

## **TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK FIVE- PARKS MASTER PLAN**

### **Public Open House No. 2**

**October 7, 2006, 9:00pm**

**Location: Desert Mountain Park**

### **OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY**

This public open house was held in conjunction with the Town of Queen Creek's "Community Safety Day" which was hosted by the Rural/Metro Fire Department and the Queen Creek LDS Cortina Ward to kick off National Fire Prevention Week. This event is an opportunity for local residents to learn about fire safety and other important life safety information. This event was advertised by the Town through a mailing to all town residents as well as on the town's website.

The event was held at the Desert Mountain Park, where booths were set up throughout the park area providing local residents with information on fire safety. Additional booths with information on local interests were set up around the perimeter of the park. The Town of Queen Creek's Parks and Recreation Department had a trailer set up with adjacent tents used to display exhibit boards for the 5-Parks Master Plan project.

While presenting from the podium during several youth soccer award ceremonies held at the event, Troy White with the Town of Queen Creek's Park and Recreation Department encouraged the public to stop by the booths to review the materials specific to the project and offer their comments.

Representatives from the Town, EPG and J2 were present to discuss with the public the planning process, ideas, preferences, special conditions, etc. for the park sites. In addition, a comment form was available for people to either fill out and leave at the open house or return at a later date to the Town Parks & Recreation Department.

Exhibit boards were displayed for each of the park sites. Each display graphic included an aerial photo of the park and its surrounding areas. Photos of site features, site conditions, on and off site views and existing amenities were included on the display. Other graphic displays presented included an overall Town map with the location of each park highlighted and a large display board indicating the project process and schedule (which was presented at the Steering Committee meeting held on September 12, 2006).

The design team received information and input from community members regarding each of the five park sites. This information was obtained by direct conversations with the residents as they reviewed the displays and input included on comment sheets which each participant was asked to complete. The design team specifically requested anyone who stopped by the booth to fill out a comment form. Some individuals did not want to take the time to complete the form so they verbally mentioned their thoughts. The information from the comment sheets has been summarized in a note format and a matrix which indicates the specific park features requested and the number of individuals who requested those features. There were 27 comment forms submitted during this 4 hour public open house.

The Following is a summary of the verbal input received:

- EPG/J2 received a number of comment forms from an attendee who had collected them from other community members. Each of the comment forms collected noted that Queen Creek currently does not have a site honoring war veterans and suggested that a memorial be built on one of the park sites. Several of these forms specifically identified the pan handle at West Park site as a potential location for a memorial. It was apparent this group had organized its patrons and requested they participate in this open house meeting.
  - A number of attendees expressed that in addition to the desire for a war veteran's memorial they would also like a building facility or post where veterans could gather. In response to the number of interested persons in the war memorial, Councilperson Lisa Coletta-Cohn suggested the veterans (members of the American legion) be included on the agenda for the next steering committee meeting enabling their spokesperson an opportunity to address the committee. (To be held on October 10, 2006).
- A number of attendees requested an aquatic center with swimming pools suitable for competitive events and recreational use, splash play areas, etc.
  - An attendee suggested an aquatic center with a toddler pool that would be shallow and designated for young children. This pool should contain a minimal depth of water (less than 2') for safety.
  - A number of attendees would like pools for youth swim programs.
- An attendee emphasized the need to include and maintain equestrian elements in the parks. It was emphasized these equestrian facilities/amenities at the parks and through out the Town contribute to defining the rural character desired by many of the town's residents.
- The inclusion of equestrian facilities was desired for residents who do not have their own horses but have children interested in riding activities.
- Several attendees requested tennis and racquetball courts.
- A number of attendees suggested that more shade be provided within the parks (i.e. picnic areas, play areas, etc.)
- Several families requested soccer fields.
- Several residents mentioned the desire to have trails through the parks and linking to the other trails along the washes.
- There was a request for a running trail
- There was a request by a youth for a skate park.

There were numerous complements from people who didn't want to stop and fill out a comment form that said they are pleased to see the parks are being planned and look forward to their implementation.

END OF NOTES