

DRAFT

October 18, 2000

BUY A PARK
for YOUR Community!
Contribute a Tax deductible \$4,000

Park Proposal

Southern Humboldt NOW HAS a park close to town with potential to be developed! It also has various groups of active, caring people wanting to create more educational and recreational activities, especially for youth. Hoped-for projects no longer need to flounder because suitable sites are rare and expensive.

The parcel has room for trails (walking, mountain bikes, horseback, jogging, etc.), picnicking, ball fields, gardening, farming, and ranching activities. In the future, we could have a swimming pool, game rooms, conference center, etc.. An emphasis on quality design, quality construction, and aesthetics is important.

Early donors to a Southern Humboldt community park have made a downpayment on this site for educational, recreational, social, and civic activities.

Escrow closed October 17 with \$300,000 in donations as part of the downpayment. Now we have mortgage payments and loan payments to make complete the purchase. Contributions now will reduce the interest payments.

Our Southern Humboldt Community is aware of how much change there has been in the last two decades, and has a general awareness of how fast change will accelerate in the next 20+ years. We believe that we can shape a future that includes a Community Park that we can be very proud of. The Tooby Flat area across from Tooby Park is a large enough area to contain all of our facilities.

A Community Park site, purchased acre by acre by individuals and small businesses, will bind us closer, and focus our energies to create some of what we want and need.

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The basic infrastructure, often the most costly portion of many possible projects already exists. It is first and foremost inexpensive usable land with barn and corrals, a caretakers house with water, power and septic, fertile land with varigated topography, and readily developable parking along Kimtu Road for enlarged Benbow State Park type event.

There will be costs associated with operating the park: caretaking, security, insurance, maintenance, fire suppression, restrooms, etc.. Even small parks can flounder on these issues, but we are betting that an adequately ambitious vision, careful planning, and the democratic "buy-in" of our community will inspire cooperative solutions. A few income generating ideas are easy to establish: Leases with the gravel operation, organic farmers, and a horse boarding/riding lesson concession, and fees from Benbow State Park type events. Volunteer advocate groups for particular improvements can get foundation grants and raise local donations.

After general use has increased appreciation of the magnificent site and its wonderful potential, it is possible that a Recreation District could be voted in, which would provide funding for more expensive projects- swimming pools, conference center; etc.. Should such a district be established the park Board would deed the park to that District.

P.S.

The site is so inspiring, looking down from the freeway just south of Garberville. Without ANY development it is ALREADY a park. We can't wait for you to see it firsthand, but access is not currently permitted.

This proposal has stirred only minor controversy. Most people like it right away, add their understanding about our needs, especially about our youth, and give their support. Donate plenty of money: \$4,000.00 is the suggested contribution. Some folks will do more, some less. Do what you reasonably can. It only takes a couple of minutes, but the results will last for generations!

For further information call: Steve Dazey (707) 923-4022,
or write to: P.O. Box 168, Garberville, Fax (707) 923-3008

DONATE NOW!

Make your tax deductible donation to: "SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT WORKING TOGETHER", a local non-profit with 23 years of experience helping other non-profits get started, such as Shakespeare, Feet First Dancers, KMUD, Hospice, and the Hospital District. Donations are now being accepted at the Community Credit Union, Six Rivers Bank, and Humboldt Bank.

We are asking for \$4,000. Donations in larger or smaller amounts will be gladly accepted. The Community Credit Union is offering a 9% Signature Loan for donors who need help. Ask them about it!

We currently have over \$330,000 in donations. Our goal of the purchase price of the land is \$1,125,000.

Now we begin the process of rezoning and lot line adjustments and the establishment of a new not-for-profit organization to coordinate park development. Hopefully, within a year we will have some of the park open for easy-to-provide activities.

We picture that the early park development will proceed very slowly. The Board of the new non-profit would probably want to commission one or more "20 year concept plans" to integrate future development. They could then entertain proposals from advocate groups, matching reasonable proposals with suitable sites, and perhaps offer help with plans, designs, permits, and grant applications. The Board would require each proposal to be well designed, well built, well maintained AND SELF FUNDED, including the added cost of liability insurance. This self-funded approach, born of necessity, also has the effect of diffusing the bulk of potential controversy over what is developed: what is developed is what is compatible with the evolving park concept and what the advocates themselves have time, money, energy, and imagination to accomplish. Hopefully, interested youth would be involved in each step of the process, empowering them with additional skills to achieve their life goals.

POSSIBLE USES

- Civic Open Space
- Horse Boarding, Riding Lessons, Trails, and Rentals
- Visitor Center
- Caretakers Home
- Native Plant Interpretive Walk
- Hiking Trails
- Jogging Trails
- Mountain Bike Path
- Historical Buildings and Local History Interpretive Center
- Summer Recreation Programs
- Skateboarding
- Picnic Areas
- Educational Programs for Youth, for instance, by them helping to design, plan, build, and maintain facilities they want to see happen.
- Community Garden Project for Youth and Adults
- Demonstration Organic Farm
- Volleyball (now more difficult at Benbow)
- Soccer, and later a soccer camp facility KOA style
- Baseball Fields, possibly a coaching camp
- Larger size Senior Center
- Conference Center (similar to Riverwalk in Fortuna)
- Community Pool/Gymnasium/Table Tennis, etc.
- Botanical Garden
- Local and Tourist River Access
- Future Schools site
- Future Civic Center
- Demonstration Flood Control Project along Kimtu Road
- Larger Summer Arts Fair with permanent stage
- Larger Jazz in the Park with with less freeway noise interference
- Larger Shakespeare with less freeway noise interference
- Oh Yeah, a super playground area

Any further suggestions? (careful, be prepared to work)
Tennis anyone?