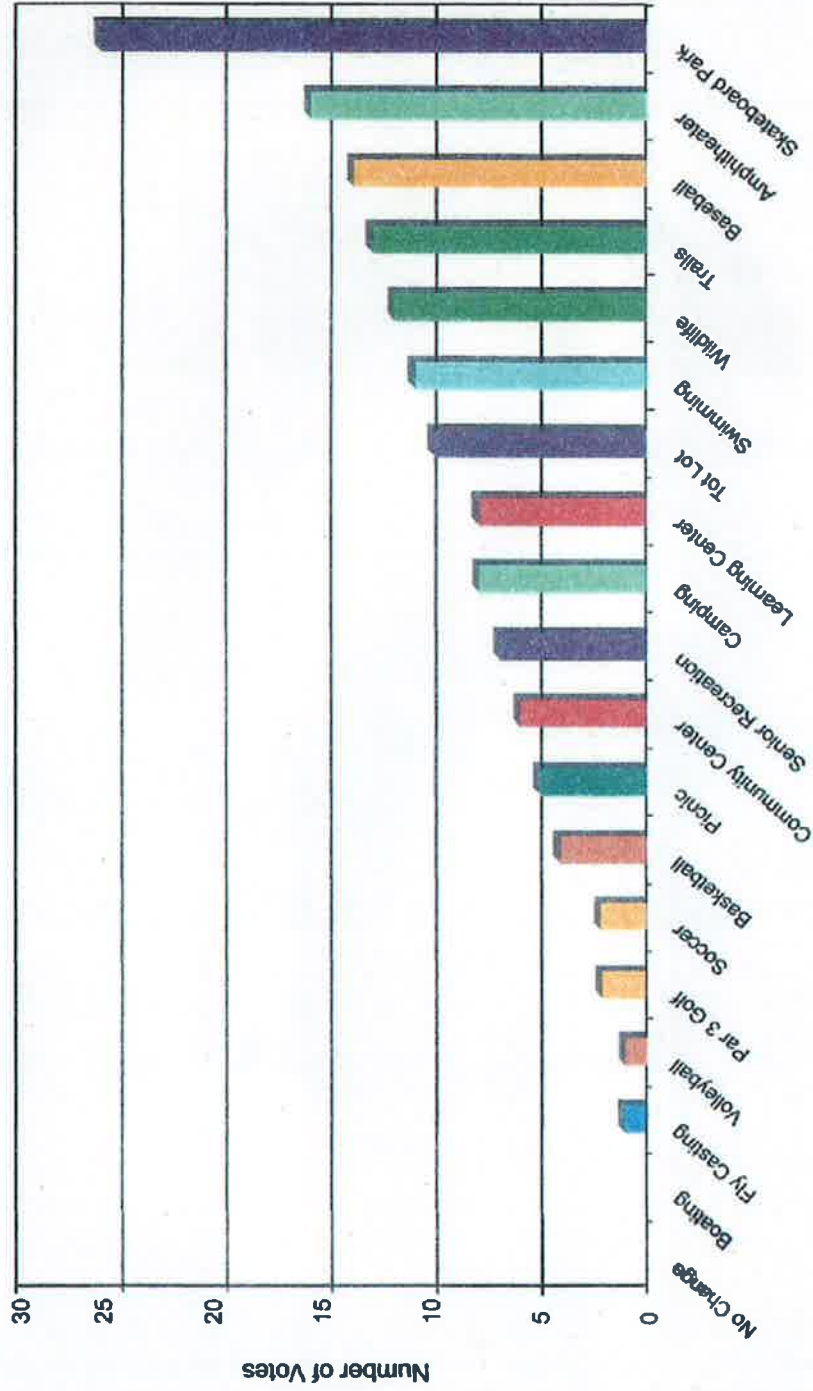
 Report this Review

45

45
96

Program Development

Consensus Building Results



Uses
 Note: Although the consensus building exercise resulted in the graph shown, the subsequent meeting was well attended by a large contingency of soccer advocates. In recognition of their wishes, and of those who could not attend, soccer was added to the program as a high priority. Public Outreach Meeting #4, April 25, 2001

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

46

Design Elements

Zone C: Pinto Lake West

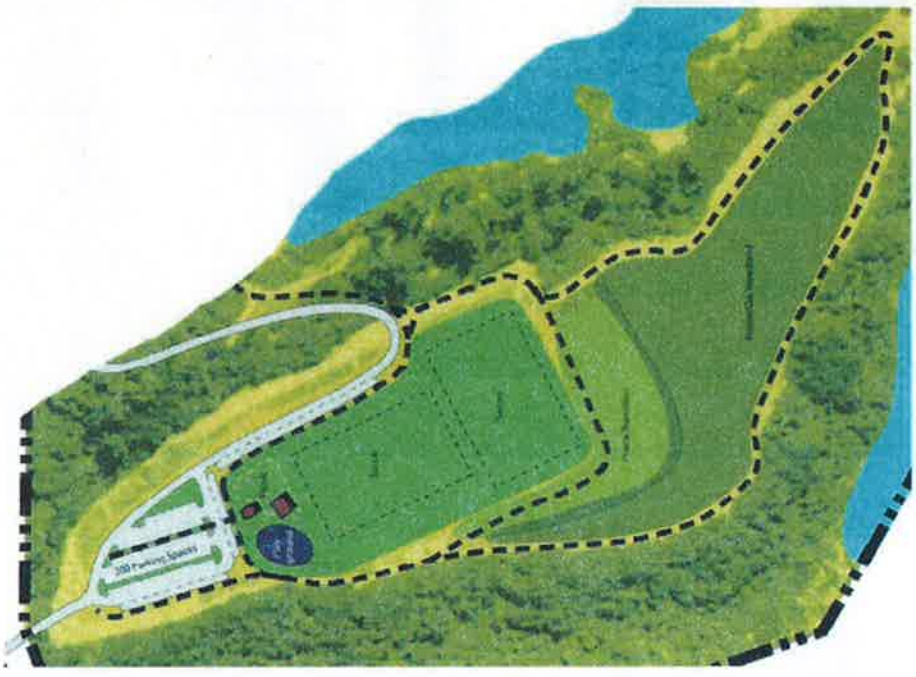
The 25 acres on the western side of the site currently used for organic farming (lease expires June 1st 2003) is suggested as a future site for a soccer park, a meadow/prairie transition zone and an oak woodland/prairie habitat restoration project.

Prairie/Oak Woodland - Approximately 12 acres of current farmland is proposed to be restored to wildlife habitat with the revegetation of prairie and oak woodland areas. This will include native tree, shrub and grassland plantings in naturalistic compositions. The meadow/prairie transition area, consisting of grasses and shrubs is intended to serve as a buffer between the soccer park and the prairie/oak woodland area. A trail system borders this restoration area and leads to an impressive vista on the southern tip of the western peninsula. With this additional land set aside as a restoration/preservation area, the 183 acres of Pinto Lake County Park becomes 140 acres of natural/undeveloped land and 43 acres of developed/improved land.

Soccer Park - Approximately 13 acres of Zone "C" is proposed as a soccer park. This area includes two full-size adult soccer fields, a playground, a picnic area with pavilion, a restroom, and parking for approximately 200 vehicles. The two full-size soccer fields can be converted to four youth-sized fields as necessary.

Vehicular Access Options

The Master Plan shows two options for vehicular access



Zone C: Pinto Lake West

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001



Santa Cruz County Parks Department Contract/Permit

979 17th Avenue
 Santa Cruz CA, 95062
 Ph: (831) 454-7900 - Fax: (831) 454-7940
www.scparks.com

Printed: May 23, 2011, 10:37 AM

Contract #: 9065
 Date: Mar 21, 2011

User: Clark
 Status: Tentative *Firm*

Santa Cruz County Parks Department hereby grants PDGA - World Pro Disc Golf Championships (hereinafter called the "Licensee") represented by _____, permission to use the Facilities as outlined, subject to the Terms and Conditions of this Agreement contained herein and attached hereto all of which form part of this Agreement.

i) Purpose of Use Special Event
 World Pro Disc Golf Championships

ii) Conditions of Use Comply with attached Event Conditions of Use. If staff is unavailable, call County Dispatch at (831)471-1170. _____ is an authorized contact for this contract and can request changes.

iii) Date(s) and Time(s) of Use		# of Bookings: 9	Starting: August 08 2011 08:00 AM Ending: August 14 2011 05:00 PM				Expected: 1,000			
Facility/Equipment	Day	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time	Fee	XFee	Tax	Total	
Pinto Lake Park - Entire Park	Mon	Aug 08, 2011	08:00 AM	Aug 08, 2011	05:00 PM	\$864.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$864.00	
Anna Jean Cummings Park - Entire Park	Mon	Aug 08, 2011	09:00 AM	Aug 08, 2011	06:00 PM	\$911.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$911.25	
Pinto Lake Park - Entire Park	Tue	Aug 09, 2011	08:00 AM	Aug 09, 2011	05:00 PM	\$864.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$864.00	
Pinto Lake Park - Entire Park	Wed	Aug 10, 2011	08:00 AM	Aug 10, 2011	05:00 PM	\$864.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$864.00	
Pinto Lake Park - Entire Park	Thu	Aug 11, 2011	08:00 AM	Aug 11, 2011	05:00 PM	\$864.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$864.00	
Pinto Lake Park - Entire Park	Fri	Aug 12, 2011	08:00 AM	Aug 12, 2011	05:00 PM	\$864.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$864.00	
Pinto Lake Park - Entire Park	Sat	Aug 13, 2011	08:00 AM	Aug 13, 2011	07:00 PM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 <i>0.56</i>	
Pinto Lake Park - Grounds	Sun	Aug 14, 2011	08:00 AM	Aug 14, 2011	05:00 PM	\$190.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$190.69	
Pinto Lake Park - Picnic Area B	Sun	Aug 14, 2011	08:00 AM	Aug 14, 2011	05:00 PM	\$167.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$167.06	

iv) Additional Fees

v) Payment Method

Rental Fees	Extra Fees	Tax	Rental Total	Damage Deposit	Total Applied	Balance	Current
\$5,589.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,589.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$5,989.00	\$0.00

Initial payment of \$2,794.50 due on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 with the remaining booking charges due according to the following schedule.

Date	Amount
Sunday, Jul 31, 2011	\$2,794.50

\$0 see agreement

vi) Other Information

I declare under penalty of perjury that I am the authorized representative of the organization (activity) listed in this contract and that the information I have supplied herein is true and correct. I have received a copy of the facility's rules and regulations, including the agreement to hold harmless statement. I have carefully read, considered, and agreed to all such rules and regulations. Furthermore, I have received a copy of the applicable special conditions as indicated above and have carefully read, considered and agreed to all such special conditions. I agree to comply with all Federal, State of California and County of Santa Cruz laws, ordinances and codes.

X: _____

X:

Facilities Coordinator

Date: 6/2/11

Date: 8/1/11

PDGA - World Pro Disc Golf Championships

Santa Cruz County Parks Department



JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

October 2, 2012
via electronic correspondence

SUBJECT: PINTO LAKE DISC GOLF COURSE CONCERNS

Dear Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park:

The Parks Division of the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department is in receipt of your letter dated June 30, 2012, and associated documentation. In that letter you express concern regarding the approval, installation, and management of the disc golf course at Pinto Lake County Park.

Parks staff has reviewed the documentation and discussed your concerns with the Planning Department. This letter has been prepared to summarize the results of this review and the similarities and differences between the actions taken at Pinto Lake and possible future actions at Anna Jean Cummings Park.

Background

The mission of the the Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Division of Public Works is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks, and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community. The Parks and Recreation Commission serves as an advisory body to the County Board of Supervisors, with the Board of Supervisors setting the policies and approving certain actions for County Parks.

In 2007 the Parks Department was presented with the idea of a disc golf course at Pinto Lake Park. That proposal was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission who recommended approval of the project to the County Board of Supervisors. The Parks Department received the required approvals from the County Planning Department for both Phase One (front nine holes), and Phase Two (back nine holes). Both phases were completed in 2010. The project was installed using a combination of in-house staff and volunteers, including the California Conservation Corps and a local disc golf group.

Review of Pinto Lake Disc Golf

The documentation provided by Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park and County files was reviewed and discussed by the Parks and Planning Departments. Review of project emails and documents demonstrates staff concerns related to the project and a commitment to obtaining all necessary approvals. This review also shows that staff acted appropriately in

determining the level of reviews necessary for the project and obtained the information necessary for the approvals. It is important to recognize that the process of review and the information required for review can vary depending on the scope and scale of proposed projects and prior approvals. There is no indication that any of the required steps were not taken. Clearly, your group has spent considerable time and effort collecting and reviewing documentation regarding Pinto Lake disc golf. However, some of the conclusions reached from your review do not accurately reflect the actions taken by Parks for this project.

To help put this in context, it is also important to recognize that the Master Plan for Pinto Lake County Park anticipates a variety of recreational uses on the property to serve the recreational needs of the surrounding population. Recreational activities do sometimes create impacts, and County policies are in place to protect sensitive habitats and species. As the applicant, it is the responsibility of Parks to submit studies and documentation needed for the Planning Department to determine the level and character of potential impact and the appropriate level of environmental review consistent with State law and guidelines. The expectation of this process is not that recreational use will not be allowed unless there are no impacts, but that any impacts are understood, avoided where possible or required by law, and otherwise mitigated.

While many of the staff who worked on the project, including three former Park Directors, are no longer employed by the County, remaining staff have reported that the project was supported by the community and received little or no opposition at the time. Had concerns been raised at the time, they would have been addressed by the Parks and Planning Departments as appropriate. In my tenure as Assistant Director of Public Works – Parks, I have not received any adverse communications regarding the disc golf course at Pinto Lake Park until recently, with those being voiced mostly from community members associated with Anna Jean Cummings Park, and although not required, I would agree that additional steps could have been taken to inform the community of the proposed project at Pinto Lake Park.

In conclusion, disc golf at Pinto Lake Park was vetted through the required process. While the course has been a successful addition to our park system, certainly there are challenges with managing popular recreational activities with limited resources. The entire County park system is experiencing an increase in users whereby creating continued challenges for management as funding sources diminish. Equally important is the County commitment to support sustainable and environmentally sound decisions related to the public lands under its care. Several of the documents you provided offered practical mitigation measures that could be undertaken to minimize impacts related to disc golf and other related recreational activities and are under consideration by staff.

Santa Cruz County Parks

With increasing recreational needs and decreased maintenance funding, the need for governmental entities to partner with outside groups to maintain and develop their parks system becomes essential. One of the approved goals of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 2013 is to, "Support efforts to collaborate with volunteers and other partners to provide parks, recreation and cultural opportunities." There have been many successful projects in recent years, in the San Lorenzo Valley, Watsonville, Aptos, and Live Oak areas, where recreational opportunities have been expanded at little or no cost to the Department. We anticipate a greater emphasis on non-County partners and volunteer contributors to strengthen our efforts in providing new and supportable recreational opportunities in the future.

Community interests and recreational pursuits continue to evolve, and public lands will always be subject to re-evaluation and scrutiny. Disc golf is an 'emerging' sport and as such deserves full consideration as a contemporary recreational opportunity. The Professional Disc Golf Association lists over 3,400 active disc golf courses on its web site, and there are six courses in Santa Cruz County alone. As Parks and Recreation professionals we are obligated to acknowledge changing public interests and evaluate proposals brought to us by community members.

As mentioned previously, the review and approval process required to evaluate and approve proposals for new recreational uses will vary with the scale, scope, and location of each proposal, as well as prior environmental reviews and permit approvals. The nature of the site, the approved permits, and community interest will all inform a process for Anna Jean Cummings Park. Once a proposal is clearly defined and community input considered, the Planning Department will review that project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act and will determine the required approvals. The Board of Supervisors will ultimately be asked to consider new recreational uses at Anna Jean Cummings Park. It is anticipated that addition of disc golf at Anna Jean Cummings Park would require an amendment to the master site plan and development permit for the park.

Parks works tirelessly to provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities while promoting good environmental stewardship. Only with continued public dialogue can we genuinely be successful in our endeavor. Thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to our attention. Parks staff would be happy to meet with you to discuss these matters.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
Director of Public Works

By:


Betsey Lynberg
Assistant Director of Public Works
Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Division

REO:mh ✓
Copy to:
PintoDisk - AJC response.doc

From: Melissa Henderson on behalf of PRCWeb
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 1:25 PM
To: Dave Mercer; Jim Lang; Katharine Minott; Michael Rosenberg; Steven Bennett
Cc: Betsey Lynberg
Subject: FW: Response to November Meeting for ALL Commissioners

Written Correspondence. FYI- This email was received by me on Dec. 31 after the County closure for Holiday/Furlough.

Happy New Year!

From: Trotrider@aol.com [mailto:Trotrider@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2012 6:43 PM
To: PRCWeb
Cc: UlaKate@aol.com; trotrider@aol.com
Subject: Fwd: Response to November Meeting for ALL Commissioners

Dear Melissa,
Can you please forward this letter to ALL commissioners.
Lang, Minot, Rosenberg, Mercer and Benett.
Sorry to impact your schedule right before Christmas!
Please confirm receipt!
Thanks and Have a Happy Holidays,

Lisa Sheridan

From: ulakate@aol.com
To: prc043@park.co.santa-cruz.ca.us, prcweb@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Sent: 12/21/2012 4:43:13 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
Subj: Response to November Meeting

December 19, 2012

Betsey Lynberg
Director, Santa Cruz County Parks

Dear Betsey,

Thank you for holding the November 19 meeting to discuss the issues we introduced to the Parks Department about the Pinto Lake disc golf course. We wish to share with you some of our impressions of the meeting and offer suggestions about how to achieve some of the tasks that you indicated your Department will be doing. We also have some unresolved questions about the meeting you intend to hold in January 2013.

We appreciate that the Park staff and the two Park Commissioners at the meeting understand that Pinto Lake County Park continues to sustain environmental damage as a direct result of the disc golf since the course's initial installation in 2008.

We are pleased with your assurances that measures will be taken to correct those

issues, including enforcing provisions of Santa Cruz County environmental ordinances (particularly Riparian and Sensitive Habitat) that were previously ignored or violated. We understand that remedial efforts will include eliminating or relocating some course sections, repairing some areas (particularly those with erosion problems) and assuming full responsibility for supervising any future course maintenance or alteration by non-County employees.

We are still unclear of the proposed timeline for these efforts and hope that you will keep us apprised as your department moves forward. We will also send you a list of specific course sections or locations that we feel are either not in compliance with County code or are major contributors to environmental degradation at the Park.

As we noted in the November discussion, we are not aware of any adequate inventory of biological resources or environmental studies done before the course's installation over four years ago. We feel it would now be prudent for the Parks Department to authorize an independent environmental assessment of disc golf impacts to Pinto Lake Park.

Such a report seems essential in order to evaluate the potential effects of building any additional disc golf courses into the Santa Cruz County Parks system. We are unaware of any studies in our county that discuss disc golf impacts on the environment other than our own July 2012 report. The two existing public courses in the county, DeLaveaga, over 20 years old, and Pinto Lake, only four years old, offer an ideal basis for a comprehensive study.

As we expressed at the November meeting, we have legitimate concerns that major lapses and errors occurred in the Pinto Lake course approval process that should not have happened. We realize that you continue to see this area somewhat less critically than we do but we accept your word that those lapses will not happen in any future deliberations.

The County spent millions of dollars to acquire both Pinto Lake and Anna Jean Cummings Parks. Decades of time and resources went into planning the uses for these two parks. We do expect that all procedures that will add new facilities to our public park system will occur in an orderly, legal fashion and that both the public and the Parks Commission are fully informed about all aspects of the new uses. We also believe that making hasty decisions in the Pinto Lake process contributed to that negligent process.

We remain somewhat confused about the purpose and intent of the public meeting the Parks Department is planning for January 2012 regarding AJC Park. Both you and Commissioner Lang indicated that you were concerned that the high school disc golf club has waited for over a year since their first verbal proposal was put forth and deserve a response.

We note that the actual disc golf proposal happened at the May 2012 Parks Commission meeting. The Friends of AJC presented their proposal for trail dedication and preservation at the same meeting. We heard nothing at our November meeting with you about our proposal – only a concern for addressing the high school club's proposal.

Our proposal was an enhancement of an ongoing and approved use as opposed to the new use proposed by a Soquel High club. We note that the disc golf club is a extra-curricular club, not a school-sanctioned sport activity.

We continue to express our concerns that a discussion which put disc golfers and students at odds with those that don't want disc golf could go terribly wrong. A case in point is the meeting attended by more than 250 people at Soquel's Congregational Church about artificial turf.

A large majority of the citizens attending expressed questions, concerns and complaints about a proposed major change to AJC Park. Their anger was, in large part, because they felt that there had been little genuine public outreach or factual information by the Park's Department about the proposed synthetic turf fields. There was also a widespread impression by many

community members that the Parks Department used children in soccer groups and their parents and coaches as the "wedge" to replace the natural play fields. This difference has resulted in continuing hard feelings between some neighbors who held opposing views. We don't want any sort of repeat of that because of a proposed new use at AJC.

In this instance, we do not understand how a meeting about a disc golf course can go forward without information other than that furnished by golf advocates.

We again urge you to not hold a meeting until staff has assembled more information about the environmental effects of this sport and evaluated both the existing uses at AJC and the appropriateness of its open space and riparian areas for a disc golf course. This park is just over 10 years old and its design was a result of extensive public process. The Park Master Plan addressed many community recreational needs and has remained incredibly popular as it is now. In fact, AJC's major problem at this point in time is that it needs more parking spaces for current uses.

It would seem more relevant to us that a meeting be put forward as a "general park planning discussion" covering ALL individual park issues and not simply as a special interest event.

Questions could include an evaluation of how a park is actually being used. Are areas being used appropriately by a number of users or is an area underutilized? Have specific events or sport activities created good or bad impacts for the park and the community? What is the premise of each park? We appreciate that our County parks are not a series of cookie-cutter recreational areas but, rather, serves a wide range of community needs in distinct and different ways.

Respectfully,

Lisa Sheridan and Katherine Sweet
For Friends of AJC Park.

CC: Supervisors: Leopold
Pirie
Coonerty
Caput
Stone

Supervisors-elect: Friend
McPherson

Santa Cruz County Park Commissioners: Rosenberg
Minott
Lang
Steve Benett
Dave Mercer

Santa Cruz County Fish and Game Commission
Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment
Sierra Club – Ventana Chapter

From: Betsey Lynberg
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 12:30 PM
To: 'Trotrider@aol.com'
Cc: PRCWeb
Subject: Response to Email of December 23, 2012

Dear Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park:

The Parks Department reviewed the files related to the 2008 installation of the disc golf course at Pinto Lake Park as a result of your June, 2012 correspondence to the Parks Department. In that correspondence the Friends of Anna Jean Cummings Park (AJC) copied over twenty different organizational groups and public officials. The Parks Department responded to your correspondence and in conclusion stated, "Disc golf at Pinto Lake Park was vetted through the required process. While the course has been a successful addition to our park system, certainly there are challenges with managing popular recreational activities with limited resources".

Additionally, at your request, two members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and two Parks Department staff, met with you (Lisa Sheridan and Katherine Sweet) to discuss your ongoing interest regarding Pinto Lake County Park disc golf. Your most recent letter dated December 23, 2012, continues to make statements regarding the implementation and management of the Pinto Lake Disc golf that are not completely accurate. While County Parks acknowledges that recreation activities have environmental impacts, the continued public presentation by one interest group on the management of one recreational activity ignores the overall open space and recreational value provided by Santa Cruz County Parks. Pinto Lake Park is 183 acres in size and serves the community with a multitude of passive and active recreational opportunities. Even during these challenging fiscal times County Parks is committed to being a responsible land manager and engaging the community regarding the operation of public parklands to meet the diverse recreational needs of our entire community.

The Friends of AJC opposition to changes at Anna Jean Cummings Park is duly noted and as you know, both the Friends of AJC and the Soquel High School Disc Golf Club were given time to present their proposals for Anna Jean Cummings Park to the well attended community on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 in Soquel. Parks staff will be preparing recommendations for the Parks Commission that will be considered at a future meeting of the commission. The Board of Supervisors has entrusted the County Planning Department with the responsibility for requiring any needed biological inventories and for determining and mitigating potential impacts of proposed developments. The expectation is that any new park projects would be reviewed as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

In the meantime, as we have discussed, the County Parks Commission February 11, 2013 agenda includes time for the Friends of the Anna Jean Cummings Park to address the Parks Commission regarding the report prepared regarding concerns about disc golf at Pinto Lake Park.

Regards,

Betsey Lynberg
Assistant Public Works Director
Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services



Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001



Prepared for:
The County of Santa
Cruz Department of
Parks, Open Space &
Cultural Services

by:



Table of Contents

Background.....2
 Overview
 A Brief History of the Park

Existing Conditions.....5
 Sitemap
 Photos: Key Use Areas
 Graph: Current Primary Land Uses

Site Analysis.....11
 Existing Resources
 Sensitive Areas
 Safety

Program Development.....15
 Community Outreach
 Consensus Building Results
 Program Goals

Design Elements.....23
 Map - Design Element Zones
 Zone A: Pinto Lake East
 Zone B: Pinto Lake Central
 Zone C: Pinto Lake West
 Vehicular Access Options
 Conceptual Master Plan

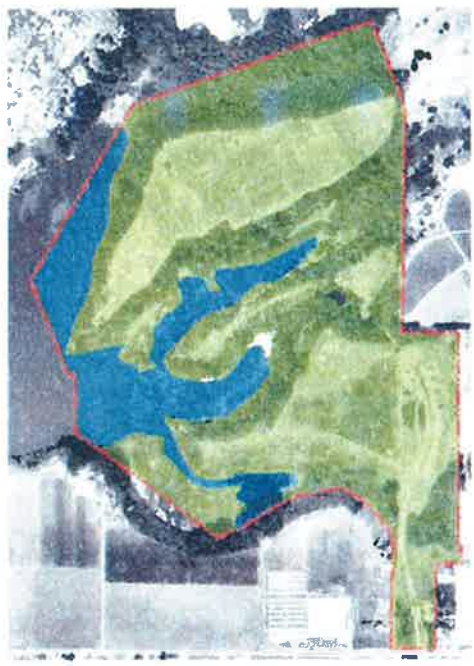
Summary Estimate of Probable Cost.....31

References.....32



**Pinto Lake County Park
 Master Plan 2001**

Background

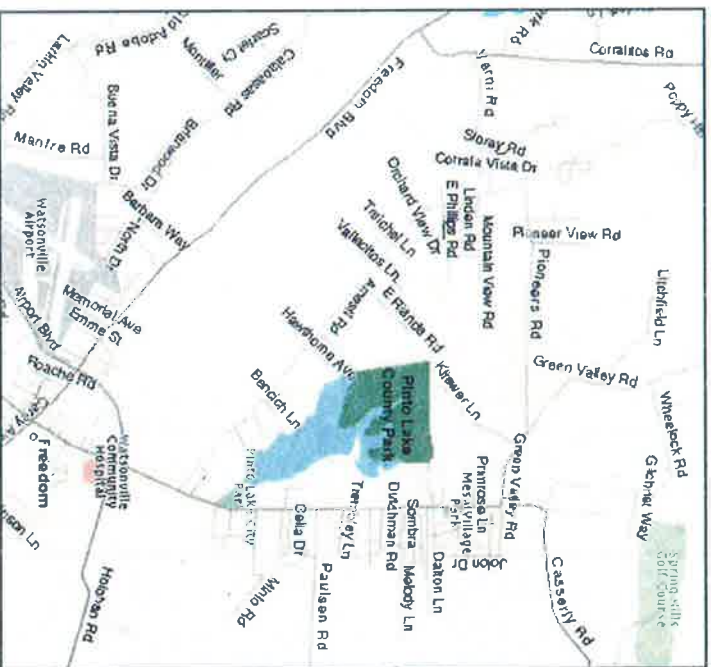


Overview of Pinto Lake County Park

Pinto Lake County Park is located in the City of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County California. The site, consisting of approximately 183 acres, is located on the edge of a natural lake and drainage system. The surrounding land use is primarily residential and agricultural within significant tracts of unimproved oak woodland.

Since acquisition of the site in 1974, the park has undergone several phases of master planning and development. An environmental impact report, a natural resources inventory, a Long Range Master Plan and installation of several recreational amenities are elements of earlier planning and are referenced in this document.

The County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Department (hereafter referred to as Parks Department), which is the entity with jurisdiction over this site, has recognized the sensitivity needed to address the different issues and parties associated with the park's improvement. Respect for the site's natural resources, the residents in close proximity to the site and the needs of the community at large have guided the planning process. These considerations have resulted in a Master Plan with varied land uses ranging from athletics to outdoor education with an emphasis on conservation efforts.



**Pinto Lake County Park
Master Plan 2001**

A Brief History of the Park

Background

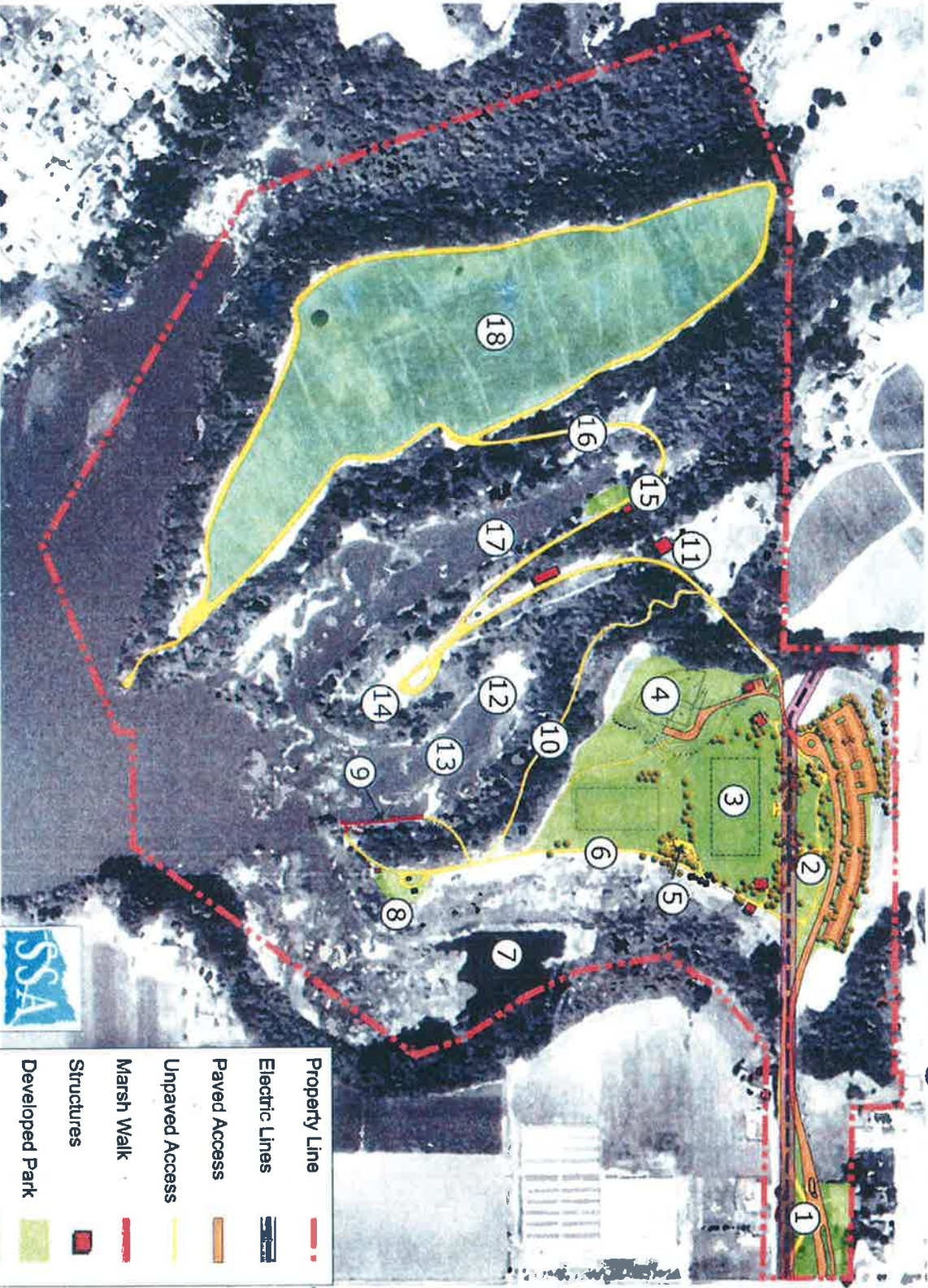
- 1972 A Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan prepared for Santa Cruz County by Tsugawa/Peterson Associates identified Pinto Lake as a unique recreation area having a quality which would attract people from distant parts of the county and in some cases from adjacent counties. (Tsugawa/Peterson)
- 1974 Park acquisition of the Litman property for use as County Park and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for Pinto Lake
- 1976 Harvey, Hartesveldt, Heath & Stanley, Inc., Ecological Consultants prepare Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment
- 1976 Tsugawa/Peterson Associates develops the original Long Range Master Plan for Pinto Lake County Park.
- 1980/81 Installation of Parking lots and Water/Septic Systems
- 1983 Installation of Soccer Fields and Restrooms
- 1986 Installation of Irrigation Systems and Tree Planting
- 1988 Parking Lot Expansion
- 1989 Back area leased on 5 year renewable contract for organic farming
- 1996 Installation of Play Area
- 2000/01 Installation of Little League Ball field
- 2001 Update/revision of Master Plan

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Pinto Lake County Park: Key Use Areas

Property Line	---
Electric Lines	—
Paved Access	—
Unpaved Access	—
Marsh Walk	—
Structures	■
Developed Park	■
Organic Farming	■



Existing Conditions



1. Park Entry: Pedestrian Access



2. Picnic Areas



3. Soccer Fields



4. Baseball Diamond



5. Playground



6. Trail

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

Existing Conditions



7. Eastern Inlet



8. Park Improvements



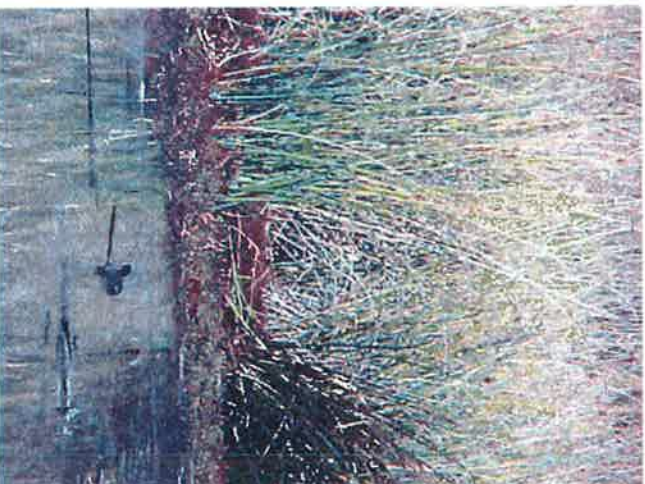
9. Marsh Walk



10. Nature Trail



11. California Conservation Corps



12. Wildlife

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

119

Existing Conditions



13. Central Inlet



14. View of Lake from Central Peninsula



15. Lakeside Restroom



16. Road to Zone C



17. Western inlet

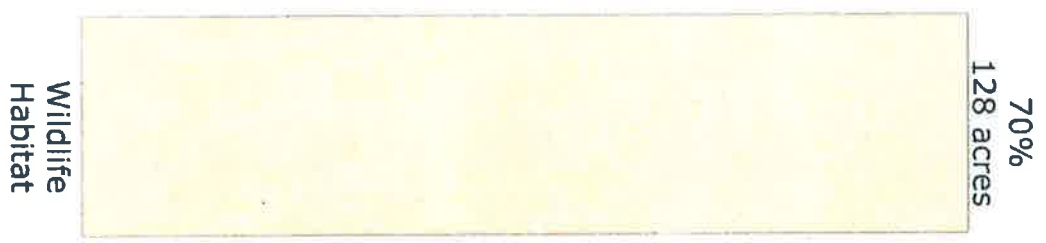


18. Farmland (Zone C)

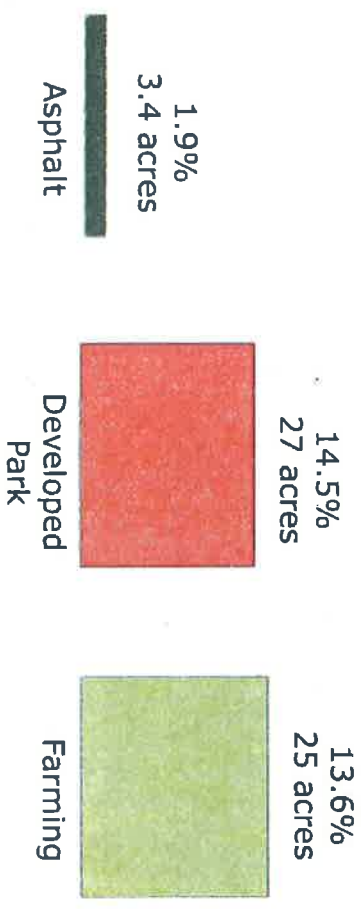
Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

5

Existing Conditions



Current Primary Land Uses



Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

Site Analysis



Existing Resources

Educational Opportunities

The park currently exhibits the following natural and man-made resources which can serve as educational opportunities:

- The aquatic, wetland and forest ecosystems which remain in a relatively healthy, natural condition
- The abundant wildlife which makes Pinto Lake beautiful and unique
- The abundant resident and migratory birds occupying the northern fingers of the lake and its peninsulas during the winter and spring months
- Bird observation structures
- Fishing pier and marsh walkway
- Buildings which can be used for indoor display, educational organization or gathering

Recreational Opportunities

The park currently exhibits the following natural and man-made resources which can serve as outdoor recreational opportunities:

- Significant and relatively level upland areas which are well suited to additional recreational development
- Fishing in the lake
- Scenic trails and vistas around the lake
- The numerous existing park improvements

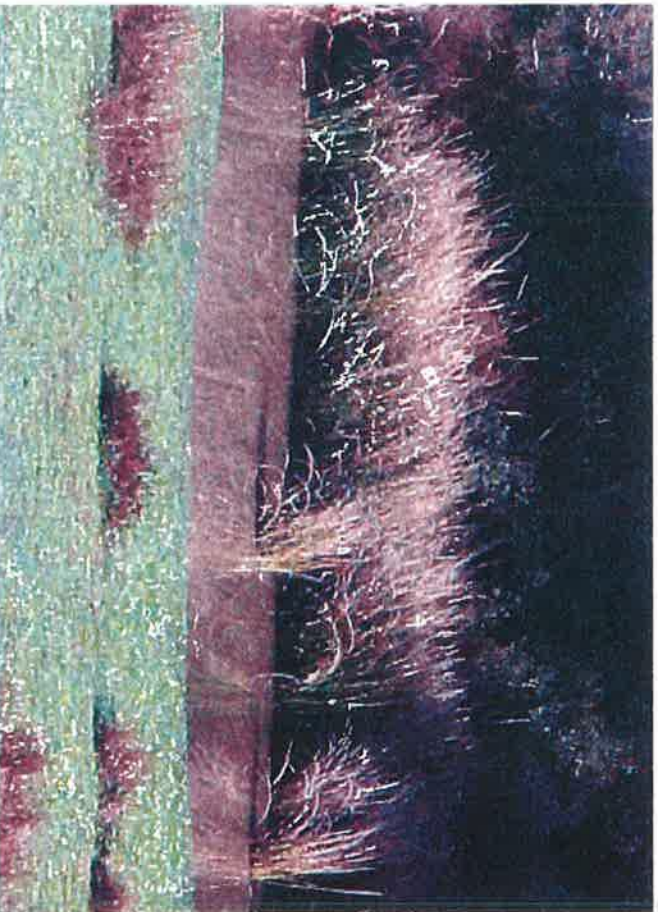
51

Sensitive Areas

Previous analyses of the park site have identified several elements which are vulnerable to degradation with development of the park. (Harvey, Hartesveldt, Heath and Stanley, Inc.) The current plan is intended to avoid and minimize impact to the following elements in an effort to protect their integrity:

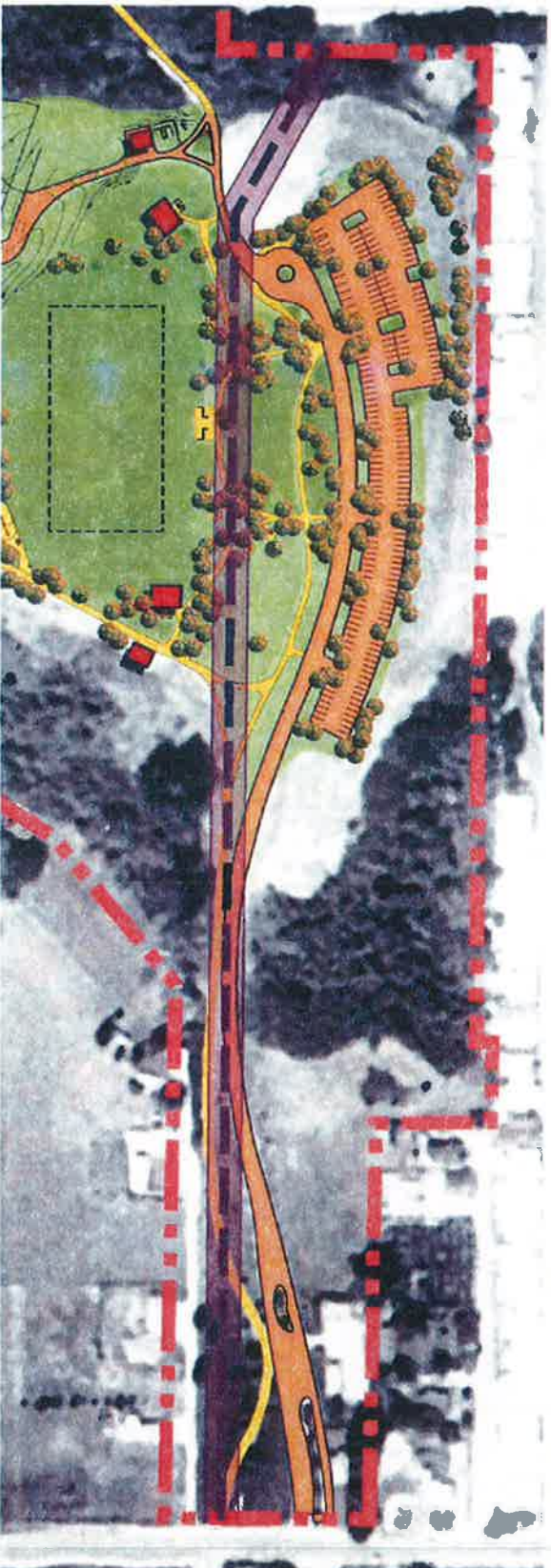
- Wetland/marshland areas
- Lake water quality
- Steep forested slopes bordering the lake
- Riparian drainage courses tributary to the lake
- Lake shoreline
- Wildlife species which depend upon the lake

Wildlife species and sensitive areas are susceptible to negative impacts from erosion and lake sedimentation, introductions of exotic and invasive species, as well as other habitat disturbances. The preparation and utilization of Environmental Feasibility Reports on larger projects, the mandatory environmental reviews conducted during the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) process, combined with strategic and sequential development in appropriate areas will help ensure that sensitive elements within the park are maintained in a healthy state into the future.



Site Analysis

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001



High Voltage Power Lines

The Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) high voltage power lines that cross Pinto Lake County Park include a 50-foot wide easement directly beneath them. This easement is building restricted, meaning no structures can be built within it and PG&E must have full access to the facilities. The County of Santa Cruz has a policy of "prudent avoidance" which is intended to limit and avoid public exposure to the electric and magnetic fields associated with power lines (Santa Cruz County General Plan). As such, appropriate uses and development under the lines include roads, parking, landscaping and other functions that do not involve gatherings of people or hamper access to the transmission facilities.

Crime and Vandalism

It is intended that increased public use as well as Sheriff Department patrols will deter vandalism in the park.

121

Program Development



Program Development

The original purpose of the Pinto Lake Park acquisition by the Parks Department was to expand county recreational facilities. In addition, it is part of the Parks Department policy to recognize and preserve unique and environmentally valuable sites. With these considerations, the program development phase commenced with public meetings to gather feedback.

Community Outreach

In order to create a program which reflected the needs of the community as well as initiating the first action in promoting community involvement in the park, meetings were held in which the public was invited to participate in the planning process. The first meeting included identification of ideas and concerns for the park's development by community members. Subsequent meetings focused on addressing concerns and conducting a consensus building exercise to identify the attending public's master plan priorities. Ideas were synthesized into a design program, graphic presentations and two conceptual alternatives served as tools for making decisions and for submission to public agencies. Incorporated with the Parks Department's original purposes and consideration, this outreach process helped establish the master plan program goals.

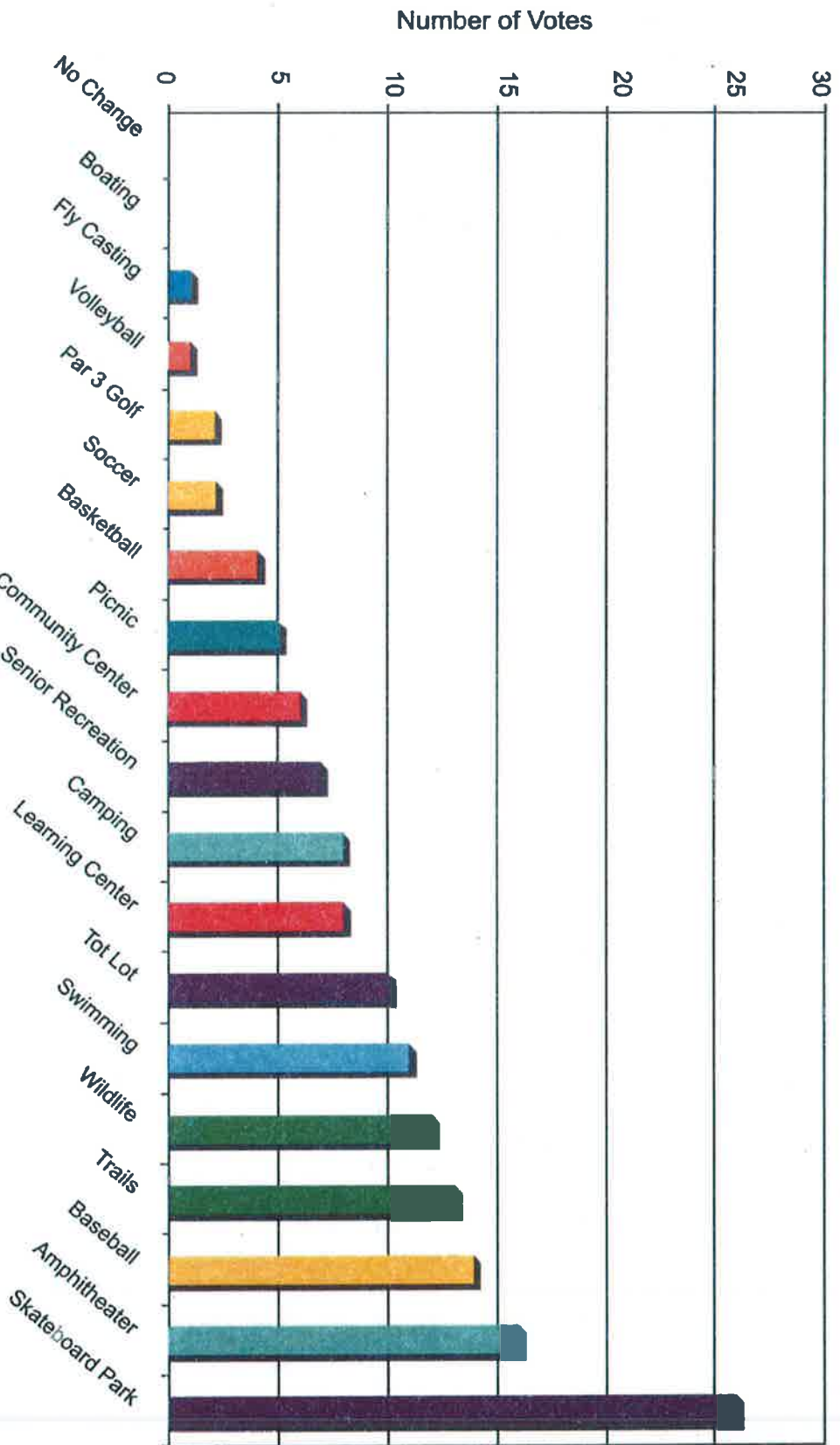


Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

123

Consensus Building Results

Program Development



Uses

Note: Although the consensus building exercise resulted in the graph shown, the subsequent meeting was well attended by a large contingency of soccer advocates. In recognition of their wishes, and of those who could not attend, soccer was added to the program as a high priority.

Public Outreach Meeting #4, April 25, 2001

Pinto Lake County Park
Master Plan 2001

124

Program Goals

Goal 1

The park will continue to serve the recreational needs of the diverse population of Santa Cruz County.

Goal 2

The park will be designed in a manner that promotes safety, accessibility, organized youth programs and volunteer opportunities.

Goal 3

The park will be improved in ways that conserve and feature its existing natural resources.

Goal 4

The park will be planned and designed in an efficient, phased manner, allowing changes in the near future while facilitating implementation of longer range improvements.

Program Development



Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

Goal 1

Program Development

The Park will continue to serve the recreational needs of the diverse population of Santa Cruz County.

The existing, cleared upland areas of the park will be used for active recreation.

- Baseball fields
- Soccer fields
- Playgrounds
- Skateboard facilities
- Community Center - basketball, volleyball, senior recreation, and Sheriff's Service Center
- Outdoor Gathering Areas
- Amphitheater
- Swimming
- Group picnicking

Pinto Lake and its fresh water marshes and natural habitat make this park unique in the Santa Cruz County Parks system. As such, the areas of the park closest to the lake and natural resources will be reserved for passive recreation.

- Hiking trails
- Interpretive exhibits
- Wildlife viewing areas
- Picnicking
- Organized group camping

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001



126

L21

Goal 2

The Park will be designed in a manner that promotes safety, accessibility, organized youth programs and volunteer opportunities.

Youth programs will be encouraged.

Opportunities for volunteers will be generated.

No structures or activity zones will be located within the 50-foot PG&E high voltage power line easement.

The park uses will be designed in conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The playgrounds will conform to Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines.

Program Development



Goal 3
The Park will be improved in ways that conserve and feature its existing natural resources.

Program Development

Habitat will be protected and improved.

Designate wildlife areas.

Retain shoreline vegetation.

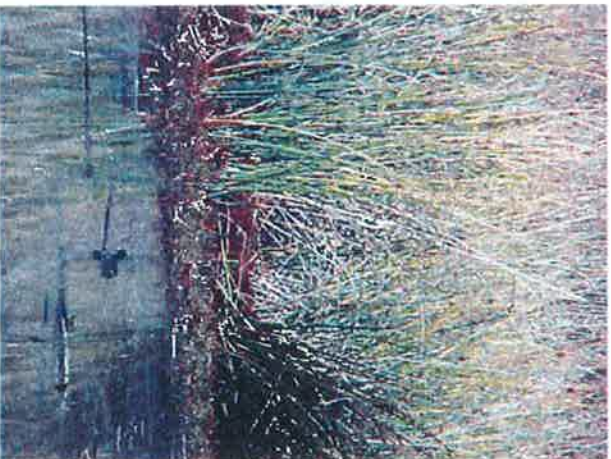
Restrict pedestrian and vehicle access.

Provide vegetated restoration areas.

Passive recreation areas will include facilities and program opportunities to educate users about natural resources.

Create outdoor learning environments.

Provide interpretive signage at key locations.



128

Goal 4

The Park will be planned and designed in an efficient, phased manner, allowing changes in the near future while facilitating implementation of longer range improvements.

Group similar uses.

Logically place compatible uses.

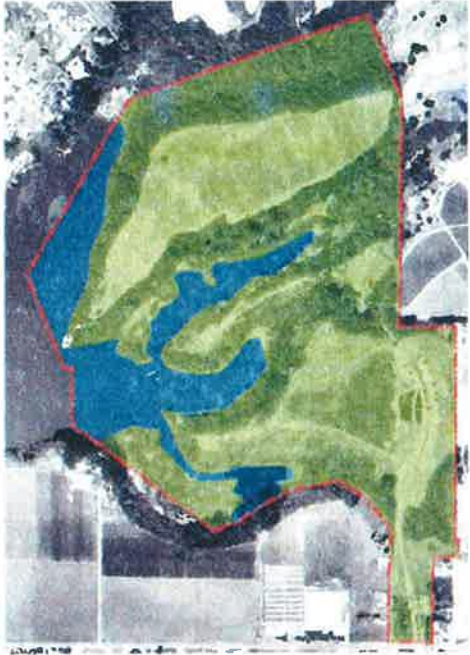
Utilize existing circulation and improvements, where feasible.

Program Development

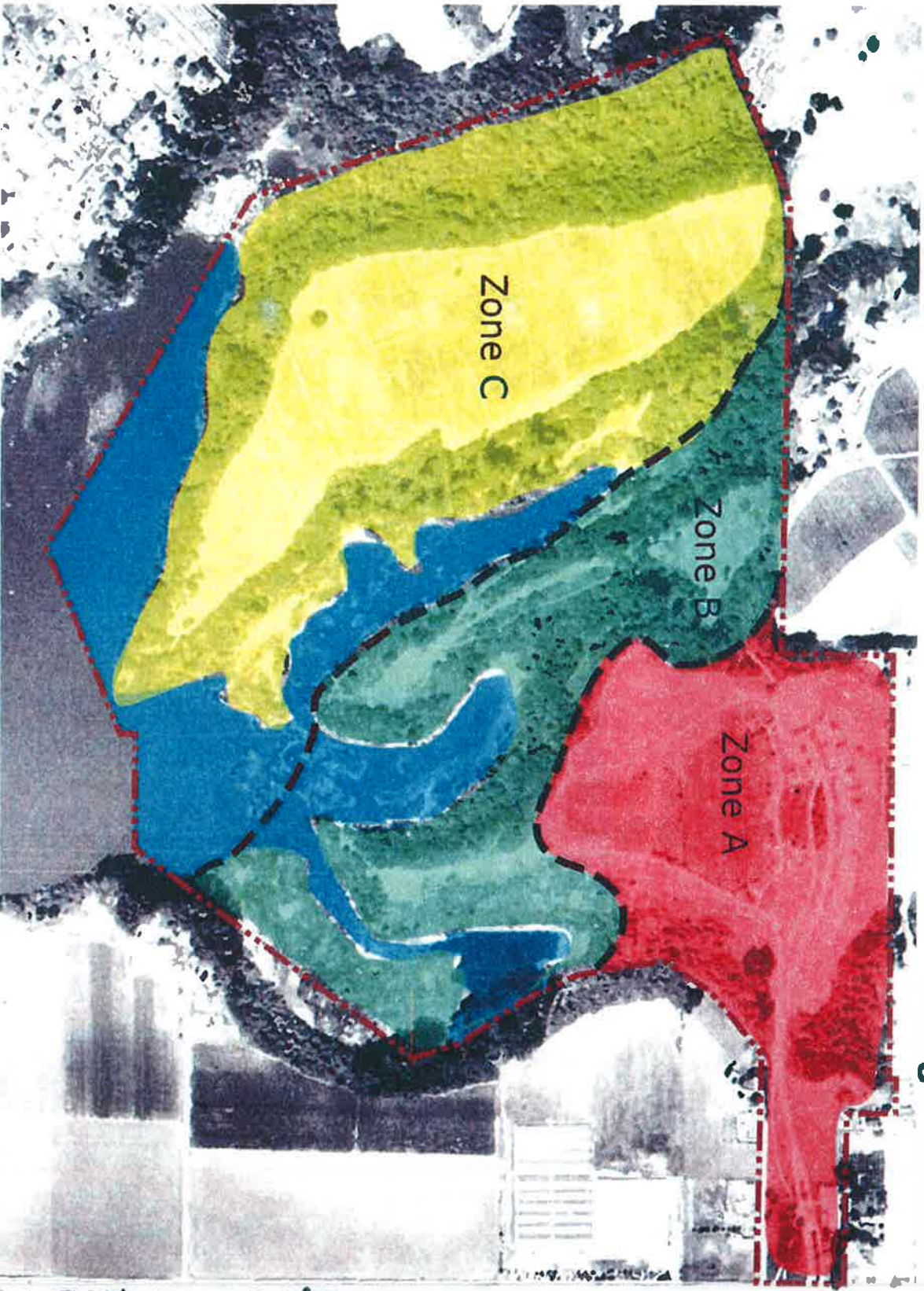


**Pinto Lake County Park
Master Plan 2001**

Design Elements



Design Elements



Pinto Lake County Park: Design Element Zones

Master Plan Design Elements

Activities are clustered and sited to facilitate optimum use in consideration of the natural and "man-made" improvements that exist at Pinto Lake Park. The criteria considered include environmental impacts of construction, existing developable land, earlier sitings of activities, proximity to access and opportunities to enhance existing conditions.

Design Elements

Zone A: Pinto Lake East

The Master Plan's central area of activity is located within existing park development on the site. Currently this location has soccer and baseball fields, picnic areas, a playground, restrooms, and parking. Ease of access, low impact of development, and the opportunity to enhance this area as a recreational center make this an ideal site for additional facilities. Proposed facilities include a community center, a 25 yard swimming pool, a "tot-lot" playground, a skateboard park, basketball courts, a senior recreation area, a volleyball court, softball, t-ball, soccer fields, expanded picnicking areas and parking improvements.

The Community Center - The community center is envisioned to be large enough to provide space for two indoor basketball courts, offices, activity rooms, and locker rooms for the pool. The indoor space provided within the community center will be an opportunity to bring art classes and exhibits to the nearby community. The Parks Department and Sheriff's Department Patrol Staff are also envisioned to have office space in the community center or in a building near the entrance of the park.

Access - Access to Zone "A" is from Green Valley Road. The entry road is intended to be redesigned to minimize conflict between pedestrians and vehicles by "wrapping" around the outer perimeter of the parking lot. This access road also continues through the park to other use areas.



Zone A: Pinto Lake East

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

132

Design Elements

Zone B: Pinto Lake Central

The heavily forested central area of Zone "B" in the park is intended to be ultimately used in a passive manner that will minimize impact to the environment and emphasize the park's flora and fauna. Providing opportunities for outdoor education bridges the need for organized youth activities and the valuable natural resources available at Pinto Lake County Park. Organized youth group camping, a nature center, wildlife viewing, fishing, and hiking are types of suggested uses in this area of the park.

Youth Group Camping - A group campground, intended exclusively for use by organized youth groups, is sited adjacent to the existing Victorian style house currently in use as a California Conservation Corps (hereafter CCC) headquarters. During interim phases of park construction this area may also serve as a temporary youth soccer field. This relatively level site is surrounded by woodland and is in close proximity to vehicular access and restrooms. Centrally located on the site, it is linked to the other park areas by trails and gravel roads.

Nature/Interpretive Center - The Victorian home currently in use as the CCC headquarters is envisioned as a facility which can house a registration office for camping groups, plus display natural resource/history/interpretive exhibits. This center may feature a library, displays showing habits and life cycles of Pinto Lake wildlife and vegetation, and can offer outreach opportunities by providing positions for volunteers and docents. Downslope from the center, adjacent to the



Zone B: Pinto Lake Central

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

Design Elements

lake edge and existing restroom building, an outdoor nature study area can be established. This area may include picnic tables, lab tables, short trails, overlooks, boardwalks, interpretive signage and other facilities to assist in outdoor education. Woodland trails connect this area to two other outdoor learning areas at the southern ends of the peninsulas

Peninsulas - An Outdoor Group Interpretive Area, sited to take advantage of lake views, is accessible by trail on the middle peninsula and can be designed as an amphitheater for campfire talks, outdoor lectures or non-amplified public performances.

A nature study area is located upslope from an existing fishing pier on the easternmost peninsula and connects to the more heavily used active park core. This area currently features structures for bird watching, a use that can be encouraged with interpretive displays and additional observation sites. The pier will continue to be used for fishing and low impact access to the marsh. This resource can be highlighted with informational signage about the wildlife inhabiting the marsh and lake.

Hiking trails

A trail system of newly designed and/or existing trails and dirt roads would highlight the different natural and developed amenities that exist within the park. Existing trails may be improved and additional trails developed to enhance this system.

Zone C: Pinto Lake West

The 25 acres on the western side of the site currently used for organic farming (lease expires June 1st 2003) is suggested as a future site for a soccer park, a meadow/prairie transition zone and an oak woodland/prairie habitat restoration project.

Prairie/Oak Woodland - Approximately 12 acres of current farmland is proposed to be restored to wildlife habitat with the revegetation of prairie and oak woodland areas. This will include native tree, shrub and grassland plantings in naturalistic compositions. The meadow/prairie transition area, consisting of grasses and shrubs is intended to serve as a buffer between the soccer park and the prairie/oak woodland area. A trail system borders this restoration area and leads to an impressive vista on the southern tip of the western peninsula. With this additional land set aside as a restoration/preservation area, the 183 acres of Pinto Lake County Park becomes 140 acres of natural/undeveloped land and 43 acres of developed/improved land.

Soccer Park - Approximately 13 acres of Zone "C" is proposed as a soccer park. This area includes two full-size adult soccer fields, a playground, a picnic area with pavillion, a restroom, and parking for approximately 200 vehicles. The two full-size soccer fields can be converted to four youth-sized fields as necessary.

Design Elements



Zone C: Pinto Lake West

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

135

Design Elements

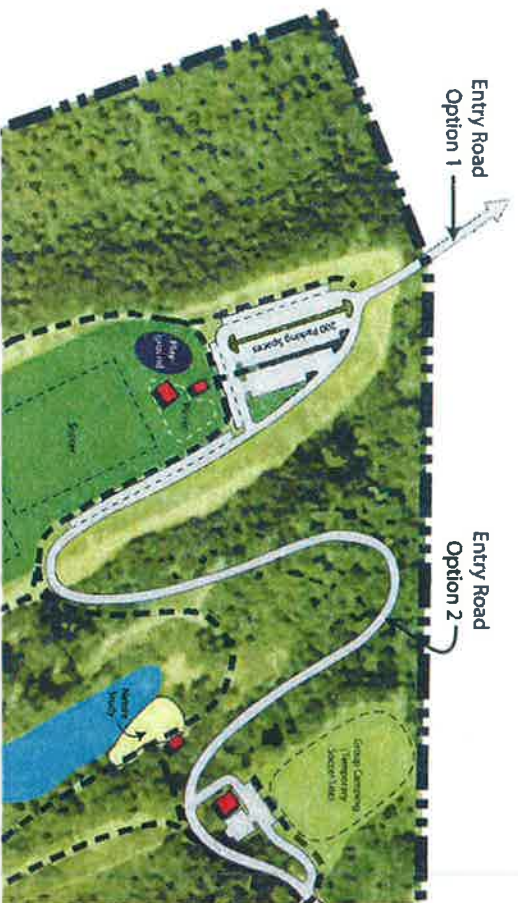
Vehicular Access Options

The Master Plan shows two options for vehicular access to Zone "C". An environmental feasibility study is recommended to be conducted to determine which access is the most appropriate and cost effective.

Entry Road Option "1" involves a road running through what is currently private property at the northwest corner of the site. This option would require an easement or purchase from the property owner(s). If the road is built in this location, there will be no public vehicle connection through the park.

Entry Road Option "2" involves a road designed through the park. The configuration shown is intended to follow the natural contour of the land. This option would require site engineering to determine the least intrusive method of spanning the existing drainage.

Regardless of which option is ultimately developed, maintenance vehicles could still use the existing gravel road. A small park maintenance and sports equipment storage facility is recommended.



Zone C: Vehicular Access Options

Design Elements



Pinto Lake County Park: Conceptual Master Plan 2001



Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet

Property Line	---
Electric Lines	—
Trail	- - -
Vehicular Access	- - -
Structures	■
Irrigated Area	■

The costs provided are budgetary figures only. Actual project scope and magnitude, along with economic trends, will effect final construction costs.

Summary Estimate of Probable Cost

138

Zone A

Parking Lots	\$1,758,750.00
Turf Play Fields	\$427,700.00
Community Center Building	\$10,044,000.00
2-5 Year-Old Play Area & Water Park	\$257,850.00
Senior Recreation Area	\$36,200.00
Half and Full Court Basketball	\$115,150.00
Sand Volleyball Court	\$17,250.00
Skateboard Park	\$121,000.00
Swimming Pool	\$1,000,000.00
Picnic Areas	\$203,500.00
Trail Improvements	\$50,000.00
General Landscape Items	\$145,000.00
General Site Amenities	\$66,800.00
Subtotal Zone A	\$14,243,200.00

Zone B

Nature Study Areas	\$120,000.00
Outdoor Group Interpretive Area	\$50,000.00
Group Camping Area	\$250,000.00
CCC Building Renovation	\$100,000.00
Trail Improvements	\$50,000.00
General Landscape Items	\$47,500.00
General Site Amenities	\$18,000.00
Subtotal Zone B	\$635,500.00

Zone C

Parking Lots	\$620,000.00
Access Road	\$1,000,000.00
Adult Soccer Fields	\$1,211,300.00
Playground	\$234,500.00
Picnic Area	\$105,550.00
Perimeter Path	\$140,000.00
Prairie/Oak Woodland	\$250,000.00
Trail Improvements	\$50,000.00
General Landscape Items	\$95,000.00
General Site Amenities	\$30,300.00
Subtotal Zone C	\$3,736,650.00

General Site Improvements

AC Road Repair and Modifications	\$200,000.00
Lake Pump House	\$100,000.00
Subtotal Site Improvements	\$300,000.00

Overall Park Subtotal		\$18,915,350.00
10% Budget Contingency		\$1,891,535.00
Subtotal		\$20,806,885.00
Mobilization and Bond (6%)		1,248,413.00
Construction Docs and Admin (8%)		1,664,551.00
Total Projected Budget		\$23,719,849.00

Pinto Lake County Park Master Plan 2001

References

Tsugawa/Peterson Associates Design Consultants (November 1976) Pinto Lake County Park Long Range Master Plan County of Santa Cruz.

Harvey, Hartesveldt, Heath and Stanley, Inc. Ecological Consultants (1976) Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment.

Santa Cruz County General Plan (May 1994) Chapter 6: Public Safety and Noise, Electric and Magnetic Field Exposure Hazards, Objective 6.8a and Policy 6.8.1.

**Pinto Lake County Park
Master Plan 2001**

PINTO LAKE DISC GOLF COURSE MAP



WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING:

The Written Correspondence Listing is established to act as a report of materials received by the Commission as a whole, but may also include items requested for inclusion by individual Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has received the following items of correspondence which require no official action by the Commission at this time:

1. Email from Liz Levy dated November 20, 2012, reiterating statement made during Oral Communications at the November 29, 2012, Parks Commission meeting.
2. Correspondence from Carrie Cox received December 17, 2012, regarding off-leash dogs at beaches.
3. Email from Lisa Sheridan dated December 23, 2012, regarding disc golf at Pinto Lake Park.
4. Correspondence from Mike Malbon received January 28, 2013, regarding off-leash dogs.
5. Email from David Suddjian dated February 4, 2013, regarding proposed disc golf course at Anna Jean Cummings Park.
6. Email from JoAnn Gibson dated February 4, 2013, regarding proposed AJC disc golf course.
7. Email correspondence from John Hernlund and Tom Schot dated February 7, 2013, regarding the Pinto Lake disc golf course.