

Community Meeting Notes
Wednesday, June 18, 2007 - 6:30PM – 8PM
Yuba City Corporation Yard, Second Floor Conference Room

City residents were invited to a Community Meeting to discuss community needs for the Yuba City Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan. The meeting was hosted by Yuba City Parks & Recreation Commissioners. The meeting was one of several planned public meetings in the community needs assessment.

There were four members of Yuba City Parks & Recreation Commission present, three City staff, 1 City Council member for Yuba City and 1 Sutter County elected official plus 4 residents in attendance. The entire group informally shared thoughts, ideas and comments for long range community directions for:

- Parks (all types)
- Open Space
- Trails
- Recreation Programs
- Indoor Facilities

Introduction and meeting purpose was provided by Brad McIntire, Interim Parks Director. A basic overview presentation of 2008 planning findings showing a future need for 255 acres of parks and 383 acres of open space was provided by Matt Mathes, project manager and park planner with Jacobs consultant firm. Most of the meeting was dedicated to attendees discussing comments at three tables assisted by facilitators from Jacobs and commissioners:

- Indoor Facilities & Recreation Programs
- Parks
- Open Space & Trails

Community Comments

The comments below were recorded by three staff landscape architects with the Jacobs consultant firm assisting City of Yuba City with the community assessment task included in the overall process Yuba City Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan. The comments heard at 3 tables fell into 4 major categories. All recorded comments were shared with the entire group before the meeting adjourned.

General Comments

Several meeting attendees made favorable comments on the wide community use and enjoyment of the recently opened Gauche Aquatic facility. It was suggested to send June 18 community meeting comments to the local newspaper. Factors affecting attendance included scheduled youth sports events and hot weather temperatures.

Indoor Facilities & Recreation Programs

(Compiled by Matt Mathes, ASLA)

There was a suggestion for City to consider using the existing Senior Center facility for recreation programs to serve all ages, in addition to elderly programs.

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A dance program one type of indoor recreation facility need discussed. Learning to dance, practicing to dance or hosting a community dance competition are possible needs. Interest in dance is based recent wide popular interest in televised dance competitions. An ongoing and regular general community recreation program need is for residents to learn how to dance for upcoming social events (high school proms, weddings, anniversaries, seasonal celebrations, etc.)

Low income youth access to existing City indoor recreation programs could be improved in several areas:

- Price, admission, fee or cost to participate in programs is sometimes a barrier
- Awareness of available recreation programs is a barrier
- Provision of travel and access assistance where and when needed can be a barrier to participation

The community has traditionally enjoyed excellent indoor recreation programs offered at school sites and school facilities that have been eliminated over past 2 decades. Such programs include:

- After school recreation (not as many)
- Weekend events (not as many)
- Summer day camp programs (continue to exist now)

Another comment heard was that the community trend away from using school facilities for community recreation programs was perhaps starting to change. An example of one school facility based new recreation program was:

- Girls on the Run (12 weeks held 2 times per year, plus 1 summer short session for 1 week).

A suggestion was made for City to consider starting a neighborhood based walking program. A regular meeting location for the community walks are facility or site needs.

The citywide walking program could have several community benefits:

- Overall health (obesity prevention, crime prevention)
- City could serve as a catalyst to promote and start the walking program
- Could be regular days and times per month (first and third Thursday, etc.)
- Could be organized and run by community leaders after City helps get the initial program started
- Could include regular participation with community law enforcement representatives

Promoting existing or proposed future recreation programs within the community was viewed as a current challenge. The suggestion was for more City use of the dedicated public channel on cable TV to provide an awareness of recreation programs. (See also comment below about using cable TV for showing what actual existing trail routes and trail access points looks like for residents to preview trail locations before going out to use the site).

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Trails Programs & Trail Development

(Compiled by Matt Mathes, ASLA)

Connect existing former railroad corridor with Sutter community area by making site upgrades, then previewing the improved trail route on cable TV. (See also comment above)

The community needs more involvement to link kids to programs via cable TV. An example would be a special offer or incentive for kids to immediately go out and participate in a program right after watching basic information about a youth program or youth event shown on cable TV.

Riverfront equestrian trail is an undeveloped recreation activity opportunity.

Yuba City and Sutter County should work together on establishing and developing a trail corridor for multiple trail uses (walking, bicycles, equestrian) within the Feather River corridor. The trail corridor route could extend north and south of the City limits on a combination of public lands, public access easements plus new easements across existing private sites to enable safe and enjoyable trail access.

Trails for bike use are needed, along with perhaps a separate parallel unpaved path for horse riders to use.

A day camping use area in a remote location along the Feather River would be desirable for hikers, walking, bicycles and horseback riders. Examples of organized and mapped destination type sites include Star Bend or Abbott Lakes.

An existing site point of interest called Boyd's Pump along a future riverfront trail (if developed) might become a defined day use site location for possible day camping use, as one example.

Passive Open Space & Trails

(Compiled by Amanda Meier, ASLA)

The Feather River front was viewed as a major open space serving the community. However, the open space is not currently all in public ownership or entirely accessible. A major opportunity exists for City to develop several points of interest as well as a park within the overall open space land. An example mentioned was Bidwell Park.

Regarding trails, using the entire length of the abandoned railroad tracks that run from center of the community on diagonal to the northwest can create a major community trail with links to the rail trail corridor.

Access to the Feather River was viewed as a very important community need.

There could be an economic benefit of the City creating a small portion of a public owned open space site for long term revenue. A food and beverage concession or lease

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facility designed to fit into the river environment natural setting with a riverfront view was mentioned as a desirable example. (Example mentioned - Rusty Duck restaurant located near Richards Boulevard in Sacramento overlooking a paved multi-use trail on the top of the levee bank along the American River)

Nodes and trails for picnics within open space sites were desirable and needed features not currently available along Feather River.

Bike lanes on streets connecting residential areas to a Feather Riverfront trail (when developed) are needed.

Trail corridor (connections east to west) connecting residential areas to the Feather Riverfront trail (when developed) are needed.

Reclaimed water could be a great long term suitable source for irrigation of public sites (trails as well as parks). City is encouraged to consider reclaimed water for irrigation.

City should have and maintain a list of low water demand plants for residents as well as following a list low water demand plants for new parks, trails and renovated parks.

Parks (All Types)

(Compiled by Adam Kringel, ASLA)

Active outdoor sites are a very high existing community need at new and existing parks for base ball fields and softball fields for youth and adult recreation programs.

Existing mini parks are well liked and desirable for use.

Community gardens in parks for residents for food crops are needed.

Programs in parks are needed to teach residents about the benefits and methods of composting.

Exercise programs at neighborhood parks and mini parks would be used if provided. Instructor led programs at parks could include Tai Chi or pilates, as 2 examples.

Educational signage about health benefits of recreation and exercise are needed at all park sites.

Bike trails that access and connect with existing and proposed parks are needed (no specific sites mentioned).

Trails that link to existing parks are needed (no specific sites mentioned).

Restroom facilities at existing park sites are needed (no specific sites mentioned).

An existing small park in the Woodbridge area (park site name was unknown) of the community has been enjoyed for several decades.