



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

SUBJECT: CALABAZAS PARK
MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

DATE: 11-21-05

Approved

Date

11/30/05

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 1
SNI AREA: N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the Calabazas Park Master Plan Amendment to include a BMX site.

CEQA: Exempt, PP05-189.

BACKGROUND

Calabazas Park is a 17-acre park located in the western portion of Council District 1 within a narrow strip of the City of San José nestled between Cupertino to the north and Saratoga to the south. Specifically, the park is located at the northwest corner of Rainbow Drive and Blaney Avenue. Calabazas Creek runs adjacent to the western portion of the park. Current park amenities include a sports field, a basketball court, three tennis courts, a neighborhood center, three playgrounds, picnic benches, a restroom and turf areas.

Approximately 2.2 acres of the parkland adjacent to Calabazas Creek is undeveloped land mixed with wooded areas. This portion of the park has been informally used as a BMX area for the past 30 years by local youths and bike enthusiasts; however, the dirt mounds and tracks were not designed by a professional BMX designer. In the fall of 2004, the City decided to close this informal BMX facility to public use for safety reasons.

Between the fall of 2004 and spring of 2005, staff held four community meetings with the surrounding community and BMX users to provide updates on progress and to solicit input on the next steps. The number of meeting attendees ranged between 100 to 200. As a result of these meetings, the community expressed a strong desire for the City to reopen the BMX site. The parents, in particular, provided the most consistent message that the BMX site is a popular recreation area for the neighborhood youth, especially during the summer months when they are out of school and that the site should be opened soon. The parents and BMX users agreed to

work with City staff and the BMX designer to come up with a design that is safe, functional, will protect existing trees, and is sensitive to other park users. A planning committee composed of core community members and bike enthusiasts was established to assist staff in the planning of the new BMX facility.

Concurrently, staff conducted research and contacted staff from other Bay Area cities and municipalities regarding the presence of other dirt BMX sites and how they were being maintained and operated. Staff will use the acquired research information in the planning of this site and obtaining consensus from the community.

ANALYSIS

The development of the new BMX site is consistent with the guidelines of the City's Greenprint for Parks and Community Facilities and Programs (Greenprint), regarding the location and distribution of community-serving parkland and facilities to meet the needs of underserved areas. The Greenprint identified the Calabazas Park area, located between Stevens Creek/Highway 880 East and Stevens Creek/Highway 880 West, as currently underserved by park facilities. The development of the new BMX site at Calabazas Park will help meet that need.

Council's action would amend the Calabazas Park Master Plan to include the addition of a dirt BMX site. The BMX site will be situated on a 2-acre site within the park. A map of the Master Plan Amendment is attached. The dirt mounds and tracks will be designed by a professional BMX designer to ensure safety and functionality. Other design elements will include protection of existing trees, drainage, and perimeter fencing that will provide physical separation of the BMX site from the adjacent playground areas.

Once the City Council approves the Master Plan Amendment, project design will begin in January 2006, construction will begin in August 2006, and project completion is expected in October 2006.

In August 2005, Toyota Motor Corporation, the sponsor of the Dew Extreme Sports Tour, donated \$10,000 to the Calabazas BMX Project. Staff is presently in the process of securing this funding, which could also be used for riding classes, safety workshops and project improvements. This additional funding is scheduled to be appropriated to the projects in Fiscal Year 2006-07.

The BMX site will not be staffed however; it will be monitored by maintenance staff on a weekly basis. In order to ensure safety, staff, with the assistance of a BMX professional, will check and adjust the ramps on the course periodically as well as ensure that no alterations to the overall course have been made by the participants.

OUTCOME

Approval of the Calabazas Park Master Plan Amendment will add the BMX facility as a permanent feature in the park. The amendment will enable staff to implement the design and construction of a permanent facility in Calabazas Park.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

As part of the Master Plan process, staff conducted at least four community meetings in the last year to provide project progress updates and gather public comments. Public meetings were held on November 1, 2004; December 9, 2004; January 20, 2005; and April 11, 2005. The meetings were very well attended, with 100-200 community members and BMX users attending each meeting. Meeting notifications were sent to residential homes within a 1000-foot radius of the meeting locations.

The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the Master Plan Amendment on November 2, 2005.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, and the Departments of Public Works, and Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.

COST IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of a BMX facility at the Calabazas Park is estimated at \$400,000. Funding is available in the Park Trust Fund for this project. The additional operating and maintenance costs associated with this project are estimated at \$70,000 annually. These funds will be considered as part of the 2006-2007 budget process. The \$10,000 Toyota donation is presently being secured and will be appropriated to this project in the Fiscal Year 2006-07.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Fund #	Appn. #	Appn. Name	Total Appn.	2005-2006 Adopted Capital Budget (Page)	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
375	5113	Calabazas Park Improvements	\$400,000	V-833	06-21-05 27474

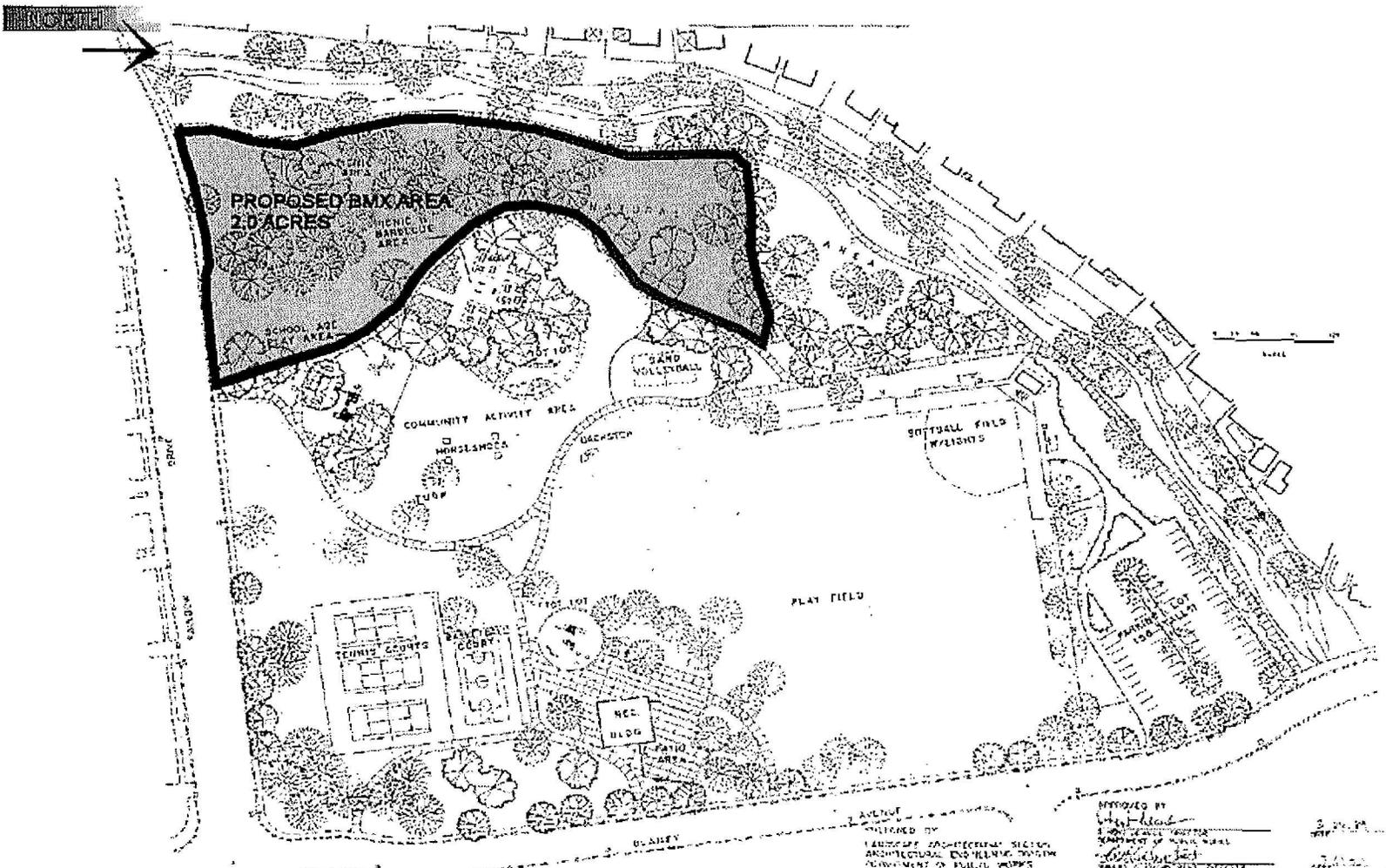
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CEQA

Exempt, PP05-189.


SARA L. HENSLEY
Director of Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services

Attachment: Map of Calabazas Park Master Plan Amendment



APPROVED BY
 [Signature]
 [Title]
 [Date]

PREPARED BY
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SECTION
 ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING DIVISION
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CALABAZAS PARK

MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

CITY OF SAN JOSE - MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT FOR BMX FACILITY
 17 ACRE PARK 2 ACRES FOR BMX FACILITY
 COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

