

Sonoma Valley Master Plan

Public Meeting #2

April 27th, 2016

Attendees: Nineteen community members signed in and participated

Presentation:

The presentation addressed the park resources and limitations, specifically with sensitivity to biological resources. The Project Manager discussed the outcome of design requests from the first public meeting and how that was incorporated into the final trail design. Multiple attendees commented on their appreciation for having their ideas represented in the design.

Questions / Comments:

Q: Has the study of cultural resources begun?

A: No. The studies have not been completed but are now underway.

Further discussion was given to timeframes with a projected construction start date of Spring 2017.

Q: How will plants be chosen for restoration and specifically for neighbor screening?

A: The Project Manger has years of experience and education in plant design and restoration and will choose appropriate native plants to the area and select proper screening plants near the neighbors' properties.

Q: What do we know about the wildlife movement?

A: Steve Ehret, Parks Planning Manager, discussed the existing study from the Sonoma Land Trust that can be found on line at <https://sonomalandtrust.org/pdf/WildlifeCorridorOnline.pdf>

The study deals with how to manage the property for wildlife. This study is part of the reason for removing the park's interior fencing to encourage wildlife movement through the studied corridor.

Q: Will trails be multi-use?

A: Yes, except for one trail in the new plan. Single use trails would create an abundance of trails and encourage improper and overuse and deterioration of the property. Discussion moved to the equestrian impact on the trails which has been determined as negligible at this point as the native soil and proper design is meant to sustain the trail health from horses. When conditions do deteriorate from weather, Regional Parks can adaptively manage the land by closing a trail until conditions improve. If unforeseeable abuse occurs from multi-use trails, Regional Parks can reevaluate and change a trail to a dedicated trail if needed.

Q: Will there be any parking on Arnold Drive?

A: The existing conditions will not change on Arnold Drive. Some years ago adding a parking lot on Arnold Drive was studied, but because the area is part of the wildlife corridor no additional parking areas along Arnold Drive were considered. Also there was past discussion of creating a bridge from the Park to Jack London Square where there is existing parking, but was determined not worth it as parking is already very limited in that space.

Q: What is the funding priority and order of work?

A: Some grants are specific to trail building and other grants are specified for restoration. As funding becomes available, Regional Parks will group together projects for cost efficiency yet balance the work so there is not too much of an impact on the park at the same time.

Q: What can be done, or is being done, to clean up the Pond on Curreri property?

A: Regional Parks staff said that the condition of the pond was not always like this and speculated that the long drought maybe a contributing factor. Park Planning Manger said that working with Park Operation staff on ideas to manage the pond, both for cleaning and for exotic weed removal, will be pursued.