

“Mountain Gate Plan Phase 4 09-23-2016” RPAC Mt Gate SP3 B 16-01

For Review by Antelope Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)

Area Affected.

Mountain Gate Park area extends from the intersection of Eastside Lane and Highway 395 upstream (south) to National Forest land. The developed Park itself is about half way upstream from the road intersections.

County ownership generally extends from the Highway to the West Walker River. There is a private property exception at the corner of Eastside Lane and the West Walker.

Purpose.

Benefiting local residents as well as regional visitors, the Park is a recreational asset that can provide pleasure, exercise and calm.

It is also an area that, properly addressed, can grow with the future needs of the community.

Mountain Gate Working Group.

Over a decade ago, the RPAC authorized the Working Group to suggest ideas for the Park. Two to ten times a year the Group has met to discuss plans. When there was a funding opportunity, the Group would make a presentation to the RPAC. With RPAC revisions, the plans would be the basis on which the County would pursue grant funding.

The Working Group is open to anyone to participate and upcoming meetings will be noticed on the County Website (under RPACs) as well as in RPAC agendas. Suggestions for Mountain Gate plans are welcome and all ideas are discussed and passed on to the RPAC public meetings to be crafted into recommendations to the Board of Supervisors who make ultimate decisions.

Basis of Current Suggestions by the Working Group.

Public remarks during recent RPAC meetings recommended that parking be expanded in the current developed Park and that there be no parking at the Eastside Ln. end of the Park.

Park maintenance is an ongoing costly matter to the County and what follows is suggested with low cost very much in mind.

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Recreation features discussed do not have hard surfaces. They are relocatable and removable¹.

They are enjoyable.

Planned Features. (See the associated map.)

Trails.

Trails will be informal - without using hard surface materials except as found on site. Their continuance will be supported by their usage.

Trails. Trail Upstream 1 will begin at Trailhead parking in the currently developed portion of the Park. It will extend upstream, where practical near the River. In the first phase it will be an out-and-back trail.

Trail Downstream 1 will begin at the same origin and extend downstream, again along the River where practical to the private parcel at the north end. Then it will go east toward Highway 395 and then north near the Highway to Eastside Lane.

Trail Downstream 2 will begin again at the Trailhead parking and traverse along highway 395 to meet Trail Downstream 2 and then toward Eastside Lane.

Educational displays will be placed along the trails.

Field Activities.

Part of planning any public work is to create beneficial results. Exercise is one.

Natural material on site will be used to create an upland Beach. An existing oxbow (a former water course which has become dry due to a change of course in the River) exists downstream from the current developed Park area.

Transporting sand from the Oxbow on to higher ground will provide the material for the Beach. Our Beach will be above the normal water levels and become a soft expanse for all of the following:

Horseshoes

Frisbee football & Frisbee golf

Volleyball & Badminton.

Balance course (6” wall) to walk on – competitively or not.

Fixtures for these activities, where there are any, are limited to metal poles. It is envisioned that the above-surface portion of the poles would be removed when the

¹ As appropriate, recreation structures will be removed late in the Fall and restored in the Spring so as to minimize the sun and weather deterioration as well as leaving the area more open for deer migration.

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seasonal activity ends and the below surface portion would be capped and remain until the resumption of the activity.

North of the Beach could be a seasonal launch area for kayaks and a (non-motorized) Bicycle Course taking advantage of the undulating terrain.

The Oxbow Future Fishery.

Another advantage to using the sand from the Oxbow is that in the future, it will be prepared to accept re-watering to become a vital fishery to complement the stocking of fish for our area.

Obviously no one would care to see 1997-style flooding undermine the highway and part of the planning would be to engineer methodology (dead trunks with attached root balls, boulder arrays) to deflect high waters as well as planting trees along the out-bank side of the Oxbow for river bank stability.