



RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: February 3, 2015

Subject

Study session for the Stevens Creek Boulevard to McClellan Road Creek Corridor Master Plan (SCC Master Plan) and recommend alternatives to proceed with an Environmental Impact Analysis. (Re-noticed from January 21, 2015).

Recommended Action

Conduct study session for the Stevens Creek Boulevard to McClellan Road Creek Corridor Master Plan and recommend alternatives to proceed with an Environmental Impact Analysis.

Description

The City launched a master planning project to look at the 65 public acres from Stevens Creek Boulevard to McClellan Road in Spring 2014 and hired MIG, a landscape architecture and public engagement firm, to lead the project. The Master Plan includes the areas of McClellan Ranch Preserve, McClellan Ranch West, Blackberry Farm Park, Blackberry Farm Golf Course, Stocklmeir Ranch, the Stevens Creek Trail and associated lands. The master plan does not address the four cities coordinated Stevens Creek Trail Feasibility Study.

Discussion

There have been several master planning/visioning projects throughout the years on various portions of this property starting with the 1993 McClellan Master Plan (MP) and concluding with the 2012 McClellan Ranch MP update. We are currently looking at this project in its entirety due to our changing demographics over the past 15 years, the recent acquisition of the residential property at 22050 Stevens Creek Blvd., and the needs of our aging infrastructure within the corridor. These include, but are not limited to, refurbishment of a 62 year old golf course and its failing irrigation system, aging pool equipment, barn stabilization needs, conditions of the Blue Pheasant, Simms and Stocklmeir buildings, and park access conditions.

Among the goals of the master plan are:

- Enhance Riparian habitat throughout the corridor

- Provide for appropriate year-round park-related programming and uses in the corridor;
- Restore buildings, land and infrastructure to protect the integrity of the assets;
- Improve ingress/egress to the park;
- Meet community needs given our changing demographics;
- Enhance sustainability of our golf course property, and;
- Invest our funds wisely while accommodating community goals.

We are committed to creating a plan that aligns with local needs, preferences and priorities. As community input is integral to each phase of the SCC Master Plan, we have reached out to our community through 4 intercept events, focus group and stakeholder interviews, online questionnaires, two community events, social media notifications, a citywide mailing, and information on our website and in the Scene.

MIG was tasked with proposing three alternatives for Council consideration. They are presented as:

1. Alternative A (highest intensity),
2. Alternative B (medium intensity), including a preferred alternative for the golf course from the National Golf Foundation (NGF), and
3. Alternative C (lowest intensity) – including a second alternative for the golf course from the NGF.

All three alternatives were presented in detail at the Council study session on December 16, 2014.

Due to time constraints, the Council received public testimony but deferred deliberation. On January 8, 2015, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the project and their recommendations are denoted in Attachment J.

In addition, staff and Commission subcommittee met with representatives from the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and Acterra. These stakeholders supported a plan that is a modified version of Option C. The primary modifications include:

- No new bridge from McClellan Ranch West to McClellan Ranch Preserve
- No seasonal bridge to, nor trails within the “peninsula”
- Reduce and minimize new trails: no new trails within McClellan Ranch meadow nor along creek bank at golf course
- Avoid adding golf amenities at 22050 Stevens Creek Blvd. (i.e. residential parcel next to golf course that is now city-owned).

Additional input included:

- New bridge to Stocklmeir site, if needed: locate to minimize impacts to trees, habitat and wildlife; place it close to Stevens Creek Blvd. bridge

- If golf course is reduced in size, request that freed up space be restored to habitat. Expand the greenbelt/restoration zone along the creek bank as a priority. If the golf course parking lot is expanded, then widen the creek side greenbelt/restoration zone for habitat
- Blackberry Farm pool complex: keep pool modifications and improvements within existing footprint.

MIG and staff will need direction from the Council as to the preferred alternative for purposes of impact evaluation in order to proceed with the Environmental Impact Analysis. The entire process, along with all associated reports, is estimated to take approximately 9 months to complete. The final SCC Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report are anticipated to be brought to Council in October 2015 for approval.

Fiscal Impact

No impact will result from this study session.

Prepared by: Carol A. Atwood, Director of Recreation & Community Services

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachment:

A –Design Option A

B- Design Option B

C- Design Option C

D-Existing Conditions Site Map

E- Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate

F- Golf Course Draft Report

G- Existing Transportation Conditions

H-Demographics and Recreation Trends Summary

I- Public Input/November-December 2014

J-Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations 01.08.15