

MEMORANDUM

DATE July 23, 2013
TO Iveta Harvancik
City of Saratoga
FROM Isabelle Minn
RE **Community Workshop #1 Summary**

This memorandum summarizes the first community workshop for the Quarry Park Master Plan, which took place on July 9, 2013 at the Joan Pisani Community & Senior Center in Saratoga. Approximately 15 community members attended the community workshop. Patrick Miller, Principal of 2M Associates, began the meeting by introducing the members of the Project Team, followed by an introduction to the project and a brief synopsis of the project schedule. Sadie Mitchell, Project Manager for The Planning Center | DC&E presented a summary of the history of the site. Isabelle Minn, Principal-in-Charge of The Planning Center | DC&E, then took the audience through a series of maps illustrating the site's regional connectivity and gave a brief overview of the project's preliminary vision statement and goals, as well as the Opportunities and Constraints analysis that the Project Team conducted.



Following the presentation, community members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide their opinions regarding the project. The community members were then divided up into three small groups and asked to participate in a facilitated small group exercise. During the exercise the participants were asked to provide their feedback on the preliminary vision statement and goals, as well as discuss the types of uses and improvements they would like to see on the site and to identify on the maps where these uses/improvements should be located. Groups then shared their thoughts and recommendations with the larger group.



The small groups all shared many common ideas about the vision for the site and the types of improvements they would like to see. All groups were supportive of local and regional trail connections, family focused recreation, and educational programming, which would minimally impact the existing landscape and specifically reference the site's rich history. The primary programming suggestion was a trail network that included both a short and long multi-use loop trails that meets the needs of pedestrians, mountain bikers and equestrians.

A children's play area in the staging area was mentioned by all groups and envisioned as "natural-looking" to blend in with its surroundings. Other play equipment suggestions were a zip line and ropes

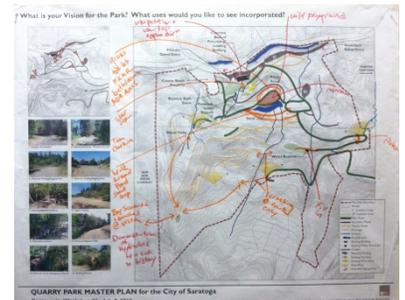
course. Overall, there was a desire to have all interventions blend in with the site's ecology and one group strongly emphasized the need to protect and restore habitat. There were multiple requests for a museum and an interpretive program, complete with QR Code and an audio tour, which would educate park users on the history of the Quarry.

Parking proximity to staging area and trails, bathroom facilities, ADA accessibility, and connectivity through adjacent properties to off-site locations were also major concerns. Bus parking could serve as horse parking, if it was located near the equestrian trails. Parking lots should be equipped with electric car charging stations and the access road should have a two-way bike lane. In addition, safety was a major concern and two groups suggested hiring an on-site manager or rangers to patrol the park, especially at night.

Following is a summary of each group's recommendations.

Group # 1

- Provide buffers between park and adjacent residential properties
- Hire an on-site manager to maintain park/trails and provide surveillance
- Use a trail easement across the residential property to the east in order to connect on-site trails to Hakone Gardens
- Connect on-site trails to the regional open space across the San Jose Property to the west and Highway 9 to the north
- Provide and enhance vista points
- Name the project "Saratoga Quarry Park"
- Create two loop trails: a small trail route around the proposed staging area and a longer trail around the entire park fringe
- Connect trails over streams with bridges
- Design trail stairs on very steep areas
- Lease space for community and private events
- Include staging area with tot lots, picnic areas, and bathrooms at the central flat area
- Restore pond and provide trail around it for families and young children
- Create an educational area to learn about hydrology and park history
- Create a history tour within the park, potentially utilizing QR codes
- Develop interpretation program for the park (electronic and visual)
- Reuse the concrete base of the historic building as a welcome or education center
- Avoid adding more structures
- Include bathrooms near the parking area and staging area
- Design playground/tot lot to be more natural-looking and mimic the surrounding nature
- Include pedestrian-only trails, equestrian trails, and evaluate mountain biking trails



- Provide 2-way travel for bikes along the parking access road
- Incorporate horse trailers and school bus parking into the proposed parking areas
- Connect with the equestrian trails in Sanborn, and coordinate with sheriff's horse patrol and/or local horse riders to help police the park

Group #1 recommended this edited version of the vision statement:

The historical Saratoga Quarry Park is a portal to the past and a gateway to the Santa Cruz Mountains. Quarry Park provides opportunities to explore, play, educate, and experience the outdoors to benefit the visitor's physical health and spirit.

Group #2

- Broaden the vision statement to include Santa Clara County history, as well as ecology and the preservation of arboretum/arboriculture; switch "play" to "enjoy"
- Aim to "inspire" and educate children and families
- Incorporate Walden West, Office of Education, and Sanborn in the education program
- Connect to natural features on the San Jose Water Company site
- Take advantage of views by creating vista points
- Remove invasive and exotic vegetation
- Protect sensitive species
- Restore native plant habitat, but trails up high may be difficult because of erosion
- Create trails options that are ADA accessible and safe for children
- Incorporate a zip line, an electric charging station in parking area, an outdoor education feature, loop trails, equestrian trails, and mountain bike trails
- Include signage on multi-use trails
- Provide adequate staging for equestrian trails either on-site or nearby
- Design a pond trail with an overlook and a boardwalk out into the pond
- Develop an interpretation program that focuses on the history and ecology. Develop a QR code and audio tour
- Investigate funding opportunities through State Conservation Corps, SJ Conservation Corps, and grants specifically for trail enhancement. Consider funding through partnerships, sponsors, and special events (i.e. festivals, winery events)
- Include a community garden, vineyard, and demonstration garden
- Restore stone work
- Provide shade structures and bathrooms at picnic areas
- Highlight historic quarry structures



Group #3

- Add “self-renewal” or “renewing yourself” to the vision statement
- Remember that “less is more” and to balance technology and nature within the park design
- Design the park without technology or include electronic interpretation only in specific areas
- Ensure the park is secure
- Encourage public community events, but not private events
- Design a natural play area for children, not an off the shelf playground
- Create drive thru in the concrete foundation that serves as a display area
- Understand geology/seismology and use existing rock slides and topography to inform design
- Provide access to fire department and to water in adjacent San Jose Water Company Property for emergencies
- Design water facilities and infrastructure for drinking and fire suppression
- Include water tank and pump into the site design
- Create a nature museum and seasonal program display
- Recruit docents / rangers and incorporate them into the interpretation of the park history
- Designate trail themes (i.e. Limestone Walk)
- Establish seasonal full-moon walks
- Develop a relationship between the Park and the Anthropology/Recreational Management Departments at West Valley College
- Educate park users on Native American life and re-use concrete foundation as a museum
- Incorporate a ropes course and zip line
- Provide ample parking and secondary parking at the base of the site
- Include bike lanes on road leading to park
- Designate parking specifically for bikes and motorcycles

