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Project: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park Master Plan

Date: 01/25/2024

Notes below are provided by NV5, which are primary themes identified and condensed from the seven Focus Group member's detailed comments.

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FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTED COMMENTS FOR PREFERRED MASTER PLAN:

- 1) Restoring the hay meadow to Oak Savannah is positively received, while keeping other agriculture fields in production. It is a good compromise.
  - a. Consider adding paths in the Oak Savannah as "pedestrian only" with no horses.
  - b. Needs a implementation/maintenance/monitoring plan, which will be a decades-long process.
- 2) Off-leash dog area is positively received.
  - a. Consider separating into two sections – one for small dogs and one for large dogs.
  - b. Consider relocating the off-leash dog area to the west of the playground. More central to other activities, and move it out of the wooded, natural part of the park.
- 3) The plan lacks opportunities for "pedestrian only" trails, without horses. Some pedestrians are intimidated by horses. Potentially consider the current cyclist single track to be pedestrian only.
- 4) The gravel and wood chip trail surfacing improvements:
  - a. Trail surfacing as shown will be an large cost item, and seem out of place at Rilee Park. Natural trail surfaces are what make Rilee Park desirable, and fit into the idea of a rural park setting. Perhaps a better mix of gravel, wood chips, and natural surface trails is a better approach.
  - b. Being such a large cost item, please consider striking trail surface improvements from the Master Plan, keeping the trail seasonal as they are now. Focus should be on other improvements instead.
  - c. A priority plan or phased resurfacing plan, identifying which trails should be resurfaced first, would be helpful to include in the M.P.
  - d. Perhaps a portion of the trails, specifically around the farmhouse, can be paved as ADA-accessible walks. Maybe a 1-mile loop of paved trails, for senior citizens and wheelchairs.
  - e. Consider adding a buffer around the gravel trails that surround the agriculture fields, to avoid conflicts between the gravel surface and the farming practices.
  - f. Wood chip trails would likely not hold up on steep slopes used by equestrians.
  - g. Implementation and constructability of the full trail plan will be difficult given the existing site conditions and slopes. The trail system should be broken into sections by priority, implementation difficulty, etc.

- h. The layout of the existing trails is being kept as-is for the most part. However, it was not planned out to begin with. Should each of the trail segments be looked at in detail and re-routed to match the existing grades better, to be more reasonable to build/maintain.
  - i. The trail segment along the west side of the southern portion of the plan is essentially under water during rain events. Wood chips will be washed away. Consider an elevated boardwalk or walkway, so that this trail segment is passable year-round.
- 5) Some Focus Group members are disappointed to see mountain biking removed from the Master Plan.
  - 6) Some Focus Group members are pleased to see the park focused on pedestrian and equestrian uses.
  - 7) Some Focus Group members are disappointed that the Master Plan caters to a small percentage of CPRD taxpayers who ride horses, instead of the public at large. At a minimum, equestrians should be charged a usage fee, just like the golf course and swimming pool.
  - 8) Consider making the playground have a "farming history" theme, to tie to the history of the farm and Rilee/Parrett family.
  - 9) Consider revenue generating options
    - a. For equestrians, such as horse corrals, horse camping area, camp host, obstacle course, etc. Would need a water source – there was once a hand-dug well in the tree area close to the old cabin site.
    - b. Farmhouse – list out revenue generating events.
    - c. It would be nice if the Master Plan included some funding ideas, such as equestrian parking fees, grant sources, or fund raising events.
    - d. Would like CPRD to start thinking about how the Rilee Park can generate revenue to be self-sufficient vs. cost burden for the district.
  - 10) Automatic gates can be costly and have issues. An alternative is to employ a Park Ranger exchange for free housing, to open/close gates? Camp host could also help with gate management, and would help to deter vandalism in the park.
  - 11) The new parking lot at the north end seems unnecessary. It is already difficult to manage multiple entrances into the park. Eliminate it or keep it as a very low priority.
  - 12) The shelter at the north end would be costly, exposed, and isolated for problems/vandalism to occur. Consider spending money on other improvements.
    - a. A simple bench and shade trees would suffice, instead of a shelter.
    - b. Great location for family picnics. Suggest not allowing equestrians, but reserving this location for pedestrians/families only.
  - 13) The manure compost bin at the equestrian trailhead should be removed.
  - 14) The master plan must include signage to separate horse-trailer parking from passenger car parking (at the equestrian trailhead).
  - 15) Consider adding tie rails and mounting blocks at all of the destinations throughout the park.
  - 16) Consider using porta-potties instead of vault toilets. They are less expensive and serve the same purpose.
  - 17) A cost estimate of the proposed improvements is needed.
  - 18) The Master Plan needs to address conflicts between equestrian usage and pedestrians. Perhaps through signage?

- 19) The Master Plan should have a development priority. One example could be (in order):
  - a. Family education, family recreation and safe family exposure to nature.
  - b. Collection of environmental data to further understand the natural environment at this aspect and elevation.
  - c. Equestrian Trails - where they do not interfere with, or limit # 1, #2 or #4
  - d. Mountain Biking Trails - where they do not interfere with, or limit # 1, #2, or #3
- 20) The crossings on Parrett Mtn. Rd need to be sufficiently planned, designed, and signed properly for safety. Horses crossing this busy road is a major concern, now that equestrians are allowed on both sides of the property.
  - a. Consider adding another road crossing at the south end of the property across Parrett Mtn. Rd.
- 21) Consider establishing a palustrine forested wetland at the springhouse location, or at least exploring if this idea is feasible.
- 22) Consider eliminating the vault toilet at Bob's Corner since there will already be facilities at the farmhouse and the equestrian trailhead.