

Antelope Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)
January 06, 2022

Discussion items:

- Discuss opportunity to apply for Rural Recreation & Tourism grant to fund Mountain Gate Park element concepts supported by community workshops and surveys (Matthew Paruolo)

Action item:

- Provide recommendation to staff to apply (or not apply) for Rural Recreation & Tourism grant funding.

OVERVIEW Rural Recreation & Tourism Grant Opportunity

- The RRT Program provides funding for development of new recreation features in support of economic, tourism, and HEALTH related goals. Competitive projects will improve the HEALTH of RESIDENTS and attract out of town VISITORS in rural counties with a population below 500,000 people
- Applications must be submitted on-line before 5:00 p.m. on January 20, 2022.
- Maximum grant request per APPLICATION/PROJECT SITE: \$3,000,000
- Minimum grant request per APPLICATION/PROJECT SITE: \$200,000
- No MATCH is required if: The PROJECT SITE'S area has a median household income of \$56,982 or less according to the Community Fact Finder.
 - The GRANT by itself may fund the entire PROJECT.
- The following provides a Program Overview for consideration by the RPAC:
https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1008/files/Rural_Rec_and_Tourism_%20Program_Final_Application_Guide_10.9.2020_Rev.%201_9_2021_1.8.21_05.21.21.pdf

West Walker River Parkway Public Outreach Summary

Group A: Core park elements – high priority due to broad support

Well-designed & sustainable trail system for walking and bicycling

This should:

- Access the entire length of the park
- Connect to Eastside Lane
- Be designed to increase or simplify access to the water for all users
- Include segments of trail designed to encourage use by individuals with limited mobility
- Be designed to balance aesthetics (community interest in soft surface/natural appearance trails), function (particularly in areas designed for accessibility) and durability/minimal maintenance (with consideration of periodic flooding within the park.)

It may include:

- Branches or loops for different purposes/users – through route for bikes, walking near the water, etc.
- Seating and shade along route

Access point at Eastside Lane

This should:

- Be designed primarily for walkers and bicyclists
- Be set back and buffered and/or screened from Eastside Lane and private parcel at NW corner of site
- Include informational signage and a park map

It may include:

- Limited vehicular parking – depending on feasibility & cost (see Group C)
- Shade, picnic tables & seating

*Natural landscape & river/fisheries improvements**

This should include:

- Planting of native vegetation and shade trees
- Removal of invasive species where necessary
- Revegetation as needed, including in areas burned by the Mountain View Fire

It may include:

- Improvements to river function & fishery sustainability through more intensive riparian restoration (see Group C)

*The amount and locations of new planting will be limited by water availability for irrigation. See Group C.

Group B - elements with some community support & no opposition, no major additional study needed.

Seating along trail

- in shaded locations
- along segments of trail designed for accessibility
- near the water

Improvements to existing ADA fishing platform and adjacent parking to improve function

- A specific list of desired improvements will need to be developed

Interpretive/educational signage

- Locations and topics TBD

Clearer directional signage off 395 to existing parking

- Exact content TBD, but signage should communicate the amenities available (restrooms, picnic tables, etc.) in addition to fishing access
- Will require an encroachment permit from Caltrans

Group C – elements with some community support, further feasibility study or community input needed before implementing

Drinking water

- Providing drinking water on-site is dependent on adding a well in the park. The feasibility of a well project is being explored.

Dog park/fenced area for off leash dogs

- Drinking water would be an important component of a dog park, so this element is linked to the feasibility of a well project.
- Further community input may be needed to determine the preferred location for a dog park, if this idea is pursued.

Put-in/take-out for boats and kayaks

- Demand for this use & the connection to upstream or downstream launch and take out facilities should be further explored before investing this element.

Extensive riparian restoration including new channels and ponds where feasible

- A water source must be identified before this can realistically be undertaken. Water may be provided by a well if that is determined to be feasible, or there may be options for non-consumptive use of river water. Both options are being explored.

Disc golf

- Local demand for this use & its potential as an attraction for out of area visitors should be weighed against likely visual and natural resource impacts of installing a course.
- Site evaluation by a disc golf course designer could determine if this project is feasible, and if so, the appropriate scope for a course.

Parking at new Eastside Lane access point

- Public outreach workshops indicated a high level of interest in parking and a new access point to the without parking has the potential to increase informal parking along the shoulder of Eastside Lane & create unsafe conditions or impact adjacent private properties. However, the details and configuration of parking are unclear. Options include on-street parking or inset parking, which would need to be engineered, and concerns include potential impacts to adjacent private properties. .

Ideas and elements not included

Not included due to lack of support:

- Beach volleyball
- Mini golf
- Skate park
- Bicycle skills course/pump track
- Sprinkler/splash park

Not included due to general opposition:

- Camping – particularly car or RV camping
- Loud or large group activities
- Shooting sports
- Motorized/ATV use within the park