

ANALYSIS OF THE 2004 PARKS AND RECREATIONS SURVEY REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS

By PROS Parks and Recreation Committee, July, 2005

In order to advise the CCSD in its mandate to provide facilities, sites and venues for recreation in Cambria, the PROS Commission designed and carried out a survey of residents. In October, 2004, the commission distributed a one page questionnaire in the water bill of all Cambrian households. We received 942 of 3,985 surveys back (25%) which indicates a high degree of interest in community recreation.

CCSD contracted with the Community Center to develop a report of the survey results¹. John Ruml volunteered to write the report and PROS Commissioner Steve Figler provided an additional analysis of the results. Others who participated in developing the report were Courtney Craig, Connie Davidson, Heidi Holmes, Amanda Rice, Gordon Rice, and Robin Schall.

The report was discussed at the March and April meetings of the PROS commission. Members of the commission provided comments and sent feedback via email to Jack Breglio, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. This Committee completed the analysis developed by Steve Figler found in this document. In addition, a one-page summary of the findings was developed..

The survey results are informative about what recreational activities Cambrians currently participate in. In addition, the respondents reported on what activities they would most like to see made available in Cambria.

The survey also provided data on usage patterns and preferences for facilities in Cambria, as well as frequency and location of travel to out-of-town recreation. Respondents were grouped according to their level of participation (Modest Activity – 1 or 2; Mainstream – 3 to 6; High Activity – 7 or more), and intensity (Low; Medium; and High).

Ninety-three percent of respondents participate in at least one activity. The top five activities--running/walking/jogging, gardening, hiking, and picnicking--have a similar ranking for all three participation levels.

The most popular facility in Cambria is the East/West ranch used by 85% of respondents, followed by Shamel Park, the Vets Hall, other trails, Moonstone Beach boardwalk, and Leffingwell Park.

Sixty-three percent of respondents recreate in Cambria, 37% travel to Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, or elsewhere for walking/hiking, golf, swimming and kayaking. Some travel due to a lack of Cambria facilities (golfing, tennis, and swimming) and others for a broader range of sites.

Requests for new or expanded services were (in order of importance):

- more hiking trails
- a lap pool
- a dog park (the survey was sent before the new dog park was opened)
- a jogging track/trail

Cambria already has lots of trails, however, we do not have a track without impediments. A track with exercise stations may be available at the Santa Lucia School if state park funding is approved.

The second largest number of respondents (27%) requested a lap pool. An aging population contains persons who are rehabilitating or protecting muscles and bones and therefore do water walking and exercising, or lap swimming as opposed to hiking. The privately owned Cambria Pines Lodge swimming pool is available on a membership basis. The pool at Shamel Park is a county-run facility and is only open in the summer months. It is not a large enough to be a lap pool.

Much of what was desired by survey respondents is included in the proposed community park design. An outdoor stage was considered but dropped during public discussions. A small community garden is available at Pocahontas Park but additional space could be provided in the community park. Nature trails are being developed on the West Ranch and the East Ranch and a short historic trail is planned for the Greenspace Creekside Reserve in East Village.

Some organized field sports (soccer, baseball/softball) will be accommodated at the Santa Lucia Middle School if a state parks grant is awarded in late 2005.

Multipurpose athletic fields are planned for the proposed community park.

Horseshoe pits are available in Shamel Park.

After-school and summer programs, such as arts and crafts and martial arts, are currently offered by the Community Center. Eight weeks of day camps are also part of their program but could be expanded. The Community Center offers numerous adult programs such as arts and crafts.

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF REQUESTS FOR FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

| | <u>%</u> | <u>#</u> | | <u>%</u> | <u>#</u> |
|------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| Nature Trails | 49 | 458 | Sand Volleyball | 11 | 105 |
| Lap Pool | 27 | 254 | Basketball(outdoor) | 8 | 71 |
| Dog Park | 24 | 225 | Skate Park | 7 | 69 |
| Jogging Tail/Track | 23 | 215 | Day Camp | 7 | 66 |
| Picnics | 22 | 210 | Climbing Wall | 6 | 61 |
| Community Garden | 21 | 196 | Horse Trails | 6 | 61 |
| Tennis Courts | 19 | 182 | BMX Tail | 6 | 57 |
| After school Programs | 19 | 175 | Martial Arts | 6 | 55 |
| Playgrounds | 18 | 172 | Roller-Blade | 5 | 46 |
| Outdoor Fitness Sta's | 17 | 164 | Horseshoe Pits | 4 | 41 |
| Arts & Crafts | 17 | 159 | Archery Fields | 3 | 32 |
| Outdoor Stage | 16 | 151 | Shuffleboard | 3 | 32 |
| Soccer Fields | 13 | 126 | Paint-ball | 2 | 22 |
| Softball/Baseball Flds | 12 | 112 | | | |