
PARK MASTER PLAN

The Design Process

[A brief summary of the design process will be included in this paragraph.]

Alternative Design Concepts

The design alternatives are based on site analysis and input from the community. The site analysis identifies areas of similar topography, aspect and slope, examines unique features, and analyzes constraints to development. From this analysis the design team created zones within the Park that have similar features and therefore similar opportunities and constraints for development.

The program for use in the alternatives is the result of input from a Public Workshop, surveys collected during that workshop and additional survey information collected from the General Plan Update. At the public workshop held at the Park on Saturday, October 4, 2003, approximately forty citizens toured the Park by foot or van proceeded by a small group discussion in which participants conferred on various issues and preferred program elements for the Park. In addition, participants completed surveys about their current usage of the Park, the activities they view as appropriate and inappropriate for the Park, and any additional issues and comments. (Attached is a summary of the comments received from those surveys). In addition to the surveys received as part of the Public Workshop, approximately 500 responses were received from public forums and on the Solano County website about the preferred use of the Park during the General Plan Update in October and November of 2002.

Public input leans heavily toward minimizing development in the park and restricting activities to those that have minimal disturbance to the natural character. Preferred activities corresponded to current usage - hiking, wildlife watching, biking, picnicking, and horseback riding. New activity areas desired include group

picnicking, small sport areas such as horseshoes and bocce ball, small playground areas, and support facilities for non-motorized boating. Inappropriate uses include camping, tennis, active sports fields, concert facilities and motorized vehicle activities.

Goals and Objectives

The goals discussed for the Master Plan of Lagoon Valley Park are broad and are intended to provide a framework for planning decisions. Goals include:

- Upgrade the visual quality of the developed areas while retaining the natural beauty of the site.
- Develop a plan that makes the park inviting for the whole community
- Identify elements that are compatible with the park.
- Provide infrastructure to support those activities.

Alternative Generation and Evaluation

Three design alternatives were generated as a result of the aforementioned public input and site analysis. The alternatives have a range of intensity of development and change, to respond to the different visions expressed by the public.

The first alternative, Alternative A, suggests no new development. This suggestion was made by several of the current park users, who do not want to have any increased usage of the Park or any impacts on the natural setting. This alternative does not include the recommendations of the Lake Management Plan, which are included in the other two alternatives. Improvements in this alternative will be restricted to measures that reduce the domestic bird population and clean up and replace, in kind, the existing facilities.

Alternatives B and C both recommend adoption of the measures suggested in the Lake Management Plan including dredging of the Lake to improve water quality, implementation of upstream measures to reduce sedimentation and measures to

reduce and discourage the domestic bird population. These measures would result in improved wildlife habitat for migrating waterfowl and, with improved water quality, the possibility of non-motorized boating and fishing.

The design for Alternative B focuses on improvements that would support the natural systems of the Park without substantial change to the existing land use patterns or images. The Plan suggests improving the current visual quality by improving the entry, augmenting tree groupings to provide shade and spatial definition to the site and improving infrastructure to provide additional irrigation and restroom facilities. New program elements include a group picnic area, new playground, nature observation areas and improved trails. In the area adjacent to the Butcher Road Detention Basin, a second dog park and a children's playground have also been added.

Alternative C represents a more dramatic change to the area around the Lake, while preserving the majority of the site in its current form. This plan adopts the agricultural imagery that is the historical landscape of the Park, to create shade and screening and windbreaks. Windrows are added at the main entry and along the southern edge. Orchard plantings provide shade and pattern in one of the areas used for group activities. The area directly adjacent to the Lake is restored to a pastoral landscape with current activities moved to an activity node adjacent to the hills. A new visitors center provides interpretation of both the natural systems and the agricultural heritage of the site. In the area adjacent to the Butcher Road Retention Basin, new neighborhood park elements are added including a second dog park and a children's playground. This alternative also proposes the construction of a sound wall along I-80 to reduce sound and safety impacts on the Park.

Final Preferred Alternative Plan

[Final plan to be summarized before the diagrams, maps and plans].

FACILITIES

[To be completed]

ESTIMATE DEMAND FOR IRRIGATION WATER

[See Appendix for preliminary estimate]

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section summarizes the long-term management activities necessary for enhancing and managing the undeveloped open space lands within Lagoon Valley Park. A more detailed Resource Management Plan (RMP) is provided in the Appendix.

GOALS

The following goals of this RMP are consistent with 1) the 1990 Lower Lagoon Valley Policy Plan, 2) the guiding policies of the City of Vacaville General Plan, Land Use and Conservation Elements (City of Vacaville 1999); and 3) the Solano Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (LSA 2004; working draft):

- Manage grassland/savanna and riparian habitats in a manner suitable for long-term sustainment of desirable plant and animal populations;
- Manage grasslands and trees as potential foraging and nesting habitat for Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, white-tailed kite and other raptors;
- Manage elderberry shrubs and their immediate vicinity as functional habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle;
- Manage waterways and their adjacent banks as functional habitat for western pond turtle;
- Promote long-term improvement in watershed conditions through a reduction in excessive erosion and sedimentation;

- Promote conditions that reduce stream flow velocities and allow slow surface and subsurface runoff rates;
- Eliminate and/or prevent the expansion of non-native plant species populations;
- Manage on-site open space areas in continuity with surrounding open space areas; and
- Manage fuel levels in the open space in a manner consistent with all other goals of this RMP.

RESPONSIBILITY

The City shall be responsible for implementation of the RMP. The City will designate a Resource Manager for this purpose. The City, at its discretion, may choose to allow one or more private entities to assume responsibility for implementation of some or all elements of the RMP, for fulfillment of the private entities' off-site mitigation obligations to federal and/or state environmental agencies. Under these circumstances, the private entity will be responsible for short-term implementation (year 1 through 5) of their assigned elements of the RMP. Following attainment of mitigation performance goals to the satisfaction of the federal and/or state agencies, by Year 5 or later, the private entities will turn responsibility for long-term RMP implementation back to the City, provided that the private entities provide to the City a non-depleting endowment for all costs of long-term implementation. The Resource Manager shall have the authority to access and expend funds from an endowment established by the developer to implement the RMP.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Grassland/Savanna Management

Grassland/savanna management will maintain or improve grassland habitat species diversity, maintain or improve potential foraging habitat for birds of prey, and reduce fuel loads. Management will attain the following objectives:

- Promotion of native plant diversity and abundance;
- Management and reduction of invasive exotic pest plant populations;
- Management of native oak habitat;
- Promotion of conditions suitable for burrowing owl;
- Promotion of conditions suitable for rodents and other raptor prey species; and
- Promotion of optimal fuel levels and reductions in residual dry matter.

Management techniques include grazing, mowing, and burning. Grazing will be the primary management technique but selected areas may be spot-treated by mowing. Prescribed burning may also be used if fuel conditions are attained that would allow for safe use of prescribed fires, and a proper fire prescription/burn plan is first prepared by a qualified fire management specialist, and is approved by the State and local fire agencies. If grazing operations are terminated or become infeasible in the open space, other measures will be adopted to address the above goals, consistent with the RMP.

Riparian and Stream Management

Riparian and stream habitat will be maintained and enhanced through a range of measures as follows:

- Fencing will be installed along selected riparian and stream habitat areas to prevent impacts from continued cattle grazing. This fencing will be regularly inspected and maintained. Periodic short-term "pulse" grazing of the fenced-in area may be conducted to control grassland fuels and exotic vegetation;
- Invasive exotic weed species and introduced *Prunus* sp. within the fenced riparian corridors will be manually controlled as needed;
- Introduced predators (bullfrog) and competitors (red-eared slider) of the western pond turtle will be managed and controlled when necessary;
- Riparian vegetation, including streamside oak woodlands, elderberry

shrubs that serve as habitat for the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle, will be maintained and enhanced. Maintenance will also emphasize native tree species that provide suitable nesting habitat for Swainson's hawk and other tree nesting raptors; and

- Streams will be enhanced through a range of actions (e.g., repairs to headcuts, prevention of downcutting, planting and seeding). Following completion of this work, annual inspections of the enhanced streams will be conducted to detect any zones of significant erosion. If needed, corrective actions will be undertaken in accordance with the RMP.

Facilities Maintenance

Under the RMP, grazing facilities will be inspected and maintained annually, including fencing, watering and shade facilities.

Monitoring and Reporting

The RMP includes monitoring and reporting provisions as well as guidelines for remedial actions and adaptive management approaches based on monitoring results and observed trends.

Wetland Monitoring and Management

If mitigation wetlands are constructed by one or more private entities in the open space lands, wetland management and monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan approved by the federal and state agencies and the City. Such monitoring and management will be the responsibility solely of the private entities.

PHASING PLAN

[To be completed]

MAGNITUDE OF COSTS

[To be completed]