

Summary of Outcomes from Public Workshops
about the
Southern Humboldt Community Park
Prepared for the
SHCP Board of Directors
by
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The following is a summary of written outcomes from three workshops designed to encourage community engagement in planning for the new Southern Humboldt Community Park. The workshops were funded in part by a grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation and were built upon two previous workshops (Aug. 2001 and Jan. 2002) about the Park which were funded, in part, by a private citizen.

The three workshops were:

April 25, 2002, 6:30-8:30, at the Park: Long-term Future Possibilities

May 30, 2002, 6:30-8:30, at the Park: The Near Future

Sept. 14, 2002, 9:30-5:00, at the Park: Conceptual Design Charrette

The design charrette was made possible specifically by the donation of talent from architects Kash Boodjeh, Tyler Holmes and Martha Jain.

The results from these workshops do not create an action plan as originally intended (although some short term projects and possible participants were identified.) Instead, you have a series of lists that can be used to build on into the future. (As well as the two maps of existing conditions & influences and site development ideas that were generated at the charrette and are made available separately in digital form.)

Relevant comments from the first two workshops in Aug. 2001 and Jan. 2002 are incorporated below as well. *Not* included are written comments received during or after the Sept. 2002 workshop. Hopefully the Board will find the capacity to continue to fold public input into a cumulative record.

Contents:

The first three lists are direct input from the workshops:

1. Current Uses and Activities at the Park
2. Potential Projects and Activities for the Next 5 Years

- Ideas for Possible Uses and Facilities

The next three include direct input *and* some interpretation on my part:

- Interests
- Possible Guidelines or Criteria
- Issues

Current Uses and Activities at the Park

as of 9/02

Residential (caretaker)	Cattle grazing	Gravel production	Horseshoes
Horseback riding	Hiking	Mountain biking	
Frisbee			
Birding	Photography	Picnicking	
Planning and dreaming	Site Studies	Share-cropping	
Farm and Garden Club – site preparation, soil development, fencing			
Volunteers helping with various improvements			
Public and civic meetings and gatherings.			
Students and small groups – various activities, such as orienteering.			
Day uses at Tooby Memorial Park – playground, picnicking, swimming			

Potential Projects and Activities for the Next 5 Years

(Interested individuals are mostly from the May 2002 workshop. See May notes for more detail)

- Establish a “Friends of SHCP” group, for work on collaborative projects and fundraising.
- Improve accessibility *Suzi, Crockett, Steve, Bob S.*
- Trail development *Dennis, Chris Turner*
- Picnic/Day Use Area *Tim, Nadine, Virginia, Bob S.*
- Provide interpretive information *Jim B.*
- 1. Informal ball fields
 - Develop a horse facility *Steve, Joelle*
 - Camping facilities *Nadine, Bob S.*
 - Develop waterworks *Mishka*
 - Fencing: designs, needs
 - Value-added agriculture projects *Mishka*
 - Increase agricultural use and productivity
 - More planning *Nadine*
 - Fundraising, donor appreciation *Bob S.*

Ideas for Possible Uses and Facilities

Compiled from the Aug. 2001, Jan., April and Sept. 2002 SHCP workshops.

Facilities: Buildings

- Caretakers' home
- Other park-related residences
- Youth hostel
- Visitor center
- Restrooms
- Historical buildings
- Local history interpretive center

- An indoor activity area for kids
- Indoor classroom space
- Boathouse
- Arcade
- Senior center
- Teen center
- Agricultural/food products business incubator
- Commercial kitchen for food businesses
- Conference center
- Equestrian facilities
- Future schools site
- Future civic center
- Performing arts center
- Housing development (to help finance Park &/or provide affordable housing)

Sports/Active Recreation Facilities

- Sports fields: soccer, baseball
- Sports courts: volleyball, tennis
- Athletic complex
- Swimming pool, using appropriate technology
- Skateboarding/skateboard park
- Playground
- Equestrian corral and staging area
- Trails: Walking, Jogging, Mountain biking, Equestrians
- Wheelchair-accessible trail(s)
- Paragliding launch and landing areas

Other Recreation Facilities

- Permanent outdoor stage
- Picnic areas
- Group campground
- River access, for locals and tourists
- Dog park
- Hammock structure (lots of hammocks in one area)

Agricultural and Horticulture Uses

- Commercial agricultural uses
- Community supported farm ("CSA")
- A pumpkin patch for kids
- Demonstration organic farm
- Botanical garden
- Native plant nursery
- Bamboo groves, for aesthetics and harvesting
- Restored historical orchard

Activities and Programs (more are noted or implied above)

Community picnics in the Park
Native plant walks
Birding walks
Summer recreation programs
Educational programs for youth
Involve youth in designing, planning, building, and maintaining facilities
Senior activities
Farmers Market
Community garden project for youth and adults
Sports programs such as soccer camps, coaching camps (w/overnight stays)
Community events
Summer Arts Fair
Jazz in the Park
Shakespeare in the Park
Recreation for kids
Horse boarding, riding lessons, rentals
Private parties (weddings, etc.)

Passive Uses

Civic open space
Quiet areas
Natural areas
Areas to be developed by future populations

INTERESTS

What is desired (or why)? (other than specific uses and developments)

Solutions that address the interests of all parties are likely to be the most satisfactory and sustainable ones.

- Protect native burial and other archeological sites
- Honor the native history and presence through design, education, activities.
- Honor the recent (ranch) history and presence through design, education, activities.
- On-going involvement of Wailaki tribe
- Maintain/restore native vegetation
- Provide travel corridors for wildlife
- Significant opportunities for peace & quiet within the Park
- Leave a lot of the place fairly wild
- Minimal visual impacts from development
- Leave some areas for future populations to work on
- Work with the land to find highest and best uses
- Realize the agricultural capability of the site more fully
- Protect agricultural soils
- Involve kids in the planning

- Provide jobs and small business opportunities.
- Safe and uncongested vehicle access to and from the Park
- Safe and pleasant non-motorized access to and from the Park
- Provide handicap accessibility
- Minimal impacts on Park neighbors (noise, traffic, privacy, etc.)
- Maintain the traditional uses of Tooby Park
- Provide for overlapping, multiple uses
- That uses be compatible with each other

POSSIBLE GUIDELINES OR CRITERIA

(Others could be derived from the interests above)

- Near-term improvements should be developed in a such a way that they movable, mobile, relocateable, flexible, rotateable -- in order to keep options open for the future, learn what works best, and to protect agricultural capability.
- Utilize appropriate, low-impact technology throughout; use as demonstrations
- No permanent structures on the best ag. soils.
- Allow for the years that it can take to learn the capabilities of the soil and to determine best uses.

ISSUES

(What needs to be addressed?)

- The potential amount structural development
- The amount of land developed vs. the amount left natural
- The amount of space used by, and other impacts, of any one use, compared to that use's benefits to the Park &/or public
- Conversion of agricultural land to other uses
- Protecting historical and cultural resources
- Compatibility of uses
- Potential off-site impacts of Park uses
- Potential cumulative impacts of Park uses
- Provision for possible major future uses, such as a school?
- Water supply, storage and consumption
 - Projected water needs; for each proposed use and overall total
 - What is sustainable?
- Traffic generation and management
- Parking
- Road access to and from the Park
- Provision of bathrooms and septic system(s)
- "Large" events, "venue": (develop common definitions)
 - Issues: Noise; traffic; parking; crowds; impacts on other park users, what else? Carrying capacity of the site. Set a limit for event size?
 - Interests: peace and quiet; a site for successful, enjoyable large festivals in SoHum
- Behavior of Park users – how to avoid problems, what if there are problems, what *is* a "problem"...