

Scoping Period Comments Relevant to CEQA Analysis Flood County Park Preferred Alternative Landscape Plan

Project Description:

- Would farmers market be allowed use at shade/market structure?
- State hours of operation for park and for specific uses
- Would picnic space be reduced?
- What safety measures to protect neighbors from errant soccer/lacrosse balls are proposed?

Overall EIR Analysis:

- Analyze worst-case scenario of simultaneous events (e.g., corporate BBQ + baseball game)

Aesthetics:

- Effects of safety measures to protect neighbors from errant balls
- Loss of privacy from removal of redwoods for soccer field
- Lighting from nighttime activities

Air Quality:

- Loss of redwoods that cleanse pollution from freeway
- Dust from use of leaf blowers on new trail along eastern fence
- Air quality impacts from artificial turf on sports fields to neighbors

Biological Resources:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife boilerplate comments:
 - Provide baseline habitat assessments for all special-status plant, fish, and wildlife species; habitat assessments for sensitive habitat types and plant communities; including adjoining habitat areas
 - General biological inventory of fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species
 - Recent inventory of sensitive species on-site, including California Species of Special Concern and California Fully Protected Species
 - Focused species-specific surveys at appropriate time of year
 - Botanical surveys for special-status plants during blooming period
 - Avian surveys
 - Address noise and lighting impacts on species
 - Incorporate water-wise concepts in landscape design plans because of drought (xeriscaping with locally native species, water-efficient and targeted irrigation systems)

- Replacement plan for loss of redwoods
- Health of preserved trees:
 - Existing health: The 1983 Master Plan says overuse immediately surrounding trees has impacted them.
 - Disturbance of redwood and oak tree roots from new paved trails and soccer/lacrosse field:
 - Effects of athletic activities and increase in park use

Cultural Resources:

- Consider alternatives to dismantling adobe structures (e.g., museum or general use/meeting space)

Land Use:

- The removal of redwoods conflicts with Master Plan policy on page 31.

Noise:

- Project noise
 - Athletic noise sources: shouting, referee's whistles carry several blocks; spectators lining soccer/lax field would generate noise closer to residences; new volleyball courts near property line; compressed air at lacrosse games.
 - Soccer/lax noise is more intrusive, shrill, and continual than baseball noise: cite research and studies
 - Redwood trees to be removed: were designed by Park Ranger to buffer neighbors from freeway noise, and they buffer noise from park too
 - Noise from leaf blowers on new trail along eastern fence, especially in early morning
 - Amphitheater noise
 - Disturbance of sleep: Some neighbors sleep until 9:30 am at the least because of health issues
 - How to accurately assess lacrosse noise in the winter offseason?
 - Cumulative noise from simultaneous operation or events (e.g. baseball game, soccer/lax game, picnics)
 - Evaluate existing aircraft noise and U.S. 101 noise in combination with project-generated traffic noise.

- Mitigation:

- Restrict amplification and enforce (on-site modification)
- Restrict hours of athletic events
- Enforce parking limits in restricted areas (e.g. summer patrol, response time to resident calls)
- Sound wall/berming
- Traffic:
 - Consider traffic from cumulative projects: “Massive building” approved by Menlo Park east of 101, build out of the Belle Haven are of Menlo Park, Facebook expansion
 - Caltrans comment: analyze VMT
 - Pedestrian access at Iris Lane invites pick-up/drop-off traffic for soccer/lax games, causing traffic and parking issues
 - Adequacy of parking supply when simultaneous games and picnicking
 - Traffic safety impacts to children
- Mitigation
 - No traffic light at Bay and Ringwood: this would encourage trips to a residential area
 - Need permanent guard to prevent pick-up/drop-off traffic at Iris Lane gate
 - Speed controls for traffic safety
 - Extend parking permits year-round to ensure on-street parking availability.
- Utilities:
 - Water demand by athletic fields (artificial turf?) in time of drought
- Alternatives:
 - Relocate a youth soccer field in place with minimal loss of trees
 - Swap location of baseball field and lax/soccer field to lessen noise heard by residents: shouting and whistles are fairly continuous in soccer but sporadic in baseball
 - Reduces noise impact because parking lot would serve as buffer to residents in Suburban Park northwest of Flood Park
 - Multi-use baseball and soccer field, without soccer/lax field (as done in Redwood City, San Carlos, Burlingame)
 - Leave volleyball courts as is or find interior location to reduce noise
 - Locate soccer/lax field at for-sale school site next to park
 - Close Iris Lane entrance to park
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