

Peralta Regional Park
6-23-15 Public Open House Meeting Notes
Central AZ College

Over 75 Pinal County residents attended the first public open house meeting to present concept maps for the proposed Regional Park # 5 master planning process. The proposed park, being referred to as Peralta Regional Park, is identified in the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan (OSTMP) adopted by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) in 2007.

Open Space and Trails Department Director, Kent Taylor, provided a small version of the Master Plan concept map presented in larger format, and a handout with project background information and ways the public can input on this process via email, the Pinal County website, postal mail and the next public open house meeting on July 14 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Pinal County Complex, Emergency Operations Center in Florence (135 N. Pinal Street). All documents related to this project can be found at the County website at

<http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/DEPARTMENTS/OPENSACETRAILS/PARKTRAILPLANNING/Pages/PeraltaPark.aspx>

Gina D'Abella, Chair of the Open Space and Trails Citizens' Advisory Commission, opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance and providing a brief background of how the County created and adopted an Open Space and Trails Master Plan, an Open Space and Trails Department, and now this first master planning process for one of the seven proposed Regional Parks in the OSTMP. Cate Bradley, providing technical assistance for this planning process from the National Park Service-Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, described the planning process for this project to date.

Following the background information, Kent Taylor and Cate Bradley presented recreation service ideas on the concept maps at different information stations, answered questions and encouraged all participants to record their comments on flip charts provided. The proposed recreation services presented include:

- Camping ((car and tent camping only)
- Non-motorized, multi-use trails for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers for various skill levels of each activity
- Interpretive trail
- Picnic areas with shade ramadas
- Camp ground host site
- Rock climbing area
- Restrooms
- Parking area
- Iron ranger (locked metal box for payment envelopes)

Following are the public comments:

- No motorized vehicles at all in the park, even to camp sites (light pollution, exhaust fumes, automotive chemicals), maybe locate campsites at perimeter next to parking area – except for handicap access)
- Reach out to <30 year old age group for interest and inputs
- No camping – too small of space. Keep it primitive without utilities if camping will mean more water use and utilities
- No RVs
- Will there be camping areas with horse corals in or near the area?
- Parking area should be large enough to handle horse trailers
- Increased traffic means increased dust which will impact health issues for residents
- Increased solution is to pave 3 miles of road
- Add horse step overs, several on each fenced side, to allow connecting trails to Lost Goldmine Trail
- No lights please
- No RVs or RV camping
- Please locate hitching posts near bathrooms with dismounting rock or support for equestrians passing through, thank you!
- Will this park end up abandoned like Pinal County Park #1 on Hwy 88
- Solar system for lighting
- Road access needs to be paved much further
- Dark sky for astronomy
- Fire hazard from camp fires
- Trash issue will need paid maintenance
- Damage to rock walls from climbing
- Peralta Trails development has 840 homes, a new development will have 900 more. You need a separate access to park (aside from Peralta Rd) from Hwy 60. (3 dittos to this comment)
- Need horse step overs within the boundary fences for traversing across the property
- Need a person to collect fees at the entrance to the park
- Renascence Fair – additional camping
- Interpretive Center with classes (1 ditto)
- Danger to school and children, buses, parents, teachers
- Peralta Road has been the only access to Peralta Trailhead long before the houses, paving another 3 miles will help with dust
- Please! We want a disc-golf course!
- Costs to homeowners for “trickle down” expenses, for utilities, upkeep, upgrades, maintenance, emergency services
- Equestrian entrance/exit, trails and trailheads, step-overs in fencing (several per mile) in all directions
- How much will it cost Pinal County taxpayers to remediate the abandoned liquid mercury mine in the area?

Next Public Open House Meeting

Tuesday July 14, 2015 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Pinal County Complex, Emergency Operations Center in Florence -135 N. Pinal Street