

THE CITY OF SAN JOSE
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services and Public Works

Shady Oaks Park



SUMMARY REPORT

May 2002

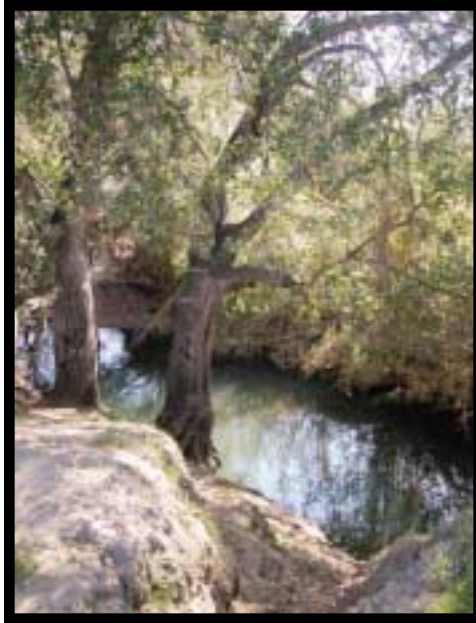
Public Workshop #1

February 13, 2001

Focus Groups #1,2,3,4

March 26, 27 & April 2,3 2002

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Introduction

On February 13, 2002 the City of San Jose Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services and Public Works with consultant Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey hosted a Community Workshop for the Shady Oaks Sports Park Design Plan. The primary purpose of this meeting was to gain public design input about the proposed Shady Oaks Sports Park, and to present the initial findings of the consultant.

Background

The success of the proposed Shady Oaks Sports Park will be a result of understanding and incorporating the community's issues into the design plan alternatives and resultant final plan.

Meeting Format

The Community Workshop for the Shady Oaks Sports Park was held at Davis Intermediate School's multi-purpose room, 5035 Edenvue Drive on February 13 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. City staff and RHAA staff coordinated the meeting. Notes from the meeting follow.

Councilperson for District 2, Forrest Williams welcomed the participants, and discussed the format and materials of the meeting. He described the history of Bond Measure P, and its relationship with the Shady Oaks site. Following this, Forrest introduced Todd Capurso.

Todd Capurso, who is with the Parks and Recreation and Neighborhood Services talked about his involvement with the Century Neighborhood Group and Coyote Creek Neighborhood Group, and the fact that nothing presented to be presented at the meeting, was definite. Todd turned the meeting over to Jim.

Jim Norman gave a brief background on the strategic 'Greenprint' process adopted in 2000, which led to Bond Measure P. The City of San Jose held 100 public meetings over a 2-year period, during which time they received feedback from various groups, such as seniors, sports groups, etc. enabling them to identify the areas in which the city was lacking facilities and programs. The plan identified that 1.2 billion dollars of assets were needed for city facilities to offset city size. One of the largest categories lacking facilities and land was recreation and sports. The city identified over 25 million dollars specifically for the design and implementation for sports complexes, and began looking for sites that were 35-150 acres in size. At this time, two sites were identified for possible sports complexes, Singleton and Shady Oaks. Introductions of the consultants followed.

Manuela King from RHAA guided the audience through a power point presentation on existing conditions, which included a site zone map, vegetation map, site analysis map, and zones with corresponding site photos. The presentation also included a project schedule, and presentation boards displaying the above mentioned maps and photos. Due to the size of the workshop the participants were divided into five groups for further design discussion.

Following the small group discussions, participants again gathered as a whole. An informal period of public comment then occurred.

See the Appendix for complete meeting minutes, sign-in sheets, and questionnaires.

Meeting Summary

One hundred and eleven (111) people attended the Community Workshop, held February 12, 2002 at the Davis Intermediate School. At the meeting participants had a chance to comment both verbally and/or in writing concerning the Shady Oaks Sports Park. The written comments were taken from the 91 questionnaires turned in, and were incorporated verbatim into this summary. The verbal comments were summarized and can be found under the “Summary of Key Issues” heading.

See Appendix for sign-in sheets.

1.) Describe in one sentence what would make the design for Shady Oaks Park successful for you.

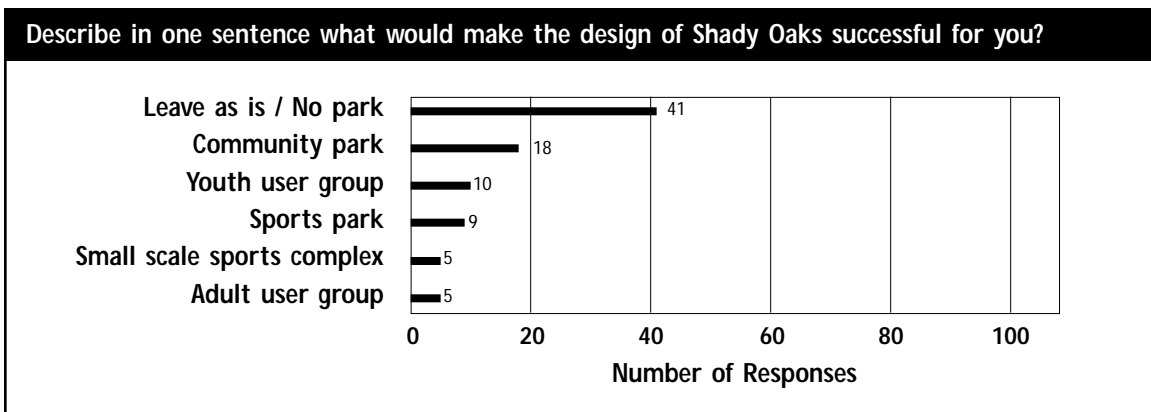
- A multi-sports complex with picnic areas, play areas and a high level of focus on youth soccer.
- I believe a well-lighted multi-use facility that can be used for numerous user groups will best serve the city.
- “One stop shop” to serve many, but to concentrate on soccer needs for both youth and adults.
- Adequate parking and restroom facilities for youth soccer.
- A multi-use complex, providing quality facilities for youth organized sports and family activities.
- Please leave the park as is except add a small bathroom with drinking fountain, maintain trash and patrol after dark.
- As many soccer fields as possible. The soccer community in this area suffers from a severe lack of decent fields. We have so many players in the city of San Jose.
- Family friendly sports complex.
- Diverted traffic away from residential units, with soccer fields consisting of high quality turf.
- Nothing changed.
- Leave it as is!!!!
- Keep it rural – or very limited development.

- None. Bathrooms needed.
- None. Stay as is. You can design and expand children's playground. Put in bathrooms.
- No Park.
- To keep it the way it is now.
- Leave it alone.
- Keep the traffic off Coyote Rd, and parking all near the creek – if I had a choice, I would like to keep it as is, maybe cleaned up a little.
- No sports complex (just add bathroom to neighborhood park).
- No park! Keep it rural!
- Make no changes – leave it the way it is!
- Leave it as it is! No sports complex!
- Leave it the way it is.
- Leave as is & do not develop a sports complex.
- No development.
- Left “as is”
- Leave it as is.
- Only add a restroom. Do not disturb existing park. Do not cut down orchard! No sports complex at all.
- “Successful” means leaving it as is. We currently have a nice, quiet neighborhood park that offers lots of space for our families to run, jump & play. A “sports complex” takes away from the intimacy and freedom to use our park.
- The orchard would stay exactly as it is – no development!
- Keep the current park and land as is.
- Leaving it the way it is.
- Leave it alone.

- Do not develop it, leave it as is.
- Leave it as it is!
- Nothing will make it successful. We don't want the complex.
- We don't want the complex.
- Leave it as is
- Do not develop this area.
- Improve the park as it is. Leave it alone.
- Leave it as is!
- Leave the park as is w/ the greenbelt available to the local wildlife.
- Make no changes only add bathrooms.
- Leave it natural. My vision is to leave it the same as it exists. No more traffic.
- Build it somewhere else.
- A couple tennis courts, maybe 1 or 2 soccer fields. That's it, small!
- No parking lots set along coyote road.
- Parking & access from somewhere other than Coyote Rd.
- To have a sports complex.
- To stay on top of maintenance.
- Design to keep beauty of the park.
- Community park – not a park to serve as sports complex for all of San Jose.
- Has to be neighborhood friendly, parking east off of Blossom Hill Road.
- The separation of the park from the traffic Coyote Rd.
- (1) Low noise (2) minimum traffic (3) leave some open space for walking
- Only if we have to (not big). Coyote Rd lined w/ palm trees to separate the homes from sports complex. P.S. Parking away from the homes.

- A park that keeps the natural look that is already there, child-centered sports fields, new playgrounds, safe and well-maintained. Strong traffic control.
- To maintain the rural beauty while providing a minimum number of youth soccer fields & other small recreational activities and providing appropriate maintenance & security without negatively impacting our traffic would be a successful project to me.
- As little impact on Coyote Rd, ie. Traffic light & noise in neighborhood. Maintain open, natural space.
- Maintain peacefulness of adjacent neighbors. Entrances off Blossom Hill Rd (not Coyote).
- More opportunities to schedule youth and adult organized sports activities.
- A facility that would s...
- Enhance existing park area without developing sports field.
- A modest development, balancing the need for sports facilities, while maintaining the area's beauty, and respecting neighborhood concerns about traffic, parking & noise.
- Leave it the way it is. Only build a neighborhood use facility such as restrooms, trails & small picnic areas.
- More traffic away from Coyote, keep the natural look, no lights, upkeep and maintenance.
- Do not want a large park! In order for Shady Oaks Park to be successful for our family, is that the city would have to plan the traffic flow away from the existing homes.
- A child and family friendly place where kids can play safely.
- Youth soccer fields.
- Upkeep of existing park and additional bathrooms.
- Not developed. If developed, no concrete. Keep as green as possible with trees. Cohesive blending w/ natural green background. Family and children oriented. No fields. Just trails or grass/trees.
- Maintain current "green belt" look from road while minimizing traffic.
- A clean, safe neighborhood park that serves only the local neighborhood.

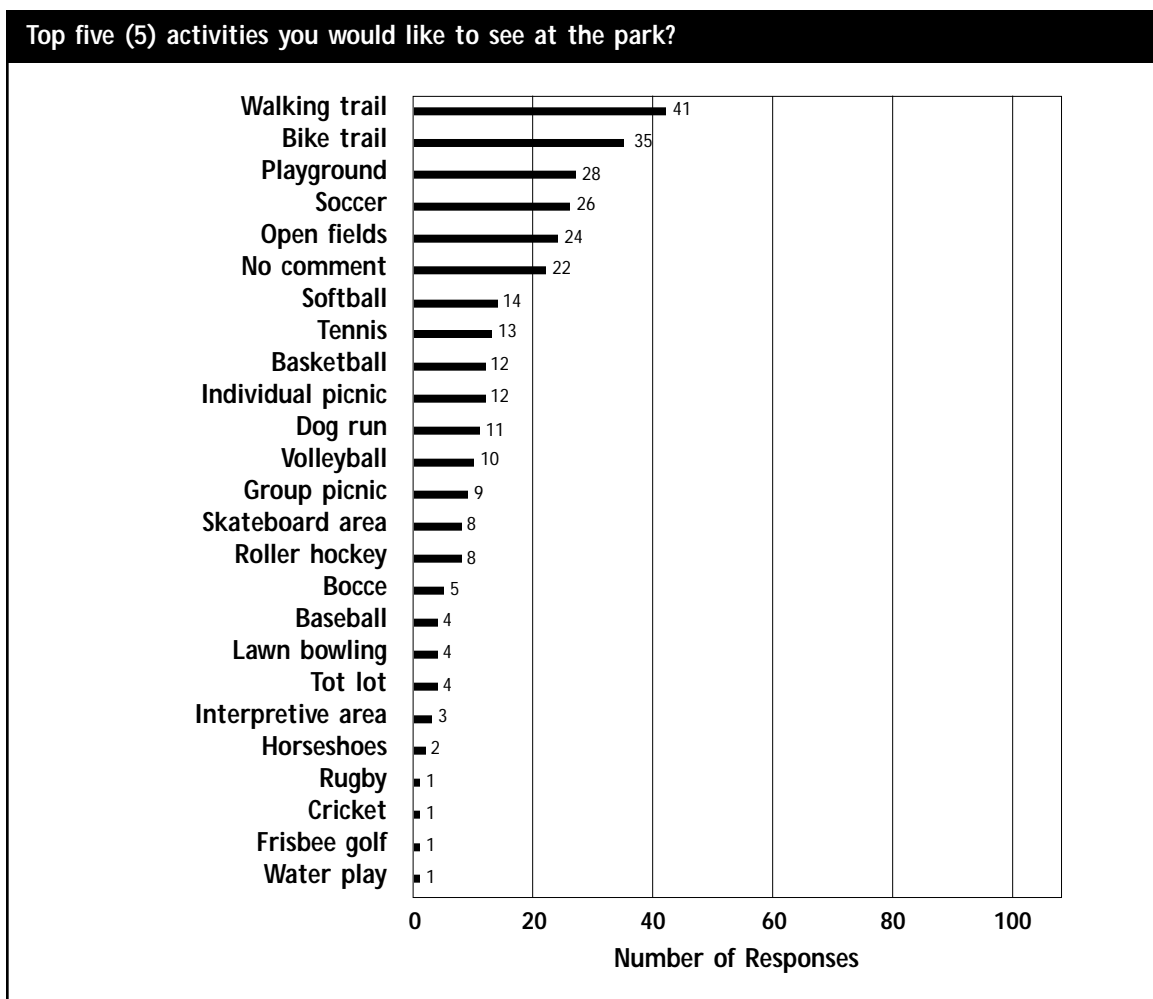
- I would like to be involved in the design/placement of park. I was involved w/ Shady Oaks from its conception and would love to be a part of this from the beginning. (Darryl Ospring [Coyote Creek Home Owner's Association/Representative] 5077 Corwin Court, San Jose, CA 95111 #309.8385)
- No visible parking or chain link.
- Putting in a public bathroom would be nice.
- Simple community development or nothing. Need to decide if we want anything at all before we discuss specifics of what to put in. (Peter Nelson 475 Fanick Dr. #408.629.5896)
- The park would be a success if there was no additional traffic to Coyote Rd., the peacefulness and beauty was maintained between the park and Coyote Rd (greenbelt), no night-time sports were allowed, and the number of fields was kept to a minimum (3 to 6 fields).
- To allow open space to remain unchanged.
- Only a neighborhood park – no complex.
- Only a neighborhood park please.
- Move the site to the field south of Blossom Hill and Coyote. It's currently a parking lot on the weekends. Would it be possible to use the open field on the North corner of Silver Creek/Coyote Road for parking and create an underpass for complex users. That would make a huge difference.
- Design the site so that it would have minimal noise and traffic impact on the site. All 6'-8' earth landscaped berms on street side – as a noise and site buffer.
- No comments noted on 2 questionnaires.



2.) Please circle the top five (5) activities you would like to see at this park?

Soccer (26)	Baseball (4)	Cricket (1)	Walking Trial (41)
Softball (14)	Basketball (12)	Roller Hockey (8)	Bike Trial (35)
Tennis (13)	Rugby (1)	Lawn Bowling (4)	Tot Lot (4)
Bocce (5)	Volleyball (10)	Horseshoes (2)	Water play (1)
Playground (28)	Skateboard area (8)	Open fields (24)	Group picnic (9)
Individual picnic (12)	Frisbee golf (1)	No comment (22)	Dog run area (11)
Interpretive educational area (3)			

(Note: The numbers in parenthesis are the number of responses for each activity)



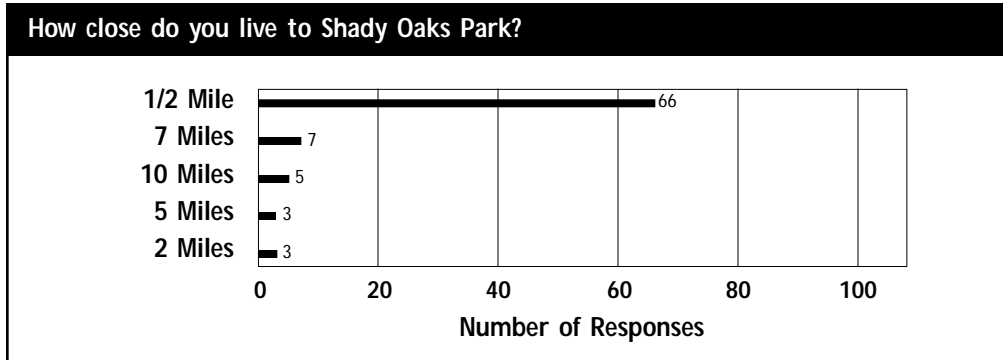
What other activities would like to see at this park that are not listed above?

- No interest.
- If the dog run is provided, then please provide baggies and a trash can – perhaps even throughout the park.
- Cleaner sand and the playground bigger.
- Neighborhood choices.
- Star parties.
- Leave the area as is.
- Nothing, no complex.
- Driving range.
- Natural area.
- Grass (field) activity separate from black top.
- None. They are all there above.
- Nature.
- Pool.
- Wild open space for animals & plants besides the neighborhood use only facilities.
- Swimming pool, golf driving range, 9-hole course.
- I am concerned about the wild life and how to take care of them. No adult use – focus on children. I feel very strong about the entrance – enter from the back area from industrial area via a bridge over creek not from Coyote Road.
- Open space & reserve development for Triangle zone #5 only.
- Pedestrian bridge over 101 and Mountfurry Roads. Stop lights at entrance for traffic control and pedestrian safety.
- No comments noted on 69 questionnaires.

How close do you live to Shady Oaks Park?

10 miles (5) 5 miles (3) 2 miles (3) 1/2 mile (66) None (7)

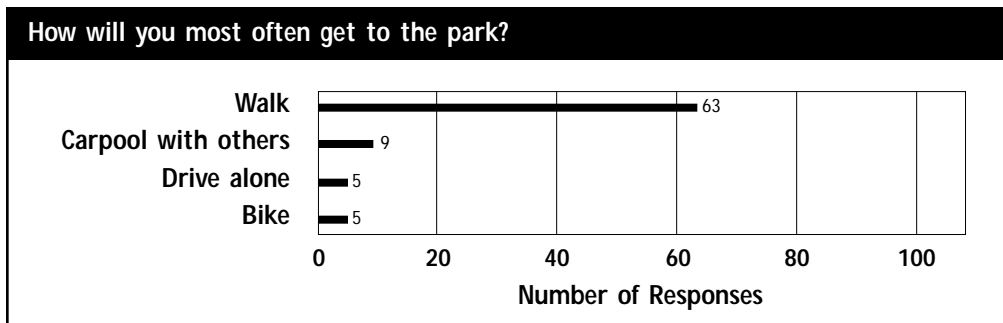
(Note: The numbers in parenthesis are the number of responses for each activity)



How will you most often get to the park?

Walk (63) Drive alone (5) Carpool with others (9) Bike (5) No comment (9)

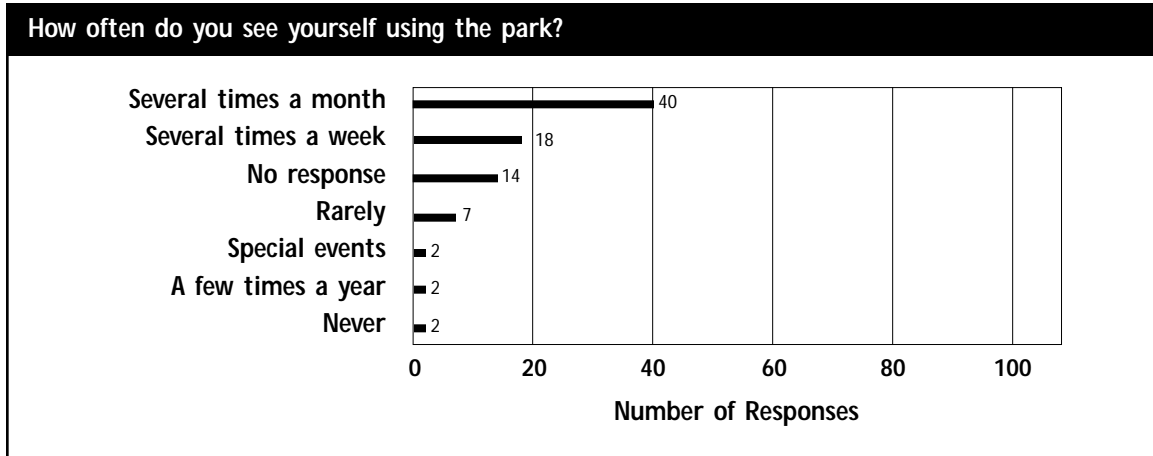
(Note: The numbers in parenthesis are the number of responses for each activity)



How often do you see yourself using the park?

Several times a month (40) Never (2) Rarely (7) Special Events (2)
Several times a week (18) A few times a year (2) No comment (14)

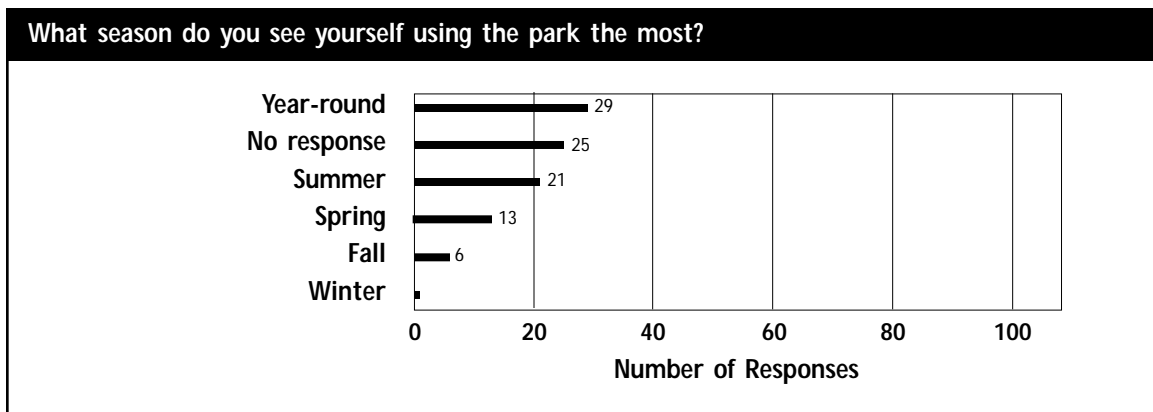
(Note: The numbers in parenthesis are the number of responses for each activity)



What season do you see yourself using the park the most?

Spring (13) Summer (21) Fall (6) Winter (1) Year-round (29) No comment (25)

(Note: The numbers in parenthesis are the number of responses for each activity)



INDIVIDUAL GROUP SUMMARY

Blue group:

There was a strong concern among the participants of this group that the community was never solicited for opinions on whether or not this site was appropriate for a sports complex. Since the suggestion was never put forth, and a decision never made, the group felt that the primary step would be resolution on a site, and then a design. Suggestions were made for sites at Blossom Hill and Branham, near Capitol Expressway, and Andrews Hill. The preference of the group was to maintain the site in its existing condition.

Currently, residents from the adjacent community are the primary users of the existing park, and the group expressed the wish to see a major part of the sports complex devoted solely to the neighborhood, or in the case of no development, an expansion of the existing park. Participants emphasized that there is a current problem with traffic and parking and that if a complex were built, Coyote Road and adjacent streets would be further impacted. Suggestions were made for the complex entrance and parking to be on the east side of the site (near the technology park), to alleviate traffic on Coyote and in the adjacent neighborhood.

Orange group:

The members of this group believe that the park should provide the community with amenities that would support various age groups, however the primary user group of the park would be youth and therefore should be design to accommodate youth activities. The participants also emphasized the importance and consideration of other issues such as safety, parking, traffic, noise and maintenance.

Red group:

The majority of this group lived in the Century Neighborhood. The group first was asked to list one sentence that described their vision for Shady Oaks Park. A high majority of the responses were to leave the park as it is with no development. Group issues of concern regarding park development included traffic, crime, environmental preservation, animal habitat loss, changing the atmosphere of area, loss of natural environment, affect on property values and historical value of the park. Several people suggested park entrances be located from across the creek. Others supported soccer and an increase in youth sports but not at this location. The group also went down the checklist of possible programmatic elements and almost unanimously rejected all development with the exception of adding a restroom. There was one advocate for development of multiple types of recreational activities but he was largely outnumbered by the strong anti-development desire of the remainder of the group.

Green group:

The majority of the members of this group would like to see the site remain “as is”. They voiced concerns of traffic, parking, maintenance, noise and vandalism issues. They believe that the beauty of the site and the character of the neighborhood would be negatively impacted if the proposed sports complex were to be built. Several members of the group did state that if the complex were to be built, they would like to see it be a smaller scale complex that would respect the character of the land and that the complex should be buffered from the existing neighborhood. Several members stated that the traffic should be kept off of Coyote Road and parking/access into the complex should come from the eastern portion of the site (across the existing creek). Many members stated that had they known the location of the site when they cast their vote for the complex, they would have voted “NO” on the ballot. Most members of this group were in favor of a sports complex but did not want to see it in their neighborhood. There were a few people who were in the minority and they were in favor of the proposed sports complex. One member was from the neighboring community but the other two were from other areas of the city. One gentleman stated he would like to see a major sports complex with lights, artificial turf and many different types of playing fields.

Yellow group:

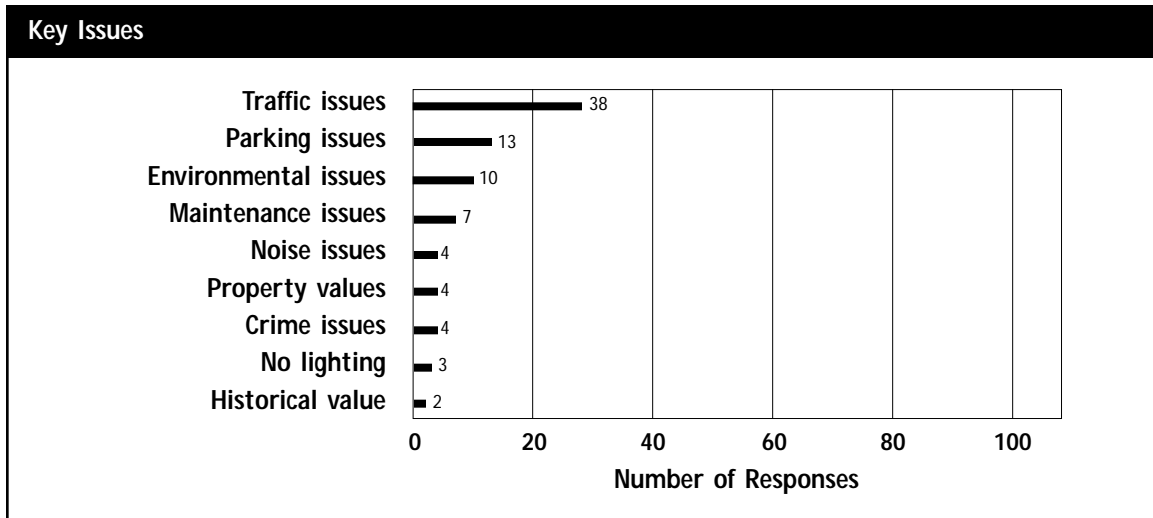
The yellow group had several issues that they believed needed to be addressed concerning the proposed park. The main issues included parking and traffic, the need for it to address youth sports (mainly soccer fields), no lighting or chain link fencing, and some also thought that no development should take place on the site. It was generally agreed upon that the traffic on Coyote Road should be minimized and that parking should take place in areas that would not increase Coyote Road traffic. Several members of the group stated that they do not want the fields to be lighted and that the visual impact of the complex be minimized. Several members did not want to see any development on the site.

Summary of Key Issues

The bullet points listed below were taken from the flip chart of comments that came from the community during the open discussion. The Bar Chart below show the key issues that were raised during the group workshop period.

- Keep site “as is”
- Concerns about Sport Complex creating more traffic, noise and parking problems
- Create parking on the other side of creek with bridges to provide access to the park
- No park/complex, keep it natural
- To provide restroom facilities that can be locked in the evening time
- Make the complex smaller
- To have as many uses as possible (multiple sports and non-sports uses)
- Keep it green! Creating more natural and bike trails
- Create a safe feeling / no crime
- Having a concession stand / no alcohol sales
- No lighting
- To create a green buffer zone along Coyote Road
- Have larger playground or more playgrounds
- Youth soccer
- Roller hockey, skateboard park
- Keep it as a neighborhood park not a city wide park
- More basketball courts, tennis, volleyball
- Provide lager group picnic areas as well as individual picnicking
- Parking away from residential areas
- Should this be built?

The following chart shows the key issues that were raised during the group workshops.



Meeting Notes

Project: Shady Oaks Sports

Date: February 13, 2002

Subject: Public Meeting (Workshop #1)

Prepared by: Brooke Valen, Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey

Attendee's

Please see attached sign-in sheet.

Purpose

A meeting was held at Davis intermediate School's multi-purpose room, 5035 Edenvue Drive, to plan and develop the proposed new sports complex at Shady Oaks Park. Those in attendance included city officials, RHAA project team, and the public. The items that were discussed included the project and public process, the project schedule, the site analysis and formulating a vision for the park. Because of the large turnout, the community was broken into five workgroups, to give all in attendance the opportunity to voice their vision for the project.

Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS

Councilman Forrest Williams (District 2).

Forrest Williams discussed the format for the Community Meeting, and the materials, which would be presented for the public.

- Measure P, passed by voters, was created to provide recreational amenities and opportunities in San Jose.
- One of the considerations/opportunities for a recreational complex was the Shady Oaks site.
- Introduction of Todd Capurso.

Todd Capurso (CSJ-PRNS)

Todd Capurso discussed his role within the City of San Jose Park Commission, and the materials, which would be presented for the public.

- Measure P is a 228 million dollar bond measure over a 20-year period. The projects undertaken in the bond will be completed, or under construction within the first 9 years.
- The existing Shady Oaks park playground renovation will most likely occur in the next 2-3 months.
- There were two sites identified in the bond measure, one on Coyote Road (Shady Oaks), and the other on Singleton Road (which is a landfill site).
- Todd has attended various community/neighborhood groups, such as the Old Coyote neighborhood group and the Century neighborhood group to gain perspective and understanding of neighborhood/community sentiment, and to open a verbal forum between the city and the community/neighborhood.
- Todd emphasized that no decisions have been made by the city concerning the design or the intent of the Shady Oaks site.
- Introduction of Jim Norman.

Jim Norman Deputy Director (CSJ-PRNS)

Jim Norman discussed the format for the Community Meeting, and the public presentation.

- Open space and recreational sites are a big challenge in San Jose because of the city's rapid growth, and the fact that there is not an availability of parkland.
- The Green Print report (a strategic plan) developed by the city and begun in January 1999 "identifies future needs and opportunities for parks, community facilities, recreation programs and neighborhood services."
- The city is continually looking for parcels 35-150 acres in size to acquire for park development.
- It is the city's attempt to remove adult sports from neighborhood parks and to continue to promote youth sports at these sites.
- Jim emphasized that the Shady Oaks site has strong neighborhood and environmentally sensitive issues related to it.
- Jim held an informal poll in which he asked the public where they resided in relation to the site, use of the site, and participation in recreational sports. The majority live within three blocks and use the existing Shady Oaks park, while the rest live further than three blocks, and the majority attending the meeting play either adult or youth organized sports.
- Introduction of the RHAA (consultant) Manuela King.

Manuela King (RHAA)

Manuela discussed the format for the Community Meeting, and the presentation to the public.

- Our firm has no preconceived ideas of a site design.
- The resulting design will be developed directly from public comment and input.
- Our diagrams document existing features, as well as the opportunities and constraints of the site.
- Manuela emphasized that it is important that the consultants learn about the vision of each individual, and that these ideas can only be incorporated if they are vocalized or documented in some other way.
- The objective and hope of the resulting design is that balance between the extremes can be achieved and that all issues will be addressed.
- The Power point presentation further discussed the existing conditions and opportunities and constraints of the site, such as the following: The site naturally divides itself into 5 distinct zones; it is approx. 50 acres; there are three major view corridors.
- Manuela then broke the meeting into small discussion groups based on the color dots they received upon entering the meeting. The five discussion groups were facilitated by the consultants.

Summary of Workgroups

For the Summary of the individual workgroups, please refer to the "Community Workshop #1" report.

Next Meeting

The Focus Groups Meeting will be held on February 2, 2002, time and location TBD.