



Lagoon Valley Park Master Plan

Administrative Draft

City of Vacaville

Prepared by RHAA & LSA

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INTRODUCTION

The Master Plan for Lagoon Valley Park represents a comprehensive planning and design study to guide the improvement and organization of the park's physical, cultural and ecological landscape. The Plan particularly acknowledges the importance of the unique natural resources within the park and its surroundings, and provides the framework for establishing a successful balance between these valued resources and the recreational needs of the Vacaville community.

The 350+ acre park is located southwest of Vacaville within the Lower Lagoon Valley and is surrounded by over 400 acres of publicly-owned hillside/open space. The unique physical assets of the Park include the lake and wetlands which cover over 106 acres, Laguna Creek, the historic Pena Adobe, the Jack Hume Memorial Grove, the Rotary Grove, the Rancho Lagunitas detention basin, the Butcher Road Bike Path and surrounding trails, and the beautiful hills, grasslands, oak groves, and intermittent streams, all of which contribute to an environment that could become a major recreation destination. The variety in topography and in the ecosystems supports a wide variety of uses. However, several areas of the Park have been degraded through natural processes, over use and lack of park maintenance.



Lagoon Valley Park looking south near water tanks. Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey was retained by the City of Vacaville in 2003 to

prepare a Master Plan for Lagoon Valley Park. After a two-year hiatus due to city scheduling restraints, the Master Plan for Lagoon Valley Park was completed in the fall of 2005.

PURPOSE OF MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan for Lagoon Valley Park evolved out of the need to improve the park's physical conditions, to unify the varied recreational uses and to preserve and protect the park's unique natural resources.

In addition to refining and implementing many of the habitat enhancement recommendations made in prior planning documents such as the *Lake Management Plan(1999)*, the Master Plan addresses other recommendations, such as the lack of facilities to support the desired programs for the park and the need to improve existing facilities and environments. In addition, the plan addresses potential magnitude of costs for the improvements, and phasing while accommodating ecosystem enhancement recommendations.

The Master Plan also seeks to promote an identity for the park. The public should associate the name "Lagoon Valley Park" with a place of great natural beauty and cultural history where families can enjoy a host of passive and active recreational activities and education. The park should ultimately be thought of as a primary destination for area residents who want to enjoy picnicking,, hiking, biking, bird watching, sailboarding, understanding the rich history of the area or simply enjoying a quiet walk by the edge of the lake.

The Master Plan for Lagoon Valley Park provides a clear and realistic blueprint for the park to become a recreational resource of true regional significance. In doing so, the plan supports a range of recreational uses that are compatible with and complementary to the park's unique and substantial natural resources and cultural history. The incredible diversity of the site

Introduction to the Master Plan

provides opportunities to achieve this goal. With proper management techniques and a clearly defined design vision, the Park can accommodate the multiple uses desired while providing habitat and reserves for the area's wildlife and flora.

Finally, the Master Plan establishes a shared vision for Lagoon Valley Park as the primary destination for area residents, a place of great beauty, ecological diversity, and historic character.

PLANNING PROCESS

As part of the initial master plan development, the design team and City Staff completed an assessment of current land use conditions at Lagoon Valley Park, including inventory of existing facilities, trails, and natural resources. Additional information from community workshops and surveys were also key components of the design and planning process. The results of this data are included in the Appendix. .



On-site Community Workshop

Based on the existing site analysis and data from city council meetings and public input, the design team prepared a series of land use zone maps and three schematic Alternative Plans for the park. The Alternatives were presented to the city for public comment and review. The Final Preferred Alternative Plan was chosen as a

result of the both the city and community's input.

In addition to the proposed design improvements that are illustrated in the Final Preferred Alternative Plan, the Master Plan includes written recommendations for physical and programmatic park improvements in the park. The plan specifically focuses on targeting the management of the park in zones, to accommodate both recreational uses and the protection of natural resources. Written text is supplemented with graphics, maps, and images. The Master Plan also includes a phasing plan and estimated magnitude of costs.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan is organized into five sections: Introduction, Site Description and History, Opportunities, Constraints and Recommendations, the Park Master Plan, and an Appendix.