

Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area Site Plan Goals and Objectives

Purpose: Develop a Preferred Alternative Site Plan for the Native American and Californio Rancho Portions of the Rancho Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area

The following goals are intended to guide the site plan development process.

Themes

1. Use the overall theme of “water” to guide design and to reveal the following to park visitors.

- The spring as the “source” of attracting people to this area.
- The relationship of settlement and the availability of water. Reflect the importance of the spring (water) to the people who once lived at the site.
- The use and importance of water in Ohlone and Californio Rancho periods. Demonstrate the role that water played in the evolution of site uses.
- Integrate interpretive themes and elements of the Native American, Settlement and Californio Rancho periods based on the existing “Santa Teresa County Park Rancho Santa Teresa Historic District Interpretive Plan” (Nov 1, 1999).

2. A secondary theme is the cultural and ethnic diversity that contributed to the history of California during the Settlement and Californio Rancho periods.

- The site as part of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- The various ethnic groups that were represented on the Anza Expedition and settled in California.

History

3. Design for and interpret three time periods: Ohlone, Settlement and Californio Rancho.

- Interpretation and spaces should allow for hands-on exploration and experiences of the time periods. Park visitors should get a sense of what it would have been like to have lived and worked in the interpreted time periods.
- Coordinate and integrate new design elements with the existing developed portions of the Historic Area, Santa Teresa Spring and American Ranch. The design approach for new design elements should be consistent with the existing American Ranch site. Visiting the existing (American Ranch) and new interpreted sites should provide a continuum of “walking through time”.
- The design should provide an overview of the pre-historic and historic uses of the site, way of life and processes.

Environment

4. Design to reflect, preserve and enhance existing site environmental and cultural resources.

- Integrate existing structures and potential new structures into historic themes and desired functions/intended uses, while protecting site resources (Adobe structure desired).

Function

5. Provide facilities for a multitude of educational and functional site needs.

- Design for pedestrian and vehicular movement, car and bus staging, and trail connectivity to existing park sites and trails as well as neighborhood/regional trails.
- Provide facilities for educational needs.
- Provide necessary conveniences for public use.
- Provide for maintenance storage needs.
- Make park as safe and vandal proof as possible.
- Prevent/resolve conflicts between park land uses and residential neighborhood needs.

Regulatory

6. Ensure design complies with established requirements and guidelines.

- Incorporate ADA requirements into design where feasible.
- Meet goals defined in the Santa Teresa County Park Master Plan (April 1992).
- Be consistent with Santa Clara County General Plan 1995-2010 policies, approved December 20, 1994).
- Comply with City of San Jose development standards and General Plan.
- Be consistent with the County Parks Strategic Plan.
- Coordinate with SCVWD (canal ownership).

Process

7. Solicit input from a wide range of park users and interest groups.

- Incorporate general public and interest group input into site design process.
- Park character, historic interpretation and functional elements should reflect the input of the community where appropriate and be consistent with established County Parks standards, goals and policies.