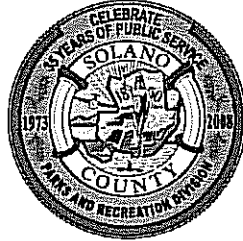


**SOLANO COUNTY GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION**

Spencer C. Bole
Director, General Services

Daniel R. Sykes
Parks Services Manager



675 Texas Street, Suite 2500
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-3118

**AGENDA -- Park and Recreation Commission
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2009 - 5:30 PM, Hearing Room - 1st Floor
675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Minutes for the May 14, 2009 Meeting (Action Item)**
- 3. Approval of Agenda (Action item)**
- 4. Chair Announcements and Commissioner Comments (Informational Only)**
- 5. Committee Report with Recommendations (Action Item)**
 - Suisun Marsh Specific Fund (SMSF) Evaluation Committee, Recommendations for FY 2008/09 Awards
- 6. Staff Report on Possible Park Service Reductions in FY2009/10 (Informational Only)**
- 7. Public Comments**
- 8. Confirm next regular meeting of July 9, 2009 at 5:30 pm, and Adjourn**

The County of Solano does not discriminate against persons with disabilities and is an accessible facility. If you wish to attend this meeting and you will require assistance in order to participate, please call (707) 784-7905 at least 24 hours in advance of the event to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

If you wish to address any item listed on the Agenda, please submit a Speaker Card before the Commission considers the specific item. If you wish to address an item not on the agenda, please submit a Speaker Card before the first speaker is called for Public Comments. Cards are available at the entrance to the hearing room.



AGENDA SUBMITTAL TO SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

ITEM TITLE		COMMISSION MEETING DATE	AGENDA NUMBER
Recommendation of Suisun Marsh Specific Fund Awards for FY 2008/09 To Be Forwarded to the County Board Of Supervisors		June 3, 2009	5
Staff Contact:	Dan Sykes, Parks Services Manager		
Phone:	784-3118		
E-Mail:	drsykes@solanocounty.com		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the recommendation of the Suisun Marsh Specific Fund (SMSF) Evaluation Committee to award six (6) grants as detailed below for a total of \$91,650 and recommend to the Solano County Board of Supervisors for approval to award the six grants.

SUMMARY:

The SMSF Evaluation Committee is an ad hoc committee of the Park and Recreation Commission, appointed to evaluate project applications for disbursement of grant funds from the SMSF and recommending to the Commission how much each project should be awarded. In fiscal year 2008/2009, \$100,000 was appropriated from the SMSF by the Board of Supervisors for this purpose. Applicants submitted fourteen (14) project applications, and the SMSF Evaluation Committee is recommending funding of six (6) of the projects (see attached Scoring Summary sheet).

Each of the Evaluation Committee members individually reviewed all 14 applications and generated a score from 0-100 points based on criteria in the SMSF Procedural Guide, approved by your Commission March 12, 2009. A total point score of 100 points was possible, 50 points for submitting required items in the application, and 50 points for responding to specific questions about the merits, feasibility and sustainability of the project. The individual results were then averaged, and a single score was developed for each project application.

The SMSF Evaluation Committee ranked the projects based on the average score, and recommended funding allocations starting with the highest ranked project (see attached Scoring Summary sheet). Based on available funding of \$100,000, the following six projects are recommended for funding: Solano Land Trust's Pepperweed Control Study (\$14,600), Center for Watershed Sciences' Jellyfish Feeding Ecology Study (\$34,000), Morrow Island Land Company's Pond E and F-1 Restoration (\$10,000), California Waterfowl Association's (CWA) Grizzly Island Enhancement (\$15,650), CWA's Goodyear Slough Restoration (\$14,300), and CWA's Cordelia Slough Wildlife Habitat Enhancement (\$3,100).

If your Commission approves the grant awards recommendation, Staff will place an item on the Solano County Board of Supervisors agenda for June 23, 2009 for approval to fund these recommended Grants.

FINANCING:

The total award amount of \$91,650 is within the \$100,000 appropriated in the FY2008/09 budget for the SMSF, leaving a remainder of \$8,350 not awarded. If the Commission approves the recommendation of the SMSF Evaluation Committee and the additional \$8,350 is not awarded to any of the applicants, that amount would return to the SMSF to be awarded in a future grant cycle.

DISCUSSION:

At its January 8, 2009 meeting, the Commission reviewed the SMSF grant program process and schedule, and directed Staff to develop the SMSF Procedural Guide, which would guide applicants in the grant process. Based on Commission input at the January meeting and the Board of Supervisor's "Guidelines for the Disbursement of Kinder Morgan Settlement Funds" (approved January 2, 2008), Staff developed the SMSF Procedural Guide and presented it at the March 12, 2009 Commission meeting, at which time it was approved. The SMSF Procedural Guide tells applicants what projects are eligible, how to apply for funding, and includes a detailed list of point scores that are used in evaluating project applications.

Staff distributed the SMSF Procedural Guide widely to the public and interested organizations, posted it on the County website, and published notices of the availability of the Guide and the SMSF grant process in local newspapers. Staff also held two applicant workshops on April 10, 2009 to answer questions. The deadline for the applications was April 24, 2009, and fourteen (14) applications were submitted. Applicants were invited to make presentations at the May 14, 2009 Commission meeting, and 10 of the applicants did so.

The 14 applications were closely reviewed by the SMSF Evaluation Committee, an ad hoc committee appointed by the Commission consisting of two members of the public, Dimitrios Georges and Walt Sommer, Commissioner Hermsmeyer and Commissioner Riddle. Copies of the 14 applications were also given to all Park and Recreation Commissioners for their review. Attached is a spreadsheet summarizing the SMSF Evaluation Committee's score, ranking and recommended funding for each project application, which were evaluated as described in the Summary section above.

The action before the Commission is to consider the recommendations of the SMSF Evaluation Committee for approval or modify it, and make a recommendation for approval to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is tentatively scheduled to consider the Commission's recommendation for approval at the June 23, 2009 Board meeting. After Board approval, each grantee that receives an award will need to enter into a grant contract with Solano County, and will be required to complete their projects by December 31, 2010. Grant payments will be made to grantees as reimbursements.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Commission could elect to reject Staff's and the SMSF Evaluation Committee's recommendation and award differing amounts than recommended, or choose to make additional awards from the remaining \$8,350 in budgeted funds, based on the Commission's evaluation of the applications. Staff does not recommend this, as the decisions of the SMSF Evaluation Committee were based on detailed discussions and an objective evaluation of the criteria, and follows the SMSF Procedural Guide approved for this grant program.

SOLANO COUNTY SUISUN MARSH SPECIFIC FUND GRANT PROGRAM – 2008/2009

SCORING SUMMARY

APPLICANT	Solano Land Trust (Pepperweed Control Project)	UC Davis (Feeding Ecology of Hydrozoan Jellyfish)	Morrow Island Land Co. (Pond E & F-1 Project)	California Waterfowl Assoc (Grizzly Island)	California Waterfowl Assoc (Goodyear Slough)	California Waterfowl Assoc (Cordelia Slough)	Teal Club (Habitat Restoration)	California Waterfowl Assoc (Telemetry Equipment)	Lumberdicks LLC & Billmarks LLC (DUXRUS 2008)	Brian Geary Landowner (REHAB)	Walnut Creek Gun Club (Water Circulation Project)	Suisun RCD & SCHAD (Fall Flood Cost Share)	Bent Barrel Duck Club (Habitat Restoration)	Suisun RCD
RANKING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AVERAGE SCORE OF 4 EVALUATORS (100 maximum)	89	84	83	80	78	76	74	73	72	71	70	64	62	54
REQUESTED AMOUNT	\$14,600	\$34,000	\$10,000	\$15,650	\$14,300	\$3,100	\$22,000	\$1,000	\$15,750	\$16,000	\$42,600	\$22,000	\$4,950	\$25,000
EVALUATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED AWARD AMOUNT	\$14,600	\$34,000	\$10,000	\$15,650	\$14,300	\$3,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total amount available for grants in FY 2008-2009..... \$100,000

Total of evaluation committee's recommended grant awards for SMSF (08/09)..... \$91,650

Remainder..... \$8,350

SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, May 14, 2009
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER - FIRST FLOOR HEARING ROOM,
675 TEXAS STREET FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Commission Members Present: Riddle, Alvarez, Hermismeyer, Leong, and Whited
Commissioner Members Excused: None

Staff Present: Sykes, Jason Campbell (Facilities Operations Manager),
Tanner-Linné

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hermismeyer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Tanner-Linne called roll. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Approval of Minutes for March 12, 2009 Meeting

Motion to approve (Alvarez), seconded (Whited). March 12, 2009 minutes approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda (Whited), second (Leong). Approved unanimously.

4. Chair Announcements and Commissioner Comments

Hermismeyer, Leong, Riddle and Whited stated they enjoyed the April 22, 2009 grand opening of the Nature Center, thought it went well and was very professional.

5. Parks and Recreation Division Staff Report

A. Parks Activities Report

Staff Sykes provided the attached park activities report (see attached) and information on alcohol use in the parks. He also reported due to the decrease in property taxes the County is looking at cuts in park services. Some of the cuts might include closing Lynch Canyon Open Space in November when the contract is complete and reduced hours at other parks. Based on current budget discussions, this may mean somewhere in the range of \$167,000 to \$253,000 less in next year's Parks and Recreation budget, and possible layoffs of permanent staff. .

Several Commissioners asked about the Lynch Canyon agreement with the Solano Land Trust. Staff stated it was for three years and is up in November 2009. Leong stated maybe we could negotiate with the Land Trust and have them cover more of the expense.

Sykes stated the County had budgeted around \$770,000 for operating Lynch Canyon the three years. Alvarez said that is a little over \$200,000 a year to keep Lynch Canyon open. Sykes said 2/3 of the budget is for the two park rangers and volunteer coordinator's salaries.

B. Introduction of Rio Vista Wind Turbine Project

Jason Campbell, the County's Facilities Operation Manager gave a presentation and answered questions regarding an Entegry EW50 Wind Turbine System project being studied for a location next to Sandy Beach Park in Rio Vista. The turbine would be 100 feet high, smaller than the ones along Hwy. 12 to Rio Vista.

An initial study would cost around \$10,000 to find the correct location for the turbine and the turbine would cost around \$400,000. He explained there are many grants available and low interest loans for this type of program. The turbine would supply the park with all of the electricity needed and would pay for itself in 7 to 8 years. The turbine would cost around \$5,000 per year to maintain.

The Commission had several questions regarding who would maintain the turbine, storage of extra electricity and if Solar was also an option. Jason said they would maintain the turbine, it would have a battery to store the extra electricity and Solar was considered but the wind turbine was a better choice to take advantage of the available wind resources in the Rio Vista area.

Staff will return with the results of the study at a future Commission meeting.

6. Presentations from FY 2008/09 Suisun Marsh Specific Fund (SMSF) Grant Applicants

Chair Hermismeyer called up each applicant in turn and the following individual presented (see table).. The commission questioned some of the applicants regarding their projects and the presenters answered the questions before retiring to the audience.

Suisun Marsh Specific Fund Grant Application Projects

FY 2008/2009

Organization (alphabetical)	Project	Request Amount	Presenter
Bent Barrel Duck Club	Bent Barrel Duck Club Habitat Restoration	4,950	No Presentation
Brian Geary, Landowner, Assessor's Parcel No. 0090-030-140	Restoration Effort for Habitat (Rehab) (Brian Geary property)	16,000	No Presentation
California Waterfowl Association	Cordelia Slough Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	3,100	Helayna Pera, CA. Fish and Game
California Waterfowl Association	Goodyear Slough Restoration	14,300	Helayna Pera, CA. Fish and Game
California Waterfowl Association	Grizzly Island Enhancement Project, Phase II	15,650	Helayna Pera, CA. Fish and Game
California Waterfowl Association	Telemetry Equipment for Grizzly Island	1,000	Helayna Pera, CA. Fish and Game

Suisun Marsh Specific Fund Grant Application Projects

FY 2008/2009

Organization (alphabetical)	Project	Request Amount	Presenter
LIBMRDUCKS LLC and BILLMARKS LLC	DUXRUS Habitat Restoration Program (2009)	15,750	No Presentation
Morrow Island Land Company (Reclamation District 2138)	Morrow Island Pond E and F-1 Restoration Project	10,000	Peter Boero, Member
Solano Land Trust	Perennial Pepperweed Control Study at Rush Ranch in Suisun Marsh	14,600	Jessica Olson, Solano Land Trust
Suisun RCD	SRCD Lepidium Control Program	25,000	Tim Edmunds, Suisun RCD
Suisun Resource Conservation District (RCD)	SRCD/SCMAD Fall Flood Cost Share Program	22,000	Jeremy Todoroff, Suisun RCD
Teal Club	Teal Club Restoration and Improvement Project	24,000	Anthony Arnold, Member/Owner
UC Davis, Center for Watershed Sciences	Investigating the feeding ecology of non-native hyrozonan jellyfish in Suisun Marsh and its implications for planktivorous fishes	34,000	No Presentation
Walnut Creek Gun Club, Inc.	Walnut Creek Gun Club, Inc., Improved Water Circulation	42,600	John Baker, Member

7. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

8. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

9. Confirm next special meeting of May 28, 2009 at 5:30 pm, and the meeting was adjourn at 7:43 p.m.



AGENDA SUBMITTAL TO SOLANO COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

ITEM TITLE		COMMISSION MEETING DATE	AGENDA NUMBER
Staff Report: Park Activities Report		May 14, 2009	5
(Informational Only)			
Staff Contact:	Dan Sykes, Parks Services Manager		
Phone:	784-3118		
E-Mail:	drsykes@solanocounty.com		

DISCUSSION:

A. PARKS ACTIVITIES REPORT

1. Attendance and Revenue Tracking: Staff continues to compile figures to track park attendance and revenues. Attendance and revenues continue to lag from this time last year. Possible reasons may be the rise in gas prices or uncertain budget concerns may have curtailed recreational travel.
2. Significant Park Activities: At **Lake Solano Park**, the Lake Solano Nature Center was officially opened on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2009. Approximately 100 people attended. Over 100 more visitors came to the Center on the following weekend. There was good press coverage, and the Parks Division received many compliments on a good event.

At **Lake Solano County Park**, a project to replace and repair sewage pumps is also underway at this park, with pumps in the campground being replaced, and pumps on the day use side being repaired.

At **Lynch Canyon Open Space**, The Kite Festival on April 19 attracted over 200 participants, primarily families with children. The 2nd Lynch Canyon Trail Run will occur on May 30, 2009.

On May 5, the Board for Supervisors received the **Year Two Annual Assessment of Operations for Lynch Canyon Open Space** (see attached).

B. ALCOHOL USE IN PARKS – RESULTS OF STAFF RESEARCH

Alcohol use and abuse in the County Parks has caused and contributed to many incidents over the years. In recognition of this, Section 19-190 of the County Code was written in 2006, which specifies that appropriate rules for the use of alcohol can be promulgated by Staff after approval by the Board of Supervisors. Staff has prepared the attached table based on surveying other park agencies for how they have addressed the issue of regulating alcohol use. Staff will discuss this issue and gather input from the Park and Recreation Commission on appropriate measures that could be taken in the Solano County Parks.

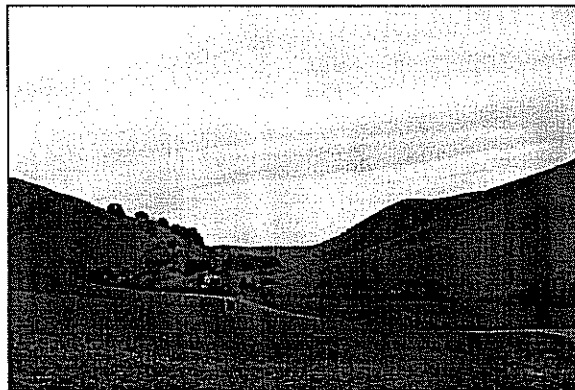
This is the first discussion of this item. After further development of these rules, Staff will return at a meeting later this year for further discussion, and request a recommendation from the Commission to forward to the Board of Supervisors.

YEAR TWO ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF OPERATIONS LYNCH CANYON OPEN SPACE MAY 1, 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the two years since it opened in May 2007, Lynch Canyon Open Space has grown to fill a unique role in the Solano County Parks system. Solano County's investment in this park offers its citizens new ways to play and learn that are not available at other County Parks. These include scenic ridgeline trails for horse riders, hikers and cyclists, and large flat areas of grassland within the park's 1,000+ acres, which are used as an outdoor classroom and venue for revenue-generating events. Several active, outdoor events at Lynch Canyon have supported the County's interest in promoting healthy lifestyles for children and families in the community.

The other three County parks (Lake Solano, Sandy Beach and Belden's Landing) are very popular for camping, fishing, boating, picnicking and short trail hikes, but these parks are smaller and fully developed sites that cannot offer the same range of open space activities and long trails as Lynch Canyon Open Space.



The Year Two Annual Assessment of Operations (May 2008 to May 2009) details the park's popular and growing recreational and educational programs, made possible by the concerted efforts of the County-funded staff members, volunteers and a cooperative partnership with the Solano Land Trust. Public interest in Lynch Canyon Open Space is reflected in the 3,800 visitors to the park in Year 1 and 4,570 visitors in Year 2, as well as over 2,900 volunteer hours that 263 volunteer docents, trail workers and event workers have donated to this County Park. \$14,368 in funds and materials have also been donated by individuals, organizations and corporations to improve the park's facilities.

1.) INTRODUCTION

This is the second Annual Assessment to Solano County Board of Supervisors and Solano Land Trust Board of Directors for Lynch Canyon Open Space. This report covers progress in the second year of operation and additional information on volunteer and program contributions since the park opened to the public on May 11, 2007.

2.) BACKGROUND

The Solano County Department of General Services, Parks and Recreation Division (County) operates Lynch Canyon Open Space as a County Park in cooperation with Solano Land Trust (SLT), the owner of the property, through a Cooperative Management Agreement (Agreement) dated December 12, 2006. The Agreement specifies that this Annual Assessment be prepared by May 1 of each year and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and Board of the Solano Land Trust.

The Agreement will expire November 30, 2009 unless it is extended by the County and SLT. The Agreement established the Lynch Canyon Working Committee (Committee), consisting of two (2) members representing Solano Land Trust and two members (2) representing Solano County. The Committee members are Daniel Sykes, Solano County Parks Services Manager; Pamela Ogle, Assistant Director, Solano County General Services Department; Marilyn Farley, Executive Director, SLT; and Teri Engbring, Volunteer and Education Coordinator, SLT. County Ranger Supervisor Ted Armstrong also provides input and serves as an alternate County representative. This team is working well together and feels that good progress is being made.

The Committee has continued to meet regularly over the past year to work on systems and procedures, operations, marketing, outreach, infrastructure improvements and other issues related to ensuring smooth operation of this property as a County Park. In the second year of operation, a significantly higher number of programs drawing visitors to the park were the result of implementation of a strong volunteer recruitment, training and support system. The Committee wishes to give special recognition to the tireless efforts of **Teri Engbring**, the Lynch Canyon Volunteer and Education Coordinator, who has successfully spearheaded efforts to develop the volunteer network and event programming at the park.

3.) LYNCH CANYON'S ROLE IN THE COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

A Unique Park Property

Lynch Canyon Open Space is unique among the County's parks because it offers amenities not found elsewhere in the County Parks system. These include scenic, ridgeline trails for horse riders, hikers and cyclists, and large flat areas of grasslands within the park's 1,039 acres, which are used as an outdoor classroom and venue for revenue-generating events.

The other three County parks (Lake Solano, Sandy Beach and Belden's Landing) are very popular for camping, fishing, boating, picnicking and short trail hikes, but these parks are smaller and fully developed sites that cannot offer the same range of open space activities and long trails as Lynch Canyon Open Space. More than 63 varied, free, public events and programs were held at Lynch Canyon Open Space in Year 2 (detailed in Section 6 of this report).

Beneficial Land Uses

In a larger land use perspective, Lynch Canyon Open Space represents an approach Solano County can use to balance the need to promote growth of high-value economic land uses in the County with the need to conserve other lands that preserve Solano County's rural beauty and agriculture heritage. Open spaces can provide "buffer areas" that reinforce the urban form around cities. Lynch Canyon Open Space is an example of a buffer area that retains its productive agricultural use (grazing) and also provides beneficial recreational uses for the public. Lynch Canyon also contributes to providing a trained workforce for the County through its use by classes from Solano Community College.

A recent economic study of open spaces in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties showed that well managed open spaces in East Bay watersheds and parks had a positive effect on the quality of life, property values and tourism. Positive effects of open space occurred because they preserved view sheds, provided buffers between cities, promoted a sense of place and provided nearby recreation (Economic Planning Systems, "Quantifying Our Quality of Life," 2000).

Recreation and Promotional Opportunities

Lynch Canyon Open Space is meeting a demonstrated demand for recreational opportunities that are underserved in Solano County. Important examples of these are horse riding and large outdoor exercise events (e.g., trail running, mountain biking events, trail walk events, etc.). Lynch Canyon can accommodate equestrians (horse riders) and their events because its parking lot is large enough for horse trailers, and its over 10 miles of trails provide challenging rides and scenic views.

The kinds of large-scale events that can be held at the park lend themselves to promoting tourism into the County, corporate sponsorships and individual donations. Part of the success of the events held in Year 2 has been that the park has advantages that allow for the promotion and access to the site. These advantages include flat, large open spaces to gather hundreds of people, easy highway access from Interstate 80, and a location within 20 minutes of hundreds of thousands of potential customers within Solano County and less than 1 hour from population centers in Contra Costa, Yolo and Sacramento Counties. Interest from surrounding counties has led to advertisement in magazines and newspapers outside of Solano County, including the Sacramento Bee and *Sunset* and *Bay Nature* magazines.

In April 2009 SLT and County Public Communications Officer, Steven Pierce partnered with the Fairfield Tourism Association to bring the spring 2009 *Outdoor Writers of California* Conference to Fairfield, and promote Lynch Canyon, other parks and open spaces in Solano County. A hike of Lynch Canyon Open Space was a featured activity. This exposure to travel writers helped to further publicize the park and promote County tourism.

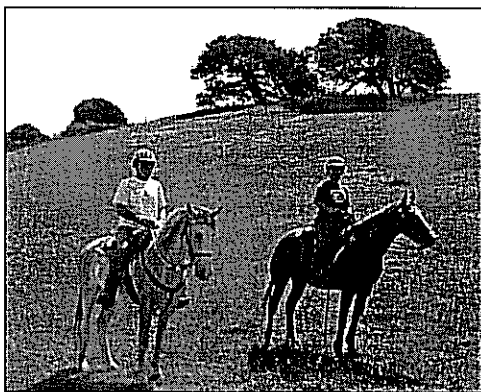
With Lynch Canyon's good access and flat topography, there is future potential for developing more revenue-producing events or facilities on the property. These could include group campsites to serve scout groups and overnight environmental education camps, shaded, reservable picnic areas, further promotion of special events targeted to user groups, collaboration on events with Solano County's employee health program, and other ideas.

A good example of the kinds of events that Lynch Canyon can offer is the Kite Festival held April 19, 2009 that drew over 200 participants (mostly families with children from Western Solano County).

Solano County could benefit economically by providing locations for horse riding such as Lynch Canyon Open Space that will support the equestrian community in the county. Based on the number of horse boarding facilities in Solano County, there are an estimated 8,000 horses kept in the County. Yet, local equestrians say they few public trails in Solano County to ride. For example, the public trail system offered at Rockville Hills Park (City of Fairfield) lacks adequate equestrian staging facilities, and Lagoon Valley Park (City of Vacaville) offers a short equestrian trail system, with one graveled fire road. Christine Kenaston, a Vacaville resident, equestrian and active Lynch Canyon volunteer docent recently noted:

Lynch Canyon is the ONLY place in Solano County where equestrians can ride their horses on public land that offers great terrain and miles of trails, and where riders can adequately exercise their horses and enjoy their sport safely.

The potential benefits of supporting horse-riding households could be notable, as well as an appropriate land use to support given the County's agricultural heritage. For comparison, a study by the Sonoma State University Economics Department estimated that horse-riding households contribute over \$100 million to the Sonoma County economy through hay and feed purchases, stable operations, trainers, veterinary services, and other related economic activity ("Horse Riding in Sonoma County – Its Impacts on the Economy of the County," 1994).



Finally, Lynch Canyon Open Space is also providing space for training and other County-supported functions. During Year 2, Lynch Canyon was used to train groups from the Sheriff Office's Search and Rescue Team and Cordelia Fire Protection District. The Solano County Probation Department regularly uses the volunteer trail work days as opportunities for individuals on probation to fulfill their public service hours. The park has also provided a location for several local Eagle Scout candidates to complete their community service projects.

4.) RETURN ON INVESTMENT, VOLUNTEER HOURS AND DONATIONS

The estimated budget presented to the Solano County Board of Supervisors in 2006, when approving the three-year pilot project to operate Lynch Canyon Open Space, was an estimated investment of \$772,675 over three years to provide public access to the park. Recent actual, annual costs were \$167,981 in fiscal year 2007/08, and are projected to be \$168,771 for fiscal year 2008/09. To offset these operational costs, revenue to the park from the \$5-per-vehicle parking fee amounts to approximately \$12,455 per year (parking revenue figure for FY 2007/08, the only full fiscal year of operation so far). However, it is worthwhile to consider other returns on the investment of County funds at Lynch Canyon, including volunteer labor and donations.

The concerted efforts of the County-funded staff members, including the Volunteer Coordinator, Park Ranger and Park Ranger Assistant, resulted in recruiting and utilizing a large number of volunteers who donated labor time to the park. This volunteer labor time has provided a value-added return on the County's investment. In the last two years, 263 volunteers have contributed over **2,900 hours** to activities at the park, ranging from helping at public hikes and trail runs to leading tours for school classes, birders, mountain bikers and equestrians. They have helped build and maintain trails and plant native trees. If these volunteer services were provided at cost to the County, it is likely the labor cost would have well exceeded \$100,000.

In addition, supportive community groups have also brought in donations of **\$14,368** that have paid for signs, event flyers, education programs, equipment and supplies, benches, and horse gates for Lynch Canyon Open Space. Of special note in Year Two was the first Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike June 21, 2008. This event was almost entirely planned and administered by volunteers. The event earned net revenues of \$8,000 in one day from donations and entry fees for park improvements, including new trail markers and interpretive signs. The dynamic 6-member volunteer planning team organized a well publicized event that utilized 55 volunteers (children to retirees) and drew over 300 runners and hikers. Building on this success, the Second Trail Run and Community Hike Event is scheduled to take place on May 30, 2009.



5.) MEASURING PROGRESS AT LYNCH CANYON

The Lynch Canyon Working Committee developed a list of five (5) Success Criteria in spring 2008 to measure progress with the operation of Lynch Canyon Open Space. The Criteria were updated for Year 2, and approved by the Solano County Park and Recreation Commission, the Tri-City and County Citizens Advisory Committee and the Solano Land Trust Board. To measure the progress in Year 2, the five Success Criteria are listed in the following section, followed by a report of how each criterion was met.

6.) PROGRESS MADE IN YEAR TWO

The remainder of this assessment focuses on how well the 5 Success Criteria were met.

Success Criterion #1: The established Lynch Canyon User Advisory Group will continue to meet and meets at least quarterly to provide feedback on operations. The group has one representative from each of the significant user groups (hikers, mountain cyclists, equestrians, birders, educators, and runners)

Progress in Year Two

Six (6) members of the public volunteered to serve on the Lynch Canyon User Advisory Group (LCUAG) during year one, and all have served through the second year of operation. The LCUAG met four times in year two: June 3, 2008, October 1, 2008, November 21, 2008, and January 29, 2009.

The six, volunteer members each represented different park user groups: Doris Klein (hikers, Bay Area Ridge Trail), Brett Saunders (mountain bikers and trail work volunteers), Earl Swenerton (birders), Chris Abess (trail runners, and Lynch Canyon Trail Run director), Christine Kenaston (equestrians), and Jennifer Kaiser (educators).

The LCUAG members helped and advised the County Park Rangers and Working Committee on several issues during Year 2. This included program planning, leading programs, access issues with gates, safe protocol around grazing cattle at the park, park promotions, expanded event parking, developing interpretive messages and planning for interpretive signs in the park.

Success Criterion #2: A schedule of regular events will continue to be implemented at Lynch Canyon.

Progress in Year Two

County Park Rangers, SLT Staff and volunteers hosted a full slate of public events in Year Two. All of these were free to the public (except two fundraisers that had entry fees). These consisted of the following:

1. GOAL: Hold docent or ranger-led nature walks/hikes (wildflowers, birds, etc.), once a month on average.
 - a. **20 events were held in year 2**
2. GOAL: Hold docent-led equestrian rides, twice a year.
 - a. **4 events were held in year 2**

3. GOAL: Hold docent-led birding events, six times a year.
 - a. **6 events were held in year 2**
4. GOAL: Hold focused, Ranger-led volunteer work parties, 6-12 times a year
 - a. **13 events were held in year #2, plus 2 special trail work parties with Bay Area Ridge Trail and REI volunteers**
5. GOAL: Hold one exercise-related event per year (e.g., trail run, introductory hiking or biking activity for youth, etc.).
 - a. **5 events were held in year #2 (bike rides, fitness hike, and Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike)**
6. GOAL: Hold one special event per year with public activities, to promote the open space.
 - a. **7 special events occurred, including 5 separate events as part of the park's first anniversary weekend May 10 - 11, 2008 (geocache tour, wildlife demonstration, scavenger hunt, other family activities and wagon rides for disabled visitors) and a fundraising walk for "Access Adventures," a group dedicated to providing outdoor experiences for disabled persons.**
7. GOAL: Hold a photography-related event.
 - a. **One Lynch Canyon Photo Tour was hosted by 3 volunteer photographers in conjunction with a guided spring wildflower walk on April 18, 2009.**

Success Criterion #3: The existing docent training program will be offered to volunteers, and 6 additional Lynch docents will be trained. These docents will commit to leading six activities each year.

Progress in Year Two

A two-part docent training was further developed by Volunteer Coordinator Teri Engbring for use in recruiting and preparing new and continuing docents. **36 volunteers** attended Part 1, an introduction and field safety training that was offered throughout the year. **10 new volunteers and County Park Rangers** attended Part 2, training specific to Lynch Canyon Open Space, including: human and geologic history, flora and fauna, land management, interpretation (how to lead a tour), key messages and logistics. **More than 40 docents** led or supported activities at Lynch in Year 2.

Success Criterion #4: Further develop a curriculum-based environmental education program for school age children at Lynch Canyon, based on watershed ecology, wildlife, habitats and local agriculture.

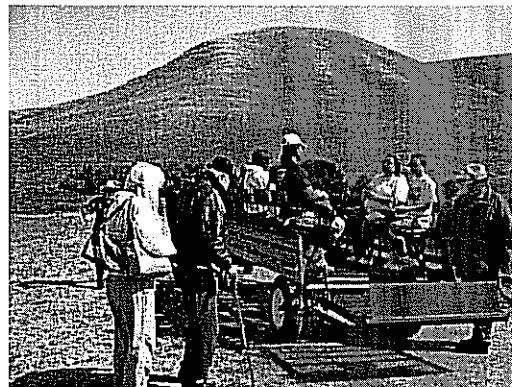
Progress in Year Two

Two Solano Community College instructors used Lynch Canyon for curriculum-based art and science classes, including plein aire painting and biology. A class from Rodriguez High School also visited the site for nature study in fall 2008.

The Watershed Explorers program, an excellent elementary school program was scheduled to be offered by the Solano Resource Conservation District during Year 2, but unfortunately this program lost its funding source and was unable to operate this year.

Volunteers and staff developed a human history tour of Lynch Canyon (ranging from Native American grinding rocks, to General Vallejo's cattle operations, to today's blend of grazing and park use). Docents recently began public tours with this curriculum. The next subject under development is a Natural History Tour, which will include field guides specially tailored to the site and a program designed to explore the park's flora and fauna with school children and adults.

This docent training also directly benefitted County employees, by training County Ranger staff in how to conduct public interpretive/educational programs about the history, wildlife, habitats and land management of the property.



Success Criterion #5: Increase attendance to 4,180 people during the second full year of operation (from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009), or 10% greater than the first year estimated attendance figure of 3,800.

Progress in Year Two

Using data from parking revenue and a sign-in sheet at the entry gate, we established that approximately **4,570 people** visited Lynch Canyon Open Space during the second year of operation. The usage continues to increase both with a growing number of regularly returning park users and first time visitors to Lynch Canyon. Local media continue to be supportive by providing stories about coming events, with regular articles in the *Vacaville Reporter*, *Fairfield Daily Republic*, *Vallejo Times-Herald*, *Benicia Herald*, *Davis Enterprise*, and *Sacramento Bee*.

7.) CONCLUSION

The achievements presented above indicate that the operation of Lynch Canyon Open Space during Year 2 continues to meet or exceed the Success Criteria. Lynch Canyon Open Space provides a wide range of recreation opportunities and promotion of healthy exercise that complements the other, more developed and water-oriented park facilities at the three other County Parks (Lake Solano, Sandy Beach and Belden's Landing). Lynch Canyon Open Space helps the County achieve its goals for healthy residents of Solano County by providing fun outdoor recreation and exercise opportunities on the trails and in nature that are offered on very few sites within the county. Agricultural use of the property (cattle grazing and ranching operations) has required some additional public information and signage to ensure public awareness and safety, but continues to be compatible with recreational use. The steady growth in volunteers and park use demonstrates public interest in affordable ways to play and serve their community close to home.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Lynch Canyon Open Space Working Committee

Daniel Sykes, Solano County Parks Services Manager, Committee Chair
Marilyn Farley, Executive Director Solano Land Trust, Committee Secretary
Pamela Ogle, Assistant Director, Solano County General Services Department
Teri Engbring, Volunteer and Education Coordinator, Solano Land Trust
Ted Armstrong, Park Ranger Supervisor (Alternate)

Alcohol Restrictions by Other Park Agencies Preliminary Survey Results, May 2009

Survey Criteria	Solano County	Dixon	Suisun	Vacaville	Vallejo (Greater Vallejo Rec. District)	Richmond	East Bay Parks (Con. Costa Alameda Co)	Merced County	Monterey County	Sacramento County	San Joaquin County	Livermore Area Rec. & Parks	East Bay MUD	California State Parks
Code or Ordinance Regulating Alcohol Use	County Code Sec. 17-41, Sec. 19-160(x) Sec. 19-190	Sec. 16.21	Title 9, Chapter 9.08.010	Sec. 9.06.010	Chapt. 7.76.010 Chapt. 7.76.120	Chapt. 10.24.030	Ord. 38, Chapt. 410.1 -2	Liquor Liability Policy	Co. Code 14.12.135	Ord. 9.36.075 Ord. 9.36.057.5	Consump. of alcohol over 24% content.	Prohibited at parks, except by permit.	Water- shed rules and Regs.	CCR, Sec. 4326, 4333
What activities or alcohol are banned?	Consumption or open containers banned in public places and streets in unincorporated area, except beaches and parks (17-41). Behave in drunk/disorderly manner (Sec. 19- 160(x)). Consume or possess alcoholic beverages or containers in any area that the Parks Division has designated as an alcohol-free area. These areas must first be approved by Board of Supervisors (Sec. 19-190).	Alcoholic beverages or glass containers banned in all parks	Public consumption of beer, wine, liquor banned on public sidewalks, parking lots, in parks	Consumption banned in public park, street, recreation area, except where exempted by Sect. 9.06.020 (confirm*) *May have been updated recently	Prohibits consumption/ possession(?) in public places in City (Chapt. 7.76.010) (confirm?)	Consumption of open container in any city park, or within 15 feet of any park	Banned at: pools, beaches, group camps, swim areas, w/in 50 ft. of roads, park lots, Regional Trails; open containers in car	Banned without a permit	No consumption or possession of alcohol in day-use parks without a permit Alcohol Use Group Permit Doesn't appear to apply to overnight parks (confirm?)	Possession of glass containers at parks along American River (Ord. 9.36.075). No open container (or consumption) on nature trail, nature area, or posted park, designated by Park Director	Consump. of alcohol over 24% content. Possession banned in certain parks during part of year, 5/15- 9/15. Banned in of roads and trails or as posted by Director	Prohibited at parks, except by permit. At some facilities, limited to beer, wine, champagne. Not at youth events, pools, within 50 ft. of roads and trails or as posted	No alcohol in parking areas, or while hunting	Glass containers and alcohol are prohibited in posted areas.
Where alcohol allowed?	Beaches and parks, and in other public places in conformity with rules adopted by Board of Sups	Only exception is in senior/ multi-use center	In communi- ty center (confirm?)	Allowed, with a permit, in public park, street, or recreation area, if use authorized by City	Allowed in accordance with rules and/or permit, at public golf courses, public bldgs., or certain picnic areas in GVWD parks, or in parks by permit (with Police review)		Beer, wine may be possessed, consumed except for above. Alc. permit required for some facilities. OK in RV.	Permit and insurance required for serving, providing or selling at Co. park or facility	Only in specific group picnic area, with permit	Believe they are allowed except in areas as shown above	OK at parks with permit and liquor use fee. Sale alcohol requires permit from Dept. of ABC.		Appears to be allowable except where specific-ally posted	
Permit process?	No	?	?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	?	Yes	?	No	Yes	No	No
Fee charged?	No	?	?	?	?	No	Yes	?	Yes?	?	No	Yes	No	No
Contact Name and Phone #	n/a	T. Zampa 678-7070	John Pitts 422-8074			Tony Norris			Steve Thompson	Dave Lydick 916-875-6548	David Beadly	Jim Carlson 925-373-5700	Rosie Mick	B. Foster 916- 653-9771