

## TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK FIVE- PARKS MASTER PLAN

### Focus Group Meeting No. 3

October 4, 2006, 7:00pm

Location: Community Center

### FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY (YOUTH COMMISSION)

This focus group meeting was held in conjunction with the Town of Queen Creek's local Youth Group monthly meeting. There were approximately 12 members present at the meeting.

Dave Wilson (EPG) gave a brief overview of the Five-Parks Master Plan project and the planning process. He explained the purpose of the focus groups and stressed that input from the Queen Creek Youth Commission would contribute to the success of the planning effort. Dave then described what active and passive elements are as described in the PTOSMP and reviewed the location of each of the park sites. Dave also gave a brief description of each of the sites using exhibit boards. 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. Dave then opened it up to the group for questions, comments, suggestions, etc.

EPG/J2 received information and input from the members. Following is a summary of the input received:

- A question was raised regarding the size of the existing Desert Mountain Park. Jeff Velasquez informed the group it is a 35-acre park.
- Swings and seesaws were suggested as play equipment.
- The inclusion of benches was requested. Individual benches placed throughout the parks and some benches arranged for group gatherings.
- A member stated that it would be nice to have fire pits in the parks. These pits could occur at small group gathering areas. The group discussed the possible maintenance concerns of this suggestion. It was discussed that a gas fire pit could be an option.
- There is a desire for a fishing lake with a preference for having it at East Park. It was explained that lakes are often included in larger parks to serve as a reservoir for the park's irrigation system. These lakes can then be used for aesthetic enhancement and recreational activities such as fishing.
- It was suggested that a four-plex softball complex be constructed at the active park sites.
- It was suggested that tetherball courts be constructed.
- One member said that it would be good aesthetically to have interesting earthwork/grading design (hills and undulation). The landforms at Freestone Park in Gilbert were referenced as an example.
- It was suggested that a scenic water feature (fountains or falls) be constructed to serve as a backdrop for photo opportunities such as engagement or wedding photos, etc.
- There is a desire for a dog park at least at one of the sites.
- There is a desire for lighted soccer fields.

- It was suggested that a train be built for rides, similar to Desert Breeze Park in Chandler or McCormick Rail Road Park in Scottsdale.
- Interpretive signage/exhibits were recommended. It was suggested these signs could be placed along a trail and could describe the wildlife, vegetation or other items of interest.
- A skate park and a BMX facility were suggested, with separate areas for different ages.
- Tennis/volleyball dual use courts were recommended, possibly with the ability to lower or raise the net, depending on which is being used.
- Sand volleyball courts were also requested.
- The need to have the park facilities lighted was emphasized.
- There is a desire for security at the parks.
- A member suggested that batting cages would be good to have at one of the parks.
- There is a desire for a concession stand/building that could be used to sell food and drinks.
- Shaded ramadas/picnic areas/BBQ grills were requested.
- A recreation center with an indoor track and a weight training facility was requested.
- In response to community interests the group suggested the park designs accommodate horses and equestrian uses.
- A large amphitheater was suggested for performances, concerts (one that is larger than the Desert Mountain Park amphitheater).
- A go-cart facility was requested
- Shade and water misting systems are desired at picnic ramadas and playgrounds.
- One member said that parking lots should be designed to allow for plenty of parking.
- Spring riders were suggested for tot lot playground areas.
- It was suggested that sand not be used in the playground areas, but rubberized resilient safety surfacing instead. Engineered wood chips were considered somewhat better than sand by several members of the group, but not as good as the rubberized surfacing.
- There is a desire for tire-swings at the playground areas.
- It was suggested that artificial turf be used where appropriate if water could be saved and maintenance could be reduced.

Most of the committee members took the time to fill in the comment sheet and provided them to the consultants.

The group was encouraged to participate in the up-coming public meetings.